

# Commissioners agree to renovate annex

**BY LEW K. COHN**  
Inquirer Publisher

Gonzales County commissioners reached consensus on Monday, Jan. 13 to renovate the Gonzales County Annex

Building on Sarah DeWitt Drive and add a new roof instead of razing the existing structure and building a completely new facility.  
After a presentation and Q&A session with John Duke of CPM

Texas about the pros and cons of renovation versus new build, commissioners gave Duke the go-ahead to move forward with a timeline that would have the building renovated in time for an April or May 2026 move-in

date.  
That would also keep the county right on schedule as it seeks a \$10 million or more grant from the Texas Historical Commission to renovate the Courthouse with a hope of be-

ing shovel ready on that project by September 2026.

**COST ESTIMATES**  
Duke had met with com-  
See **ANNEX**, page 14



Gonzales Apaches Head Coach Joey Rivera addresses his team after a close 34-31 bi-district loss to Gatesville in 2023. Rivera will no longer be the head coach and AD for the Apaches after the district advertised for the position.

VANDY VAN EPPS

## GISD posts job opening for athletic director/football coach

Rivera will not return for fourth season as Apaches head coach

**BY VANDY VAN EPPS**  
Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales Independent School District will be looking for a new athletic

director and head football coach for the 2025-26 school year.  
Apaches head football coach/athletic director Joey Rivera will not return for his fourth season with the team.  
The school district posted the job opening on their website as of Thursday, Jan. 9.  
Rivera joined the Apaches at the conclusion of the 2021-22 school year; in his first season with the team,

he established a team culture as the team went 4-6 overall and 2-3 in district.  
By year two, in fall 2023, the Apaches were a playoff team for the first time since 2019, going 6-4 overall and 5-1 in district, finishing second to Cuero. Last season, the team moved into a district with Wimberley, Lago Vista, Navarro and Salado

See **COACH**, page 15

## New structural building material facility to bring up to 145 jobs to Gonzales

Synergos, TXGN close on 28 acres of rail-served property

**BY LEW K. COHN**  
Inquirer Publisher

Up to 145 new jobs will be created in Gonzales with the construction of a structural building material operation by Synergos Companies, an

innovative home industry corporation with a business model focused on integrating construction projects.  
Synergos and Texas Gonzales and Northern Railway (TXGN), a subsidiary of TNW Corporation, closed this past week on 28 acres of rail-served property where Synergos will build its new facility. Construction on the facility is expected to begin in the coming months, with

See **FACILITY**, page 15

## Melissa Taylor hired as new Gonzales Chamber executive director



Taylor

**SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER**  
The Gonzales Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture will have a new executive director on board starting Jan. 23, Chamber Vice President Lawren Kridler announced to members Friday, Jan. 10.

See **CHAMBER**, page 15

## Edwards Association to celebrate life, legacy of MLK

**FROM STAFF REPORTS**

The Edwards Association will celebrate the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. for the 22nd year in a row. This year's theme is "Building a Beloved Community: Unite, Serve, Transform."  
From 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Monday, Jan. 20 — the date on which MLK Day is celebrated

See **MLK**, page 11



VANDY VAN EPPS

The Gonzales ISD School Board receive a special recognition by the district for school board appreciation month at the Monday, Jan. 13 school board meeting.

## Gonzales parent discusses incident at junior high basketball game

**BY VANDY VAN EPPS**  
Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales ISD School Board met for their regularly scheduled meeting Monday, Jan. 13 the GISD administration building.  
The meeting kicked off with public comments with a Gonzales ISD parent informing the board about an incident with an

See **GISD**, page 12

## Nixon adopts fee schedule for certified inspections

**BY LEW K. COHN**  
Inquirer Publisher

The city of Nixon adopted an ordinance Monday, Jan. 13, setting a fee schedule for certified inspections performed by Bureau Veritas North America, as well as establishing an administrative fee of 10 percent additional cost.

During a lengthy discussion with Mike Olson, regional director of operations for the Waco/San Antonio Bureau Veritas, council members learned how the third-party inspection company does "plan review inspections for municipalities that can't quite afford a full time inspector."  
"I have an area manager and six inspectors that live in the San Antonio area

that will actually cover Nixon. They do Stockdale, Karnes City, Kenedy. We have another group that is out of the coast that covers Cuero and all the way down to the coast," Olson said. "We're here to do whatever y'all need done."  
"The full contract covers building,

See **NIXON**, page 12



# Gonzales man killed when SUV, tractor-trailer collide

## FROM STAFF REPORTS

A Gonzales man was killed Sunday, Jan. 12, when his SUV collided with a tractor-trailer on US-90A west of Gonzales.

According to a Texas Department of Public Safety report, a beige 1994 Chevrolet Suburban, driven by Maximino Mayorga Lopez was on US 90-A at about 5:31 p.m. at a stop on the shoulder facing east when it attempted a U-turn to the left.

A white 2020 Peterbilt towing a 1995 trailer being driven by Modesto Davila Gonzalez was in the right lane on US-A 90 traveling east. He saw Mayorga Lopez making a U-turn so he steered to the left, crossing into the westbound lane and trying to avoid the Suburban. Unfortunately, his tractor-trailer's front left struck the Suburban's right side in the westbound lane.

Mayorga Lopez was not wearing his seatbelt and was ejected from his vehicle, which spun counter-clockwise, leaving the roadway and rolling over on its top facing east in the north side ditch. Mayorga Lopez was trapped under the roof of his Suburban and was pronounced dead at the scene.

The tractor-trailer left the roadway into the north side ditch and rolled onto the driver's side. Davila Gonzalez was trapped in his vehicle and was later extracted with minor injuries.

The accident shut down 90A for an extended time and forced cars to be re-routed up nearby FM 2091 North and FM 2091 South.





COURTESY/GCSO  
A fatal traffic accident on US 90-A west of Gonzales shut down the highway for hours Sunday, Jan. 12.

# Gonzales man sought for sexual assault

## SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

A Gonzales man is wanted on an active felony warrant for sexual assault.



**Benigno Altunar Morales**

The last known residence of Benigno Altunar Morales, 30, is in Gonzales.

If anyone has any information as to the whereabouts of Benigno, contact Crime Stoppers! You will remain anonymous if you call the tip line! You will also be eligible for a cash reward for his arrest.

You can call Crimestoppers at 830-672-8477 or download the P3 app. You also can call the Gonzales Police Department at 830-672-8686.

# Luke Macias to address Guadalupe County Republican Women

## SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

On Thursday, Jan. 23 at 11:30 a.m. the Guadalupe County Republican Women will present Luke Macias of the Luke Macias Show.

Luke Macias is a Texas based political consultant who has helped elect the most conservative public servants across the state. He's worked from the local level to statewide campaigns. He's a full spectrum conservative who only works alongside public officials who will walk the walk, and not just talk the talk. Luke has been recognized as one of the most valuable consultants in Texas by Capitol Inside.

The luncheon/meeting will be held at the Seguin Silver Center at 510 East Court Street. Meeting will begin at 11:30 a.m.

Please make reservations with Glenda Partain by calling or texting 830-391-3979 or silvercenter@sbcglobal.net. The program is free but if you plan on enjoying a delicious lunch, the cost is \$15. Please join for an informative program. More information is available at <https://www.guadalupe-county-rw.com>.

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## GREATER GONZALES COUNTY CRIME STOPPERS CRIME OF THE WEEK



**Crime:** Burglary of a Habitation/Burglary of a Building  
**Where it occurred:** 1400 block of CR 252  
**What was taken:** chainsaw, Star Wars memorabilia (several pieces), jewelry, a flat screen TV  
**Case#:** 24-00909

A residence and shed on the property were broken into possibly in September. Included is a picture of the lock and chain that was cut to gain access to the property. (no pictures were available of the items taken)

If you have information on this crime, please contact Greater Gonzales County Crime Stoppers by downloading the P3 app or calling 830-672-8477(TIPS). By calling Greater Gonzales County Crime Stoppers you may be eligible to receive a cash reward. The tip line is 100% anonymous! You may also call the Gonzales County Sheriff's Office at 830-672-6524.

This is a partnership between Greater Gonzales County Crime Stoppers and the Gonzales Inquirer to keep the public informed about crimes that are going on in the community.

# Chamber seeks nominations for Walshak, Community Service awards

## SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Gonzales Chamber of Commerce is seeking nominations for the Community Service Award & David B. Walshak Lifetime Achievement Award to be presented at the 103rd Annual Chamber Banquet.

To get a nomination form, go to <https://gonzalestexas.com/annual-chamber-banquet/> and click on the links. Email completed form to [admin@gonzalestexas.com](mailto:admin@gonzalestexas.com) or return them to the Chamber office at 304 St. Louis St. by 4 p.m. Jan. 22, 2025.

The Community Service Award is an annual award given to an individual, business, or organization for meritorious service in one or more of the categories below:

- Historic Preservation
- Promotion of the Arts
- Education
- Commerce/Industry
- Youth Motivation
- Volunteer Work

A panel of judges consisting of the Executive Committee of the

Gonzales Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture will review the nominees and decide the winner. Judging will be based solely on information contained on this nomination form. Nominees will be judged without regard to sex, race, religion, or age and must live in the Gonzales Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture area. Any job-related task or duty for which nominees are paid a salary will not be considered. This award will be considered for a deceased person provided the death occurred within the year for which the award is being presented.

The David B. Walshak Lifetime Achievement Award is presented to a person who has proved worthy of distinction in the community. This Lifetime Achievement Award is appropriately named after a man, David B. Walshak, who gave himself unselfishly to his family, friends, church, and community.

A banker by profession, David B. Walshak was a two-time recipient of the Gonzales Chamber of Commerce "Citizen of the Year Award",

once in 1961, the other in 1972. He served as Director and President of the Gonzales Chamber of Commerce and in 1974 was a Charter Member of the Minutemen, ambassadors of our Chamber of Commerce. He served as Chairman of the Gonzales Sesquicentennial Committee from 1973-1975, President of the Gonzales Area Development Corporation and Director of the Texas Allied Poultry Association from 1975-1976.

Recipients of the awards will be announced at the Gonzales Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture Excellence Gala & Awards Ceremony 2025, to be held the evening of Thursday, Feb. 6 at JB Wells Expo. The event will start at 5:30 p.m. and will feature an array of silent and live auction items, dinner service, live music, and an opportunity to socialize with others in attendance. Stay tuned for ticket and sponsorship table information. New board members will be announced and retiring board members and officers will be recognized.

## CLARIFICATION

In a Special to the Inquirer story written by Ted Boriack in the Jan. 9 edition, there was a paragraph which states "In response to a Public Information Act records request to the GCUWCD for documents and communications about the source of the new rules proposed by the GCUWCD, the general manager's response is 'no such documentation exists and cannot be produced.'" GCUWCD General Manager Laura Martin responded to the Inquirer that she and a committee of two board members met together and went through the proposed rules. As redline changes and corrections were suggested, they were made to the document, but a record was not kept of which individual suggested which change or correction. As an advisory committee meeting, it was not subject to the Texas Open Meetings Act nor was the district required to keep a certified record of the meeting.



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## Celebrations Birthdays

<b>January 16th</b> Joey Moss Lupe Saldana	Kelley Decker Robin Guerra Katherine Miller Kathy Lamprecht Sam Turk
<b>January 17th</b> Lance Cox Andrea De Los Santos Peyton Harkey Leah Richter Kelley Spahn Greg Webb	<b>January 20th</b> Jonathon Harkey Diane Hurley Virginia Pirkle
<b>January 18th</b> Juan Gaytan Barry Harkey Sr. Morgan McLain Roy Pfuhl Kathy Koch Pustka Joey West	<b>January 21st</b> Susan Wilkerson Clark Norma Ehrig Layne Harkey Roxann Laredo
<b>January 19th</b> Riley Brown	<b>January 22nd</b> Ella Mae Finch

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## Gonzales Weather

 <b>January 16</b> 58°/46° Partly sunny 0% chance of rain • RealFeel 61
 <b>January 17</b> 67°/52° Mostly sunny 4% chance of rain • RealFeel 66
 <b>January 18</b> 70°/48° Mostly sunny 1% chance of rain • RealFeel 73
 <b>January 19</b> 54°/33° Low clouds and cooler 24% chance of rain • RealFeel 47
 <b>January 20</b> 52°/34° Occasional rain in the morning; otherwise, low clouds 55% chance of rain • RealFeel 43
 <b>January 21</b> 57°/41° Plenty of sun 0% chance of rain • RealFeel 54
 <b>January 22</b> 62°/40° Cloudy 25% chance of rain • RealFeel 61

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Upcoming Events at J.B. Wells Park in Gonzales

January 16th – South Texas Tour

January 18th-19th – South Texas Tour


January 22nd – Dayriders

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# Texan tapped as Ag secretary in upcoming Trump administration

## SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

President-elect Donald Trump has picked long-term ally Brooke Rollins to lead the Department of Agriculture. Her nomination is somewhat of a surprise; Kelly Loeffler, former U.S. senator, was rumored to be Trump's initial pick for the role. Rollins is also a surprising pick because she hasn't worked directly in agricultural policy.

Rollins acted as domestic policy director in the White House during Trump's first term, and has since gone on to preside over the America First Policy Institute (AFPI), a Trump-aligned think tank. She grew up on a farm in Glen Rose, Texas, which is known for its farming and ranching activities. Apart from her undergraduate degree in agricultural leadership and development from Texas A&M University, she doesn't appear to have much experience in agricultural policy.

Rollins took to X after the announcement, saying it will be the honor of her life to fight for America's farmers and agri-

cultural communities. "This is big stuff for a small-town ag girl from Glen Rose, TX - truly the American Dream at its greatest. WHO'S READY TO MAKE AGRICULTURE GREAT AGAIN?" she wrote.

If confirmed, Rollins will direct the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and its 100,000 employees, running on an annual budget of upwards of \$437 billion. The USDA oversees food security, agricultural production, promotes rural development and provides financial aid to farmers and low-income families. The USDA was founded to carry out research on agriculture, and at its core, is a research-centered organization.

"Outside of a misdirected interest in Chinese ownership of U.S. farmland, Brooke Rollins appears to have no agricultural policy track record to comment on. Rollins' AFPI, described as the second Trump administration in waiting, has so little interest in farm policy that there are no agriculture experts listed on its website," Karen Perry Stillerman, deputy director of the Food and Envi-

ronment Program at the Union of Concerned Scientists, said in a statement.

Stillerman added that this appears to be another example of Trump "doling out cabinet appointments for loyalty rather than expertise." Two of Trump's other picks also came from AFPI — Linda McMahon, for Education Secretary, and Scott Turner as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Industry groups appear to be optimistic about her nomination, however. The American Farm Bureau Federation said they're encouraged by her statement that she'd "fight for America's farmers and our nation's agricultural communities."

Importantly, Rollins has the upcoming new iteration of the Farm Bill ahead of her, which has significant sway over America's food systems. With Republicans having a majority in the House and Senate, the updated Farm Bill could repeal Proposition 12, a high-impact animal welfare

See SECRETARY, page 11

Garden Q&A

with CALVIN FINCH



**Q. I found a big box store that rents aerators for the lawn. The aerator will address the soil compaction but what does the addition of compost do? How much should be applied?**

A. The aeration addresses compaction and encourages oxygen exchange with the grass roots plus allows water to penetrate the soil easier. Apply one half inch of compost over the aerated surface to bring nutrients and organic material in contact with the roots. The compost also contributes to water holding capabilities.

**Q. What is the best way to keep deer from eating stems and rubbing their antlers on a newly planted shade tree?**

A. You need to put a fence around the tree tall enough and far enough away from it that the deer cannot reach the branches or trunk. Reinforce the fence with at least 3 fenceposts or what even works better for me is to use fence panels connected with the plastic connectors to form a square fence around the newly planted trees. In addition to protecting the newly planted tree from the

deer, be sure to avoid injuring the bark with a string mower or lawn mower.

**Q. We feed the birds but are being driven to bankruptcy by the squirrels feeding on the seed. My neighbor says that you use several tactics to reduce consumption of the sunflower and mixed seeds by squirrels.**

A. Consider using an Absolute brand feeder with a weight sensitive perch. The squirrels don't seem interested in safflower seeds or thistle seeds, but several species of birds do. My favorite tactic is to use pepper flavored seeds and suet purchased from your birdfeed supplier. The birds ignore the pepper flavor, but the squirrels don't eat seed with the pepper flavoring.

**Q. When is the deadline to plant winter vegetables?**

A. You can generally raise a crop of broccoli, kale, spinach, onions, or Swiss chard from transplants planted by February 1. English peas, radishes and turnips can still be planted now with seed. February 1 is the best time to plant potatoes.

Hallettsville Livestock Commission Co.

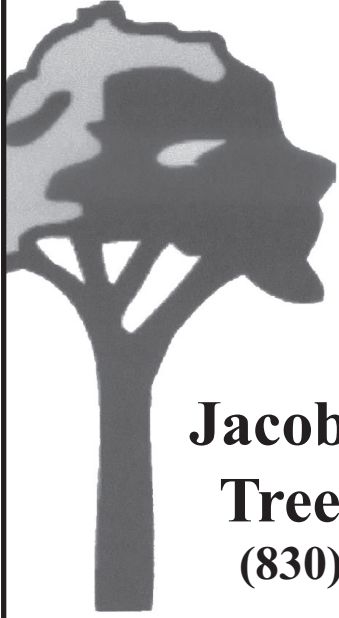
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LIVESTOCK WEEKLY REPORTS

**GONZALES LIVESTOCK**  
January 11, 2025  
Cattle – 361  
Compared to our last sale:  
Number 1 choice calves and yearlings sold very active to higher. Less quality calves and yearlings sold very active.  
Packer cows and bulls sold 2.00-4.00 higher.  
Stocker-feeder Steers: Medium and large-frame No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 400-560; 300-400 lbs., 305-445; 400-500 lbs., 285-374 500-600 lbs., 255-335; 600-700 lbs., 245-290; 700-800 lbs., 235-261.  
Bull Yearlings: 700-900 lbs., 175-215.  
Stocker-feeder heifers: Medium and large-frame No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 320-415; 300-400 lbs., 285-340; 400-500 lbs., 285-360; 500-600 lbs., 245-320; 600-700 lbs., 240-275.  
Packer Cows: Good lean utility and commercial, 105-116; Cutters, 118-130; Canners, 75-85; High yielding fat cows, 105-118.  
Packer Bulls: Yield grade 1 & 2, good heavy bulls, 128-138; Light weights and medium quality bulls, 120-126.  
Stocker Cows: \$900 to \$1,800. Pairs: \$1,500 to \$3,200.

**NIXON LIVESTOCK**  
January 13, 2025  
Cattle – 794  
Steers:  
200-300 lbs - \$395-455  
300-400 lbs - \$368-455  
400-500 lbs - \$334-435  
500-600 lbs - \$287-380  
600-700 lbs - \$257-309  
700-800 lbs - \$239-261  
Heifers:  
200-300 lbs - \$340-435  
300-400 lbs - \$329-425  
400-500 lbs - \$296-390

500-600 lbs - \$261-410  
600-700 lbs - \$248-355  
700-800 lbs - \$224-239  
Slaughter Cows - \$96-135  
Slaughter Bulls - \$100-137  
Stocker Cows – \$1000-1800  
Pairs: \$1700-2000

**HALLETTSVILLE LIVESTOCK COMMISSION CO., INC.**  
Sale date: January 7th  
Cattle on hand: 961  
Packer Cows:  
Canner and Cutter Cows: \$110-125  
Utility & Fat Cows: \$105-118  
Light Weight Canner Cows: \$90-106  
Pair/Weak: \$75-90  
Packer Bulls:  
Heavyweight Bulls: \$151-1645  
Utility & Cutter Bulls: \$125-150  
Lightweight Canner Bulls: \$115-125  
Stocker Cows:  
Good Stocker/Cows & Heifers: None  
Medium Stocker Cows & Heifers: \$1350-2100  
Good Cow & Calf Pairs: None  
Medium Cow & Calf Pairs: 2 pair \$2300  
Stocker & Feeder Calves & Yearlings:  
Number 1 steer & bull calves:  
Under 200 lbs.: \$380-540  
200-300 lbs.: \$360-490  
300-400 lbs.: \$350-415  
400-500 lbs.: \$320-400  
500-600 lbs.: \$280-340  
600-700 lbs.: \$255-290  
700-800 lbs.: \$235-266  
Number 1 heifer calves:  
Under 200 lbs: \$360-520  
200-300 lbs.: \$340-465  
300-400 lbs.: \$305-420  
400-500 lbs.: \$280-405  
500-600 lbs.: \$250-340  
600-700 lbs.: \$230-270  
700-800 lbs: \$210-240

Replacement Heifers: None  
The calf market opened the New Year much higher. Most classes sold \$10-\$15 higher with instances \$20 higher. Demand is extremely good. Packer cows and bulls sold \$3 higher on a supply of 180 Head.

**SEGUIN CATTLE CO.**  
January 8th  
Receipts low due to weather. Market very active and calling everything steady from last sale in 2024.  
Cattle – 255  
Sheep & goats –428  
Medium & large frame #1 Steers: 200-300 lb. 2.00-3.50-4.25  
300-400 lb. .40-3.26-4.00  
400-500 lb. 2.72- 3.25-3.75  
500-600 lb. 2.40-2.91-3.16  
600-700 lb. 1.64-2.55-2.81  
700-850 lb. 1.50-2.12-2.55  
Medium & large frame #1 Heifers:  
200-300 lb. 1.25-2.45-3.65  
300-400 lb. 1.55-3.12-3.60  
400-500 lb. 1.20-2.75-3.45  
500-600 lb. 2.30-2.64-2.88  
600-750 lb. 2.30-2.40-2.50  
Cows:  
Utility & commercial – .74-1.13-1.23  
Cutters – .80-.91-1.02  
Canners – .70-.75-.80  
Palpated cows – 1000-2000  
Cow/Calf Pairs – None  
Bulls:  
Heavy High Yielding – 1.35-1.57  
Light & Low Yielding –.81-1.34  
Sheep & Goats:  
Nannies – 85-205  
Kid Goats (Fat) – 2.40-3.95  
Wethers -2.35-2.62  
Billies – 1.40-2.55  
Dorp. Ewes - 35-180  
Dorp. Lambs (Fat) – 2.20-3.40  
Wooled Ewes –None  
Wooled Bucks – 1.60-1.97

Lambs – None  
Barb. Bucks – 275-300

**CUERO LIVESTOCK MARKET**  
January 10, 2025  
Number of Head: 464  
Happy New Year! There were 68 cows and 11 bulls. The packer cow and bull market were stronger into the new year. Most of the calf classes showed improvement up to \$40/hundred higher on average. The market is outstanding with no signs of weakening. We will host the 40th Annual DeWitt County All Breeds Bull and Female Sale on January 25, 2025. Please see our Facebook page for pictures and videos very soon.  
Packer bulls: 140.00-160.00  
Packer cows:  
Canners & Cutters113.00-145.00  
Poor & Weak 70.00-115.00  
Palpated: 11 Bred \$1900- \$2450  
Pairs: four @ \$1475-\$2300  
Steer/Bull Calves: (AVG-HIGH)  
200-250 lbs n/a  
250-299 lbs 310.00-445.00  
300-350 lbs 399.00-470.00  
350-400 lbs 358.00-438.00  
400-450 lbs 342.00-406.00  
450-500 lbs 323.00-375.00  
500-550 lbs 304.00-347.00  
550-600 lbs 288.00-312.00  
600-700 lbs 261.00-305.00  
700-800 lbs 236.00-267.00  
Heifer Calves: (AVG-HIGH)  
200-250 lbs n/a  
250-300 lbs 342.00-380.00  
300-350 lbs 341.00-395.00  
350-400 lbs 344.00-390.00  
400-450 lbs 304.00-370.00  
450-500 lbs 289.00-332.00  
500-550 lbs 272.00-326.00  
550-600 lbs 257.00-294.00  
600-700 lbs 210.00-300.00  
Over 700 lbs n/a



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# A compassionate and sensible cannabis policy for Texas

BY TEXAS AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER SID MILLER  
Special to the Inquirer

Just down the street from the Austin headquarters of the Texas Department of Agriculture is a trailer selling consumable cannabis products; the sole purpose of these products is to inebriate. When did the Texas legislature debate recreational marijuana and ultimately vote to legalize it?

The answer is, they didn't. Thanks to loose legal language and generous interpretations of the law, an unregulated market for recreational marijuana has sprung up across Texas.

Texas has, over the past few years, legalized hemp farming and processing, as well as creating and then expanding a compassionate use program for those who benefit from cannabis as medicine. When passing these laws, legislators sought to define intoxicating marijuana, which remains illegal in most cases. The resulting definition has led to the problems we face today.

The process of testing cannabis for the level of intoxicating THC is costly and complex. Local police must send samples to one of the few labs which does the testing and wait through a long backlog for a result. Unless you are dealing with massive quantities from transnational criminal gangs, it's just not worth the time, hassle, and expense for law enforcement to bust someone smoking a joint in a city park or sneaking a dime bag into a concert.

As a result, many local authorities have largely stopped enforcing marijuana possession laws. Either the time and cost of investigating and prosecuting most cases simply isn't worth it on limited police budgets, or they are run by leftists who want to thwart Texas' marijuana laws.

On top of that, the levels of intoxicants permitted by the law are equally difficult to police. This has led to a flood of unregulated "consumer products" such as vape pens, edibles, chocolates, and even raw cannabis "buds" being sold at retail establishments across the state.

What's worse, there are no consumer standards, safety inspections, or chemical analysis of these products to determine their level of intoxicants or even their basic safety.

I strongly support hemp as a commercial product. I strongly support medical marijuana and our state's compassionate use program. In fact, I want to see it expanded to include far more medical conditions than it currently does. Everyone who can benefit from it to help with their legitimate medical condition should have it available to them. I also strongly support robust research into cannabis so we can best use it as medicine and for a myriad of consumer products.

While I do not support recreational, retail marijuana for all, it's up to the legislature to fix the legislation on the books and, while doing so, have a robust and transparent debate about whether or not to expand its availability. That has not yet happened.

I have received a lot of messages asking me to come out against Dan Patrick's efforts to curtail the unregulated and unsafe market that I have described. I will not. That's not how the law works. The Lieutenant Governor is right to go after these unregulated and often illegal businesses.

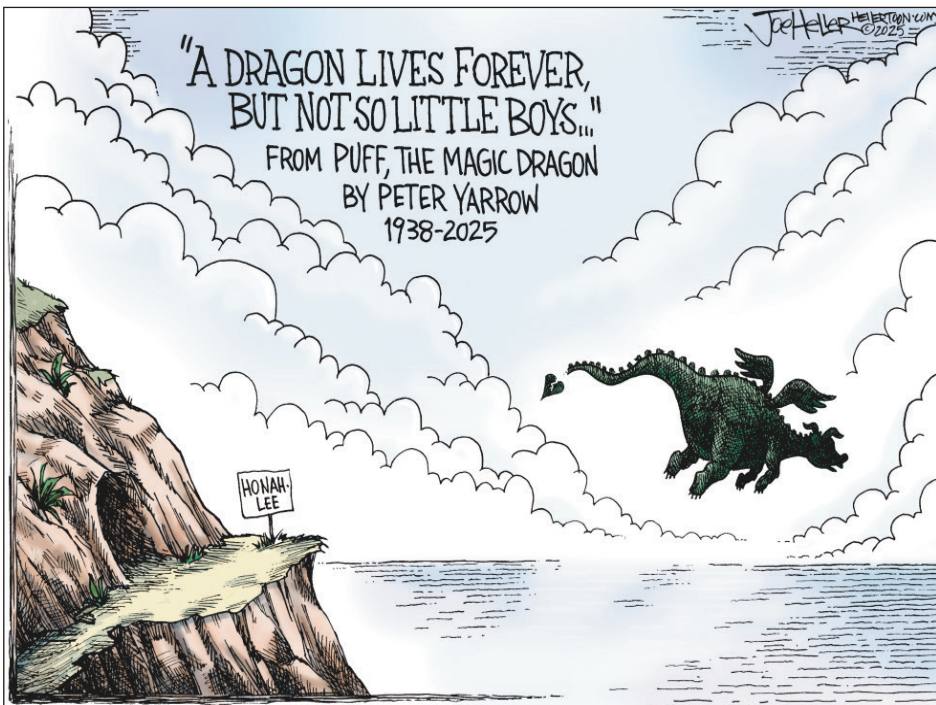
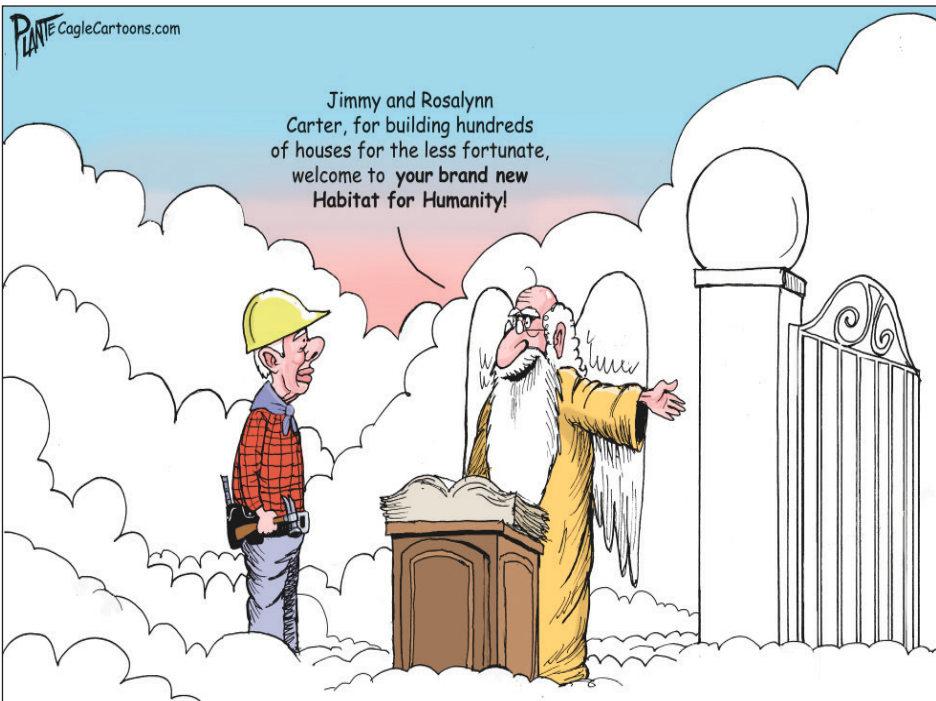
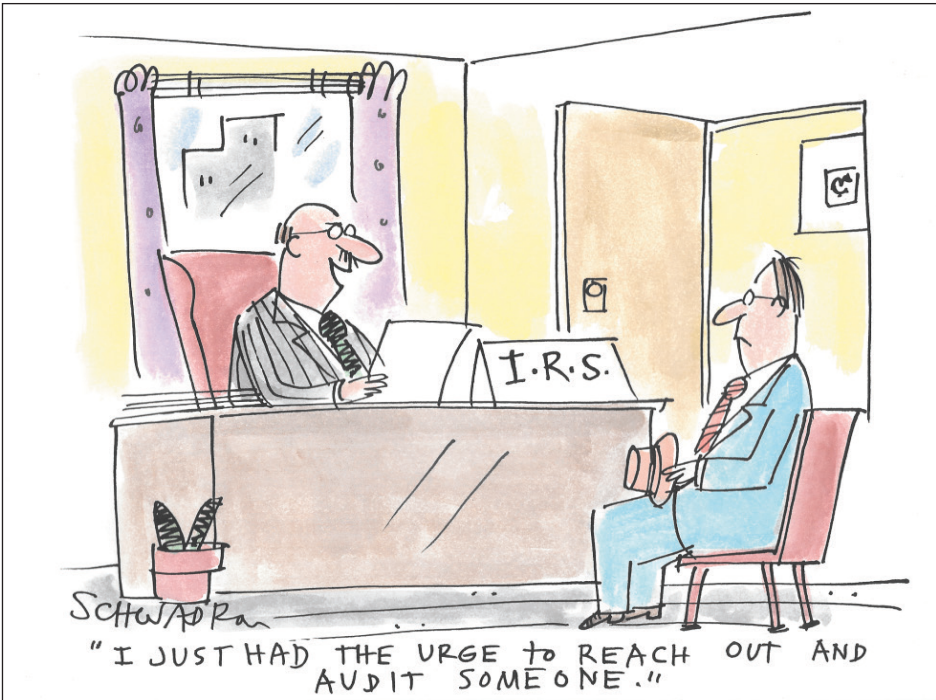
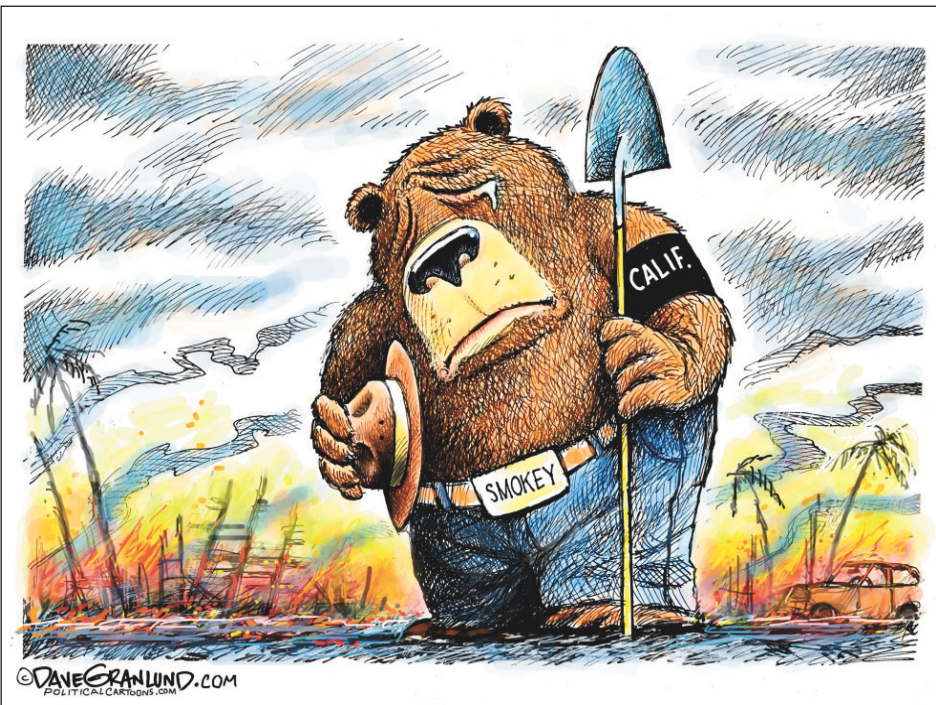
Even if the legislature voted to legalize recreational marijuana tomorrow, that legislation would create a legal market with rules, guardrails, checks, and balances. What we have now is the wild west.

These products are potentially dangerous. In many cases, we don't even know who the manufacturers are, where these products are coming from, or what kinds of chemicals and unsafe additives may be part of the production process.

Texas needs clear and understandable laws. Texas Republicans need to be rowing in the same direction in order to achieve this goal. That is why I stand with Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick while expecting the legislature to do its job.

An eighth-generation Texas farmer and rancher, Sid Miller is the 12th Commissioner of the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA). A twenty-six-time world champion rodeo cowboy, he has devoted his life to promoting Texas agriculture, rural communities, and the western heritage of Texas.

# Opinion



## The Gonzales Inquirer

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**DR. DON NEWBURY**  
The Idle American

## Mort's football dilemma...

If my ancient Uncle Mort could somehow "saddle up" the University of Texas' mascot, and then lean forward, he'd literally be close to the center of BEVO's horns.

As it is, this simple "what if" only figuratively describes his dilemma concerning the outcome of the upcoming Longhorn-Ohio State football game. The team which won reached the Holy Grail — the NCAA, major college, gold-plated championship football game.

You'd think he'd be a hands-down fan of the burnt orange team. Instead, he sat on his hands ....

My uncle has nothing against UT. What he vehemently opposes is the Southeastern Athletic Conference. He'll always believe the SEC's multi-year plan was to "woo" the old Southwest Conference's marquee teams.

"I'm not talking about the current Big 12 league," Mort wheezed. "If the SEC tentacles hadn't started creeping in years ago, there'd still be a powerful Southwest Conference."

He said the whole shebang reminds him of his devout preacher uncle who once said: "Where I grew up, everybody was Baptist unless someone had been messin' with 'em...."

All this to say that on the one hand, he'd have been happy if the Longhorns had beaten the Buckeyes. Why, says Mort, shouldn't the Longhorns have been able to crush a bunch of nuts, adding, "Ain't that what Buckeyes are?"

On the other hand, he couldn't get excited about the prospect that a win over Ohio State win might have led to an NCAA championship.

That's simply not the kind of good fortune he thinks the Southeastern Conference deserves....

We're nearing the time of year when I pull an end run on TV football games. Typically, I join other viewers 30-40 minutes into games. Utilizing my DVR, I'm able to fast forward through commercials. This shortens games, and also spares me from the tedium of watching commercials I've already seen dozens of times.

The end run is reversed during the Super Bowl, however. Usually commercials are fresh, and often far more engaging than the games themselves. So, during the "BIG" game, I'm likely to fast forward through game action, thereby quickly accessing the next commercial....

Please allow me to praise one current commercial that may reach the height of classics--like the lady throwing a Discount tire through the store window, and Sara Peller's search for the beef in a Wendy's hamburger.

New on the scene is Taco Bell's intrusion into the domain currently ruled by the burger joints. Taco Bell is proud of its new chicken nuggets.

In one ad, participants are gathered around the sample plate. Viewers are assured these are NOT paid actors....

The first "taster" offers high praise, but the second has a different story.

She calls the nuggets to be an "abomination." With sneering derision, she laughs heartily at others whose comments are positive. (I've wished for such responses to stories I've spun in 23 years of columns and speaking engagements, but, sadly, none so far....)

The announcer admits that there is one paid performer, "Negative Nelly," and--as one would expect--urges us NOT to be....

I heard my favorite Super Bowl joke years ago from the late, great Congressman Charlie Stenholm, a Christian statesman who is greatly missed.

He told of the youth minister who asked adults to bring sandwiches and cookies to the church's fellowship hall for a community-wide Super Bowl party for youth following the evening service. As the crowd grew in the sanctuary, he feared that he might have underestimated his needs. He retreated quickly to the fellowship hall, hastily placing a sign on the sandwich table. "Please limit yourself to two sandwiches. Remember, God is watching you."

He didn't notice a seventh-grader lurking nearby. When the minister returned to the sanctuary, the youngster made his own sign, this one for the cookie table: "Take all of the cookies you want. Remember, God is watching the sandwiches"....

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.





PHOTO BY VANDY VAN EPPS  
Gonzales ISD MTSS Coordinator Adrienne Steen hands former Gonzales High School basketball coach Vic Salazar a bouquet of flowers for the gym naming ceremony. The district renamed the Apache Gym in honor of Salazar's 20-year career as the basketball coach.

# GISD renames gym for legendary coach Vic Salazar

BY VANDY VAN EPPS  
Gonzales Inquirer

The name Vic Salazar will forever be tied to Gonzales High School as the Gonzales Independent School District hosted a ceremony Friday, Jan. 10 to rename the gym to honor his legendary basketball coaching career. Coach Salazar was surrounded by his former players at the Gonzales High School library prior to Friday's contest with La Vernia as they were reminiscing about the Runnin' Apaches.

Salazar coached the Apaches basketball team from 1974 to 1994, leading the team to 12 district championships, five zone championships, six area championships, three regional championships and three state semi-finalist finishes. He finished his 20-year career with a 517-147 record and averaged more than 20 wins per season. "He contributed 36 years of service

See SALAZAR, page 7

# Lady Apaches earn first district win

STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Lady Apaches traveled to San Antonio for their third district game against the JFK Lady Rockets Friday, Jan. 10. The Lady Apaches kicked off the game strong, going up, 19-9, but quickly it turned into a close contest. Gonzales scored in the single digits in the final three quarters with the Lady Rockets, but the Lady Apaches closed out the game with a 44-43 win. The Lady Apaches will close out the first half of district play at home against San Antonio Memorial Friday, Jan. 17. Gonzales will open the second half of district on the road against La Vernia Tuesday, Jan. 21. The Memorial game tips off at 6:15 p.m. and the La Vernia game tips off at 6:30 p.m.

# Apaches FC roll past Eagles

STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Apaches FC returned to Apache Field for a game against the Pleasanton Eagles Tuesday, Jan. 14. The Apaches dominated Pleasanton the whole game, beating them, 7-2, and improved to 2-1-2. Gonzales will take on St. Mary Hall to close out its non-district play Friday, Jan. 17. The Apaches will open up district play against the San Antonio JFK Rockets Friday, Jan. 24. The Apaches' district is comprised of San Antonio Memorial, San Antonio Cole, Yoakum, Luling and La Vernia. The St. Mary Hall game kicks off at 7 p.m.



PHOTO BY VANDY VAN EPPS  
Apaches senior guard Jzyah Melancon (3) dribbles the ball down court in the district opener against the La Vernia Bears Friday, Jan. 10.

# Apaches fall to Bears in district opener

BY VANDY VAN EPPS  
Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales Apaches returned home for the district opener against the La Vernia Bears in Vic Salazar Gym Friday, Jan. 10.

The Apache kept the game close against La Vernia, keeping the Bears' lead to five points for most of the game. The Apaches eventually fell to La Vernia, 61-48, but head basketball coach Steven Pinch-back knows his team is building

themselves. "We're just trying to put it together. We've been preparing. It was really a close game, pretty much the whole time. We just had a few lapses, and we're

See APACHES, page 7

# GHS CHEERLEADERS

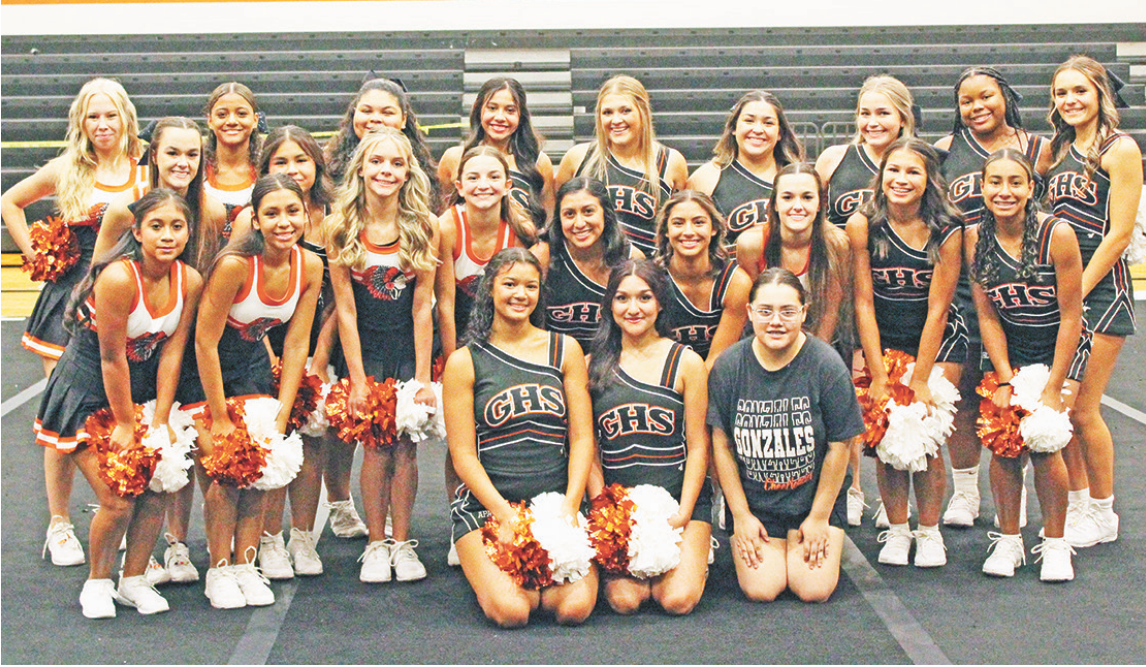


PHOTO BY VANDY VAN EPPS  
The Gonzales High School Cheerleaders are heading to the UIL State Cheerleader competition in Forth Worth Friday, Jan.17. The competition will be live streamed on NFHS.org.

# Lady Apaches FC competes in Lago Vista tourney

STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Lady Apaches FC played their final tournament of the season in Lago Vista Tuesday, Jan. 9 through Saturday, Jan. 11. The Lady Apaches went 2-1 in the tournament, beating Bandera, 3-0, and Fort Bend Willowridge, 1-0, and losing to Sealy, 4-0. The Lady Apaches improved to 3-2-2 for the season and will go on the road Tuesday, Jan. 21 for their final non-district game against Bastrop. Gonzales will travel to San Antonio for the district opener against the JFK Lady Rockets Friday, Jan. 24. Both games kick off at 5 p.m.

# Apaches fall in close game against Gobblers

STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Apaches hosted their second district game against their rivals the Cuero Gobblers Tuesday, Jan. 14. The Apaches fell to the Gobblers, 58-51, and dropping to 0-2 in district play. Gonzales began the game trailing 13-2 in the end of the first quarter, but quickly turned things around ending the first half trailing, 26-24. The Apaches will hit the road Friday, Jan. 17 for their third district game against the San Antonio JFK Rockets. The JFK game tips off at 7:30 p.m.

# Lady Apaches powerlifting opens season in San Antonio

STAFF REPORT

The powerlifting season got started for the Lady Apaches this past Saturday at San Antonio Pieper High School. The event served as a great early competition for Gonzales, as many strong programs competed (16 in total). Despite the huge amount of competition, Madison Sampleton earned a first-place finish in the

220 pound weight class, while also already hitting her state qualifying total at the first meet of the year. Additionally, Alize Miller earned a fourth place finish in the 181-pound weight class. The meet also served as a great first experience for several freshmen and first-time lifters. Lady Apaches head coach Saul Hinojosa said, "This was a great first meet for us. We were able to

get a lot of our new, young lifters some experience while getting our veterans back into the groove.

See LIFTING, page 7

The 2025 Gonzales Lady Apaches powerlifting team at the Pieper High School powerlifting meet in San Antonio Saturday, Jan. 11.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO







Mustangs senior cornerback Tristen Mikesch (27) represents Nixon-Smiley at the San Antonio All-Star Football game at the Alamodome Saturday, Jan. 11.

PHOTO BY VANDY VAN EPPS

# Mikesh closes out football career as an All-Star

BY VANDY VAN EPPS  
Gonzales Inquirer

The best of the best Texas high school football players around the San Antonio area gathered at the Alamodome for the San Antonio All-Star Football game, including one Nixon-Smiley football player.

Senior Tristen Mikesch represented Nixon-Smiley on the Blue Team for the All-Star game in the Dome Saturday, Jan. 11.

Mikesh played a couple of snaps on defense in the second half for team Blue; team Blue beat team White, 24-14.

“It was exciting. I was a little nervous, but, I mean, I know I’m pretty good too. I don’t know I can keep up with everybody else, so I had a good time with it,” Mikesh said.

Mikesh said it felt great to play with the best players around the San Antonio area.

Mikesh was the first Nixon-Smiley football player to play in the San Antonio All-Star game and is glad to represent his town and school at the game.

“It feels good coming out here to the big city, playing with the best of the best, and showing everybody that Nixon can be one of the best,” Mikesh said.

Mikesh’s message to the future Nixon-Smiley football players who want to play in the game — he said to dream big and work hard.



# Eagles stun Mustangs with fourth quarter rally

BY VANDY VAN EPPS  
Gonzales Inquirer

The Nixon-Smiley Mustangs returned home for their second district game of the season against the Luling Eagles Tuesday, Jan. 14.

The Mustangs and the Eagles competed hard in the first three quarters with Nixon-Smiley leading, 38-36 at the end of the third, but things went south quickly.

Luling outscored the Mustangs, 19-7, in the fourth quarter, shutting down Nixon-Smiley’s offense.

“They were the better team in the fourth quarter. You know, I could blame a lot of things on conditioning and a lot of things at the end of the day, they made plays and we didn’t if we’re going to be a good basketball team, we got to understand that,” Mustangs head basketball coach Carlton McKinney said. “And I think our kids are good kids, and they work hard, but there’s a difference between working hard and having the ability to overcome whatever obstacles are there in front of every ball game.”

The Mustangs will take on Luling again later in the second round of district and McKinney knows they’ll be ready for round two next time.

See **MUSTANGS**, page 7

# Lady Mustangs earn first district win over Luling

BY VANDY VAN EPPS  
Gonzales Inquirer

The Nixon-Smiley Lady Mustangs hosted the Luling Lady Eagles for their fourth district game of the season.

The Lady Mustangs secured their first district win of the season, 62-38, over the Lady Eagles and improved to 1-3 in district.

“It’s good to get the first one. We knew, you know, every district game is going to be tough, especially against a team like Luling, not scrappy like we are, but we’re just happy to get the first one out of the way. I think this will help build our confidence and momentum the for the last game of district, and then round two,” Lady Mustangs head basketball coach Trevor Johnson said.

The Lady Mustangs’ defense shut down Luling’s offense in the second half, only allowing 20 points.

“So our defense really picked it up. We like to make adjustments on defense. We switch in and out of different



PHOTO BY VANDY VAN EPPS

Lady Mustangs sophomore point guard Grace Gomez (10) dribbles the ball center court in the district contest against Luling.



PHOTO BY VANDY VAN EPPS

Nixon-Smiley’s Nicholas Martinez (15) shoots two free throws for the Mustangs in the district game against Luling.

# Mustangs win district opener over rival Stockdale

STAFF REPORT

The Nixon-Smiley Mustangs traveled to Stockdale Friday, Jan. 10 for the district opener against their rivals the Brahmas.

The Mustangs and Brahmas kicked off district with a close contest.

The Mustangs came out on top

over Stockdale, 59-56, to kick off district with a 1-0 mark.

Nixon-Smiley will returned home Tuesday, Jan. 14 for a district game against the Luling Eagles.

The Mustangs will go on the road Friday, Jan. 17 for a district game against the Karnes City Badgers.

# Lady Mustangs fall to Stockdale Lady Brahmas, 57-46, on the road

STAFF REPORT

The Nixon-Smiley Lady Mustangs hit road Friday, Jan. 10 for a game against the Stockdale Lady Brahmas.

The Lady Mustangs fell to the Lady Brahmas, 57-46, and dropped to 0-3 in dis-

trict play.

Seniors Madison Yanes and Janaelyn White scored double digit points in the loss to Stockdale; Yanes lead the team with 14 points and White recorded 12 points.

The Lady Mustangs hosted the Luling Lady

Eagles Tuesday, Jan. 14 for their fourth district game of the season.

The Lady Mustangs will join the Mustangs Friday, Jan. 17 for a road against Karnes City.

The Karnes City game tips off at 6:30 p.m.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Nixon-Smiley Mustangs and Lady Mustangs show off their hardware from the St. Joseph High School powerlifting meet Saturday, Jan. 11. The Mustangs finished first and the Lady Mustangs finished third overall at the meet.

# Nixon-Smiley powerlifting teams finish strong in first meet of the season

STAFF REPORT

The Nixon-Smiley powerlifting teams kicked off the 2025 season at St. Joseph High School in Victoria Saturday, Jan. 11.

The Mustangs and Lady Mustangs finished strong at the meet with them finishing second in the boys division and third place in the girls division.

The powerlifting teams will travel to Jourdanton Wednesday, Jan. 15 for their second meet of the season and will head to Somerset Saturday, Feb. 1. for the third meet.

The Jourdanton meet starts at 4 p.m. and the Somerset meet begins at 9 a.m.

## —RESULTS—

FIRST PLACE BOYS TEAM (out of 12 schools)  
THIRD PLACE GIRLS TEAM (out of 12 schools)

### Boys Results:

2nd Place- 114 lbs Weight Class- Cesar Vazquez  
1st Place- 132 lbs Weight Class- Khali Jantes  
2nd Place- 132 lbs Weight Class- Eduardo Bentancourt  
2nd Place- 148 lbs Weight Class- Tyler Barrientez  
4th Place- 148 lbs Weight Class- Francisco Acosta  
2nd Place- 165 lbs Weight Class- Eric Rodriguez  
3rd Place- 165 lbs Weight Class- Jose Olvera  
5th Place- 181 lbs Weight Class Jaydin Munoz  
3rd Place- 198 lbs Weight Class- Adan Zavala  
2nd Place- 220 lbs Weight Class- Gavino Moreno  
2nd Place- 275 lbs Weight Class- Noah Jenks

### Girls Results

2nd- 105 lbs Weight Class- Gracie Gomez  
4th- 114 lbs Weight Class- Ruby Mendez  
3rd- 123 lbs Weight Class- Kaylie Morin  
3rd- 132 lbs Weight Class- Gabby Limon  
1st- 148 lbs Weight Class- Zulema Rodriguez  
1st- 165 lbs Weight Class- Ashly Garcia  
3rd- 165 lbs Weight Class- Frida Casas  
5th- 181 lbs Weight Class- Wendy Rodriguez





PHOTO BY VANDY VAN EPPS

Vic Salazar with his former players in the Gonzales High School Library for the naming ceremony Friday, Jan 10.

## SALAZAR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

to GISD. He was the first coach to implement an all-year off season basketball program at GHS. He was the first coach to start a basketball camp at Gonzales — Salazar’s Basketball Camp. He was the first coach to start at basketball tournament at GHS and he gave the name of the GHS Basketball Team — ‘Runnin’ Apaches,’” school board member Josie Smith-Wright said.

Salazar thanked the school

district and the players that came to the ceremony and helped make this special moment happen. “There was only one major to win and to keep going and we were in there with East Central, San Antonio Madison, New Braunfels, New Braunfels Canyon, Fredericksburg, Kerrville and Cuero. They had the best athletes, but these guys, I mean, they put their heart in. They fought hard, they played hard, and they worked hard with

a purpose, and that was to do the right things,” Salazar said. After Salazar retired from coaching, he became one of the winningest coaches in Central Texas and later became an assistant high school principal, Gonzales Junior High School principal, GHS principal, head of GISD Human Resources and finally superintendent of schools. He retired from the school district in 2010.

## APACHES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

still young to where we can’t have a hard time recovering,” Pinchback said. The Apaches defense held La Vernia and Pinchback was proud about how they performed. “We knew what they were doing, so we just tried to make them whatever they were called. They called a man set, we went to zone. You know, we’re just trying to play some games with them. We were very familiar with each other. But they’re a good team. They’ve done what they’re supposed to do. We’re trying to get where they are to get on top, so we showed some flashes,” Pinchback said. The Apaches took on their rivals the Cuero Gobblers Tuesday, Jan. 14 and Pinchback knows they’ll be a tough team. “We know that La Vernia is one of the top teams in our district, so we prepared for them. Now we know we move on to the next opponent, which is Cuero. We’ll be prepared for them. We just got to keep playing hard. That’s all,” Pinchback said. The Apaches will go on the road Friday, Jan. 17 for their third district game against the San Antonio JFK Rockets.

The JFK game tips off at 7:30 p.m.



PHOTO BY VANDY VAN EPPS

Apaches senior forward Gavin Lekgega (1) shoots two free throws against La Vernia for the district opener Friday, Jan. 10.

## BASKETBALL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

defenses. So we’d like to go with whatever is working. And I think they had confidence in what the defense we were running tonight. And like you said, the fourth quarter, it’s always good to end on a good note, that way it goes into the next game,” Johnson said. The Lady Mustangs will go on the road Friday, Jan. 17 for a game against the Karnes City Lady Badgers and Johnson will be prepping his team for another tough contest. “Karnes City is another tough opponent. I mean, our district’s pretty solid from top to bottom, but I think we’ll do a good job of applying pressure, just like we did tonight, and we should have a similar result if we play the same way.” Johnson said. The Karnes City game tips off at 6:30 p.m.



PHOTO BY VANDY VAN EPPS

Mustangs junior guard Omar Abundis (10) defends a Luling player in the district contest Tuesday, Jan. 14.

## MUSTANGS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

“I thought for three quarters we had a good mind-set, and then we do what we’ve done, unfortunately in the past, we kind of take our foot off the gas, we’re not talented enough or skilled enough to take the foot off the gas against anybody in our district. So that’s a lesson learned. Hopefully we can learn it before Friday. If not, you know, we’ll be in this situation again, unfortunately,” McKinney said. The Mustangs will go on the road against the Karnes City Badgers for their third district game of the season and McKinney will be focusing on his team. “Honestly, our focus is on us. Our opponents are going to do what they do. For us if we do what we do, we give ourselves a chance to win every night it’s just tonight we didn’t do it for four quarters we did it for three, but the game is four so we need to understand that.” McKinney said. The Karnes City game tips off at 8 p.m.

## LIFTING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

We saw a lot of great competition here at this meet. This meet is going to serve as a great foundation for the rest of the season. I have high hopes for all of our girls this season. Once they develop confidence in themselves, the sky’s the limit.” Both Apache & Lady Apache Powerlifting travel to Kenedy this Saturday, Jan. 18.

### OFFICIAL RESULTS FOR SAN ANTONIO PIEPER MEET

- Madison Sampleton-1st (220)
- Alize Miller-4th (181)
- Midaya Cantu-6th (165)
- Marilyn Ramirez-7th (165)
- Teigan Jefferson-7th (148)
- Maritza Perez-10th (148)
- Mariah Mendoza-8th (114)
- Sophia Palacios-12th (148)

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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040  
AUCTIONS

### Estate/Consignment Auction

**Sunday, January 19, 10:00 AM**  
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[www.IntegrityAuctions.biz](http://www.IntegrityAuctions.biz)

5 Area Rugs, Weights and stand, Tempurpedic King Bed, Antiques, Furniture, Nice Artwork, 4 Lg. G Harvey Prints, Costume Jewelry, Sterling Rings, Sterling James Avery, Power Tools, Pocket Knives, 3 TVs, Metal Shop Shelves, Faux Wicker Patio Set, Lamps, Mirrors, Ammunition, Scopes, Nice Ladies Jackets, Clothes, Shoes, Purses, Luggage, Wood Frame Screens, His & Hers Golf Clubs, Lg. Loom, Fans, Small Appliances, Whirlpool Oven, 12' Christmas Tree, 40 Tables of Household & Collectibles Box Lots & more!

15% BP, Cash, Check, or Credit Cards  
James Molnoskey Auctioneer #15091  
512-557-3333

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GARAGE SALES

### One Day Moving Sale

**Sunday, January 19, 2025**  
**from 9a-4p**  
**226 St. James**  
**in Gonzales, TX 78629**

No early birds, prices given prior OR presales!

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040  
AUCTIONS

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

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For Lease 200 West 3rd Avenue. Current buildings will be removed. DO NOT contact onsite personnel. Call/text 210-872-9120. Terms negotiable.

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### 190 LAWN, GARDEN

**MARIO BERMEA TREE SERVICE.** We Trim Trees out of Power Lines & Over Houses. Remove Unwanted & Dangerous Trees. Proper Trimming & Canopy Work. Over 30 years Experience & Insured. 512-923-4650, Smiley, TX.

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### 670 APARTMENTS FOR RENT OR LEASE

**PARKWOOD APARTMENTS**  
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Nixon, TX 78140  
**OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays – 9:00am to 3:00pm  
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Para solicitar un apartamento favor llamar a manager al siguiente numero 830-582-1343. Para solicitar una adaptacion o modificacion razonable, favor llamar manager al siguiente numero 830-582-1343.

Personas que hablan español y requieren un interprete, favor llamar a manager al siguiente numero 830-582-1343.

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### 670 APARTMENTS FOR RENT OR LEASE

**WATER/WASTEWATER PRODUCTION OPERATOR**

The City of Waelder is accepting applications for Water/Wastewater Production Operator.

This position will also be responsible for maintenance of lift stations, sewer system and water wells, yard work, general housekeeping, parks and maintaining streets.

Requirements:

- Experience and knowledge with overall operations of wastewater and water plant are required.
- High School diploma or GED required and TCEQ water and wastewater licenses are required.
- Must be able to pass a Criminal Background check.
- A valid TX CDL license is required.
- BPAT or CSI are a plus.

Salary negotiable. Applications may be picked up at the Waelder City Hall 300 Hwy 90W, Waelder, TX. City of Waelder. 830-788-7331. The City of Waelder is an equal opportunity employer.

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GARAGE SALES

### 670 APARTMENTS FOR RENT OR LEASE

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1800 Waelder Rd.  
Gonzales, TX 78629  
830.672.2877  
[countryvillagesquare@voatz.org](http://countryvillagesquare@voatz.org)  
[www.voatz.org](http://www.voatz.org)

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GARAGE SALES

### 850 HELP WANTED

**W.B. FARM AND RANCH SUPPLY**

**Is now hiring for Yard Hand**

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

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**2031 Water St., Gonzales, TX**  
No phone calls

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### 850 HELP WANTED

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**DRIVER POSITION**

Class A CDL required. Local region. Out and back on same shift to area delivery routes. We offer a competitive wage along with 401k, Vacation, Medical, Dental, Vision and Life Insurance. Apply at Kitchen Pride Mushroom Farms, Inc., 1034 County Road 348, Gonzales, TX. 830.540.4516. KPMF is an EOE

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### 850 HELP WANTED

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### 850 HELP WANTED

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Gonzales Healthcare Systems has immediate openings in the Plant Operations Department for the following positions:

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- Plant Operations Mechanic II: Performs installation, maintenance and repair functions on Gonzales Healthcare System equipment. Previous experience in a hospital or industrial setting preferred/Full-time position with competitive salary and benefits.

We invite you to join our team in providing high quality services to the residents of Gonzales and the surrounding communities.

For more information, please visit our website at [gonzaleshealthcare.com](http://gonzaleshealthcare.com) or contact Human Resources at 830-519-9100.

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GARAGE SALES

### 850 HELP WANTED

**VICTORIA COLLEGE**  
Est. 1925

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

**Electrical Instructor**  
**Welding Instructor**

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

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GARAGE SALES

### 850 HELP WANTED

**W.B. FARM AND RANCH SUPPLY**

**Is now hiring for LOCAL DELIVERY DRIVER**

Class A or B, CDL Required  
Forklift Experience Needed

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

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GARAGE SALES

### 850 HELP WANTED

**VICTORIA COLLEGE**  
Est. 1925

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

Victoria College is an Equal Opportunity Institution.

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### 850 HELP WANTED

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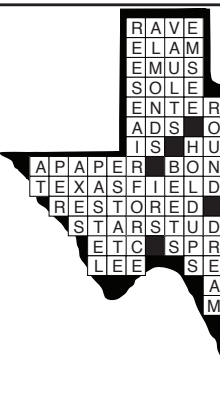
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# CLASSIFIEDS

## January 9 Puzzle Answers

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



**Last Puzzle Solution**  
S-1723



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### 950 PUBLIC NOTICES

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
TO DISCUSS WAELDER ISD's  
Texas Academic Performance  
Reports (TAPR)**  
Waelder ISD will hold a PUBLIC HEARING - T.A.P.R. Report - at 6:00 p.m. on January 27, 2025, in the Cafeteria, 109 N. Ave. C., Waelder, TX.

### Attention Property Owners

We are currently in the process of conducting a mass appraisal as required by the Texas Property Tax Code. The Chief Appraiser is requesting all property owners, that currently receive the 1-d-1 (Open Space) Agricultural Use Appraisal (commonly called "Ag Exemption") and that lie within the boundaries we are currently appraising, complete a new 1-d-1 application.

If you recently completed this application, we apologize and request you complete them again. We kindly request you complete the application and return to our office by April 1, 2025 or as soon as possible.

Forms are due on or before April 30, 2025. Any form turned in after this date will be assessed a 10% late filed penalty. If a form is not received by the deadline the special valuation will be removed by May 15, 2025.

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of RONALD LEO DIRKS, Deceased, were issued on January 07, 2025, in Cause No. PW24-0381, pending in the County Court of Gonzales County to: KARENE ANN DIRKS.

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

Address: THE LAW OFFICES OF DANIEL H. SCHULZE, PLLC  
c/o DANIEL H. SCHULZE  
Attorney for KARENE ANN DIRKS  
202 N. LaVernia Street  
P. O. Box 745  
Marion, Texas 78124  
Ph.:(830) 914-2328

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### 950 PUBLIC NOTICES

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### 950 PUBLIC NOTICES

**Public Notice**  
  
The Annual Meetings of the Nixon Cemetery Association, Inc. and the Nixon Perpetual Care Cemetery, Inc. will be held jointly at the Nixon Methodist Church Annex, Nixon, Texas on Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at 6:00PM. All members are urged to attend.

### NOTICE OF DEADLINE TO FILE AN APPLICATION FOR PLACE ON THE BALLOT CITIES, SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND OTHER POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS

**AVISO DE FECHA LÍMITE PARA PRESENTAR UNA SOLICITUD PARA UN LUGAR EN LA BOLETA PARA CIUDADES, DISTRITOS ESCOLARES Y OTRAS SUBDIVISIONES POLÍTICAS**

Notice is hereby given that an application for a place on the Waelder Independent School District General/Special Election ballot may be filed as indicated below:  
(Se da aviso por la presente que una solicitud para un lugar en la boleta de Elección General/Especial de Waelder Independent School District puede ser presentada como so Indica a continuación:)

**Filing Dates and Times:**  
(Fechas y Horario para Entregar Solicitudes)

Start Date: 01/15/2025 End Date: 02/14/2025  
(Fecha Inicio) (Fecha Limite)

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
(Horario de la Oficina)


Physical address for filing an application in person for place on the ballot:  
(Dirección física para presentar una solicitud on persona para un lugar en la boleta)  
201 US Hwy 90 W, Waelder, TX 78959

Address to mail an application for place on the ballot (if filing by mail):  
(Dirección a donde enviar una solicitud para un lugar en la boleta (en caso de presentar por correo):  
P.O. Box 247, Waelder, TX 78959 (Received at the Central Office on 2/14/2025 by 4pm, Not Postmarked)

Email and Fax Number to send an application for place on the ballot: If a filing fee is submitted, the application may not be faxes or emailed.  
(Dirección de correo electrónico o número de fax para enviar una solicitud para un lugar en la boleta: Si un pago de inscripción es presentada, la solicitud no puede ser enviada por correo electrónico o fax.)  
erinsuhr@waelderisd.org

Erin Suhr  
Printed Name of Filing  
Officer or Designee  
(Nombre en letra de molde Oficial de Archivos o Persona Designado)

12/13/2024  
Date Posted  
(Fecha archivada)

  
Signature of Filing  
Officer or Designee  
(Firma del Oficial de Archivos o Persona Designada)

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IN TEN EASY STEPS**



- 1. DON'T ADVERTISE.** Just pretend everybody know what you have to offer.
- 2. DON'T ADVERTISE.** Tell yourself you just don't have the time to spend thinking about promoting your business.
- 3. DON'T ADVERTISE.** Just assume everybody knows what you sell.
- 4. DON'T ADVERTISE.** Convince yourself that you've been in business so long customers will automatically come to you.
- 5. DON'T ADVERTISE.** Forget that there are new potential customers who would do business with you if they were urged to do so.
- 6. DON'T ADVERTISE.** Forget that you have a competition trying to attract your customers away from you.
- 7. DON'T ADVERTISE.** Tell yourself it costs too much to advertise and that you don't get enough out of it.
- 8. DON'T ADVERTISE.** Overlook the fact that advertising is an inveseament in selling - not an expense.
- 9. DON'T ADVERTISE.** Be sure not to provide an adequate advertising budget for your business.
- 10. DON'T ADVERTISE.** Forget that you have to keep reminding your establised customers that you appreciate their business.

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**OIL & GAS RIGHTS**  
We buy oil, gas & mineral rights. Both non-producing and producing including Non-Participating Royalty Interest (NPRI). Provide us your desired price for an offer evaluation. Call today: 806-620-1422. Lobo Minerals, LLC, PO Box 1800, Lubbock, TX 79408-1800, LoboMineralsLLC@gmail.com.

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# Prone to Pain

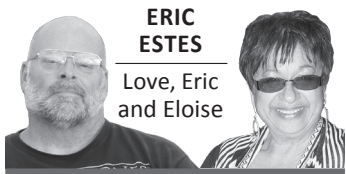
Well, here we are again, I hope you're doing well and that you had a great night's sleep. I got plenty of rest myself, as it rained all day yesterday and was quite chilly, causing these worn joints to stiffen up significantly. I once looked up whether weather actually played a role in how we feel, or if was just my imagination? Turns out that changes in temperature, humidity and barometric pressure actually does affect how we feel. Ever notice that if you're suffering with a cold or flu it seems to get worse at night, it's because external forces are also at play.

I'm sure you've noticed that life can be anywhere from euphoric to brutal, depending on the situation. Fortunately it seems to fall somewhere in between most of the time, as walking through life with a euphoric look on your face would surely scare most people you'd run into, and probably cause most of us to self destruct. Ever met someone who's just way too happy all of the time? Yep, that's what duck tape and car trunks were designed for...just sayin'.

While life has many ways to cause us pain and discomfort, there are things we can do to try and counter the effects. Things like eating well, getting some exercise and reducing stress are all vital, but getting a good night's sleep is also very im-

portant. Apparently, easier said than done. According to two articles I've read recently (Forbes and Popular Science), over 25 million Americans live with daily chronic pain. It's reported that in the U.S., we spend \$65 billion annually on sleep aids, which includes bedding, pillows, medical devices, and over the counter drugs, yet are still sleep deprived. However, it seems that the positions that we sleep in, have a profound effect on how well we sleep.

We've all seen infants that fall asleep on their knees while resting their head on the bed, floor, dog or wherever else they conk out... too cute. But if we slept like that, we'd probably spend the next week in traction. Sleeping on our stomachs as adults causes a lot of pressure on our bodies, resulting in unnecessary aches and pains for most of us. They do recommend however, that if something is working for you, there's no need to change it. That's why I've taken to hanging upside down in the closet like Eddie Munster (old school). If you have a problem with acid reflux, sleeping on your right side can make it worse. Sleeping on your left side can make breathing easier, but sleeping on either side can promote neck, hip, and shoulder pain. Also, sleeping on your side in the fetal position (knees bent) can lead to leg cramps, while sleeping in



ERIC ESTES  
Love, Eric and Eloise

the fecal position promotes doing excessive laundry (weird humor alert!). It's reported that sleeping on our backs is what works the best for most people, even though only about 8% of Americans do so. However, for heavy snorers or people with sleep apnea, this may not work the best. Most folks find sleeping on their backs for long periods of time uncomfortable, but generally feel better after doing so. It can be learned by putting pillows on both sides and under knees, taking pressure off the lower back.

Not eating late, limiting screen time and caffeine, and having a comfortable, dark and quiet place to catch some zzz's can also make a big difference. For me, remembering scriptures like Matthew 11:28 "Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." , or Psalm 4:8 "In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone Lord, make me dwell in safety.", really help a lot. So, until next time, I pray that quality slumber will befall you, and you'll wake refreshed and ready to tackle each new day.

Love you guys, Eric.

## Grief Support Program starting January 28

### SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Are you grieving the loss of a loved one? Few people understand how painful and isolating your grief can be but that doesn't mean you have to suffer by yourself. There are others who have experienced what you're going through and you can find them at a GriefShare Grief Support Group.

GriefShare's Grief Support Program is a 13-week, in-person program that is free and open to anyone who has experienced the death of a family member, friend, or loved one. Each weekly session consists of watching a video with counsel and insights from respected grief

experts and relatable personal stories—followed by a time of sharing and support. Group participants will also receive a book to take home filled with valuable exercises for navigating their personal grieving process. Session topics include what's normal in grief; loneliness and sadness, being stuck in grief, and what do I live for now.

The next session of GriefShare's 13-week program in Gonzales begins Tuesday, Jan. 28 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Abiding Word Lutheran Church located at 1020 St. Louis St. and will run through Tuesday, April 29. To register or to get more information, call 830-857-3855 or go to [www.griefshare.org](http://www.griefshare.org).

## Stay Current & Informed...

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First Assembly of God 509 E. 3rd St., Nixon	Stratton Primitive Baptist FM 1447, 9 miles east of Cuero	<b>FULL GOSPEL</b> Camp Valley Full Gospel Hwy 80, 7 mi. north of Nixon	El Centro Cristiano "Agua Viva" 403 Highway 90 W, Waelder
<b>BAPTIST</b> Clark Baptist Church FM 794, Gonzales	St. James Baptist Church Hwy 80, north of Belmont.	Full Gospel Church 1426 Fisher, Gonzales	Emmanuel Fellowship 1817 St. Lawrence, Gonzales
Country Baptist Church Highway 87, Smiley	St. Paul Baptist Church SE 2nd Street, Waelder	<b>JEWISH</b> Adat Haderech, a Messianic shul HashemYeshua1 @yahoo.com	Encouraging Word Christian Fellowship Highway 80, Leesville
Eastside Baptist Church Seydler Street, Gonzales	Shiner Baptist Church	<b>LUTHERAN</b> First Evangelical Lutheran 1206 St. Joseph, Gonzales	Lighthouse Church of Our Lord 1805 Weimar, Gonzales
Efeso Iglesia Bautista Highway 87, Smiley	Union Lea Baptist Church St. Andrew St., Gonzales	Abiding Word Lutheran Church LCMS 1020 St. Louis St., Gonzales	New Life Temple for Jesus Christ 16214 US 90 W, Harwood
Elm Grove Baptist Church 4337 FM 1115 Waelder, TX, 78959	Union Valley Baptist Church FM 1681, NW of Nixon	Dewville United Methodist West of FM 1117 on CR 121	River of Life Christian Fellowship 207 Steele St., Smiley
First Baptist Church 422 St. Paul, Gonzales	<b>CATHOLIC</b> St. James Catholic Church 417 N. College, Gonzales	First Methodist 426 St. Paul, Gonzales	Thompsonville Community Church CR 423, Thompsonville Between Harwood & Waelder off old Hwy. 90
First Baptist Church 403 N. Texas, Nixon	Sacred Heart Catholic Church St. John St., Gonzales	First United Methodist 410 N. Franklin, Nixon	Two Rivers Bible Church 1600 Sarah DeWitt Dr., Suite 210, Gonzales
First Baptist Church Highway 108 N., Smiley	St. Joseph Catholic Church 207 S. Washington, Nixon	Flatonia United Methodist	<b>INTER-DENOMINATIONAL</b> Faith Family Church 1812 Cartwheel Dr., Gonzales
First Baptist Church 406 N. Avenue E, Waelder	St. Patrick Catholic Church Waelder	Harwood Methodist Church Harwood	Living Waters Fellowship 306 St. Paul, Gonzales
Greater Palestine Baptist Church S. of 90A (sign on Hwy 80)	St. Phillip Catholic Church Highway 87, Smiley	Henson Chapel United Methodist 1113 St. Andrew, Gonzales	<b>PENTECOSTAL</b> Faith Temple Hwy. 80 (N. Nixon Ave.), Nixon
Greater Rising Star Baptist Church	<b>CHRISTIAN</b> First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) 712 Crockett, Luling	Monthalia Methodist CR 112 off Highway 97	Holy Temple of Jesus Christ No. 2 1515 Dallas, Gonzales
Harwood Baptist Church North of Post Office, Harwood	<b>CHURCHES OF CHRIST</b> Church of Christ 1323 Seydler St., Gonzales	Smiley Methodist Church 1 blk. S. of Hwy. 87, Smiley	Iglesia Pentecostes Filadelfia 893 S. Magnolia Ave., Luling
Iglesia Bautista Macedonia 201 S. Congress, Nixon	Church of Christ (Iglesia de Cristo) 201 E. Second St. Nixon	Webster Chapel A.M.E. 1027 Church St., Gonzales	Temple Bethel Pentecostal 1104 S. Paul, Gonzales
Iglesia Bautista Memorial Highway 97, Waelder	Church of Christ E. 3rd & Texas, Nixon	<b>NON-DENOMINATIONAL</b> Agape Ministries 512 St. James, Gonzales Bread of Life Ministries 613 St. Joseph, Gonzales	Life Changing Church of Gonzales 3.3 miles north on Hwy 183, right on CR 235, then right on CR 236
Leesville Baptist Church E. of Highway 80 on CR 121	Church of Christ, Belmont	Christ the King Church 1262 U.S. Highway 77 South Hallettsville	<b>PRESBYTERIAN</b> Pilgrim Presbyterian Church CR 210 off FM 1116
Memorial Heights Baptist Church 1330 N. College, Gonzales	<b>CHURCHES OF GOD</b> Community Church of God 1020 St. Louis, Gonzales		Presbyterian Church of Gonzales 414 St. Louis, Gonzales
Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church 100 Capes, Gonzales	Gonzales Memorial Church of God in Christ 1113 Hastings, Gonzales		Cheapside Presbyterian Church, Cuero
Oak Valley Baptist Church Highway 97, Bebe	New Beginnings 1020 St. Louis, Gonzales		
Old Moulton Baptist Church 1121 N. College, Gonzales	<b>Episcopal</b> Episcopal Church of the Messiah 721 S. Louis, Gonzales		

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OBITUARIES

ANGIE CUBIT



Angie AKA Easter, was born on April 9th, 1944 in Gonzales TX to Jodie and Bernice Greathouse. She married Dannie (Dan) Cubit in 1973. Angie spent her life caring for others. She retired working as a nurse for the VA in Lakewood, WA.

Angie passed away peacefully at home with her family on Monday January 6th, 2025. She is now resting with her Husband Dan. She is survived by her sons and daughters-in-law: Larry & Nat and Steven & Kelly; her daughters: Mildred, Jamelya, Tanya and Gianni; her grandchildren: Keyarri, Rodney, Dominic, Kayla, Javon, Taeja, King, Sayyora, Briane, Brittane, Brandon, Michael, Marcel, Ricshae and Trevon; and many

Great-Grandchildren.

Angie’s love language was food. She loved cooking at the church or for her family on the Holidays. Everyone knew her famous pound cakes, Macaroni and Cheese, or her Red Beans and Rice. She always made sure you had a plate to take home. Her other love was traveling, she had many

adventures on a Cruise Ship and always made sure she took her yearly trip to Reno. Angie left a lasting impression on everyone she met. She will be missed, and her memory will live on by everyone who loved her.

- Viewing: Thursday, January 16, 2025
- Location: Harris Funeral Home, 127 Highway 90a, Gonzales, Tx
- Time: 3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
- Services: Friday, January 17, 2025
- Location: New Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church 1639 Hays Street, San Antonio, Tx 78217
- Time: 11 a.m.

Services Entrusted To Harris Funeral Home: “The Place For A Perfect Tribute”

LEONA EMILIE BAROS CASKEY



]Leona Emilie Baros Caskey went to be with her Lord and Savior on Thursday, January 9, 2025, in New Braunfels, Texas. She was born November 3, 1932, to Frank and Amalie Baros of Westhoff. She was the youngest of six children with five older brothers, Henry, Bennie, Julius, George, and Edwin Baros, and was affectionately known as “Sister.”

She attended school in Westhoff and graduated from Cuero High School in 1950. She met the love of her life, Emmett Caskey, and they married on August 2, 1953, in St. John Lutheran Church of Westhoff. They lived in Giddings, Corpus Christi, Westhoff and settled in Smiley where they both worked for Cantley Farms and raised chickens and cattle.

She loved being busy and working with people. Both sons were born and raised in Smiley and she was involved in everything they did and she loved her time with them.

She became very involved in the school in Smiley as both boys attended and participated in various activities and sports. She worked alongside all the other families in the concession stands at football and basketball games.

She was baptized, confirmed, and married in St. John Lutheran Church of Westhoff, where she also served on the Church Council and held various committee positions. The church was home to her. On Sunday mornings, Leona and Erleen Janicek would arrive early and stay late to make sure everything at the church was cared for.

As a family, they loved going to the sausage suppers in Gruenau, Lindenau and the Westhoff

American Legion Hall. She loved to dance, and Emmett did what he could. Luckily, she had two great dancing partners with brothers George and Ed.

Some of her favorite activities were helping her brother Ed with Bingo at the Legion Hall, playing Bunco and dominos with her friends. She loved meeting her ladies in town for lunch. She loved food--especially when she didn’t have to cook it. She, however, was a great cook. She made the best fried chicken in the country, made a great roast beef and to this day, the best dill pickles in the world. She spent a lot of time at the Smiley Library where she helped her good friend, Susie Parker. She loved reading books and doing cross word puzzles. She even learned to use a computer that was donated to the library.

She was involved with the Smiley community, helping every year with the elections, and worked for the US Post Office in Smiley for several years.

After Emmett’s death in 1986, she continued to raise chickens and cattle. She named most of the cows, but luckily not the thousands of chickens. She hired John Robinson to help her on the place and the two of them would load up her Lincoln with flats of eggs and off she would go to

deliver them in Cuero, Gonzales and points in between. She was fondly known as the “Egg Lady.” Folks came by the house all during the day to buy a flat of eggs, where they usually had a friendly visit if she was home, or they would just leave money or a promissory note on the freezer in the garage.

Leona’s faith and her family were the top priorities in her life. She brought both boys to know God and the importance of faith within the family. She is survived by her two sons, Jimmy Caskey and wife, JoBeth, of Cuero and Mark Caskey and wife, Tammi, of New Braunfels, her six grandchildren, Justin Caskey and wife, Jenna, of Portland, Kyle Caskey of Gonzales, JoLeah Stiles Gorman and husband, Brian Gorman, of Capitol Heights, MD, Julianne Stiles of Dallas, Megan Caskey Guerra and husband, Daniel Guerra, of Clarksville, TN, and Jared Caskey and wife, Chloe, of Cibolo, and eight great grandchildren. She is also survived by numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Visitation will be held at 10 a.m., Wednesday, January 15th at St. John Lutheran Church in Westhoff prior to the Memorial Service which will begin at 11a.m. Burial will take place immediately following the service at Bundick Cemetery in Smiley.

Funeral arrangements are handled by Finch Funeral Home in Nixon.

Memorials can be made to St. John Lutheran Church, 156 Cook Avenue, Westhoff, TX 77994; Heart of Texas Hospice, 12450 Network Blvd, Suite 300, San Antonio, TX 78249, or the organization of your choice.

DORIS ANN BAROS



Doris Ann Baros, 85, of Gonzales, Texas was called to be with our Lord on January 12, 2025. Doris was born on December 2, 1939 to Pauline and Leo Wroblecky in Oak Forest, Texas. She was the third of three siblings. Doris graduated from Southwest Texas State University with a degree in Elementary Education and Art. Doris was a member of St. James Altar Society and St. James Catholic Church.

Doris’ life was defined by her joy of family and passionate faith in Christ. She exhibited a thirst for knowledge and enjoyed sharing her discoveries with others. Doris had a creative spirit portrayed through her extraordinary gifts of drawing and painting. Her gift of art was shared with many which incorporated a personal touch. Doris touched the lives of countless people, which was not a goal, but

her calling.

Survivors include daughters Kathryn Baros of Montgomery, Texas, Suzanne Jungmann (Douglas) of Granbury, Texas and son John Baros of Grapevine, Texas; grandsons Michael Meier, Patrick Meier (Kayla), Philip Meier, Mark Jungmann, Matthew Jungmann; and great- grandchild Amren Meier. Doris was preceded in death by her husband Gillette “Bobby” Baros.

The service for Doris will be at St. James Catholic Church on Saturday, January 25, 2025 beginning with visitation at 1:00 pm, the rosary following at 1:30 pm with the memorial mass commencing at 2:00 pm with Fr. Jason Martini as celebrant. Honorary pallbearers: Michael Meier, Mark Jungmann, Patrick Meier, Natthew Jungmann, and Philip Meier. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Gonzales Public Library or the charity of one's choice.

The family would like to extend their appreciation for your kindness and support. Friends may leave their condolence to the family by visiting [www.seydlerhillfuneral-home.com](http://www.seydlerhillfuneral-home.com)

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

TRISHA MICHELLE RIEDEL LAWSON



Trisha Michelle Riedel Lawson, age 46, passed away unexpectedly on January 6, 2025, in Cheapside, TX. She was born on August 7, 1978, in Gonzales, TX, and was a beloved daughter, wife, mother, sister, and friend. Trisha’s love for life was evident in everything she did, from her passion for beauty and fashion to the love and joy she brought to her family and friends.

Trisha is survived by her husband, Cody Waylan-Bennett Lawson; children Heaven Alexandria Lockhart, Zane Trust Archer, and Jaclyn Angelique Archer; stepson Lewis Richard Owens; grandfather Charles Baker; sister Shay Laster Harmon (husband Alex Harmon); nephew Isaac Harmon;

father-in-law Harold Bennett Bowen; and numerous cousins, extended family, and friends who will miss her dearly.

She was preceded in death by her daughter Isabella Delilah Katherine Lawson; her mother Karen Baker Pena; father Kelley Riedel; and grandmother Dorothy Baker.

Trisha had a passion for beauty and fashion. She graduated from beauty school and enjoyed working in the industry, where she made people feel beautiful and confident and left a lasting impact on all who knew her. As a caretaker for the past eight years, Trisha touched the lives of many.

Above all, Trisha’s family meant the whole world to her. As a devoted wife to Cody, she treasured the time they spent together, from exploring new restaurants to creating cherished memories with their children, family, and friends. He will always remember how happy she was relaxing at the lake with their family—those moments brought her peace and joy. Cody is blessed to have felt Trisha’s loyalty and says he

had never experienced a love like theirs before.

Trisha’s love for her cats was well-known—she proudly embraced her role as a “crazy cat lady” and never missed an opportunity to care for her furry companions. Her creativity and artistic spirit were passed on to her daughters. She and Heaven loved to color pictures together, and Jaclyn shares her mother’s drawing ability and beauty skills. Her son Zane inherited his mother’s caregiving spirit, and she took great pride in seeing him help care for their family.

Trisha had been taking classes to learn how to support others in overcoming the struggles she had faced in her own life, seeking to turn her challenges into a source of strength for others. Her compassion and desire to help others will continue to inspire those who knew her.

Trisha’s family will fondly remember the times they spent binge-watching TV shows together, especially Halloween when she insisted on watching Monster House all month long. Her love of watching Ghost Adventures, attending concerts, and enjoying time together will forever be cherished by those who shared these experiences with her. Trisha’s friends will always remember their conversations with her and will miss hearing her laugh.

A visitation will be held on Monday, January 13, 2025, from 11:00am – 1:00pm, a funeral service will start at 1:00pm officiated by Pastor Forest Hamilton. Interment will follow afterwards at Ebenezer Cemetery. Pallbearers will be Zane Archer, Jason Archer, Clint Baker, Lonnie Buerger, Roger Gonzales, Jason Haile, and Eric Moody.

Friends and family may leave their condolences online by visiting [www.seydlerhillfuneralhome.com](http://www.seydlerhillfuneralhome.com)

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



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January 2025

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6 Austin MFM	7 Dr. Echols Austin MFM	8 Dr. Quebedeaux Austin MFM	9 Dr. Ryan Dr. Echols	10 Amy Trost Dr. Miller
13 Austin MFM Dr. Malik Dr. Desai	14 Dr. Echols Austin MFM Dr. Quintero	15 Dr. Quebedeaux Austin MFM Dr. Miller	16 Dr. Ryan Dr. Echols Dr. Malik	17 Dr. Ckudre
20 Austin MFM	21 Dr. Echols Austin MFM	22 Dr. Quebedeaux Austin MFM	23 Dr. Ryan Dr. Echols Dr. Kirchner	24
27 Austin MFM	28 Dr. Echols Austin MFM	29 Dr. Quebedeaux Austin MFM	30 Dr. Ryan Dr. Echols	31

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<b>Dermatology</b> Vicente Quintero, MD 830-626-5551	<b>Ophthalmology</b> Clayton Ckudre, OD 830-339-2843
<b>Nephrology</b> Azhar M. Malik, MD 361-576-0011 Yong Du, MD 361-576-0011	<b>Austin Maternal Fetal Medicine</b> 512-821-2540
<b>Obstetrics</b> Alyson Kirchner, MD, OBGYN 830-379-1500	<b>Podiatry</b> Terri Quebedeaux, DPM, PA 830-303-0005


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# ANNEX

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

missioners in December and told them renovating the annex would cost a little more than \$11 million, or about \$439 per square foot, with about \$8 million of that cost tied up in actual construction and the remaining \$3 million divided into professional services, technology allowances, regulatory and permitting fees and project contingencies. It calls for the current annex building to be taken down to the structural support walls and roof and then rebuilt.

However, commissioners had asked Duke to bring back project estimates for building both a new one-story and two-story building from the ground up to their Jan. 13 meeting.

The new estimates revealed by Duke show building a new 25,200-square-foot annex from the ground up would cost a little more than \$14.5 million, or about \$576 per square foot, with construction costs at more than \$10.2 million and the remaining \$4.3 million covering professional services, technology allowances, regulatory and permitting fees and project contingencies.

Duke prepared two estimates for a 50,400-square-foot, two-story building, with the low-end estimate at more than \$24.1 million, or \$479 per square foot, which includes construction costs at more than \$18 million and the remaining costs at more than \$6.1 million. The high-end puts total costs at more than \$24.5 million, or \$487 per square feet, with construction costs at nearly \$18.4 million and remaining costs at more than \$6.1 million.

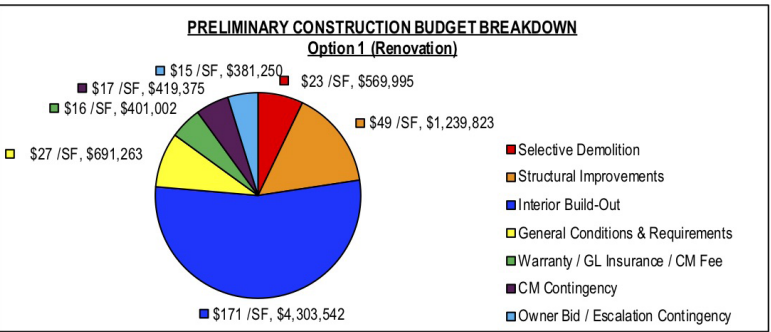
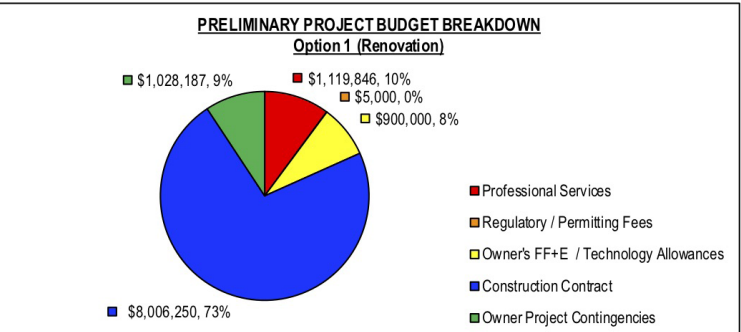
“The difference between these two estimates is based on anticipated efficiencies gained by building a two story structure versus a single story structure. Those efficiencies typically range from five to 15 percent in our cost savings,” Duke said.

So far, the county has spent about \$190,000 on design work for the renovation scenario, so if commissioners chose to go with a new build, it could add an extra \$750,000 in civil engineering, geotechnical analysis and other required services on top of what has been spent.

“That represents a significant additional investment on top of the project costs already discussed,” Duke said. “So while the new build options presents a fresh start and accommodate long term needs, we must carefully weigh those financial and schedule implications.”

Only the renovation option “keeps us on track to complete the annex by mid-2026, which enables the Courthouse renova-

		PRELIMINARY BUDGET ESTIMATE			
Cost Code	Description	Option 1 (Renovation)	Option 2 (25,200sf New Construction)	Option 3A - Low (50,400sf New Construction)	Option 3B - High (50,400sf New Construction)
1	Professional Services	\$ 1,119,846	\$ 1,994,531	\$ 2,088,589	\$ 2,090,407
2	Regulatory / Permitting Fees	\$ 5,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 85,000	\$ 85,000
3	Owner's FF+E / Technology Allowances	\$ 900,000	\$ 900,000	\$ 1,725,000	\$ 1,725,000
4	Construction Contract	\$ 8,006,250	\$ 10,207,548	\$ 18,019,145	\$ 18,382,718
5	Owner Project Contingencies	\$ 1,028,187	\$ 1,349,113	\$ 2,246,568	\$ 2,284,020
6	Property Transaction Costs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
GRAND TOTAL (PROGRAM)		\$ 11,059,284	\$ 14,511,193	\$ 24,164,302	\$ 24,567,146



tion to begin in late 2026, so that the renovation option aligns with the county's needs and the THC grant requirements on timing for the Courthouse,” Duke added.

“The timeline of the renovation aligns with the biennium deadline for the Texas Historical Commission grant program,” he said. “Both new build scenarios push completion into 2027, which means that we would miss the THC grant biennium, delaying the Courthouse renovation by at least two years and introducing risk of increased competition for subsequent grant cycles.”

Duke said higher costs associated with new construction “may require bond election, which adds further complexity and delays to the timelines, and this uncertainty compounds the challenges already inherent with these options.”

“Given these considerations, our recommendation is to proceed with the renovation scenario,” Duke said. “Renovation ensures the annex is completed in time to transition the Courthouse functions, enabling the Courthouse renovation to begin in late 2026 and meeting the county's goals of staying aligned with the THC grant program.”

## COMMISSIONERS QUESTIONS

Precinct 4 Commissioner Colie Boatright asked Duke if the existing foundation at the annex was good so that the county wouldn't be “cutting corners.”

“As far as we understand, the foundation is fine with WJE, the structural engineers, taking a good look at it,” Duke said. “We're actually, by taking down the tilt wall panels, we're reducing the load. The new building is going to be lighter than the current building with the same foundation.”

Precinct 2 Commissioner Donnie Brzozowski asked if the slab could handle a two-story

building without needing a new foundation. Duke said he didn't think so, but wouldn't be able to tell without a full-scale geotechnical investigation.

“The new builds assume we would scrape the foundation,” Duke said. “Typically, if you are doing a new build, you would take out the foundations at least four feet below.”

County Judge Pat Davis noted that the THC timeline is pretty tight and that the county would have to be “shovel ready” for Courthouse renovation in fall 2026, so “we would have to have somewhere to go for everybody that works in this building at that time.”

Davis added that if the county had to wait another funding cycle, the county may not have as good a chance to get their project funded and there could be far less funding available in the grant pool. THC and the Legislature have indicated a willingness to fund the program and possibly increase the amount for the upcoming biennium, but have not made any promises for future bienniums.

Precinct 3 Commissioner Roy Staton asked whether the renovation would mean a new roof for the annex, to which Duke said the estimate “takes into account some repairs to the roof” to bring it up to warranty, but leaves the existing metal deck in place otherwise.

“If we had to completely redo the TPO (thermoplastic polyolefin membrane), then the budget could probably handle that,” Duke said.

Staton indicated concern that the building, which was built in 1978, would still have a 30- to 40-year-old roof. Davis and county maintenance employee Brian Kloesel both said the TPO membrane had been replaced back in 2018.

“I think down the road, you know, if they did it six years ago, who's to say what shape the roof is in?” Staton said. “You go up

there and redo it again and 10 years from now, we're redoing it again and we've got the same problems. It might not happen like that, but it could.”

Duke said replacing the roof as part of the renovation would not throw the budget badly out of whack and, at most, would probably add no more than about \$300,000 to the total cost.

Brzozowski asked how accurate Duke thought his estimates were and the latter said he thinks they are “within a five percent range of being correct.”

“If we move forward and if you decide for the renovation option, we would like to talk about going ahead and bringing on a contractor, going on to an RFQ process, and bringing somebody on so we can start solidifying that goal, starting in Q2 (second quarter of the year, from April to June),” Duke added.

“At some point, you know, if we keep pushing the decision to move forward with any of the options, then you will obviously exceed the timeline that we've got here now, because right now, all we have is about a three to four month buffer,” Duke said.

In talking about financing, Duke said that if the county wanted to look at bonds, they would need to engage a bond attorney and that the additional steps could push the timeline out so that even renovation would not be possible to be completed in time. Davis mentioned that the county could also look into loans as a means of financing construction of the annex.

“Another thing to point out too is, you know, the county, we don't have any debt. We haven't had any debt since, I think, after the first year that I was here, when we paid off all of our debt,” Davis said. “So with that being said, with no debt, our tax rate is 20 cents. And you know, I think it's not good to

have debt, but sometimes, it is good to have debt, because if you do have a little bit of debt, that'll give you a little bit of extra money that may come in on taxes. When I started, our tax rate was 39 cents and now we're down to 20.”

County maintenance employee Scott McNabb reminded commissioners that they need to remember parking would be an issue at the annex site if they built a larger building.

“If you double the size of your building, you're going to have to double the parking,” McNabb said.

Davis pushed for renovation as the best option, saying “I don't want to lose out on the restoration of the Courthouse, because that, to me, is an icon in this county, and to redo it with the fence back around it and everything else would be something that everybody can get look forward to.

“We got thrown a bad deal when we got two buildings that have to be redone, but we don't have much choice, and there's just nothing out there right now that we can do anything different,” Davis said.

Duke told commissioners he expects renovation construction documents to be completed on or about Feb. 7, which would allow for issuing a RFQ for a construction manager at risk and to begin selective demolition bidding for the annex building on Feb. 10.

Staton said he would be in favor of renovating the annex as long as a new roof is put on the building, which Duke said would only raise the cost of the project to about \$11.4 or \$11.5 million, which is “still significantly less than the \$14 million (for a new building) and would still fit the timeframe.”

Commissioners then voted unanimously to move forward with renovating the annex rather than building a new one with the addition of a new roof.

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ACROSS

1 home of Marching Green Pride band

5 state \_\_\_\_ has “a star of five points”

6 a SE Asian deer found in Texas

7 TXism: “up and \_\_\_\_ juice” (coffee)

8 \_\_\_\_ Ross State University in Alpine

9 TX Jerry Fuller wrote “Travelin’ \_\_\_\_” for Ricky Nelson

12 TXism: “he’s fast enough to \_\_\_\_ yesterday”

17 grunting while sleeping

19 TXism: “hot \_\_\_\_ tar in July”

21 \_\_\_\_ Zaragoza Seguin was born in today’s Goliad, TX this Stephenson was in soap opera “Texas”

23 TX Pride’s “\_\_\_\_ Angel Good Mornin’”

28 TXism: “could shoot the eye out of a \_\_\_\_” (good shot)

29 “\_\_\_\_ up for”

30 TXism: “he couldn’t \_\_\_\_ plastic worm” (bad fisher)

31 organized church singers

35 to fish on a Texas lake, get \_\_\_\_

36 TXism: “gentle \_\_\_\_ merry-go-round”

42 study of society

44 short letter (2 wds.)

46 obscene language

48 to falsely incriminate someone (3 wds.)

49 “we \_\_\_\_ out for pizza”

50 Texas high school football night (abbr.)

51 “not one red \_\_\_\_” (none)

52 TXism: “\_\_\_\_ up the loose ends” (finalize)

53 TX Meat Loaf’s “\_\_\_\_ Anything for Love” (1993)

54 pleased

56 measure of a country’s economy (abbr.)

57 arrival guess abbr.

58 Texas television “Tarzan,” Ely

DOWN

1 JFK \_\_\_\_ was 11/22/1963

2 New Braunfels Herald-\_\_\_\_

3 popular Austin body of water (2 wds.)

4 Jack of “4 for Texas”

9 mineral in Texas, used in makeup

10 TXism: “got \_\_\_\_ finger” (nervous)

11 “Stop-\_\_\_\_” convenience store

12 this Smith was a “Texas Troubadour” before solo career

13 TXism: “slippery \_\_\_\_ pig”

14 Matt Damon was a Texas Ranger in 2010 “\_\_\_\_ Grit”

15 in Comanche: “Old \_\_\_\_ Courthouse”

16 TXism: “he’s got a \_\_\_\_-trigger temper”

18 TXism: “burned some boot leather”

20 fleur-\_\_\_\_lis once flew over Texas

23 Phoenix Suns, Durant, who played for UT (init.)

24 acct. that could be a “Roth”

25 cries loudly

26 how an eagle attacks

27 first King Ranch land costs about two-cents \_\_\_\_

32 Santa’s word

33 surgical area abbr.

34 TXism: “honest as the day \_\_\_\_ long”

36 pie \_\_\_\_ mode

37 \_\_\_\_ of a gun

38 Christmas offering (2 wds.)

39 TXism: “it’ll make your hair stand \_\_\_\_” (scary)

40 \_\_\_\_ worry (no cause for concern)

41 Univ. of Central Texas before 1989

43 poetic “often”

45 “The King” (init.)

47 triangle sign says \_\_\_\_ traffic

48 corrosive liquid

55 what you fry bacon in (2 wds.)

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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SUDOKU

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

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

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

Answers found in next week's Classifieds.



—*Joey Rivera*



## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I want to thank the students, the coaches, and the community members who believed in our vision and helped build our program. Thank you to those

"As a parent and community member, I would also like to personally thank Vandy [Van Epps], Lew [Cohn] and The Inquirer staff for their dedicated coverage of Gonzales athletics (and more). Their positive coverage of the Apaches shined a light on what high school athletics is all about: athletes and coaches trying their hardest to represent their community. Our town is lucky to have them," Rivera said.

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“With (Taylor’s) leadership and the vital, invaluable contributions of our current staff, we’re eager to build on the Chamber’s recent momentum in strengthening partnerships and working alongside

"As we begin this new year, we are excited about the continued collaboration between the Chamber, City, and other key organizations that will be pivotal to achieving unified objectives that enhance the quality of life for our residents and foster growth for our businesses."

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"We are excited to welcome Synergos to Gonzales, where the commitment to creating 145 phased-in jobs will provide a significant boost to our local economy and workforce," said GEDC executive director



"This marks a major milestone in the ongoing efforts to foster economic growth and offer new opportunities for the residents of Gonzales and the region. The vision, leadership, and unwavering commitment of our partners is a vital collaborative effort for community success. Thanks to an entire team involved in getting this across the finish line. We wish everyone great success."

“This new facility represents more than just an investment in infrastructure; it is an invest-

TXGN owns and manages 12 lead miles of track between Harwood and Gonzales, and approximately 67 miles of storage and loop track in Gonzales. TXGN, a short line railway that interchanges with the Union Pacific, has played a vital role in the region's integrated supply chain services since 1992. This alliance emphasizes the

"TXGN Railway is very pleased to welcome Synergos to Gonzales, Texas," said Joey Evans, director of business support and development for TXGN. "This long-term alliance promises to strengthen the local and regional communities' economies and growth, and grow our business."

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