

Dr. Dana Arreola hired as GISD superintendent in historic vote

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

History was made Monday, March 10, when the Gonzales Independent School District Board of Trustees voted 6-0 to hire Dr. Dana Arreola as the new superintendent of schools at their regular meeting.

Dr. Arreola, a Houston native, will be the first African-American — man or woman — to ever serve in the top post for Gonzales ISD since the district first became

integrated in the 1960s. A packed house of well-wishers and supporters applauded after the vote was taken and again after Dr. Arreola and Board President Ross Hendershot III signed her new contract with the district and was presented flowers to welcome her to GISD.

“I am honored to be named the new superintendent of Gonzales ISD! My top priority is to build strong relationships with our students, staff, and community, and to foster a culture of camaraderie

among our educators and leaders that will drive student success,” Dr. Arreola told the Inquirer. “As we approach the graduation season for the Class of 2025, I’m excited to celebrate this milestone and look forward to working alongside Team GISD to create a bright future for all students in Gonzales ISD!”

A statement released by the district indicated that the vote by the board “affirmed their confidence



Dr. Dana Arreola, left, officially signs her new contract as GISD superintendent while Board President Ross Hendershot III waits to sign as well.

See **ARREOLA**, page 11

County will issue tax notes in April to fund annex renovation

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

Gonzales County will use a seven-year tax note to pay for the renovation of the Gonzales County Annex building — a move that will add about 2.8 cents to the county tax rate beginning this fall.

County commissioners voted 4-1 to choose a tax note over either general obligation bonds, which can be paid back over a longer term but require voter approval, or certificates of obligation, which require public notice and could be subject to an election if at least five percent of regis-

See **ANNEX**, page 10

Commissioners rescind LCRA tower bid award in 3-2 vote

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

The Gonzales County Commissioners Court will start back at square one after voting 3-2 Monday, March 10, to rescind its acceptance of a previously awarded non-competitive bid from the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) to build a new emergency communications tower system for the county.

County Judge Pat Davis, Precinct 1 Commissioner Tony Matias and Precinct 4 Commissioner Collie Boatright voted to not accept the bid, while Precinct 2 Commissioner Donnie Brzozowski and Precinct 3 Commissioner Roy Staton voted to keep the bid in place.

See **TOWER**, page 11

1 SECTION
12 PAGES



Texas Independence Week



IMMORTAL 32 REMEMBERED



Gonzales honored the Immortal 32 plus the nine original Alamo defenders from Gonzales during a commemorative ceremony Thursday, March 6, at the Gonzales Memorial Museum. Fletcher Clark and the Young Texians sang the ballad of the Immortal 32 and roses were placed at the foot of the monument for each of the 41 men who gave the ultimate sacrifice for Texas freedom.

LEW K. COHN



RUNAWAY SCAPE RE-ENACTMENT

The Crystal Theatre Young Texians presented a moving program Saturday, March 8, recalling the Runaway Scrape from Gonzales from the return of Susanna Dickinson, the telling of the fall of the Alamo and the order of Gen. Sam Houston to burn the town to stall the advancing army of Santa Anna on March 13, 1836. A digital mapping projector was used to project flames on a building to simulate the burning of the town.

LEW K. COHN

AMERICAN LEGION CO-SPONSORS FORUM



American Legion Post 40 will co-sponsor and host a Thursday, March 27 Gonzales mayoral and school board candidate forum along with the Gonzales Inquirer. Representing the American Legion Post 40 are, from left, Robert Falany, Robert Rodriguez, David Tucey, Don Kincaid, Albert Rodriguez and Elgin Heinemeyer. The forum is open to the public and doors at the post hall, 1612 Robertson, will open at 6:30 p.m. The forum will start at 7 p.m.

LEW K. COHN

GISD locks in \$19.5 million price for new CTE, Ag facilities

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

Gonzales ISD trustees locked in a guaranteed maximum price of \$19,523,596 for construction of a new CTE building and Ag barn facility during their Monday, March 10, meeting — meaning the project could see the first shovel turns of dirt as soon as three weeks from now.

The new campus, which will be located on County Road 239, could achieve substantial completion on or before September 2026 as Weaver & Jacobs hopes to mobilize on the project within the next three weeks, said Casey Sledge with Region 13 ESC/Sledge Engineering.

In November 2023, GISD voters narrowly passed a \$50.6 million measure to pay for the new CTE and Ag facilities as well as for renovations and upgrades, especially for safety and security as well as infrastructure improvements, at all five school campuses, the administration building, maintenance and transportation.

The board chose Weaver & Jacobs in February 2024 to be the construction manager at risk (CMAR) for the entire 2023 bond program. The company solicited and reviewed subcontractor bids last month for the CTE building and Ag barn and received a total of 221 bids, Sledge said.

“Certainly in this part of Texas, it’s a subcontractors market, and when you see the amount of bids we got and the quality of the vendors who submitted bids, it’s a testament that when you selected a firm like Weaver and Jacobs, that was a good choice, because (subcontractors)) are attracted to the leadership of those guys,” Sledge said.

The collective base bid from the subcontractors for everything needed to construct the facilities came out to \$19,173,278 and Sledge also presented three alternates: \$13,876 to change out paint-coated railings to stainless steel; \$276,167 to construct an additional 55-space parking lot to the south of the building and \$60,275 to add infill paving at the Ag barn and make it easier

See **FACILITY**, page 10

VFW gives to Gonzales Dog Adoptions center

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Gonzales VFW Post #4817 heard a program given by Keiko McCormick regarding the Gonzales Dog Adoptions Inc., a non-profit organization that operates the Gonzales dog shelter.

Keiko explained that an average of 400 dogs are accepted annually by the shelter. Currently, the center partners with another agency to find new homes for the dogs because Gonzales is small and has a minimal adoption rate. Besides their normal overhead expenses, their goal is to build a new facility.

Keiko said, “We try extra hard not to put down any adoptable dogs for the sole reason of making space, and have maintained our status as one of the very few ‘Open-Door-No-Kill’ municipal shelters in Texas.”

VFW members, in recognition of this urgent need in the community



From left, Andy Rodriguez, Gonzales Dog Adoptions Representative Keiko McCormick, Dick Kuenzler, VFW Post Commander David Burger, John DuBose, and two available-for-adoption puppies from the shelter.

and the determined work Keiko and the Gonzales Dog Adoptions Inc. board of directors give to the community, elected to contribute \$1,000 to this important cause and service.

LAW ENFORCEMENT WEEKLY REPORTS

Gonzales County Sheriff’s Office
03/02/25 – 03/08/25

- 03/03/25**
- SanJuan, Yori Angel, 32, Houston: Local Warrant – Fraud Use/Poss Identifying info # items 10<50, Requires \$25,000 Bond, Remains in Custody
- 03/04/25**
- Duval, Cole William, 26, Nixon: Local Warrant – Fail to Identify Fugitive Intent Give False Info, Other Agency Hold – Detainer, Remains in Custody
 - Windham, William Travis, 36, Gonzales: Local Warrant – Assault Family Household Member w/Prev Convo, Requires \$100,000 Bond, Remains in Custody
- 03/05/25**
- Fields, Zyshawn, 25, Victoria: Commitment/Sentence – Burglary of Habitation, Released – Weekender

- 03/07/25**
- Segoviano – Castillo, Jesus Antonio, 30, Gonzales: Commitment/Sentence – Sexual Assault Child, Commitment/ Sentence – Sexual Assault Child, Released – Weekender
 - Mehic, Elvir, 30, Mesquite: Commitment/Sentence – Theft of Firearm, Released – Weekender
 - Reyna-Rojo, Daniel Melton, 35, Springdale: Local Warrant – Poss CS PG 1/1-B>=1G<4G, Requires \$75,000 Bond; Other Agency Hold – Poss CS PG 1/1-B<1G, Other Agency Hold – Immigration Detainer, Remains in Custody
 - McCoy, Anthony Derose, 28, Houston: Local Warrant – Poss CS PG 1/1 – B>=4G<200G, Requires \$10,000 Bond; Local Warrant – Poss CS PF 2>=4G<400G, Requires \$10,000 Bond; Local Warrant -Poss CS PG 1/1-B>=1G<1G, Requires \$6,000 Bond; Local Warrant – Poss CS PF 1/1-B>=1G<4G, Requires \$6,000 Bond; Local Warrant – Poss Marij <2oz, Requires \$800 Bond; Released

Total Arrest, Court Commitments, other agency arrest and processing's:

GCSO	09	Constable 4	00
DPS	04	DWCSO	00
GPD	04	DEA	00
WPD	03	TPW	00
NPD	00	GCAI	00
GISD	00	Rangers	00
SMO	00	Other	00
Constable 1	00		
Constable 3	00	Total	20

APACHE BAND COMPETES



The Gonzales High School Band Apache Band had students perform at the UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest at Smithville. Class 1 Gold Medal (ADVANCING TO STATE) are David Marquez, Percussion Ensemble; Frankie Diaz, Percussion Ensemble; Elix Padilla, Percussion Ensemble; Carlos Castillo, Percussion Ensemble and Isaac Leon, Percussion Ensemble. Class 2 Silver Medal went to Jude Hataway, Euphonium Solo. Class 3 Bronze Medal winners are: Viviana Barrientos, Clarinet Solo; Diego Leon, Trombone Solo; Diego Salgado, Tuba Solo; Ezra Romero, Tuba Solo; Isaiah Martinez, Snare Solo; Lillie Avant, Mallet Solo; Sydney Klein, Mallet Solo; Homero Ruiz, Timpani Solo; Kayelynn Sutton, Flute Ensemble; Andres Vasquez, Flute Ensemble; and Alexia Campos, Flute Ensemble.



Apache Colorguard has been competing in the Texas Educational Colorguard Association circuit this season. They have achieved the following accolades: McCollum High School Competition, fourth place Scholastic Novice Guard; Wagner High School Competition, first place Scholastic Novice Guard; Jourdanton High School Competition: second place Scholastic Novice Guard.



The Junior High Apache Bands performed at the UIL Region 18 Concert and Sightreading Contest at Bastrop HS. Non Varsity Concert Band received an Excellent rating of 2 on stage and 2 in sightreading. They received many great comments from judges and words of encouragement for growth. Varsity Band Symphonic Band received a Superior rating of 1 on stage and 1 in sightreading. They received a sweepstakes trophy for their performance. This was only the second time since the 1990s that this band has received a sweepstakes trophy.

Glass to address Gonzales County GOP meeting

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Tom Glass, founder and leader of Texas Constitutional Enforcement, will be the guest speaker at the next Gonzales County Republican Party meeting on Tuesday, March 18.

The event will take place at the Alcalde Hotel, 614 St Paul St. Doors open at 6 p.m. with the meeting to begin at 6:30 p.m.

Texas Constitutional Enforcement focuses on how Texas elected officials can stop the feds and globalists

from violating the U.S. Constitution in Texas. Glass also runs several other groups, including Texas Legislative Priorities, focused on seeing that the legislative priorities and other platform planks of the Republican Party of Texas are enacted.

Glass sought the GOP nomination for Texas House in HD 17 in Central Texas in 2022 and 2024 and served as the 2022 RPT Platform Committee representative from SD 18. He was honored with one of two 2023 Fearless Conservative Awards



Glass

from Grassroots America We the People and a 2021 Texas Conservative Leader Award from Texas Scorecard.

A husband, father, and grandfather, Glass is retired from ExxonMobil and earned a chemical

engineering degree from Texas A&M, an MBA from Harvard Business School, and a J.D. from the University of Houston Law Center.

He will be speaking on the current legislative priorities at the Capitol.

BRITNEY JONES CAKA
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Gonzales Weather

March 13
87°/62°
Very warm with plenty of sunshine
0% chance of rain • RealFeel 85

March 14
89°/55°
Very warm with times of clouds and sun
0% chance of rain • RealFeel 88

March 15
85°/49°
Remaining warm with plenty of sunshine
0% chance of rain • RealFeel 85

March 16
80°/49°
Plenty of sunshine
0% chance of rain • RealFeel 80

March 17
81°/54°
Sunny
0% chance of rain • RealFeel 80

March 18
80°/58°
A blend of sun and clouds
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March 19
73°/52°
Mostly sunny
25% chance of rain • RealFeel 75

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Celebrations

Birthdays

March 13th
Betty Cohn
Hayden Downs
Adolfo Leal

March 14th
Ella Rhoades

March 15th
Tamela Baker
Suzanne Benes
Dr. Terry Eska
Garrett Wayne Heiman
Linda Koricaneck
Norvi Mayfield

March 16th
Ronald Barborak
Cleve Handley
Cayedance Harkey
Krystal Kelley
Marilyn Krum
Randy Robinson

March 17th
Valorie Daniel
Patsy DeVries
Austin Phillip Meyer
Cosme Molina

March 18th
Jessica Frazier
Jim Gracey
Gary Haynes
Sara Hohensee
Lane Jackson
Kevin LaFleur

March 19th
Felica Camarillo
Janice Molnoskey
Angel Palmaraz
Art Rodriguez

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And That Was Then...

Sacrifice in Gonzales extended beyond the battlefield

BY BOB BURCHARD
Special to the Inquirer

The invasion of Texas by General Santa Anna in the winter of 1836 caused great alarm in the minds and hearts of the citizens of Gonzales and Green DeWitt's Colony. And the subsequent fall of the Alamo with no quarter given by Santa Anna meant the lives of all Texans were in danger. But, as General Sam Houston assumed command of the Texas Army in Gonzales and led his troops eastward, and as the panic of the Runaway Scrape consumed our first citizens, there arose another element to cause fear and terror in the lives of our people - that element was the Indians.

The presence of the Indians had been a source of danger with the arrival of the settlers in Green DeWitt's Colony. In fact, in July of 1826 Indians burned the first cabins built here in Gonzales on Kerr's Creek, and in the same attack, killed and scalped one settler, and injured several others. A log fort was later built in Gonzales to provide safety from the Indians as Gonzales started its development.

But, now with Santa Anna on his way, the fleeing Texans became easy prey for the Indians. They were afraid to travel along the roads, for they knew these were the routes the Mexican troops would follow, so they felt safer by moving through the brush. But this made the Texans more vulnerable to Indian attack.

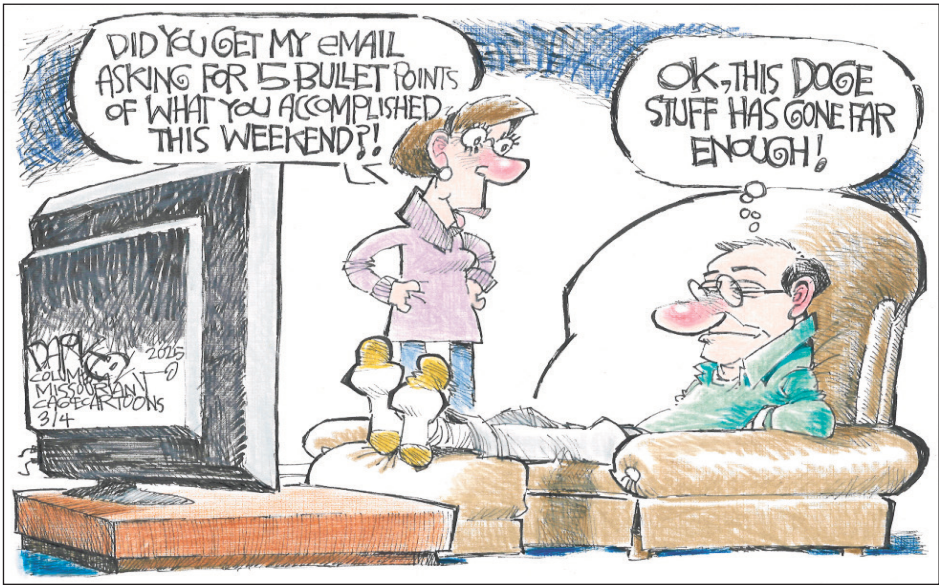
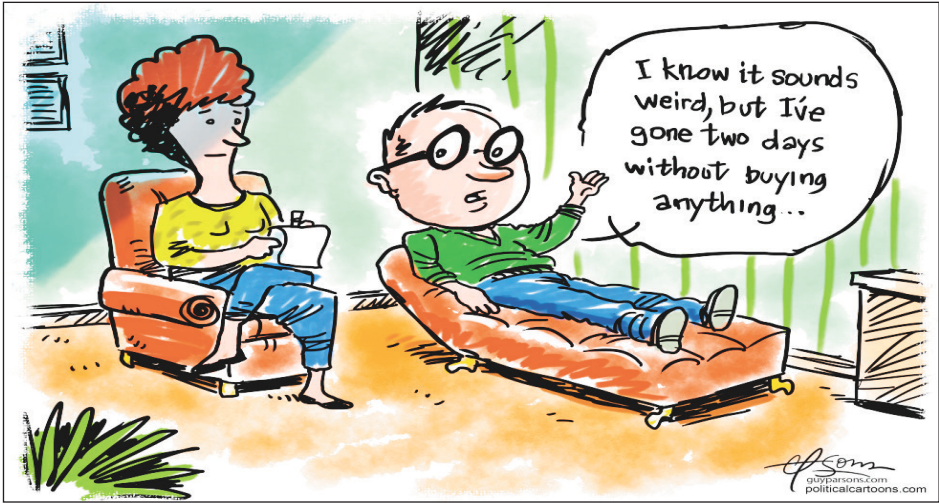
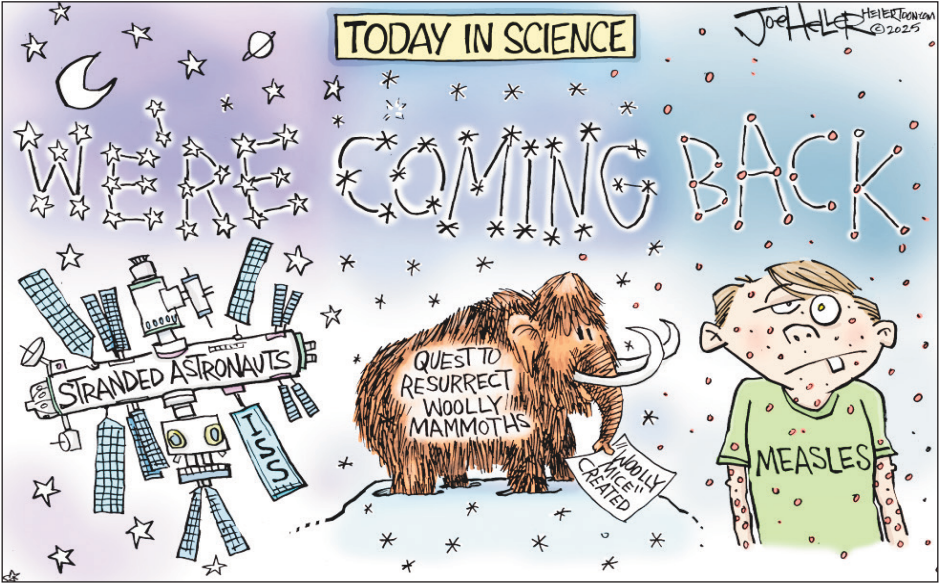
One such attack occurred along the upper reaches of the Guadalupe River as a husband and wife, their last name being Hibbons, and their two children, a three-year-old boy and a baby girl, along with the brother of the wife, were moving northward to get out of Santa Anna's path. They were attacked by Comanches, and the wife watched as both her husband and brother were killed. The Indians took what supplies they wanted, and with the wife and the two children as captives, headed north toward the Colorado River. The infant, the little baby girl held by its mother, kept crying, much to the irritation of the Indians. Finally, one Indian brave snatched the baby from the mother, and threw it against a tree, to forever silence the cries, and life, of the baby.

We lift in honor the names of those who fired the first shot of the Texas Revolution here in Gonzales; of those who died in the Alamo; those who were victorious at San Jacinto - Men who took risks and made sacrifices for Texas Freedom. But, are the sacrifices of this woman, Mrs. Hibbons, whose story is not unusual, any less significant than those occurring on the battlefield? May sacrifice only take place by musket, saber or lance to be deemed worthy of our honor, or may we indeed recognize as significant all the sacrifices and unbelievable hardships of our people?

This woman, Mrs. Hibbons, escaped during the first night of her capture, walked and stumbled through ten miles of brush, ticket and thorns until she staggered into the camp of a Ranging Company, who set out immediately, overtook the Indians, and rescued the young boy to be reunited with his mother.

My, what an ordeal, and we think we go through some tough times every now and then.

For there is something special about the people of Green De Witt's Colony - and it is not based so much in what we do today, but the source seems to lie more in who they were, and what they endured. We will not find this woman's name on a monument or a marker. Nor is she associated with any battle. But we will find her name. It is not hidden from us. We will find her name on our hearts, and we will find her name in our heritage. For she is associated with who we are.



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DR. DON NEWBURY
The Idle American

Skyward with LUV...

Odds of brothers Orville and Wilbur Wright constructing, then flying, the world's first powered aircraft in 1903--and Southwest Airlines' founding what would become one of the world's leading airlines 64 years later--were about the same.

Most figured the odds to be slim and none.

And most were wrong....

While the Wrights' contraption was aloft for only 59 seconds with a flight measuring just 852 feet, it was a beginning, as was SWA's start-up with leased aircraft, stiff competition, borrowed money and unfettered dreams.

Perhaps the chief of dreamers was SWA co-founder Herb Kelleher, as was eventual SWA President Colleen Barrett, first woman president of a major airline. Both pioneers--gone, but by no means forgotten--came to mind recently on the front and back ends of my first major airline flight in five years. Advancing years (think numbers on a piano keyboard), health issues and a limited speaking schedule have kept me grounded, but the recent Dallas-to-Tampa, FL, flight on the "airline that LUV built" lingers on my memory ladder's top rung.

A friend claims that heaven has a glass bottom. I'll join right in, hopeful that Herb and Colleen flashed big smiles....

For starters, I'd never negotiated Love Field's great new parking lot. While securing the car, I made a mental check of items I'd lug to the terminal. Yep, keys, wallet, two rolling pieces of luggage, a briefcase, cane and my dratted CPAP machine weighted me down.

I re-defined trudging. Winded and eager to find a chair upon reaching the terminal, I saw a skycap literally running toward me, offering a wheelchair with its tires still smoking.

Rarely has any offer been so readily accepted. Michael wheeled me to check-in, then to the security gate, where pockets were emptied and explanations offered for wires and batteries implanted for heart back-ups....

But wait! Where was my phone? "Probably left in the car," Michael said. "Let's go back." He then wheeled me for several hundred yards back to my car, grabbed my phone from the front seat, shot a photo of my parking space and pushed the wheelchair to my boarding gate. (To be sure, Michael earned a generous tip.) Thirty minutes had passed, but early boarding assured my choice of any row of seats. Remember, it was Saturday night, and most people were already where they were going.

In Tampa, I addressed a church senior adult luncheon, sold a few books and was hosted by two couples whose paths I hadn't crossed for 60 and 30 years, respectively. Mike and Jeanie Compton were Sul Ross students during my faculty tenure there in the 1960s. Mike was in my PR class, and I awarded Steve Biles his baccalaureate degree at Howard Payne University....

I was treated royally by the Comptons--as well as by Steve and his wife, Cricket--and his parents, Tom and Nanel Biles, HPU classmates more than 65 years ago.

After five days, I boarded an early-morning SWA flight, this one packed. I was "wheelchaired" to the gate for early boarding, sitting near a college-age woman named Katie.

We talked about columns/writing/reporting, etc., and she seemed interested.

I told her I'd like to autograph a book, thinking I'd fish one out of my briefcase placed on the plane's only unoccupied center seat. Alas, no book was found, but I assured her that I'd find one at baggage claim. She said she might be delayed. At no time during our two-hour visit did she mention that she had leg prostheses....

A flight attendant--call him Gil--overheard our conversation,

See NEWBURY, page 8



Letters to the Editor Policy

Please send Letters to the Editor:

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

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

SPORTS

Apache track competes at Jack Adcock Relays

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Gonzales Apaches varsity and junior varsity boys and girls track teams competed at the Jack Adcock Relays in Cuero on Thursday,

March 6. Nearly everyone who placed in the Top 10 either lowered their time or improved their distance over their performance from the Floresville meet the week before.

VARSITY BOYS		
100m dash Daevien Pitts, first, 11.17.	1600m run Jordan Gonzales, sixth, 5:50.74.	4x100m relay Gonzales, seventh, 47.62.
200m dash Damion Hunt, third, 23.32.	3200m run Jordan Gonzales, seventh, 13:17.73.	4x200m relay Gonzales, eighth, 1:41.51.
1600m run Kristopher Ramos, sixth, 5:02.28.	100m hurdles Hailey Camarillo, ninth, 19.07. Aubrey Lindemann, 10th, 19.28.	4x400m relay Gonzales, seventh, 3:57.71.
3200m run Kristopher Ramos, fourth, 10:50.02.	300m hurdles Aubrey Lindemann, fourth, 53.62. Viviana Barrientos, ninth, 54.40.	JUNIOR VARSITY GIRLS
300m hurdles Travis Malveaux, fourth, 42.18.	4x200m relay Gonzales, seventh, 1:57.70.	100m dash Jonalyn Hunt, second, 13.34.
4x100m relay Gonzales, third, 43.64.	Discus Serynity Smith, fifth, 95-8.5.	200m dash Jonalyn Hunt, seventh, 30.26.
4x200m relay Gonzales, fourth, 1:32.23.	Triple jump Jayda Glass, Gonzales, 33-11.	400m dash Zoey Barfield, sixth, 1:10.41.
High jump Travis Malveaux, seventh, 5-10.00	JUNIOR VARSITY BOYS	100m hurdles Zniyah Washington, seventh, 19.33.
Discus Jermaine Upshaw, fourth, 138-01.00.	100m dash Christian Jurek, fourth, 11.73.	300m hurdles Jaelyn Ramos, eighth, 56.01.
Shot put Marcus Lampkin, eighth, 41-08.25.	800m run Kevin Reyna, fourth, 2:20.42.	4x100m relay Gonzales, sixth, 56.93.
VARSITY GIRLS	1600m run Kevin Reyna, third, 5:20.22.	4x400m relay Gonzales, ninth, 5:04.20.
800m run Jordan Gonzales, fifth, 2:35.18.	110m hurdles Jayvion Gonzales, seventh, 19.81.	Discus Marilyn Ramirez, fourth, 79-11.

Apaches place seven on All-District squad

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Gonzales Apaches, who advanced to the bi-district round of the playoffs for the first time since 2021-22, placed seven players on the District 28-4A All-District basketball teams.

Senior Gavin Lekgega, who finished his Apache career with more than 1,000 points scored, was

named the District Offensive Most Valuable Player. He was joined on the All-District first team by fellow seniors Jermane Upshaw and Jzyah Melancon.

Second-team All-District honors went to senior Dylan Hunt and sophomores Damion Hunt and Brealien Jones. Freshman Jayvion Gonzales was named honorable mention All-District.

MUSTANG TENNIS HOLDS COURT IN RUNGE



CONTRIBUTED
The Nixon-Smiley Mustang and Lady Mustang tennis teams played in a tournament at Runge and came away with several medals (clockwise from top left): Varsity Boys Doubles (2nd place), Zechariah Munoz & Isaac Mendez; Varsity Girls Doubles (3rd place), Janice White & Dulce Robles; Varsity Mixed Doubles (2nd Place), Joe White & Janaelyn White; JV Boys Doubles (1st Place), Joaquin Donoso Monge & Laith Alshah.

Apaches FC, Lady Apaches FC split games with Cole

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Gonzales Apaches FC and Lady Apaches FC split their games at San Antonio Cole on Friday, March 7.

The Apaches dropped their match at Cole, 5-1, which knocked Gonzales back into fourth place in District 27-4A. Gonzales is 9-7-4 overall and 7-4-2 in district play and were scheduled to finish out the regular season against Young Men’s Leadership Academy on Wednesday, March 12. Gonzales is expected to get the district’s second seed in the Class 4A Division 2 soccer

playoffs.

Meanwhile, the Lady Apaches won a close 1-0 contest at Cole to remain entrenched in second place in District 27-4A with an 11-2 record and a 15-4-2 overall mark. The team had also beaten Yoakum, 4-1, on the road on Tuesday, March 4. Gonzales was scheduled to finish out the regular season playing Young Women’s Leadership Academy on Tuesday, March 11. Depending on how the rest of the district plays out, they will either get the top seed in Division 2 or second seed in Division 1 in the soccer playoffs.

Lady Mustangs place 11 on All-District basketball team

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Nixon-Smiley Lady Mustangs had 11 team members honored on the District 26-3A All-District basketball teams.

Senior Janaelyn White was named the District’s Sixth Man of the Year winner.

Senior Ashly Garcia was named first-team All-District as well as Academic All-District.

Senior Madison Yanes was named first-team All-District as well as Academic All-District.

Senior Brooke Crisp was named second-team All-District as well as Academic All-District.

Senior Kaylie Morin was named second-team All-District as well as Academic All-District.

Senior Juliana Kendrick was named second-team All-District as well as Academic All-District.

Sophomore Grace Gomez was named second-team All District.

Senior Ayanna Corpus was named honorable mention All-District.

Junior Janice White was named honorable mention All-District as well as Academic All-District.

Sophomore Gabriela Castillo-Limon was named honorable mention All-District as well as Academic All-District.

Freshman Ruby Mendez was named honorable mention All-District as well as Academic All-District.

Garcia, Yanes and Morin were also named to the Texas High School Coaches Association Academic All-State honorable mention team.

Lady Apaches blast Karnes City, 20-4, on softball diamond

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Gonzales Lady Apaches’ bats woke up in a big way as they pummeled the Karnes City Lady Badgers at home, 20-4, on Friday, March 7.

Karnes City took a 2-0 lead in the top of the first and Gonzales answered with three to make it 3-2 after an inning of play. The Lady Badgers would again score two in the top of the second to retake the lead at 4-3, but would be shut out the rest of the game.

Meanwhile, the Lady Apaches tied it in the bottom of the second at 4-4 and then kicked it into overdrive with six runs in the third and 10 in the fourth to force the end of the game by run-rule.

Sophomore infielders Alexzis Hernandez and Alaina Valle each went 4-for-4 and knocked in four runs, with Valle also scoring four times while

Hernandez scored twice. Senior Sarah Padilla and junior Ava Carrizales each went 1-for-2 and scored three runs with an RBI. Junior Ryah Gonzales went 1-for-2 with a run scored and an RBI while senior Peyton Springfield scored once and knocked in a run.

Blakely Mercer and Cimone Barrera also each scored once in the game. The Lady Apaches pounded out 17 hits and had 16 RBIs with three doubles. Padilla and Carrizales each stole two bases as well, while Valle stole one.

The win improved Gonzales overall to 4-6 on the season. Earlier in the week, Gonzales had dropped a 3-1 game at home against the Smithville Lady Tigers on Tuesday, March 4. The Lady Apaches did manage to hold Smithville to just five hits in the game, but could not match them in run production.

Gonzales Gun Show

LOCATED AT
JB WELLS EVENT CENTER
2301 COUNTY ROAD 197
GONZALES, TEXAS 78629

March 15 & 16

Saturday 9am to 5pm
and
Sunday 10am to 4pm



Big Tex Gun Show

\$10/PERSON
CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER FREE
UNIFORMED OFFICERS FREE

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HOW TO PLACE AN AD

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www.gonzalesinquirer.com
or call
(830) 672-2861
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622 St. Paul or PO Box 616, Gonzales, TX 78629
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40¢ for each additional word.

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CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

The deadline to place an ad in
the paper is Tuesday by Noon.

ERRORS

The Gonzales Inquirer is responsible for the first
incorrect insertion of an ad only. Call
(830) 672-2861 to notify of a needed correction.

CALL TODAY
830-672-2861

040
AUCTIONS

**Estate/Consignment
Auction**

Sunday, March 16, 10:00 AM
801 CR 488 Gonzales, TX 78629
www.IntegrityAuctions.biz

1950 Ferguson Tractor, 16 Foot Flatbottom Boat,
Nice Antique Furniture, Church Pews,
Appliances, 25 Commemorative Silver Dollars,
Vintage Toys, 13 Craftsman Cordless Tool Sets
(Still in Boxes), Power Tools, Knives, Man Cave
Tin Signs, Kayak, Shawnee Dishes, Franciscan
Apple Blossom, Vintage Pyrex Casserole
Dishes, Oil Lamps, Milk Bottles, Depression
Jars, Wine Bottles, Vintage Quilts, Ladies Leather
Jackets, Purses, Scope, Tattoo Machines,
Bottle Opener Collection, Cast Iron & Wood
Lawn Furniture, Military Gear, Bird Bath,
BBQ Smoker, Box Lots & more!

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

055
ESTATE SALES

Baros Estate Sale
Saturday 3/15 & Sunday 3/16
from 9a-4p
1405 N Sarah Dewitt Dr
in Gonzales, TX 78629

No early birds, prices given
prior OR presales!

Follow:
www.facebook.com/comeandorganizait
for updates and photos or
www.estatesales.net and search
Come and Organize It.

Nice estate sale featuring furniture,
home decor, kitchenware, records, books,
upright piano, vintage toys, electric pit,
antiques, collectibles, yard tools,
and much more!

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Bottle Opener Collection, Cast Iron & Wood
Lawn Furniture, Military Gear, Bird Bath,
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Nice estate sale featuring furniture,
home decor, kitchenware, records, books,
upright piano, vintage toys, electric pit,
antiques, collectibles, yard tools,
and much more!

850
HELP WANTED

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

850
HELP WANTED



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

850
HELP WANTED

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

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Must be dependable.
Benefits Package & Overtime
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Victoria College's Workforce
& Continuing Education
Department is hiring for the
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Electrical Instructor
Welding Instructor

For more information go to
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and click on Jobs@VC.
Equal-Opportunity Institution

950
PUBLIC NOTICES

CITATION BY PUBLICATION - TRC 109 & 114

THE STATE OF TEXAS Cause No. 28,797

MARCELINA MARCEDO IN THE DISTRICT COURT

VS. 25TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

ERICA LATRICE WARFIELD, ELLA
WARFIELD REEVES, WILLILAM JAMES
GENTRY, UNKNOWN HEIRS OF SARA
JANE WARFIELD, UNKNOWN HEIRS
OF JAMES WARFIELD, UNKNOWN
HEIRS OF DORA AGGIE SATTERWHITE
WARFIELD, UNKNOWN HEIRS OF
SAMUEL WARFIELD, UNKNOWN HEIRS
OF SARAH LEE, AND UNKNOWN HEIRS
OF ANTY LEE

GONZALES COUNTY, TEXAS

TO: Unknown Heirs of Sara Jane Warfield, Unknown Heirs of Samuel Warfield
Unknown Heirs of James Warfield, Unknown Heirs of Dora Aggie
Satterwhite Warfield
Unknown Heirs of Mose Lee, Unknown Heirs of Sarah Lee and Unknown
Heirs of Anty Lee

DEFENDANT - GREETING

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

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Plaintiff's
Petition at or before 10:00 o'clock A.M. on the Monday next after the expiration
of 42 days after the date of issuance of this citation before the Honorable District
Court of Gonzales County, at the Courthouse in said County in Gonzales, Texas.
Said Plaintiff's was filed in said court on 05/02/2024 in the above entitled cause.

A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to-wit: Trespass to Try Title
as is more fully shown by Plaintiff's Petition on file in this suit.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at Gonzales, Texas, this
6th day of March, 2025.

Attorney for Plaintiff or Plaintiff
NOEL HENRY REESE
P.O. Box 887
417 St. George St. 2nd Floor
Gonzales, TX 78629
830-672-8773



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

By: *Georgia Nanda* Deputy

900
BUSINESS
OPPORTUNITIES

FREE EVENT • OVER 80 VENDORS

South Texas
HOME and
GARDEN SHOW

Floresville Event Center
600 Hwy 97 W, Floresville
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Sat., March 22
9 am-5 pm

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rock and com-
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APARTMENTS**
for rent. 1, 2, 3,
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electric deposit
required. Apply at
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HAY FOR SALE:
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Fertilized coastal.
\$9 each. Shiner
area. This year's
cutting. 361-293-
8758

670
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*Rent based on Income
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Rates Based on Income

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at 830-582-1343.

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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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject
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or national origin, or an intention or discrimination."
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living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women
and people securing custody of children under 18.
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impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



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WATERFRONT LAND SALE

March 29th Only
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Featuring 1-3 Acre Bay Access
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By Appointment Only
830-310-6195

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TexSCAN Week of
Mar. 9-15, 2025

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WATER DAMAGE

WATER DAMAGE CLEANUP & RESTORATION: A small amount of water can lead to major damage in your home. Our trusted professionals do complete repairs to protect your family and your home's value! Call 24/7: 1-877-727-3027. Have zip code of service location ready when you call!

ACREAGE

Waterfront Land Sale — March 29th Only. Off of Matagorda Bay, Texas' newest waterfront community. Featuring 1-3 acre bay access starting at \$49,900. By appointment only, 830-310-6195.

ENERGY

Backup power — peace of mind. Get a standard warranty of 7 years, \$849 value. Call 888-925-0261, Briggs & Stratton Energy Solutions.

EVENTS

South Texas Home and Garden Show — March 22, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Floresville Event Center, 600 Hwy 97 W, Floresville. Free event, over 80 vendors. Plants, drawings, presentations, food trucks and more, www.southtexashomeandgarden.com.

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Jacuzzi Bath Remodel can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, waiving ALL installation costs! (Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. (Offer ends 3/30/25.) Call 1-855-965-0841.


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or email sanya.simmons@gonzalesinquirer.com

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The Gonzales Inquirer
SERVING GONZALES COUNTY SINCE 1982
www.gonzalesinquirer.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS WAELDER ISD's INTENT TO APPLY FOR THE 2025-2026 ESSA FEDERAL GRANT FUNDING

Waelder ISD will hold a PUBLIC MEETING - at 6:00 p.m. on March 24, 2025 in the Cafeteria, 109 N. Ave. C., Waelder, TX. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss WISD's Intent to Apply for the 2025-2026 ESSA Federal Grant Funding.

Texas Comptroller's Office Helps Property Taxpayers Stay Informed of their Rights with Updated Publication

The Texas Comptroller's office has released the *Taxpayer Assistance Pamphlet*, a reference guide for property taxpayers which addresses property tax basics, providing a step-by-step guide on preparing for a protest hearing and what they can do if they are dissatisfied with an appraisal review board's decision.

The *Taxpayer Assistance Pamphlet* also provides key dates so property owners know what they must do and when they are required to act to exercise their right to protest.

The *Taxpayer Assistance Pamphlet* is available from the Gonzales Central Appraisal District at 301 N. St. Joseph Street, Suite A, Gonzales, Texas 78629. It is also available from the Comptroller's Property Tax Assistance Division's website at comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/property-tax/.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that the original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of John L. Calender, Deceased, were issued on February 26, 2025 under Cause No. PW25-0394, pending in the County Court of Gonzales County, Texas, to June Ann Calender.


All persons having claims must present them in care of the following:

June Ann Calender, Independent Executor of the Estate of John L. Calender
c/o Law Offices of Trent Nichols, PLLC
Sara Anne Giddings
1309 N. Avenue E
Shiner, Texas 77984

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

DATED March 10, 2025

LAW OFFICES OF TRENT NICHOLS, PLLC

By 
Attorney for Applicant

March 6 Puzzle Answers



9	1	6	4	8	3	2	7	5
7	2	3	1	9	5	4	8	6
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N	A	R	K			E	R	E			T	E	D	S	



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THE STATE OF TEXAS CITATION BY PUBLICATION

CAUSE NO. AD25-0395
IN THE ESTATE OF GUADALUPE RODRIGUEZ JR, DECEASED
AKA LUPE RODRIGUEZ JR

TO ALL UNKNOWN OR MISSING HEIRS
OF THE ESTATE OF GUADALUPE RODRIGUEZ JR, DECEASED
AKA LUPE RODRIGUEZ JR

Tammy Rodriguez Ivey, in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on February 11, 2025 an APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION AND TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP AND LETTERS OF INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION AFTER FOUR YEARS in the estate of Guadalupe Rodriguez Jr aka Lupe Rodriguez Jr, Deceased, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of Guadalupe Rodriguez Jr, aka Lupe Rodriguez Jr, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in said estate, and appoint Tammy Rodriguez Ivey to serve as Independent Administrator or said estate and grant Letters of Independent Administration to same.

The Court may act on said Application and any opposition at any call of the docket on or after 10 o'clock A.M. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the **Gonzales County Courthouse, 414 St. Joseph St, Commissioner's Courtroom, in Gonzales County, Texas 78629, Gonzales County, Texas.**

You are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court **by filing a written contest or answer** to said Application before the above stated time and date should you desire to do so. **To ensure its consideration, you or your attorney must file any contest, objection, intervention, or response in writing with the County Clerk of Gonzales County, Texas, on or before the above noted date and time.**

Given under my hand and the seal of said Court at office in Gonzales, Texas, March 10, 2025.

Lona Ackman, COUNTY CLERK
Gonzales County, Texas
427 St. George St, STE 200
Gonzales, Texas 78629

By: 
Margie Zapata, Deputy

Plaintiff(s) Attorney:
Sarah E. Sibley
Attorney for Tammy Rodriguez Ivey
State Bar No.: 24043439
700 Louisiana Street, 41st Floor
Houston, Texas 77002
Telephone: 713-260-3926
Fax: 713-260-3903
Email: ssibley@fordbergner.com



YOUTH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

SWINE

Grand and Reserve Champion Swine Junior Showman
Kaston Tipp, Grand Champion Junior Showman
Connor Pish, Reserve Champion Junior Showman

Grand and Reserve Champion Swine Intermediate Showman
Jayce Kurz, Grand Champion Intermediate Showman
Rylee Ruddock, Reserve Champion Intermediate Showman

Grand and Reserve Champion Swine Senior Showman
Jaxon Beck, Grand Champion Senior Showman
Jo Caka, Reserve Champion Senior Showman

Grand and Reserve County Bred Breeding Gilt
Cimone Barrera, Grand Champion County Bred Breeding Gilt
Rylee Ruddock, Reserve Champion County Bred Breeding Gilt

Grand and Reserve Champion Breeding Gilt
Maritza Perez, Grand Champion Breeding Gilt
Jayce Kurz, Reserve Champion Breeding Gilt

Grand and Reserve Champion County Bred Market Swine
Rylee Ruddock, Grand Champion County Bred Market Swine
Cimone Barrera, Reserve Champion County Bred Market Swine

Grand and Reserve Champion Market Swine
Baylyne Evans, Grand Champion Market Swine
Kaston Tipp, Reserve Champion Market Swine

BEEF

Beef Grand and Reserve Junior Showman
Tyley Boulter, Grand Champion Junior Showman
Kaston Tipp, Reserve Champion Junior Showman

Beef Grand and Reserve Intermediate Showman
Kayden Cheatham, Grand Champion Intermediate Showman
Colt Richter, Reserve Champion Intermediate Showman

Grand and Reserve Beef Senior Showman
Koopers Hardcastle, Grand Champion Senior Showman
Augustus Sexton, Reserve Champion Senior Showman

Grand and Reserve County Bred Breeding Heifer
Kaston Tipp, Grand Champion County Bred Breeding Heifer
Kayden Cheatham, Reserve Champion County Bred Breeding Heifer

Grand and Reserve Breeding Heifer
Augustus Sexton, Grand Champion Breeding Heifer
Kaston Tipp, Reserve Champion Breeding Heifer

Grand and Reserve Bred Commercial Heifers
Tilden Gray, Grand Champion Bred
Tyler Boulter, Reserve Champion Bred

Grand and Reserve Open Commercial Heifers
Kendall Watts, Grand Champion
Rhett Richter, Reserve Champion

Grand and Reserve County Bred Commercial Heifers
Koopers Hardcastle, Grand Champion County Bred
Brody Danz, Reserve Champion County Bred

Overall Grand and Reserve Commercial Heifers
Jaxon Beck, Grand Champion Commercial Heifer
Brandon DuBose, Reserve Champion Commercial Heifer

Grand and Reserve Junior Herdsman Commercial Heifers
Laramie Mills, Grand Champion Junior Herdsman
Hank Butler, Reserve Champion Junior Herdsman

Grand and Reserve Intermediate Herdsman Commercial Heifers
Jaxon Hill, Grand Champion Intermediate Herdsman
Madelyn Mills, Reserve Champion Intermediate Herdsman

Grand and Reserve Senior Herdsman Commercial Heifers
Jaxon Beck, Grand Champion Senior Herdsman
Koopers Hardcastle, Reserve Champion Senior Herdsman

County Bred Steer Grand and Reserve Champions
Koopers Hardcastle, Grand Champion County Bred Market Steer
Colt Richter, Reserve Champion County Bred Market Steer

Steer Grand and Reserve Champions
Tyley Boulter, Grand Champion Market Steer
Kaston Tipp, Reserve Champion Market Steer

John 3:16

BY LYNN WILSON

For God...

Elohim, Heavenly Father
Emmanuel, Our Lord and King
Holy Spirit, Who leads and guides us
Creator of everything.

So loved...

Not an emotion of preference,
not affection of infatuation.
but a desire to eternally
fellowship with His creation.

The World...

The heavens, moon, sun, and stars,
all that's part of His great plan:
birds and fish and animals
and the creation known as Man.

He Gave...

He freely chose, out of His love,
to reveal to man His heart:
to offer the salvation
only He imparts.

His only begotten Son...

Jesus, the Anointed One

the Live, the Truth, the Way;
the One who died upon the cross
The debt of sin to pay.

That whosoever...

He placed no limits on His gift;
it's free for everyone.
Anyone can receive
The life of God's own Son.

Believeth in Him...

The gift is free for anyone,
but in order to receive
put your faith in God alone
and tightly to Him cleave.

Should not perish...

Death has been defeated,
no longer do we fear.
The promise of new life
Brings us hope and cheer.

But have everlasting life.

The life He gives is endless;
filled with joy and peace.
The life and love He gives us
will never, ever cease.

NEWBURY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

mentioning that he has written the first chapter of his book. He shared it with me; I quickly recognized his considerable talent. He, too, would get a book.

After luggage was gathered, Gil -- completing his trip -- insisted on pushing the wheelchair to my car. I asked him how many times he'd wheeled

passengers from plane seats to car seats. "Counting today, once," he smiled.

Angels abound; sometimes they're easily spotted....

Dr. Newbury, longtime university president, continues to speak and write. The Idle American, begun in 2003, appears weekly in newspapers throughout Texas. Contact: 817-447-3872. Email: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Audio version at www.speakerdoc.com.

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• Septic System

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123 Bright Street Gonzales, Texas 78629
wwalker0522@gmail.com

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- Tree Removal
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- Cabling
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Heritage Quilters hear from organizations about good works

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Deane Novosad (Norma’s House Children’s Advocacy Center) Gladly Seifert (Shady Oaks Nursing and Rehab Center-Moulton) and Methodist Pastor Darin Zumwalt (Shiner Food Pantry) were guest speakers at the March 4 Shiner Heritage Quilters meeting. They talked about the good works of their organizations and thanked the guild for the quilts and money donations.

Thirty-four members and six guests attended the meeting. Hostesses Margo Henderson, Alice Janak, Lisa Stafford, and Helen Stafford had decorated each table with a colorful St. Patrick theme and provided delicious refreshments. Bernadette Kresta collected 10 nursing home quilts and Laura Kaspar collected 14 Norma’s House quilts that were sewn by the members. Margo Henderson handed



CONTRIBUTED

Pictured from left are Deane Novosad (Norma’s House Children’s Advocacy Center) Gladly Seifert (Shady Oaks Nursing and Rehab Center-Moulton) and Methodist Pastor Darin Zumwalt (Shiner Food Pantry).

out the next “Block of the Month” pattern. The popular “Show and Tell” followed. The meeting ended with door prize drawings given by the hostesses.

The next meeting is April 1 and will feature a program on the Texas Quilt Museum. www.shinerheritagequilters.org

SHINER GASLIGHT THEATRE



CONTRIBUTED

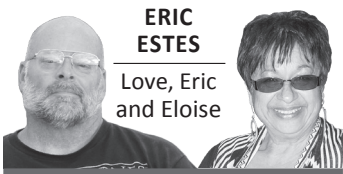
This scene from “Junie B. Jones is Not a Crook,” the Shiner Gaslight Theatre spring play, shows cast members, from left, Alena Winkenwerder, Sarah Liberti, and Laci Ramos. Now is the time to get your tickets for this delightful comedy based on the best-selling book series by Barbara Park and directed by Elaine Plummer. Performances are March 28-30, April 4-6, 11-13. Two Wednesday performances are April 2 and April 9. All are in the evening except for Sunday matinees. A meal is served before the play. All vouchers and general tickets may be reserved either online at www.shinergaslight.org or by calling 361-594-2079 between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. on weekdays. Ticket price is \$35. Please note: No children under 4.

Expecta-shuns

Hey there everyone, I hope you’ve had a chance to get out and enjoy some of these beautiful early spring days we’ve had lately. We’re so used to our fairly mild winters here in sunny south Texas, that we often forget about the millions of people living farther north that are still fighting freezing temperatures and several feet of snow. While I definitely don’t consider myself to be anywhere near the sharpest tack in the box, after living up north for over a decade, it became abundantly clear why birds fly south for the winter. So, as we step outside and fill our lungs with fresh warm air and the scent of blossoming wildflowers, let’s pause for a moment of silence for our frozen brothers and sisters up north. Or we could just catch an attitude and do a mass mailing of my new book “Hey dummies, birds fly south for the winter”, surely to be well received. But then we might end up with a bunch of crabby northerners camping out in back yards. On second thought, I think I’ll just keep the whole bird thing to myself!

Last week I wrote about catching the dreaded “ick”, or something someone did to diminish your previously positive opinion of them. I believe that we’ve all experienced this at one time or another, occasionally being so strong as to become a deal breaker altogether. In my early dating life, when a cute girl refused to bask in my other worldly charm and put me on a pedestal, it definitely gave me the ick. Yep, sounds like a personal problem to me, but I forgave her anyway, as she apparently didn’t understand the “Golden Rule”... treat me like I want to be treated. Wait, that isn’t right, is it? Probably not, but what the heck, it worked for me (evil smile emoji).

It seems to me me that the “ick” simply stems from unmet expectations.



ERIC ESTES
Love, Eric and Eloise

When people don’t meet our often bloated and unreasonable expectations, we often eventually shun them altogether, hence today’s title. Many folks don’t realize that the traits that put them off, are the same ones that they themselves exhibit. Yep, it’s an icky world we live in. However, psychological studies on relationships reveal that couples with similar traits are often more successful in the long run. It seems that people are less likely to complain about the negative aspects of a partner’s personality, if they also have some of the same. Two stubborn people may have to duke it out more often than others, but seem to find common ground to stand on. Kind of like the median between two lanes of traffic going in opposite directions. After all, God does command us to love others as ourself, even when it’s difficult!

The ick between people is not to be confused with the ick that attacks fish. This is a parasite that can be treated by quarantine and medication, but is sometimes fatal to the fish, as is the ick between couples. Of course, many relationships may be viewed as parasitic in nature. When someone marries for fame or fortune over love, this is often the case. However, if this arrangement is acceptable for both parties, it’s viewed as a symbiotic relationship. This is the kind of relationship Eloise and I enjoyed. She would tolerate me striking my Big Fig Newton pose (as her trophy husband), as long as I built her something else (house, buildings, gardens etc.) Kinda weird, but it worked for us! Symbiotic is defined as “a close, long term interaction between two or more different species. I believe that a popular book decades ago proved that in fact, men and women are actually separate species as “Women are from Venus, Men are from Mars”, just sayin’!

More next week so stay tuned, love you guys, Eric.

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First Assembly of God 509 E. 3rd St., Nixon	Stratton Primitive Baptist FM 1447, 9 miles east of Cuero	FULL GOSPEL Camp Valley Full Gospel Hwy 80, 7 mi. north of Nixon	El Centro Cristiano “Agua Viva” 403 Highway 90 W, Waelder
BAPTIST Clark Baptist Church FM 794, Gonzales	St. James Baptist Church Hwy 80, north of Belmont.	Full Gospel Church 1426 Fisher, Gonzales	Emmanuel Fellowship 1817 St. Lawrence, Gonzales
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Efeso Iglesia Bautista Highway 87, Smiley	Union Lea Baptist Church St. Andrew St., Gonzales	Abiding Word Lutheran Church LCMS 1020 St. Louis St., Gonzales	New Life Temple for Jesus Christ 16214 US 90 W, Harwood
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First Baptist Church Highway 108 N., Smiley	St. Patrick Catholic Church Waelder	Monthalia Methodist CR 112 off Highway 97	Temple Bethel Pentecostal 1104 S. Paul, Gonzales
First Baptist Church 406 N. Avenue E, Waelder	St. Phillip Catholic Church Highway 87, Smiley	Nixon Methodist Church 310 East 4th Street, Nixon	Life Changing Church of Gonzales 3.3 miles north on Hwy 183, right on CR 235, then right on CR 236
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Iglesia Bautista Macedonia 201 S. Congress, Nixon	Church of Christ E. 3rd & Texas, Nixon	Christ the King Church 1262 U.S. Highway 77 South Hallettsville	
Iglesia Bautista Memorial Highway 97, Waelder	Church of Christ, Belmont		
Leesville Baptist Church E. of Highway 80 on CR 121	CHURCHES OF GOD Community Church of God 1020 St. Louis, Gonzales		
Memorial Heights Baptist Church 1330 N. College, Gonzales	Gonzales Memorial Church of God in Christ 1113 Hastings, Gonzales		
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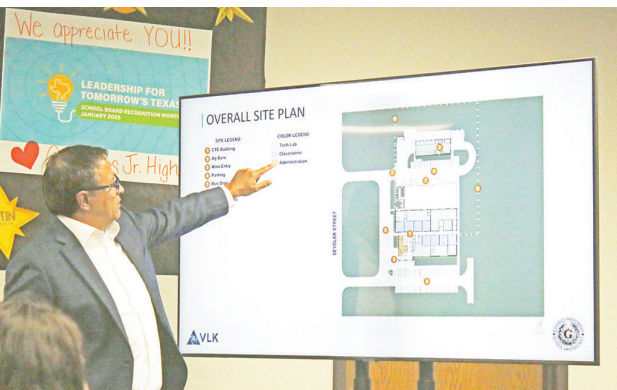
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LEW K. COHN

Michael Martinez of VLK Architects explains the overall site plan for the new Gonzales ISD CTE building and Ag barn during a March 10 GISD board meeting. Construction could begin within three weeks.

FACILITY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for cattle trailers to pull into and out of the area.

The total bid also includes about \$1,175,000 in allowances for planned work items and contingencies for unforeseen items to enable the project to proceed with minimum disruption, Sledge said. That includes possible spending on landscaping as there is not a plan in place for that at this time.

“One hundred percent of the contingency money and allowance money we don’t spend stays in your pocket,” Sledge said. “It’s all your money.”

Sledge said one of the most notable things is that the size of the CTE building has been increased from its original proposed size of 26,000 square feet to 31,782 square feet to accommodate an auto technology space the board had discussed wanting during schematic design that staff worried would require the district to dip into its operational funds to the tune of an additional \$2 million. Instead, all costs are being covered by bond proceeds and interest earned from them.

“Your CFO (Amanda Smith) has actually done a great job investing your money, and you’ve earned quite a bit of interest to date already, and so you can actually afford this particular bottom line item,” Sledge said. “With some interest money, you can do all of this and end up with a larger building than what we started with. I think you’re gonna love it. It’s a value-based building, but we’re not leaving any-

thing out.”

The budget also still has more than \$1.5 million in funds the district designated for “expected upcoming costs including permits, shop equipment, furniture, materials testing, code inspections, new marquee sign, technology items needed, new computers, greenhouse, cattle trailers, and health and nursing equipment,” Sledge added.

Michael Martinez of VLK Architects, which designed the building, went over the schematics for the CTE building and Ag facility with board members and the community, showing them the spaces for cosmetology, food science, plant science, animal science, welding, auto technology, veterinary, health careers and audio-visual technology.

ANNEX

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tered voters petition the county.

Tax notes can be approved through just a majority vote of the court and are repaid by adding debt service to the tax rate for no more than seven years to pay for financing construction of public works, the purchase of supplies, land, and rights of way for public works or to pay for professional services.

Due to the shorter term of the tax notes, the impact to the tax rate is higher in the long term, but results in a lower amount of overall interest paid on principal, said John Duke of CPM Texas.

“It works well for projects with immediate needs and clear cost estimates like the annex project, and it’s also fiscally conservative, again because of the overall cost,” Duke added. “CPM strongly recommends issuing tax notes for the following reasons: they’re the fastest and most cost effective option. No election is required, minimizing the risk of delay. It ensures funding aligns with the construction schedule and it limits the long term financial burden of taxpayers.”

An \$11.5 million tax note financed at an expected 3.33 percent interest rate would require about \$2.3 million in interest during the seven-year life of the note, compared to a certificate of obligation or general obligation bond with a 4.43 percent interest rate, which would see about 1.2 cents added to the tax rate over the course of 25 years, resulting in up to \$8.89 million in total interest paid — a difference of about \$6,588,000 in interest paid out.

The county would be paying only \$815,400 per year on a 25-year certificate of obligation, but that adds up to a total payment of \$20,385,000, as opposed to a

\$1,971,000 yearly payment on a tax note that would add up to a total payment of \$13,797,000.

Duke said with a tax note, a \$100,000 home would see an increase of about \$28 per year on its taxes, or about 2.33 cents per month, for just seven years, while a certificate of obligation would increase taxes on a \$100,000 home by \$12 per year, or about \$1 per month, over the course of 25 years.

With a tax note, the county could sell the notes by April 14 and receive the funds as soon as May 13. With a certificate of obligation, after publishing the required notice for two weeks in the Inquirer, the county could sell the notes by April 22 and get delivery by May 22, but that assumes that voters do not petition for an election. Having to have an election either through a petition on COs or by seeking to issue GOs would mean holding a November election, with the sale of bonds and issuance of proceeds not taking place until early 2026.

Precinct 2 Commissioner Donnie Brzozowski questioned whether the county would do better to pay the lower yearly payment for a longer amount of time and offset the difference with interest the county makes on its checking accounts, certificates of deposit and TexPool investments.

“I’m just thinking about the interest offsetting the seven year and the 25 year. It would cut our payment down, plus we may grow-up interest to offset that other payment,” Brzozowski said.

Treasurer Sheryl Barborak said the county’s TexPool investments are generating about 4.37 percent interest at this time, while CDs are generating between 4.75 to 5 percent. She said last year, the county made \$810,000 in interest on its checking accounts and CDs at South Star Bank, which is the county’s official depository bank.

“I can’t predict five years from now, but I’m making as much

interest as I can, you know, with our money. To me, it’s always better to pay something off sooner and save your interest because, I mean, your taxpayers are going to be, what, burdened for 25 years (with a certificate of obligation)?” Barborak said.

Chris Allen with RBC Capital Markets told commissioners the county could call certificates of obligation in at the 10-year mark to pay them off or reissue new bonds at a lower interest rate if one is available, depending on how the markets do, while the tax notes are locked in at seven years.

“We do have the option to buy a call feature, but it may not be cost effective, but at 3.3% interest, I mean, that’s cheap money,” Allen said. “On a CO or GO, you’re paying double the interest and it’s out for longer. Right now, if you were to issue tax notes, you’re actually borrowing at a percentage and a half less than what you’re making on your funds that are sitting in the bank, so it makes sense to use their money.”

Brzozowski also brought up the possibility of not fixing the annex, but instead building a new annex on the current site of the Precinct 3 barn on Water Street in Gonzales and buying another property out in the county for the barn.

County Judge Pat Davis said doing that would mean the county would be wasting its best and possibly only chance to get a grant from the Texas Historical Commission that would pay up to \$10 million of the \$13 million it would cost to have the Courthouse renovated because they would not have anywhere to move county employees in time to meet THC’s timelines.

When it came time to vote, Brzozowski was the lone vote against issuing tax notes, while Davis, Precinct 1 Commissioner Tony Matias, Precinct 3 Commissioner Roy Staton and Precinct 4 Commissioner Collie Boatright all voted for them.

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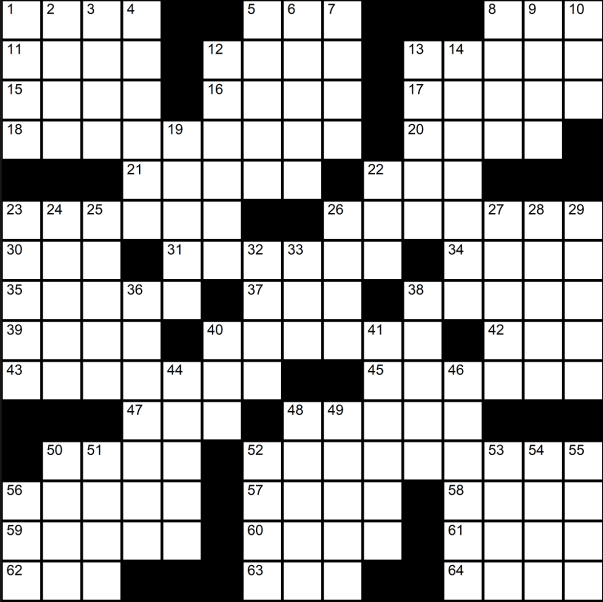
CLUES ACROSS

- Giant Himalayan
- *M in MAC
- Bathtub libation
- Joie de vivre
- Do like fly fisherman
- East side of Jersey
- Tucked in
- Diva’s solo
- Length of a forearm
- * ____ Sunday
- Osiris’ wife
- Freshwater fish
- Stir fry pan
- Victorian era overcoat
- Smallest
- *Like attending band at the NCAA Tournament
- Kaa of “The Jungle Book”
- Great Lake
- Prep mushrooms for steak, e.g.
- Cooking fat
- Bible song
- Second to last word in some fairytales
- False
- Dip oreo into milk, e.g.
- Tiresome
- Hoariest
- NBC’s sketch comedy show
- Misrepresent
- South American monkey
- *2025 NCAA Championship game venue
- Renaissance fiddle
- “To ____ and to hold”
- ____-friendly
- Founding Father Thomas ____
- Damien’s prediction
- Reunion group

- Bancroft to Hoffman in “The Graduate”
- Agreement word
- Ages and ages

CLUES DOWN

- Nay opposers
- River in Bohemia
- 1.3 ounces, in Asia
- Owes money (2 words)
- Angelina Jolie’s 2024 singing role
- “Kick the bucket,” e.g.
- * ____ Smith, coach of 2 champs and 11 Final Four teams
- Mongolian desert
- Fleur-de-lis
- *Cut down at end of last game
- Like rheumy eyes
- Descendant
- *2024 winners
- Thin pancake
- * ____ and move on
- *Cinderella’s victory
- Furlough
- Spew, past tense
- Cough syrup balm
- Use other end of pencil?
- Farm structures
- Dangle a carrot
- * ____-up or evenly matched game
- Step on it
- *2024 Most Outstanding Player Newton
- Paralyzing disease, for short
- Afghan monetary unit
- Neolithic tomb
- “Riunite ____ ____, that’s nice”





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- Scapegoat’s due
- Roof overhang
- Salty drop
- Avian wader
- Sailor call
- Capital of Norway
- Statistics calculation
- Sea eagles
- Dashboard acronym

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	6		2		1	9		
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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.

Here’s How It Works:

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.

ARREOLA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in Dr. Arreola’s leadership and vision for the future of our district.”

“With a passion for student success, a commitment to excellence, and a proven track record of educational leadership, Dr. Arreola is ready to lead Gonzales ISD forward,” the statement read. “We are excited to welcome Dr. Arreola and her family to our Apache community, and we look forward to her official start date on April 15 as she leads us in Growing Greatness for our students, staff, and community. Please join us in welcoming Dr. Dana Arreola as the new Superintendent of Gonzales ISD!”

The board met in executive session for about 29 minutes with Dr. Arreola before coming back into open session to take formal action on her hiring. One board member, Justin Schwausch, was unable to attend the meeting Monday night.

The contract term is from April 15, 2025 through June 28, 2028 and will pay Dr. Arreola an annual salary of \$195,000 and calls for her to reside within the district’s boundaries within 180 days of her hiring. It also will pay her \$7,500 on Friday, March 14, to help with relocation expenses.

Dr. Arreola, 55, had been the lone superintendent finalist selected by the board on Feb. 17 after holding six days of interviews with candidates brought to them by search firm Walsh Gallegos Kyle Robinson & Roalson, P.C. She succeeds Dr. Elmer Avelenada, who resigned last December citing personal reasons.

She comes to Gonzales after serving a 20-month stint as the superintendent for Bessemer City Schools in Bessemer, Alabama. Her last day on the job in Bessemer was Feb. 28 with her last official day of employment with that school district being March 7.

State officials took over the Bessemer City Schools in August 2024 and assigned a chief administrative officer to oversee district personnel, financial matters, and operations decisions as a result of an 18-month special examination audit conducted by State of Alabama Department of Examiners of Public Accounts.

That audit period included nine months that preceded Dr. Arreola’s June 2023 hiring by BCS. The audit found fault with the Bessemer Board of Education in four counts of noncompliance with state and local laws.

Before going to Bessemer for her first-ever superintendent job in June 2023, Arreola was the executive director of leadership development for Aldine ISD, where she



Above: Dr. Dana Arreola was joined by members of her family for her hiring as new GISD superintendent on Monday, March 10. The Houston native will officially start her first day on the job April 15. Left: Dr. Dana Arreola is greeted at the GISD board meeting by Gonzales City Councilmember Mariah Jordan. Both women have been trailblazers — Jordan is one of the first African-American women to serve on the City Council, while Dr. Arreola will be GISD’s first African-American superintendent.

PHOTOS BY LEW K. COHN

was involved in the creation of a \$1 million partnership between Aldine ISD and the University of Houston College of Education for an immersive principal training program.

Participants in the program get real-world experience during a yearlong internship while being employed full time as school leaders. They receive a scholarship that covers tuition and fees while they pursue a master’s degree in administration and supervision before they earn their state certification as principals. Similar programs exist with Houston ISD and Angleton ISD.

Under Arreola’s leadership, six schools which had been ranked as Improvement Required rose to a Met Standard accountability by TEA over the course of a two-year period after some had been ranked as low-performing for as long as 10 consecutive years.

Arreola also collaborated with non-profit organizations as well as community

members and business partners to meet five strategic priorities identified by Aldine ISD. She also led the implementation of the district’s leadership academies, which are single-gender educational settings (separate for boys and girls) where students learn civic engagement, including social justice and advocacy work. These academies especially seek to serve young Black and Hispanic students by instilling within them self-awareness, a sense of purpose and an expanded view of the world.

Arreola also served as a school support officer for Houston ISD in the Northeast area and she was a former principal at Clark Intermediate in Spring ISD, McGowen Elementary School in Houston ISD, an assistant principal at Hogg Middle School, a literacy coach and secondary curriculum specialist for the Davis and Washington high school feeder patterns and a classroom teacher at Hilliard Elementary.

She holds a B.S. in criminal justice and an M.Ed. in counseling from Prairie View A&M, as well as a doctorate in professional leadership from the University of Houston.

TOWER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Afterwards, the same voting blocs voted 3-2 to pass on additional agenda items that would allowed the court to consider proposed cost-savings measures by LCRA, since tossing out the bid rendered those items moot. They included:

- The use of pre-owned telecommunications equipment on the tower project (in place of new equipment) with the same warranty;
- Gonzales County and the City of Gonzales operating a combined dispatch center and cost-sharing expenses; and
- Reconsideration of the maintenance fee beginning in year two, with Gonzales County staying on the current \$20/radio/month maintenance fee instead of a proposed flat prepaid annual \$111,960 maintenance fee.

The Texas General Land Office awarded the county the \$6,071,588.57 mitigation grant to help pay for an overhaul of the county’s communications system in the wake of Hurricane Harvey. Of that amount, \$554,139.10 was already used to pay for a new 300-foot guyed tower located in Smiley, which was completed in November 2022 by Victoria Communications Systems. The county also added two generators for a total project cost of around \$900,000.

LCRA had submitted the sole bid for \$4.998 million for what would include three new towers to be located in Gonzales, Belmont and Waelder, along with two new shelters, three emergency backup generators, a trunked radio network with geographically-redundant central control systems, interface with or replacement of existing dispatch console equipment, and redundant IP-based microwave backhaul.

However, that amount was \$73,777.36 over the county’s construction budget, with a construction time of 399 days from notice to proceed to substantial completion. The county would have to pay the overage out of its own funds, but would own the towers upon them being finished, though it would use LCRA’s own radio system to operate, allowing LCRA to have operational use of the towers as well.

Court members had voted 3-2 in December to award the bid to LCRA after some tense and often heated discussion. At the time, Kevin La Fleur was still serving as Precinct 3 Commissioner and K.O. “Dell” Whiddon was serving as Precinct 1 Commissioner. During a later special called meeting, Brzozowski, La Fleur and Whiddon voted to name La Fleur to negotiate privately with LCRA for possible cost-saving measures.

In January, Matias was sworn in as the new Precinct 1 Commissioner, while Staton was sworn in as the new Precinct 3 Commissioner. Neither Matias nor Staton were part of the initial decision-making process regarding the tower project. Matias appears open to rehearing a proposal that would have Gonzales County pay for the new towers to be installed and to join the Greater Austin Travis Regional Radio System (GATRRS).

GATRRS made a presentation to the court in October and Schmidt as well as Davis and Boatright have said being on GATRRS could save the county at least \$100,000 or more in radio maintenance fees each year. It is possible the court could reconsider joining GATRRS as soon as their March 24 meeting or at one of their two April meetings.



March is National Nutrition Month.

National Nutrition Month is an annual campaign held every March to encourage people to make informed food choices and develop healthy eating and physical activity habits. Organized by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, this month-long observance highlights the importance of balanced nutrition, proper hydration, and overall wellness. It serves as a reminder that small, sustainable changes in daily eating habits can lead to long-term health benefits. Whether through meal planning, mindful eating, or choosing nutrient-dense foods, National Nutrition Month empowers individuals and communities to take charge of their health and well-being.

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DPS investigating fatal motorcycle accidents in county

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Texas Department of Public Safety is investigating a pair of motorcycle accidents that have claimed the lives of two men within the past two weeks in Gonzales County.

Details about the accidents are scant as the official accident reports have not been filed yet within the Texas Department of Transportation Crash Records Information System (C.R.I.S.).

Texas Transportation Code Sec. 550.062 requires any law enforcement officer, who in the regular course of duty, investigates a motor vehicle crash that results in injury to or the death of a person or damage to the property of any one person to the apparent extent of \$1,000 or more, to submit a written report of that crash to TxDOT not later than the 10th day after the date of the crash. It can take up to four days for a report to show up in the C.R.I.S. system.

The families of both men have already

been notified about their passing and benefits have been set up in their memories.

On Friday, March 7, Marcus Hernandez was killed in an evening motorcycle accident on a portion of Farm-to-Market Road 794 known to local residents as “The Curve.” Hernandez was a member of the band Backwater Buda Land, which performed at the 2021 Come and Take It Celebration. Hernandez also was a member of the Twisted Guardians MC. A benefit is scheduled for his family on Sunday, March 16, in front of Fresh Catch Co., 828 Saint Paul St.

The previous Friday, Feb. 28, Russell “Rusty” Bowles, 58, of Seguin, was killed in a motorcycle crash with a commercial vehicle on Texas 80. Bowles, a retired military veteran who served as a master sergeant in the U.S. Army, also was a member of the Chariots of Light Christian Bikers Ministries. His family is requesting that donations be made to <https://chariotsoflight.com/giving>.

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