

2025 ELECTION RESULTS

# Anzaldua defeats Sucher in rematch; Miller recalled

Torres, Schwausch win re-election in GISD; Olmos new Waelder mayor

BY LEW K. COHN  
Inquirer Publisher

Gonzales will have a new mayor as Isaac Anzaldua unseated incumbent

Mayor Steve Sucher during complete but unofficial returns in the Saturday, May 3 election.

Meanwhile, both incumbent Gonzales ISD trustees, Gloria Torres and Justin Schwausch, were returned to office by voters in their respective districts. And District 4 city voters approved a measure to remove Councilmember Ronda Miller from office by a 53-vote margin.

Anzaldua received 606 total votes

to 469 for Sucher as he built up a large early and absentee lead of 442-327 and maintained his lead when election day totals were added into the mix.

“I would like to give thanks to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for allowing me to be here at this stage of my journey,” Anzaldua told the Inquirer. “To my Mom and Grandparents, rest easy. WE DID IT!”

“To the Community of Gonzales,

THANK YOU for believing in what we can accomplish together and we look forward to the journey to come as we continue to work hand and hand with the community and build the relationships that will continue to unite The Greatest City in Texas! I’ll be proud to be the Mayor that represents you.”

Anzaldua also reached out to Sucher

See **ELECTION**, page 15

# One dead, one injured in railcar incident

BY LEW K. COHN  
Inquirer Publisher

Gonzales County Sheriff’s deputies are investigating an incident which claimed the life of one man and sent another to a San Antonio hospital in serious condition Friday, May 2.

Deputies responded at about 8:30 a.m. Friday to an emergency call for assistance concerning two individuals who had lost consciousness inside a railcar at the TXGN Railroad yard at 1045 County Road 284 in Gonzales. Also responding was the Gonzales County Emergency Services District No. 1 EMS and other first responders.

According to Gonzales

See **RAILCAR**, page 16

# Smiley sells fire station land to ESD 2 for \$50,000

BY LEW K. COHN  
Inquirer Publisher

Smiley City Council voted 4-0 with one abstention to accept an offer for the land on Farm-to-Market Road 108 on which the Smiley VFD fire station sits from Gonzales County Emergency Services District No. 2 for \$50,000 at a special called meeting Wednesday, April 30.

ESD 2 is working to combine the Nixon Fire and Rescue with the Smiley Volunteer Fire Department into a single entity — Gonzales County Fire South — which would have jurisdiction over the entire southern quarter of the

See **LAND**, page 5

## Veteran actress hired to play Sarah DeWitt for Texas Legacy in Lights

BY LEW K. COHN  
Inquirer Publisher

The historical impact Sarah Seely DeWitt had on colonial Texas and the Texas Revolution is not lost on the actress who will follow in her footsteps.

“She never could have thought when she decided at that moment ... this was her little act of defiance and what a powerful statement it is still today!” said Seguin resident Peggy Schott, who will portray the first lady of the Green DeWitt Colony in the Texas Legacy in Lights project, which begins filming next month near Gonzales.

The 33-minute historical film will be projected — twice nightly, six nights a week — onto the 32-foot by 96-foot outside façade of the Gonzales Memorial Museum using state-of-the-art 3D mapping for an immersive,

See **SCHOTT**, page 12

# Gonzales County burn ban lifted

FROM STAFF REPORTS

With stormy weather looming on the horizon for later that day, Gonzales County Judge Pat

Davis on Monday, May 5, lifted the outdoor burning ban that had been in place for the county since March 31.

“Due to the recent rains

the hazardous conditions have been alleviated,” Davis stated in his order. “Citizens are cautioned to

See **BURN**, page 16

# Gonzales ISD groundbreaking for CTE center will be May 16

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Gonzales ISD will celebrate the groundbreaking of its new Career & Technical Education (CTE) Center at 10 a.m. Friday, May 16, at the center site, 2459 County Road 239A, Gonzales. Light refreshments will be provided.

In March, GISD trustees locked in a guaranteed maximum price of \$19,523,596 for construction the new CTE center and Ag barn facility by Weaver & Jacobs, the construction manager at risk (CMAR) for the district’s 2023 bond program. The collec-

See **GROUND BREAKING**, page 15

# GVEC members help power local growth through Power Up grants

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Thanks to the continued generosity of GVEC members, 10 nonprofit organizations have been awarded more than \$191,000 through the Cooperative’s Power Up community grant program. Funded by members who voluntarily round up their electric bills, Power Up supports impactful projects that enhance quality of life across the GVEC service area.

Since launching in 2012, the program has awarded over \$4.2 million in funding for 260 local projects ben-

See **GRANTS**, page 16



CONTRIBUTED/LCRA

LCRA representatives present a \$4,861 grant to the City of Smiley Marshal’s Office for new safety equipment. The grant is part of LCRA’s Community Development Partnership Program. Pictured, from left to right, are: Elizabeth Ehlers, LCRA Regional Affairs representative; Ellis Villasana, mayor pro tem; Jason Criollo, deputy marshal; Margaret D. “Meg” Voelter, LCRA Board member; Jason Torres, city marshal; and Mark Valli, corporal.

# LCRA awards \$4,861 grant to Smiley Marshal’s Office

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The City of Smiley Marshal’s Office soon will be able to purchase updated safety equipment, thanks to a \$4,861 grant from the Lower Colorado River Authority.

The Community Development Partnership Program grant will enable the department to purchase two automated external defibrillators, as well as safety vests and tools to help deputies more safely assist stranded

motorists.

“There’s no other tool that can replace an AED,” said Jason Torres, city marshal of Smiley. “We are all CPR certified, but an AED gives the person experiencing a medical emergency more of a fighting chance. Without an AED, we rely solely on CPR, and though CPR definitely helps, studies show that the earlier a person can be shocked, the better chance of

See **SMILEY**, page 12





# Gonzales County to observe Armed Forces Day on May 17

### SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Gonzales County will observe Armed Forces Day on Saturday, May 17, at 10 a.m. at the Veterans Memorial, 430 Moore St., Gonzales.

Larry Mercer will deliver the greeting, followed by the presentation of the colors by the Gonzales Navy JROTC. Tiffany-Hutchison Padilla, Gonzales

Main Street director, will lead the national anthem.

After a prayer by Pastor Lynn Wilson and a welcome by Mercer, the flags of each branch of service will be raised as their alma mater is played in the following order: U.S. Army, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Space Force.

Sgt. Curtis St. Pierre will speak about the missing man/fallen

comrade table. Guest speaker will be Eugene Wilson Sr.

There will be a closing prayer by Wilson and the playing of God Bless the USA by Lee Greenwood.

Reserved handicapped parking will be available on Moore Street. Please enter from the Saint Louis Street side. Bring your own chairs as there will not be any available on site.

## Gonzales PD seeks help locating stolen UTV

### SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Gonzales Police Department is seeking your assistance in locating the suspect or suspects involved in the theft of a John Deere UTV, Model XUV-560E, which was reported stolen in March from 125 Middle Buster Road, Gonzales, Texas 78629.


If you have any information pertaining to this case, please contact Greater Gonzales County Crime Stoppers at 830-672-8477 (TIPS) or call the Gonzales Police Department at (830) 672-8686 and ask to speak to Sergeant Victor Izaguirre #121.

## BYK FUNDS YMCA CAMP SCHOLARSHIP



CONTRIBUTED

BYK is honored to support the local Gonzales YMCA Programs by donating scholarship funding to attend YMCA Summer Camp in Gonzales. The local YMCA hosts summer camp June and July from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. The program is open to all children ages 5-12 and is a positive youth development program designed to improve social and educational outcomes for the next generation. The camp includes fun summer activities such as swimming lessons, sport clinics, arts and crafts, field trips to state and local parks, cheer and dance clinics, museums, amusement parks and much more. Pictured from BYK are Susan Simper, Sam Richardson, Arturo Nodal and Lori Benes and from the YMCA Lauren Harris and Connie Kacir.




## Master Gardeners' Lunch and Learn slated for May 22

### SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Gardening in south Texas is challenging! The extremes of heat, cold, and drought make it even more difficult which is why Texas Superstar® plants, tested and selected for superior performance by Texas A&M AgriLife Research and the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service, are a proven, reliable, and low-maintenance option worth considering in your landscape.

A lunch and learn program about Texas Superstar® plants is going to be offered and hosted by the Gonzales Master Gardeners on Thursday, May 22, from noon to 1 p.m. Several local master gardeners will provide information on the Texas Superstar® program, how plants are selected, as well as identification of the over 90 plants that hold the this designation. The lunch and learn program will be held at the Master Gardeners' Building, PACE: Plantatarium A Center for Exploration, located at 623 N. Fair Street, Gonzales.

This event is free and open to the public. The Gonzales Master Gardeners will provide light refreshments so bring your lunch and join them for this very informative program. For more information, call 830-672-8531 or go to [www.gonzalesmastergardeners.org](http://www.gonzalesmastergardeners.org).



## CRIME STOPPERS



COURTESY/GREATER GONZALES COUNTY CRIME STOPPERS

Gonzales Police Department is seeking your assistance in identifying this female suspect regarding a theft case that occurred on Oct. 27, 2023. If you recognize this person, please contact Greater Gonzales County Crime Stoppers 830-672-8477(TIPS) or call the Gonzales Police Department at (830)672-8686 and ask to speak to Investigator Eric Long #108.

## The Gonzales Inquirer office will be closed Friday, May 9th due to a family wedding. Thank You!

### Celebrations Birthdays

<b>May 8th</b> Dorothy Granados Khloeanann Granados Brenda Harkey	Bobby Jurek Jonathan Valenta
<b>May 9th</b> Jamie Ferguson Janie Padilla	<b>May 13th</b> Amanda Autry Lorina Gaytan Coltin Russell Susanna Spiller Beverly Stepan Wendy Washichek
<b>May 10th</b> Jerrald Murphy George Tealer Carolyn Walton Kortney Wishert	<b>May 14th</b> Wes Barfield Betty Contreras Vera Staggs Henk Missy Hull Bo Petrek Jo West
<b>May 11th</b> Tammy Lester	
<b>May 12th</b> Egon Barthels	

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## Annual Luling Foundation Field Day set for May 15

### SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The 98th Annual Luling Foundation Field Day will be held from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 15 at the Luling Foundation Demonstration Barn, 523 S. Mulberry, Luling.

This annual event is free and open to the public and includes a free breakfast and lunch provided by sponsors. Field day activities will include booths, exhibits, a tour of the foundation's agri-culture demonstration barn and garden facilities, speakers, practical demonstrations and an opportunity for networking. Up to \*four CEUs will be offered; a bonus early bird IPM CEU session will be held from 7 a.m. – 8 a.m. at the Raised Bed Garden on pest management. [\*to receive the 4 CEUs (3 General+ 1 IPM bonus), attendees must attend both Early Bird Garden Session and the regular field day.]

The event will also be streamed on facebook. [com/lulingfoundation](http://com/lulingfoundation). RSVP is recommended but not required at 830-875-2438.

Morning topics and presenters will include:

- Garden Pest Management (Early Bird Session) -Dr. Larry Stein, Texas A&M Associate Head of the Department of Horticulture Sciences
- New Tech in Ag with Drone Demo – Dr. Megan Clayton, Texas A&M AgriLife Associate Professor and Extension Range Specialist, Department of Ecosystem Science & Management & Wayne morse, Caldwell County Agriculture & Natural Resources Extension Agent
- Pasture Assessment & Management – Dr. Joshua McGinty, Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Associate Professor & Agronomist
- “Dinner tonight” Demo – Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Family and community health agents, Dru Benevides (Guadalupe Co.), Gayle Bludau (Gonzales Co.), Sonia Coyle (Travis Co.), Elsie Lacy (Caldwell Co.)


Morning presentations will be followed by exhibit viewing, scholarship presentations and a catered barbecue lunch. Afternoon topics and presenters will be:

- Building Success with Ag Basics – Elizabeth tidwell, Texas A&M AgriLife Small Acreage Land-owner Extension Program Specialist
- Farm & Ranch Security – Kenny Murchison, Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, Special Ranger

Presentations will be followed at 3 p.m. by optional agricultural equipment & sponsor demonstrations. Agencies supporting the field day include the Luling Foundation, Texas A&M AgriLife & Prairie View A&M University Extension Service, Texas Department of Agriculture, and the USDA.

The Luling Foundation was founded in 1927 by Edgar B. Davis and is a 501(c)(3) organization. For more information on the Luling Foundation, go to <http://www.lulingfoundation.org>

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### Gonzales Weather

 <b>THUNDERSTORM</b>	<b>May 8</b> 80°/64°	Watch for strong thunderstorms 65% chance of rain • RealFeel 86
 <b>MOSTLY SUNNY</b>	<b>May 9</b> 81°/62°	Mostly sunny 2% chance of rain • RealFeel 85
 <b>MOSTLY SUNNY</b>	<b>May 10</b> 83°/62°	Mostly Sunny 1% chance of rain • RealFeel 86
 <b>PARTLY SUNNY</b>	<b>May 11</b> 85°/65°	Intervals of clouds and sunshine 2% chance of rain • RealFeel 90
 <b>PARTLY SUNNY</b>	<b>May 12</b> 87°/66°	Times of clouds and sun 4% chance of rain • RealFeel 91
 <b>MOSTLY SUNNY</b>	<b>May 13</b> 88°/67°	Mostly sunny 1% chance of rain • RealFeel 96
 <b>PARTLY SUNNY</b>	<b>May 14</b> 85°/66°	Partly sunny 20% chance of rain • RealFeel 89

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# Upcoming Events at J.B. Wells Park in Gonzales

May 26th – 31st  
TJHRA Finals

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3



**Q.** My granddaughter is excited about butterflies, tell me again about some resource books that would help her become more knowledgeable about Monarchs and other species in this area.

**A.** Start with Geyata Ajilvsgi's "Butterfly Gardening for the South" and "Caterpillars in the Field and Garden" by Thomas Allen, Jim Brock, and Jeffrey Glassberg. Also consider "The Monarch Butterfly Migration" by Monica Maekle, "Butterflies of North America" by Jim Brock and Kenn Kaufman and Native Host Plants for Texas Butterflies" by Jim Weber, Lynne Weber, and Roland Wauer.

**Q.** You talk about "determinate" tomatoes being superior for producing fruit in South Texas gardens. What exactly are "determinate" tomato varieties and why are they superior for producing fruit in our gardens?

**A.** I describe "determinate" tomatoes as those selections that quickly grow to a limited size before they concentrate of producing fruit. An indeterminate variety contin-



METRO CREATIVE GRAPHICS

ues to put more foliage and size on as long as the weather conditions are right. The problem in our short tomato growing seasons in South Texas is that less fruit is produced by indeterminate varieties before the growing conditions become too hot or too cold.

**Q.** We have been unsuccessful in growing an attractive solid lawn. What is the best way to determine which lawn grass will work best for a yard like ours?

**A.** Some of the key conditions for growing a successful lawn include are adequate sun, adequate water, and adequate soil. The usual limiting factor is adequate sun. If your lawn area does not receive 6 hours

of sun, none of our regular grass species will grow successfully. If you don't have enough sunlight that reaches the soil you need to grow a shade tolerant groundcover instead of St Augustine, zoysia or Bermuda grass. Consider Asian jasmine, dwarf ruellia, or mondo grass. Review what is working well in your neighbors' landscape.

**Q.** My nursery reports that the fungicide Captan is no longer available for spraying on the peach trees to protect them from fungal diseases. What do you recommend to replace the Captan?

**A.** Daconil seems to be the alternative that most home gardeners are turning to.

## Feral hog management conference set for May 28

### SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

There will be a feral hog management continuing education conference sponsored by Prairie View A&M and Agriculture and Natural Resources from 9 a.m. to noon May 28 at Victoria College Gonzales Center, 424 E. Sarah DeWitt Drive.

Partnering and sponsoring the event will be Victoria College Gonzales Center and Legacy Broker Group-Kristofer Kaufmann.

Earn two CEUs. There will be a discussion on hunting laws by game warden Emily Slubar; a discussion on feral pig management by James "Jay" Long, project coordinator for the Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute, and a feral hog result demonstration by PVAMU Extension Agent Savannah Harrington.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Savannah Harrington at 830-672-8531 or by email at scharrington@pvamu.edu.

## Hallettsville Livestock Commission Co.

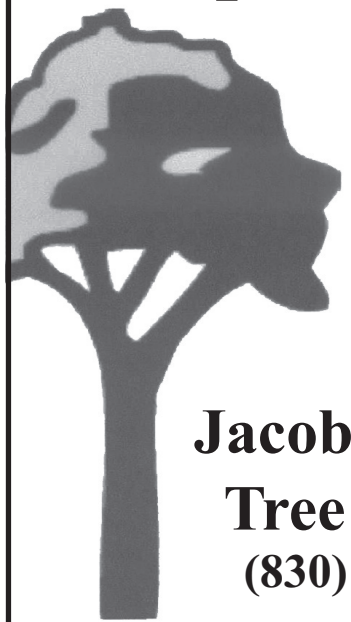
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## WEEKLY LIVESTOCK REPORTS

### GONZALES LIVESTOCK REPORT

Sale Date: May 3, 2025  
Cattle on hand: 900

Compared to our last sale:  
Number 1 choice calves and yearlings sold fully steady. Less quality calves and yearlings sold steady. Packer cows and bulls sold fully steady.  
Stocker-feeder Steers: Medium and large-frame No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 400.00-550.00; 300-400 lbs., 325.00-455.00; 400-500 lbs., 285.00-415.00; 500-600 lbs., 275.00-365.00; 600-700 lbs., 270.00-320.00; 700-800 lbs., 260.00-305.00.  
Bull Yearlings: 700-900 lbs., 175.00-225.00.  
Stocker-feeder Heifers: Medium and large-frame No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 320.00-415.00; 300-400 lbs., 285.00-395.00; 400-500 lbs., 275.00-375.00; 500-600 lbs., 265.00-320.00; 600-700 lbs., 245.00-295.00.  
Packer Cows: Good lean utility and commercial, 126.00-136.00; Cutters, 138.00-151.00; Canners, 91.00-121.00; High yielding fat cows, 135.00-149.00.  
Packer Bulls: Yield grade 1 & 2, good heavy bulls, 166.00-177.00; Light weights and medium quality bulls, 141.00-158.00.  
Stocker Cows: \$900.00-\$2300.00.  
Pairs: \$1800.00 to \$2800.00.

### NIXON LIVESTOCK

May 5, 2025

Cattle - 668

Steers:  
200-300 lbs - \$432-535  
300-400 lbs - \$381-515  
400-500 lbs - \$333-420  
500-600 lbs - \$310-385  
600-700 lbs - \$280-350  
700-800 lbs - \$246-285

Heifers:

200-300 lbs - \$341-500  
300-400 lbs - \$332-430  
400-500 lbs - \$317-390  
500-600 lbs - \$299-435  
600-700 lbs - \$269-395  
700-800 lbs - \$235-283  
Slaughter Cows - \$87-167  
Slaughter Bulls - \$120-182  
Stocker Cows - \$1800-2300  
Pairs: \$2500-2750

### HALLETTSVILLE LIVESTOCK COMMISSION CO., INC.

Sale date: April 29, 2025  
Cattle on hand: 1354

Packer Cows:  
High Dressing: \$136-160  
Medium Dressing: \$118-138  
Low Dressing: \$105-120  
Poor/Weak Cows: \$85-105  
Packer Bulls:  
High Dressing Bulls: \$170-186  
Medium Dressing Bulls: \$148-170  
Low Dressing Bulls: \$130-148  
Stocker Cows:  
Good Stocker/Cows & Heifers: NONE  
Medium Stocker Cows & Heifers: \$1750-2750  
Good Cow & Calf Pairs: NONE  
Medium Cow & Calf Pairs: \$2250-3150  
Stocker & Feeder Calves & Yearlings:  
Number 1 steer & bull calves:  
Under 200 lbs.: \$485-640  
200-300 lbs.: \$450-540  
300-400 lbs.: \$380-525  
400-500 lbs.: \$360-420  
500-600 lbs.: \$320-387.50  
600-700 lbs.: \$280-335  
700-800 lbs.: \$250-306  
800 UP \$235-286  
Number 1 heifer calves:  
Under 200 lbs.: \$460-620  
200-300 lbs.: \$380-520  
300-400 lbs.: \$340-430  
400-500 lbs.: \$325-405  
500-600 lbs.: \$285-345  
600-700 lbs.: \$255-308

700-800 lbs: \$230-288  
800 UP: \$200-234  
Replacement Heifers:  
350-700 lbs.: \$360-415

The calf market just gets stronger each week. All weights & classes sold \$5 to \$10 higher!! Demand is Phenomenal!!! Talk about records. The average of all calves sold was \$1659.77!!!! Packer cows & bulls sold \$2 to \$3 higher again on a supply of 230 head.

### SEGUIN CATTLE CO.

April 30, 2025

Quality was very deep. Stocker cattle 5.00 better with packer cows and bulls 5.00 better.  
Cattle - 424  
Sheep & goats - 726

### Medium & large frame #1 Steers:

200-300 lb. 1.65-4.31-4.95  
300-400 lb. 1.40-3.81-4.82  
400-500 lb. 1.95-3.61-4.35  
500-600 lb. 1.85-3.15-3.80  
600-700 lb. 1.55-2.65-3.20  
700-850 lb. 1.68-2.42-2.82

### Medium & large frame #1 Heifers:

200-300 lb. 1.50-3.53-4.65  
300-400 lb. 1.65-3.55-4.20  
400-500 lb. 1.75-3.31-4.05  
500-600 lb. 1.85-2.86-3.50  
600-750 lb. 2.00-2.60-3.18

### Cows:

Utility & commercial - 1.00-1.40-1.60  
Cutters - .88-1.10-1.20  
Canners - .80-.89-.97

Palpated cows - 1000-2500

Cow/Calf Pairs - None

### Bulls:

Heavy High Yielding - 1.70-1.88  
Light & Low Yielding - 1.60-1.69

### Sheep & Goats

Nannies - 50-280  
Kid Goats (Fat) - 2.70-3.75

Wethers - 2.20-3.00

Billies - 1.85-4.00

Dorp. Ewes - 70-190

Dorp. Lambs (Fat) - 2.00-2.90  
Woolled Ewes - NONE  
Woolled Bucks - 1.40-2.00  
Lambs - 1.60  
Barb. Bucks - NONE

### CUERO LIVESTOCK MARKET May 2, 2025

Number of Head: 1249

There were 151 cows, 16 bulls and 19 goats. Both the packer cow and bull market were consistent with last week's market. The calf market continues to set new records each week, and the demand is still very strong. We genuinely appreciate all our sellers and buyers. If we can help market your cattle, please give us a call at the barn at (361)275-2329 or Jake at (361)293 4625.

### Packer bulls:

Higher Yielding: 162.00-193.00  
Lower Yielding: 124.00-153.00

### Packer cows:

Canners & Cutters 150.00-166.00  
Poor & Weak 80.00-150.00

Palpated: 16 bred \$1900-2100

### Pairs:

\$1500 and 2500

### Steer/Bull Calves: (AVG-HIGH)

200-250 lbs 510.00-575.00  
250-299 lbs 476.00-570.00

300-350 lbs 427.00-570.00  
350-400 lbs 406.00-500.00

400-450 lbs 378.00-418.00  
450-500 lbs 361.00-404.00

500-550 lbs 344.00-388.00  
550-600 lbs 325.00-354.00

600-700 lbs 305.00-344.00  
700-800 lbs 263.00-312.00

### Heifer Calves: (AVG-HIGH)

200-250 lbs 450.00-545.00  
250-300 lbs 426.00-475.00

300-350 lbs 386.00-455.00  
350-400 lbs 364.00-445.00

400-450 lbs 360.00-390.00  
450-500 lbs 342.00-400.00

500-550 lbs 315.00-400.00  
550-600 lbs 302.00-344.00

600-700 lbs 266.00-332.00  
Over 700 lbs 240.00-292.00

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# GCUWCD needs to reject additional water exporting

BY DEIDRA VOIGT  
Special to the Inquirer

Gonzales County Underground Water Conservation District Board Members:

As a taxpayer, citizen of Gonzales and voter in favor of the creation of GCUWCD, please accept this letter as my strongest opposition to granting any additional export permitting.

Attending a portion of the Administrative Court testimony held in February 2025, it was disturbing to learn, using your data and records, the GCUWCD has already permitted nearly 90% of its available water resources. Currently permitted wells include water exporters, local farmers/ranchers and households and does not include water wells exempt from district authority such as municipal (city) wells for local citizens in Waelder and Gonzales.

Respectively I ask, has GCUWCD looked at a 50 to 75-year water projection plan and do you have one on file for your quick review? It appears by using your numbers for granted/approved permits, we have no ability to grow new households or employers and could be looking to export water to us!

Who is advising you that we do not have a water shortage? There has not been a central Texas water professional in over 10 years that has advised there is not a water shortage; the last 5-years' local growth should be evident you may have received incorrect information.

As background information of our district, in the early 1990s several local farmers, stakeholders and the City of Gonzales saw there was going to be a strong future-movement to acquire our water and pump it to places that chose not to properly manage their water resources. GCUWCD was voted into existence by the voters on November 19, 1993 and the district mission clearly stated, in part, ...to conserve, preserve, protect, and prevent waste of groundwater resources. It shall be the policy of the board that the most efficient use of groundwater in the district is to provide for the needs of the citizens and ensure growth for future generations with the cooperation of the citizens of the district, shall implement this management plan and its accompanying rules to achieve this goal... (emphasis added).

See **WATER**, page 13

# Motorcyclists don't just "come out of nowhere"

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Motorcyclist Brendan Johnson donated his black leather jacket to TxDOT for use in motorcycle safety messages. Tragically, he never saw the campaign because he was killed in a motorcycle crash.

To help prevent tragedies like this, TxDOT is sharing Johnson's story and driver safety tips during Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month through the Share the Road: Look Twice for Motorcycles campaign.

"We often hear drivers say they simply 'didn't see' the motorcyclist," said TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams. "We want every driver to check and double check for motorcycles and learn how to safely share the road across the streets and highways of Texas."

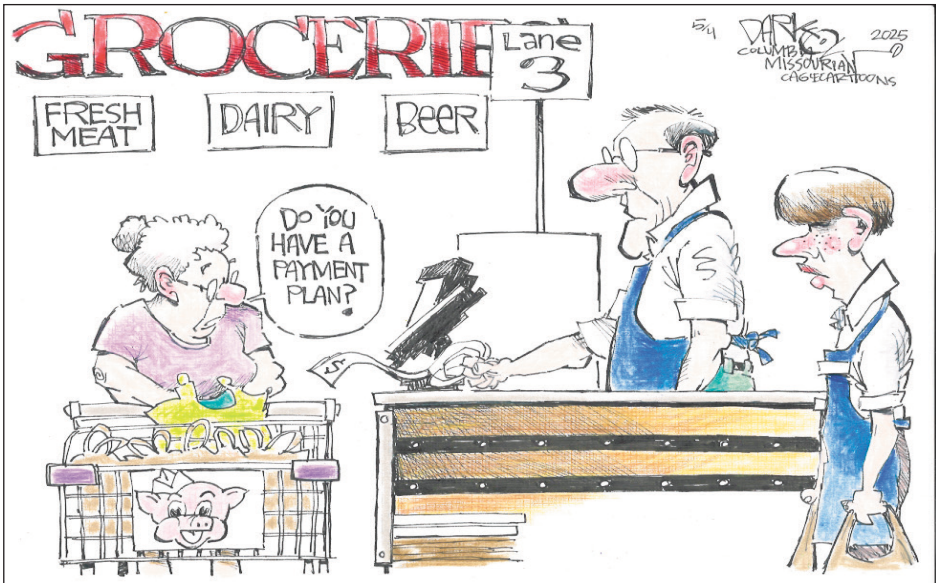
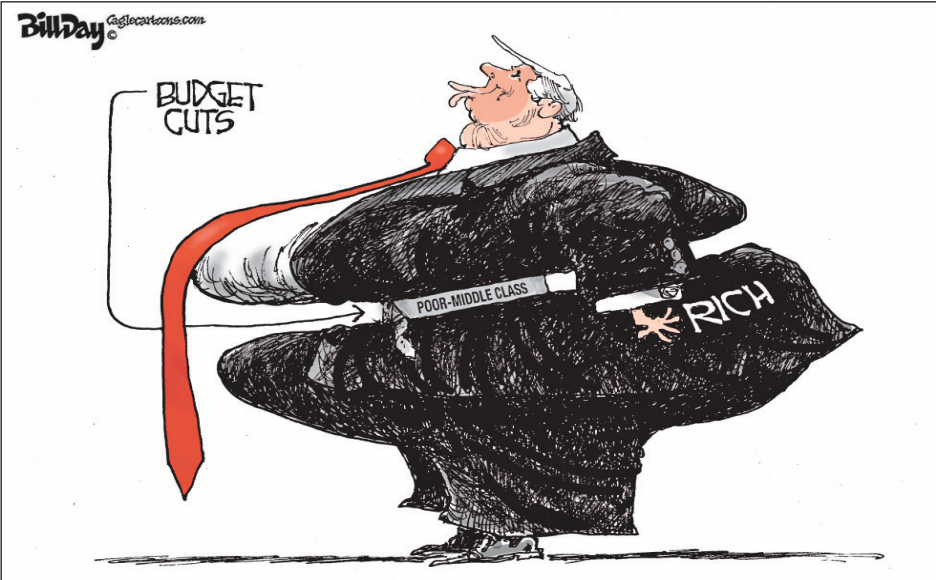
**BRENDAN'S STORY**

Months before he was killed, Johnson lent his beloved motorcycle jacket for a TxDOT campaign billboard photo shoot, and he was thrilled to be involved in the safety message. But before he got to see the signs go up, a van turned in front of him on his way home from work and sent him into a ditch.

His coworkers were among the first on the scene. They attempted CPR and heard repeated questions from the driver of the van who said, "Where did he come from? I didn't see him."

See **MOTORCYCLES**, page 14

# OPINION



DR. DON NEWBURY  
The Idle American

# A Pullman pushed and pulled....

It's got to be a borderline miracle when Eastland--a town with fewer than 5,000 people--can lay claim to not one, but TWO "facts" worthy of the Guinness Book of Records recognition.

"Facts" has quotation marks for a reason. It's not certain that a horned toad named Ol' Rip actually hibernated for 31 years in the Eastland County Courthouse cornerstone and found alive--sharing space with the Holy Bible and a bottle of whiskey--when the current courthouse construction began. Google for a trainload of stories, most alleging that this creature was featured in an around-the-world tour, and much else. They claim he had a noiseless "stare down" with then president Calvin Coolidge, whose nickname was "Silent Cal."

Houston V. O'Brien, beloved editor/publisher of area newspapers for more than 60 years, is "H. V." to many, maybe because he's not a "Houston" kind of guy. I usually call him "High Voltage" or "High Volume."

Anyway, he was pre-school age when Ol' Rip was first encased. Honored by the Texas Press Association and many other groups, he's spent his life beating the drums for "America's best hometown" and perpetuating the story of Ol' Rip. At age 93, he's still drum-beating in his weekly newspaper, Eastland County Today. His zeal--coupled with substantiated claims of ongoing community progress by the Eastland Chamber of Commerce--make their assertions hard to argue!...

Guinness editors may require more proof. The CofC claims, however, can be "nailed down" as the Gospel, even though Ol' Rip stories and how a train car arrived in town aboard two trucks stretch credulity limits.

Many of us arrive on the backs of turnip trucks. The Pullman didn't, but if you guessed trucks were involved, you're on track. Fact is, the rail car--built in the 1930s and in service for some 30 years--made the 60-mile journey from Abilene to Eastland atop two 18-wheelers! (With today's regulations, there would have been "zilch" chances for the move.)

Don't get ahead of me. The 80-foot-long rail car was placed aboard BOTH trucks, with one backed against the other--reverse-geared--for the entire distance. Surely this is some kind of record!...

Originally, the plan was for what is now Bank One Abilene to use the Pullman as an advertising tool. This didn't work out, so the late Don Pierson, an Eastland community leader, bought it for his daughter's 16th birthday some 60 years ago, moving it to Eastland.

For several years, the iconic rail car was the scene of parties and celebrations, visited by celebrities and ordinary folks alike.

Come 2021, Brandon and Cricket Abbott purchased property that includes both the Piersons' former residence, with "The Train"--a new Airbnb attraction--100 yards out back. It's on West Plummer, near the South Hillcrest intersection. Spending \$70,000 and thousands of hours of "elbow grease," the Abbotts are ready for their May 1 Grand Opening!...

Craig Murphy, a busy vocalist, maintains a frenetic schedule that makes the Energizer Bunny's pace look best fit for runner-up finishes in turtle races.

Making more than 500 appearances annually since 2011--largely at care centers and often thrice daily--he's a former "spring chicken" morphed into mid-autumn. His "busyness" didn't faze the traffic officer who flagged him down on I-20.

There was no talking his way out of this citation. "I've been waiting for you all day," the officer wise-cracked. "I got here as fast as I could," Murphy cracked back. (He also jokes about a friend addicted to brake fluid "who can stop when he gets ready.")

Uncle Mort lives in a tiny community where most motorists are lost, confounded when "beats me" shows up on their GPS. Many law enforcement officials may not know it exists.

Mort laughs when asked if there's even a map dot.

"Heavens no! There's little between the two highway signs that read 'Litter Barrel Ahead' and 'Resume Speed'..."

Dr. Newbury, a longtime speaker in the Metroplex, may be contacted at 817-447-3872 or newbury@speakerdoc.com. His column may be accessed on his website, www.speakerdoc.com, where he reads it aloud, sometimes without stumbling.

# The Gonzales Inquirer

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EXPLORE THE BEAUTIFUL GARDENS OF GONZALES THIS MOTHER’S DAY WEEKEND



Momma, Momma where do the gardens in Gonzales grow? Sweetie, they grow in the most unexpected places, and all the lovely spaces we are going to see on the tour this Sunday afternoon in Gonzales.

The Gardens in Gonzales grow by mailboxes in front of pollinator Texas wildflower gardens behind picket fences.



They grow in pots and by potting sheds and around beautiful pools and beneath bird houses.



And they grow in the public garden spaces where butterflies now abound.



They grow on white-washed fences and arbors leading into secret gardens.





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Career & Technical Education Center

*Groundbreaking*

Ceremony

May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 10:00 am

2459 CR 239A Gonzales, TX

Light refreshments provided



This Mother’s Day Weekend we, and all our friends and family, can enjoy the glorious gardens of Gonzales, the festivities, and the fun. Start in the shank of the evening on Mother’s Day Eve in the formal gardens at Belle Oaks Inn, 222 Saint Peter Street. Saturday evening May 10 from 7 Pm to 9 Pm celebrate Moms and some of her favorite pastimes ... gardens, and flowers, and music.

But, Saturday night is just the start of making Mother’s Day memories. Tour the gardens all afternoon from 2 p.m. until 6 p.m. on Sunday afternoon and see how many secret gardens we don’t have pictures of that you can enjoy.

Go to [GonzalesHistoricHomes.org](http://GonzalesHistoricHomes.org) for more information and to purchase tickets for both the tour and the gala ... or stop by Laurel Ridge at 827 Saint Joseph to pick up your ticket and a map. The bundled ticket for the gala and the tour is the best value, certainly the most fun, and the best Mother’s Day gift ever!

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Enjoy champagne, hors d’oeuvres, and live music in an intimate garden setting at Belle Oaks Inn.

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TICKET LINK

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[gonzaleshistorichomes.org](http://gonzaleshistorichomes.org)

LAND

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

county. The department would keep stations in both Nixon and Smiley and report to a single fire chief, Mark Mendez of Nixon, in order to streamline operations.

There had been concern that the ESD 2 would be forced to look elsewhere in the county if they were not able to work out an agreement with the city for the existing fire station site — if the city kept the land for itself or sold to someone else. That could have resulted in higher response times and higher insurance rates for Smiley residents if a new station had to be built elsewhere in Smiley or even possibly closer to Westhoff.

Mayor Pro Tem Ellis Villasana and Councilmembers Lori Price, Melva Childress and Diana Moreno voted in favor of selling the property to ESD 2 while Councilmember Daniel Benavidez announced he was abstaining from voting.

The city owns all of lot 208 from Pouncey Street to FM 108 beginning at the driveway next to First Baptist Church. What is being sold to ESD 2 will be all the land the fire station and its helipad sit on extending about 200 feet outward from the station towards Pouncey Street. The rest of the parcel remains with the city.

Mayor Lisa Benavidez said a second item on the agenda was to discuss possibly leasing to the ESD 2 the remaining land next to the fire station that the city owns so the fire department can continue to use the property whenever it holds its own fundraisers or events for groups like the Smiley Bantam Activity Group (SBAG).

“They won’t have to be asking us to use the remaining part of the property,” Benavidez said. “If Chief Mendez tells an organization, ‘Yes, you can have your function there.’ They’ll be using their property and instead of them having to come in and ask us for permission for the remaining land and the liability of the city, we can take care of that.”

Villasana suggested putting up signs that would indicate the city is not responsible for any accidents or damage to vehicles which park on the land during something that is not a city function.

Mendez and Smiley Marshal Jason Torres, who is also on the ESD 2 board, suggested instead having a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the city and the fire department that would allow the fire department to use the property for events as long as the city is not held liable.

“It’s a legal binding document between governmental agencies so they can work with each other and it specifies what each party will do,” Torres said. “I think that is a better direction because the liability and everything else is written in there.”

The council then voted unanimously to approve drafting the MOU with the fire department regarding the use of the additional land.



# Kirby named Nixon-Smiley AD as McKinney retires

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Longtime Nixon-Smiley CISD athletic director and basketball coach Carlton McKinney has retired and head football coach Paul Kirby has been appointed to take his place as the AD full-time, Superintendent Jeff VanAuken announced.

Kirby returned to Nixon-Smiley High School in 2024, succeeding Paul Moses as head football coach after spending a year at La Vernia as the head offensive line coach. Prior to that, he had been the offensive coordinator for two years for the Mustangs after having served as assistant football coach for the Gonzales Apaches.

Kirby is also the head coach of the Nixon-Smiley powerlifting team. The boys squad won five straight meets they attended and sent eight Mustangs to the state meet, while the girls team produced five state qualifiers, including state champion Zulema Rodriguez, as they finished fourth overall at state.

“Coach Kirby is an incredibly passionate young man who has a genuine love for athletics!” VanAuken said. “We feel very fortunate to have an individual in house that is ready to put his stamp on our athletic program. His energy and enthusiasm for teaching and coaching young men and women is incredible and we look forward to watching our student athletes grow as athletes and even more importantly, as young adults.”

“We are very proud of what Coach Kirby has been able to do with our powerlifting program as well as our football



Paul Kirby addresses his team following a home game at Mustang Stadium. Kirby returned to Nixon-Smiley as head football coach in 2024 and now will be the athletic director.



Coach Carlton McKinney watches his Mustangs during a recent varsity basketball game. McKinney was the guiding hand behind the Nixon-Smiley athletic program as athletic director for the past 16 years.

program and look forward to having him guide our entire athletic program!”

McKinney, a 1983 Nixon High School graduate, had been the longest tenured coach on the Mustangs’ staff, having returned to his alma mater as

head basketball coach in 1999 after a brief coaching stint at a Seguin private school.

As a player, McKinney played under then-Coach Nolan Richardson at Tulsa before transferring to SMU, where he received first-team All-Southwest Conference honors in 1988 and led his team into the NCAA tournament. He played professional basketball for a number of years in the NBA, in the CBA and overseas.

McKinney became Nixon-Smiley’s interim athletic director in 2009 and full-time AD in 2010 and finished his career at Nixon-Smiley with 25 years coaching, 16 of that as athletic director and head basketball coach and nine as head football coach.

Upon McKinney’s retirement in March, Kirby was promoted to interim athletic director before being named to the position full time last month.

## GOLF SCRAMBLE WINNERS



The winning team from the April 30 Golf Scramble at Independence Golf Course in Gonzales were, from left, Jesse Gonzales, Roy Staton, Cassie, Dee Tiller, Mike Turk and Rick Lindstedt.



The second-place team from the April 30 Golf Scramble at Independence Golf Course in Gonzales were, from left, Brant Philippus, Ricky Walker, Butch Jackson, Bryan Jackson and Gerson Vasquez.

# Lady Mustangs earn All-District, academic softball honors

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Eight Nixon-Smiley Lady Mustangs received All-District 26-3A softball honors while seven were named to the Academic All-District team.

Sophomore infielder Grace Gomez was named defensive MVP for the district after the Lady Mustangs finished fourth overall and qualified for the Class 3A playoffs for the fifth year in a row. Also earning first team honors were senior catcher Hailee Houseton

and senior infielder Emily Granados.

Second team honors went to senior utility player Brooke Crisp and sophomore first baseman KK Mendiola. Honorable mention honors went to sophomore infielder Marysol Granados, junior infielder Tyra Ortiz and junior outfielder Sadie Walden.

Earning Academic All-District honors were both Marysol and Emily Granados, Houseton, Ortiz, Bridgette Caldera, Geraldine Montoya and Cali Smith.

# Whitfield wins bronze medal in high jump

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Waelder senior Isaiah Whitfield brought home a bronze medal in the high jump from the Class A UIL Track and Field Meet in Austin this past weekend.

Whitfield tied for the second-best jump along with Kyler

Fossett of Oglesby, Jacoby Brown of Coolidge and Stryker Reed of Gordon at 6-2, while Rance Berney of Martinsville won gold at 6-7. Fossett needed the fewest attempts to clear 6-2, which won him the silver medal, while Whitfield needed the second-fewest attempts,

earning him third place and the bronze. Brown finished fourth and Reed finished fifth.

Jumpers began at a height of 5-6 and the bar moved up two inches every round until just the top five jumpers were left, at which time it moved up one inch per round.

## DIAMOND GYMNASTICS COMPETES



Diamond Gymnastics competed on May 3 at the Extreme Gymnastics Complex in Seguin bringing back 48 ribbons and 12 medals. There was a second place All Around; three third place All Around; five fourth place All Around and three fifth place All Around. Bronze group also took Second Place Team while the Silver and Gold group took Third Place Team. Bronze group are Letty Robles; Jillian Caka; Jessa Caka; Lainey Robinson; Carleigh Zumwalt and Kaeleigh Chenault. Silver and Gold group are Morgan Connor; Addison Chavez; Weslyn Debord; Harper Patterson; Harper Fullilove and Kimber Fehner.

## ATHLETES REPRESENT GISD AT TEXAS SPECIAL OLYMPICS



A number of athletes represented Gonzales ISD with Apache pride at the State of Texas Special Olympics games, held in Melissa this past weekend. Congratulations to all of these athletes on your achievements and for demonstrating the motto: “Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me brave in the attempt.”



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**GLO CDBG MIT 22-085-066-D323**  
Separate sealed bids addressed to the City of Gonzales (OWNER) clearly labeled "ATTENTION: CITY SECRETARY, 2024-2025 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECTS - GLO CDBG MIT 22-085-066-D323" will be received at Gonzales City Hall, 820 Saint Joseph Street, Gonzales, Texas 78629, until 2:00 o'clock p.m. on Thursday, May 22, 2025, and then publicly opened and read aloud immediately.  
This project includes the demolition of culvert/bridge crossings at Saint Matthew Street, Saint Michael Street and Saint Vincent Street, and replacing those structures with free span bridges at each location. Each location also includes relocation of water and wastewater infrastructure and coordination with the city and gas company for relocation of electric and gas facilities as needed for the installation of the new bridges.  
Bid/Contract Documents, including Drawings and Technical Specifications are on file at 829 Saint Joseph Street, Gonzales, Texas 78629.  
Copies of the Bid/Contract Documents may be obtained by depositing \$100 with the engineer for each set of documents obtained. The deposit will be refunded if the documents and drawings are returned in good condition within 10 days following the bid opening. Electronic copies may be obtained free of charge by emailing the engineer at [kschauer@kleinfelder.com](mailto:kschauer@kleinfelder.com).  
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The project to be constructed will be financed with assistance from the General Land Office (GLO) under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant - Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) program and is subject to all applicable Federal and State laws and regulations. Attention is called to the fact that not less than, the federally determined prevailing Davis-Bacon and Related Acts wage rate, as issued by the Department of Labor and contained in the contract documents, must be paid on this project. In addition, the successful bidder must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin. Adherence to the City of Gonzales Section 3 Policy is required for all contracts.  
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The City of Gonzales reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding. Bids may be held by City of Gonzales for a period not to exceed 60 days from the date of the bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the bidder's qualifications prior to the contract award.  
City of Gonzales Tim Crow, City Manager May 1, 2025

**May 1 Puzzle Answers**

1	6	8	2	3	9	5	4	7
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TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND  
INTENT TO OBTAIN WATER QUALITY PERMIT  
RENEWAL

PERMIT NO. WQ0001925000

**APPLICATION.** BYK USA Inc, 1212 Church Street, Gonzales, Texas 78629, which owns a bentonite clay mine and storage site, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to renew Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0001925000 (EPA I.D. No. TX0057274) to authorize the discharge of stormwater and groundwater at a volume not to exceed a daily maximum flow of 300,000 gallons via Outfall 001 and stormwater and groundwater at a volume not to exceed a daily maximum flow of 300,000 gallons via Outfall 003. The facility is located at 8627 U.S. Highway 90A, near the city of Gonzales, in Gonzales County, Texas 78629. The discharge route is from the plant site via Outfall 001 to Elm Slough; thence to Peach Creek; thence to the Guadalupe River Below San Marcos River; and via Outfall 003 to Mitchell Creek; thence to Peach Creek; thence to Guadalupe River Below San Marcos River. TCEQ received this application on March 31, 2025. The permit application will be available for viewing and copying at Robert Lee Brothers, Jr. Memorial Library, bookshelf on back wall in Resource Section of library, 301 Saint Joseph Street, Gonzales, in Gonzales County, Texas prior to the date this notice is published in the newspaper. The application, including any updates, and associated notices are available electronically at the following webpage:  
<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/pending-permits/tpdes-applications>. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For the exact location, refer to the application. <https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-97.335833,29.481111&level=18>

**ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE NOTICE.** Alternative language notice in Spanish is available at:  
<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/pending-permits/tpdes-applications>.  
El aviso de idioma alternativo en español está disponible en  
<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/pending-permits/tpdes-applications>.

**ADDITIONAL NOTICE.** TCEQ's Executive Director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. After technical review of the application is complete, the Executive Director may prepare a draft permit and will issue a preliminary decision on the application. **Notice of the Application and Preliminary Decision will be published and mailed to those who are on the countywide mailing list and to those who are on the mailing list for this application. That notice will contain the deadline for submitting public comments.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING.** You may submit public comments or request a public meeting on this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ will hold a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING.** After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. **Unless the application is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to comments, and the Executive Director's decision on the application, will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision and for requesting a contested case hearing.** A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court.

**TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST:** your name, address, phone number; applicant's name and proposed permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the proposed facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period and, the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence; identify by name and physical address an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the proposed facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group's purpose.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material water quality concerns submitted during the comment period.**

**TCEQ may act on an application to renew a permit for discharge of wastewater without providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.**

**MAILING LIST.** If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county.

If you wish to be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

**INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE.** For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database at [www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid). Search the database using the permit number for this application, which is provided at the top of this notice.

**AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION.** All public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at <https://www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/>, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at [www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep). Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from BYK USA Inc at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Charles Frederick, Environmental Engineer, at 830-672-1907.

Issuance Date: April 25, 2025

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TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND  
INTENT TO OBTAIN WATER QUALITY PERMIT  
RENEWAL

PERMIT NO. WQ0003306000

APPLICATION. BYK USA Inc, 1212 Church Street, Gonzales, Texas 78629, which owns a bentonite clay mine, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to renew Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0003306000 (EPA I.D. No. TX0123358) to authorize the discharge of treated wastewater and stormwater at an intermittent and Flow-Variable volume. The facility is located approximately 5.4 miles south of intersection Farm-to-Market Road 3282 and U.S. Highway 183, south of the city of Gonzales, in Gonzales County, Texas 78629. The discharge route is from the plant site to an unnamed tributary of Brushy Creek; thence to Brushy Creek; thence to Five Mile Creek; thence to Sandies Creek; thence to Guadalupe River Below San Marcos River. TCEQ received this application on March 31, 2025. The permit application will be available for viewing and copying at Robert Lee Brothers, Jr. Memorial Library, Bookshelf on back wall in Resource Section of the Library, 301 Saint Joseph Street, Gonzales, Texas prior to the date this notice is published in the newspaper. The application, including any updates, and associated notices are available electronically at the following webpage: <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/pending-permits/tpdes-applications>. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For the exact location, refer to the application.  
<https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-97.427222,29.379166&level=18>

ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE NOTICE. Alternative language notice in Spanish is available at:  
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Further information may also be obtained from BYK USA Inc at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Charles Frederick, Environmental Engineer, at 830-672-1907.

Issuance Date: April 30, 2025

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# UHV hosts STEM education event for area high school students

## SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Kohl Powell was considering buying an iPad to help him take notes during his first year in college, but after winning first place in a mathematics competition, that's no longer necessary.

Powell, a senior at Industrial High School, won first place in the senior level of the mathematics competition Tuesday during the University of Houston-Victoria's Math & Robotics Awareness Day.

"It feels good to win," Powell said. "This is my first year at this event, and I enjoyed the math test. It's a cool event, and I appreciate how it promotes STEM and encourages people to go into STEM careers."

This is the 28th year the university hosted the Math & Robotics Awareness Day events. The event is funded by a grant from Alcoa Foundation and commemorates science, technology, engineering and mathematics disciplines during Mathematics Awareness Month in April.

"It's exciting to see so many students from across the region come to Math & Robotics Awareness Day," said Ricardo Teixeira, UHV associate professor of mathematics and chair of the natural sciences and mathematics department. "We've been working hard to build relationships with the

schools in the region. We hope that this will inspire students to pursue careers in STEM."

The event was attended by more than 200 students from 12 area high schools, including: Calhoun High School, Cuero High School, Edna High School, Faith Academy, Gonzales High School, Industrial High School, Nixon-Smiley High School, Palacios Junior Senior High School, Riverside Academy, St. Joseph High School, Victoria East High School and Victoria West High School.

In addition to the mathematics competition, students had the opportunity to participate in a computer science competition. They also attended presentations on topics including Computer Graphics and Games, Robots in the Operating Room and a MatheMAGIC presentation.

"This event is one of my favorite things that UHV does," Teixeira said. "Every year, people from all different departments come together to help make this happen. Their efforts and the continuing support from Alcoa Foundation have made all the difference in reaching students and encouraging them to continue their education."

The event also featured expo booths presented by Crossroads STEAM Alliance, Inteplast, UHV Enrollment

Management, UHV Anatomage Table Demonstration, and the Traveling Touch Bay Tank provided by the Texas Floating Classroom.

First-place winners of the mathematics and computer science competitions each received an iPad. In addition, second- and third-place winners received medals while first-place winners received a trophy. The winners for the computer science contest were:

- First – Kaylee Cooper, Industrial High School
- Second – Blaine Zimmermann, Victoria West High School
- Third – Andrew Schroer, Edna High School

The mathematics tests were divided by grade. The winners of the math contest by grade and high school were:

- Freshmen – Abigail Phillips, Industrial, first; Levi Strauss, St. Joseph, second; Kayden Edwards, Palacios, third
- Sophomores – Lyla Kallus, Industrial, first; Ian Chandler, Edna, second; Levi Feuerbacher, Industrial, third
- Juniors – Cameron Smith, St. Joseph, first; Blake Darilek, Industrial, second; Colton Suter, Cuero, third
- Seniors – Kohl Powell, Industrial, first; Jayden Pothoff, Cuero, second; Eric Ascencio, Gonzales, third.

# VC's Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society inducts 22 new students

## SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Twenty-two students were recently inducted into Victoria College's Zeta Gamma Chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) International Honor Society.

PTK is an international honor society for two-year colleges. It recognizes the academic achievement of two-year college students and provides opportunities for individual growth and development through honors, leadership, and service programming.

Students must have a 3.5 GPA to be eligible for induction and maintain a 3.0 or higher after induction.

The following VC students, noted by their cities of residence, were inducted into the PTK International Honor Society:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Bloomington</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Madison Sparks</li></ul>  | <b>Vanderbilt</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Karen Hartley</li></ul>   |
| <b>Corpus Christi</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Seckin Kurt</li></ul>  | <b>Victoria</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Alexander Bell</li><li>• Zoey Chavez</li><li>• Abigail Chesak</li><li>• Kylie Fikac</li><li>• Luisa Gomez</li><li>• Tyesha Harrell</li><li>• Grace Harrison</li><li>• Michalla Marshall</li><li>• Joanna Neuman</li><li>• Misti Partida</li><li>• Tina Rincon</li><li>• Blake Saski</li><li>• Tamara Spearman</li></ul> |
| <b>Hallettsville</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Robert Arellano</li></ul>   |   |
| <b>Lolita</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cullen Woodring</li></ul>  |   |
| <b>Port Lavaca</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• John Caylor</li><li>• Gisselle Morales</li><li>• Ryan Salinas</li></ul> |   |
| <b>Shiner</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Aiden Collins</li></ul>  | <b>Yoakum</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Michelle Perez</li></ul>  |

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# MISS TEEN TEXAS SPEAKS TO GOD’S GIRLS



COURTESY PHOTO/DALLYN PESEK

2024 Miss Teen Texas USA Dallyn Pesek of Shiner recently spoke to God’s Girls at the First Methodist Church in Gonzales. “We talked about inclusion, how cool it is to be kind, and that inner beauty is what truly makes us beautiful! The best part was we prayed together! These girls were so engaged and their hearts took in the message. I can’t wait to see how they go out and set an example for others! Days like these make life so much better!” Pesek said.

# Get Up Girl Women’s Conference set for May 17

## SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Get Up Girl Women’s Conference will be held Saturday, May 17 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Sleep Inn & Suites, 2138 Water St., Gonzales. Free admission, free parking, free continental breakfast and lunch.

Guest speakers, souvenirs, style show, booths and fun! For this event, there will be a special hotel discount for the women. (830-294-0690, Sleep Inn & Suites). For info, call Olivia Wilson at 210-288-3441 or Lois Wilson at 830-857-3697.

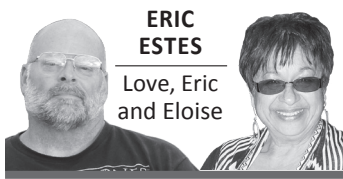
# Fake it Till...

What’s up fellow Gonzalonians, another week, another something or other? It seems like we just talked, yet here we are a full seven days later, I hope they were good ones for you. Please bear with me as I throw some coffee in my face and try to make sense of my random brain waves this morning. Today’s topic will be the ongoing search for personal happiness, and the ever elusive feel good we all so desperately crave, according to every form of media known to man.

It seems to be “elusive” because no one can quite pin down what it actually means, as it seems to be something different for everyone. One prominent dictionary simply describes it as: the state of being happy. What the heck does that even mean, and how will we know when we’ve achieved it? Many other dictionaries define it as: a sense of well-being, joy, or contentment. That seems about right, but I assume that while it can be an underlying current, it can also be an intermittent situation as well. While I may be generally content or joyful, I’m certainly not thrilled about changing a flat tire in the rain, know what I mean?

I recently read an article in The Atlantic entitled “A counterintuitive way to cheer up when you’re down”. I learned a few new things, as well as confirming other things I’ve believed for years. Many times I’ve written about the joys of country living, and feeling like I was a character in a Norman Rockwell painting. An artist known for invoking feelings of hope, solidarity, courage, and justice, but mainly of happiness and lighthearted joy. Something I didn’t realize is that he and his wife moved to Massachusetts in 1953 to be near a well known psychiatric hospital, where they could receive treatment for chronic depression. It was stated that he painted what he longed for. I believe this

ERIC ESTES  
Love, Eric and Eloise



isn’t foreign to most of us as we have a tendency to bury ourselves in our work, family, hobbies, or goals to keep our glasses more full than empty, I know I have.

Most of us are familiar with the saying that “misery loves company”, and studies have confirmed that both happiness and unhappiness can rub off on those around us. Yep, that’s why I get along with critics so well, as long as they’re fed, they’re pretty much always in a good mood. It hasn’t always worked out that way with the women I’ve dated or married...just sayin’. Which brings us back to expectations vs. simple pleasures, with one side of the coin being a little more user friendly than the other.

It’s been established that women married to unhappy men are healthier and live shorter lives and that children raised by a mother in a happy marriage are much more likely to be happier at home as adults. The good news is that research has also shown that we do have a good measure of control over our own situation. A 2020 study at the University of California had people act either happy or unhappy regardless of how they actually felt for one week, and found that it did affect their moods, both positive and negative. Showing that “Faking it until we make it” actually has positive psychological outcomes.

This also falls into the category of positive self talk and affirmations so popular in the thousands of self help books in print. I’ve personally noticed this throughout my own journey, realizing that momentum, whether + or -, makes a huge difference in whether we’re moving in the right direction or not. As they say, practice makes perfect, so the next time you’re feeling down, focus on the positives and “act” like you’re happy, even if you’re not. The outcome may just surprise you!

Have a Happy week, love you guys, Eric.

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<b>ASSEMBLIES OF GOD</b> Gateway Fellowship Church 424 St. Peter St.	Providence Missionary Baptist Church 1020 St. Andrew, Gonzales	<b>EVANGELICAL</b> La Vos del Evangelio, Mision Capilla del Pueblo W. Central at Hwy. 87, Nixon	Cowboy Church of Gonzales County J.B. Wells Show Barn
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	Shiner Baptist Church	<b>JEWISH</b> Adat Haderech, a Messianic shul HashemYeshua1 @yahoo.com	Encouraging Word Christian Fellowship Highway 80, Leesville
Eastside Baptist Church Seydler Street, Gonzales	Union Lea Baptist Church St. Andrew St., Gonzales	<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 Valley Baptist Church FM 1681, NW of Nixon	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	<b>CATHOLIC</b> St. James Catholic Church 417 N. College, Gonzales	<b>METHODIST</b> Belmont Methodist Highway 90A, Belmont	River of Life Christian Fellowship 207 Steele St., Smiley
First Baptist Church 422 St. Paul, Gonzales	Sacred Heart Catholic Church St. John St., Gonzales	Dewville United Methodist West of FM 1117 on CR 121	Thompsonville Community Church CR 423, Thompsonville Between Harwood & Waelder off old Hwy. 90
First Baptist Church 403 N. Texas, Nixon	St. Joseph Catholic Church 207 S. Washington, Nixon	First Methodist 426 St. Paul, Gonzales	Two Rivers Bible Church 1600 Sarah DeWitt Dr., Suite 210, Gonzales
First Baptist Church Highway 108 N., Smiley	St. Patrick Catholic Church Waelder	Flatonia United Methodist	<b>INTER-DENOMINATIONAL</b> Faith Family Church 1812 Cartwheel Dr., Gonzales
First Baptist Church 406 N. Avenue E, Waelder	St. Phillip Catholic Church Highway 87, Smiley	Harris Chapel United Methodist S. Liberty St., Nixon	Living Waters Fellowship 306 St. Paul, Gonzales
Greater Palestine Baptist Church S. of 90A (sign on Hwy 80)	<b>CHRISTIAN</b> First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) 712 Crockett, Luling	Harwood Methodist Church Harwood	<b>PENTECOSTAL</b> Faith Temple Hwy. 80 (N. Nixon Ave.), Nixon
Greater Rising Star Baptist Church	<b>CHURCHES OF CHRIST</b> Church of Christ 1323 Seydler St., Gonzales	Henson Chapel United Methodist 1113 St. Andrew, Gonzales	Holy Temple of Jesus Christ No. 2 1515 Dallas, Gonzales
Harwood Baptist Church North of Post Office, Harwood	Church of Christ (Iglesia de Cristo) 201 E. Second St. Nixon	Monthalia Methodist CR 112 off Highway 97	Iglesia Pentecostes Filadelfia 893 S. Magnolia Ave., Luling
Iglesia Bautista Macedonia 201 S. Congress, Nixon	Church of Christ E. 3rd & Texas, Nixon	Nixon Methodist Church 310 East 4th Street, Nixon	Temple Bethel Pentecostal 1104 S. Paul, Gonzales
Iglesia Bautista Memorial Highway 97, Waelder	Church of Christ, Belmont	Smiley Methodist Church 1 blk. S. of Hwy. 87, Smiley	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	<b>CHURCHES OF GOD</b> Community Church of God 1020 St. Louis, Gonzales	Webster Chapel A.M.E. 1027 Church St., Gonzales	<b>PRESBYTERIAN</b> Pilgrim Presbyterian Church CR 210 off FM 1116
Memorial Heights Baptist Church 1330 N. College, Gonzales	Gonzales Memorial Church of God in Christ 1113 Hastings, Gonzales	<b>NON-DENOMINATIONAL</b> Agape Ministries 512 St. James, Gonzales Bread of Life Ministries 613 St. Joseph, Gonzales	Presbyterian Church of Gonzales 414 St. Louis, Gonzales
Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church 100 Capes, Gonzales	New Beginnings 1020 St. Louis, Gonzales	Christ the King Church 1262 U.S. Highway 77 South Hallettsville	Cheapside Presbyterian Church, Cuero
Oak Valley Baptist Church Highway 97, Bebe	<b>Episcopal</b> Episcopal Church of the Messiah 721 S. Louis, Gonzales		

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# SMILEY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

survival.”

The office is primarily made up of reserve deputies, and Torres said the department does not have the revenue necessary to buy the new equipment on its own.

“Smiley is a small town with less than 500 residents, and many of them are below the national poverty line,” Torres said. “The closest EMS station is about

15 minutes away, and that 15 minutes can be devastating to someone having a heart issue. Carrying the AEDs in our vehicles will help us get potentially life-saving help to people sooner at a time when every second counts.”

The department also will purchase new reflective vests and tools such as tire inflators, impact wrenches and mechanics tool kits

for their vehicles to assist motorists who have a flat tire, break down or have a traffic accident.

In addition to serving the City of Smiley, deputies respond to emergencies throughout Gonzales County.

The community grant is one of 45 grants awarded recently through LCRA's Community Development Partnership

Program, which helps volunteer fire departments, local governments, emergency responders and nonprofit organizations fund eligible capital improvement projects in LCRA's wholesale electric, water and transmission service areas. The program is part of LCRA's effort to give back to the communities it serves.

Applications for the next round of grants will be accepted in July 2025. More information is available at [lcra.org/cdpp](http://lcra.org/cdpp).

# SCHOTT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

augmented-reality experience which will transport viewers back to 1835 and the events in and around Gonzales which led the Texians ultimately to independence from Mexico.

Schott, a veteran film and TV actress who has appeared in Angel Studios’ “Vindication,” “Fear the Walking Dead,” and “The Pale Door,” among others, is the first big name attached to the project being developed by John Franklin Rinehart and his Austin Film Crew company and funded through a grant from the Gonzales Economic Development Corporation (GEDC).

She said she was drawn to Texas Legacy in Lights because of its focus on perspectives that might not otherwise receive the attention they so richly deserve.

“I have been acting in film and television in Texas for about 14 years now, and I have an agent who submits me to different projects, but I also look for things on my own,” Schott said. “I just happened to see this pop up on one of the sites that I keep track of, and to me, it just was extra interesting, because I’m a big fan of history in Texas history. I have ancestors who were here before the Texas Revolution, and I’ve always enjoyed doing historical interpretations.

“The more I found out (about the production), the more interested I became in doing it. In all of my family history research, the thing that I search for the most is the stories of the women, because those are harder to find. You don’t hear much about them, so I love the fact that, in this, John is going to be focusing on the women’s stories — the women and the children — and the struggles that they went through in order to help get us to the comfortable lives we live today.”

Schott said she loves roles that feature women with a “defiant streak” because “their stories are the ones that we just don’t get to hear very often, so I love to hear stories of these strong women who persevered.”

Sarah Seely DeWitt helped her husband achieve his dream of founding a colony in Texas as an empresario and petitioned the Mexican government to give her a land grant her of one league (4,428 acres) under her maiden name at the confluence of the San Marcos and Guadalupe rivers.

After the death of Green DeWitt, she remained in Gonzales with her children and is credited, along with daughter Eveline, with designing the famed “Come and Take It” flag on a recycled wedding dress. That flag flew proudly when the Old 18 stood up to the Mexican Army and refused to surrender the town’s cannon. Sarah DeWitt would die in 1854 and was buried in what is now the Green DeWitt Cemetery inside the JB Wells Park grounds.

Like Sarah Seely DeWitt herself, Schott is not a native Texan, but fate brought her to a fulfilling life in the Lone Star state. A native of New Orleans, Schott is the daughter of a sixth-generation casket maker, Bob Shirer,

“I hope that when people see this, it makes them want to research either their own family or just anybody who has been through the Texas Revolution or anything in history, to learn about our past, because it’s so important to know. So I hope this inspires people and I hope it sets a precedent for other communities to do more things like this.”

—Peggy Schott, Seguin resident and actress

whose specialty coffins were featured in the Tom Cruise and Brad Pitt film “Interview with a Vampire.” She is also a descendant of the first non-native inhabitant of New Orleans, Antoine Ritvard dit LaVigne, who was granted land that today is the site of the famed New Orleans Fairgrounds.

Schott had female ancestors — Mary Foreman Bland, Elizabeth Smith Bland Johnson, Kezia Anders Allen, Spicy Matilda McQueen Taylor and Laurena Taylor Lewis Allen — who were in Texas before and during the Texas Revolution, as well as two others, Martha Ann Allen Bland and Marie Stutes Foreman, who were residents of the Republic of Texas.

Married to Kevin Schott, the mother of three and grandmother of five lived in Austin for 32 years until deciding to make their “little getaway” home in Seguin their permanent place of residence.

“When the pandemic started, we were here in Seguin and I literally told him, “This could last a couple of weeks. Why don’t we hang out here?” Schott said. “Two and a half years later, we were still here in Seguin and decided, you know, we don’t need Austin. We just love the small town feel. The people here are wonderful and I love the history here, so I became really entrenched in Seguin. I’m now part of the Seguin Conservation Society and I work with the (South Texas) Pregnancy Care Center here.”

Schott is no stranger to Gonzales, either, as some episodes of the hit AMC TV series “Fear the Walking Dead” were filmed in the First Shot city. On the show, Schott played Tess, a survivor of the zombie apocalypse who joins up with Lennie James’ Morgan Jones in Season 5.

“We filmed some things in Gonzales and I do believe it was the middle of July and was hot as it could be on an old abandoned bridge, but it was great to be close by because I live in Seguin,” Schott said.

“During the pandemic, my husband and I were looking for excursions and one of the ones we did was to go to Gonzales so he could see some of the places we shot for the TV show. While we were there, we were also able to go to several museums. The prison museum was very interesting and the Memorial Museum, where we got to see the cannon. They also had the driving tour where we could go to different houses and pull up the history of them on our phones.

“Those are the kinds of things I find so interesting and how sad it is that it took a pandemic to get us to come to Gon-

zales, but I’m hoping that this project is going to be such a big draw that it’ll get more people to want to come to Gonzales, to learn about the history and to visit the town since when we were there, we really enjoyed it,” she added.

Schott said she has been contacted already by wardrobe to start working on costuming for next month’s shoot. Some of the costumes being used by those portraying the Texians and Mexican Army are even rumored to be from the epic John Wayne movie “The Alamo” which was filmed in Brackettville.

Texas Legacy in Lights is similar to “San Antonio: The Saga,” a 24-minute projection that is digitally mapped across the surface of the San Fernando Cathedral façade in San Antonio and draws thousands of visitors to the Alamo city every year. Gonzales will become just the fifth U.S. city to host a digital mapping display — using technology typically seen at only at world-class shows like the ones at Disney’s EPCOT.

With a sound show designed by a former media engineer for NASA and using speakers and subwoofers buried

in the ground and covered by plants, the experience will make visitors feel like they truly are in the midst of the battle. The entire surface area covered by the installation will be more than 90,000 square feet.

Supporters of the project say it has the potential to attract more than 20,000 people annually and generate up to \$1 million annually in direct visitor spending on local businesses; \$600,000 in annual hotel revenue from increased overnight stays and \$80,000 in additional annual sales tax revenue for the city.

Rinehart said the project is aiming for a soft opening in July with a grand opening celebration to take place on Oct. 2, 2025 — the 190th anniversary of the Battle of Gonzales and the day before the annual Come and Take It Celebration begins.

“I can’t wait to see this. With the technology where it is that John is able to do this, it is going to be fantastic,” Schott said. “But what I’m hoping is that it’s going to have the effect on all the viewers that being part of it has already had on me, because I’m standing here, I’ve pulled out all my family history files that I haven’t looked at in years, and I’m doing more research and finding out more.

“And I hope that when people see this, it makes them want to research either their own family or just anybody who has been through the Texas Revolution or anything in history, to learn about our past, because it’s so important to know. So I hope this inspires people and I hope it sets a precedent for other communities to do more things like this.”

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OBITUARIES

LLOYD PERRY JR.

Lloyd Perry, Jr., Age 78 of Seguin, Texas, passed away on May 4, 2025. Lloyd was born on January 8, 1947 in Leesville, Texas to O’Joy Marie (Kiser) and Lloyd Perry, Sr.

Lloyd was a 1965 graduate of Nixon High School in Nixon, Texas. He proudly served his country in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. He received two Bronze Stars and the National Defense Service Medal as well as several other awards for his dedication and service to his country. Lloyd retired as a locomotive engineer for Southern Pacific Railroad. Upon retirement Lloyd enjoyed traveling, camping and gardening.

Lloyd is preceded in death by his parents, and his mother-in-law and his father-in-law, Dorothy and Leo Garber.



Survivors include his loving wife of 54 years, Nancy Garber Perry; sister, Becky Perry Weston and husband Robert; brother-in-law, Billy Dale Garber and wife Virginia; nephews, Danny Garber, and Dwain Garber and wife Jana; his beloved dog, Max; several great nephews, great nieces, numerous cousins, other loving family members and a host of friends.

Visitation will be held

on Wednesday, May 7, 2025 from 5 to 7 p.m. at Tres Hewell Mortuary. Graveside services and interment with military honors will be held on Thursday, May 8, 2025 at 2 p.m. at San Geronimo Cemetery in Seguin, with Jimmy Kennedy officiating. A reception will be announced.

A quote from Lloyd’s favorite show, “Goodbye, Farewell and Amen.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Guadalupe County Humane Society, P. O. Box 1593, Seguin, Texas, 78156, or Walnut Springs Activity Center, 1637 King Street, Seguin, Texas 78155.

You are invited to sign the guest book at [www.treshewell.com](http://www.treshewell.com). Arrangements are under the direction of Tres Hewell Mortuary, 165 Tor Dr., Seguin, Texas, 78155, 830-549-5912.

MARY ANN SOFKA BRZOWSKI

Mary Ann Sofka Brzozowski, 86, passed away Sunday, May 4, 2025. Mary Ann was born November 20, 1938 in Moulton to Frank and Rosie Poposky Sofka. She married Vernon Brzozowski on September 20, 1958 in the St. James Catholic Church. Mary Ann had been a member of the Catholic Daughters and Jewell’s Jewels Performance Group where she popularly performed songs like Louisiana Woman, Mississippi Man made famous by Loretta Lynn. Mary Ann was a devout Catholic woman and availed herself to whatever service to the church she could.

When Mary Ann was young, she worked beside her siblings picking cotton and enjoyed going to Church Picnics to dance accompanied by her sisters. Later she was awarded many trophies bowling in her league and delighted in making trips to the casinos with her sister and friends.

Mary Ann had worked at Gindler’s Department Store and then the China Basket. She was a lov-



ing and giving woman, she received people with respect and kindness and served these stores honorably. She was always putting her children and friends first. She was a wonderful cook and found great peace tending to her lawn and flower garden. Mary Ann did what she could to make the world a better place and memories of her will be treasured by all who knew her.

Mary Ann Brzozowski is survived by her family, sons, Vernon J. Brzozowski, Jr, “Dixie”, and Michael Steven Brzozowski, sister, Martha Bishop, dear friend Jewell Halamicsek, 16 grandchildren, numerous great-grandchildren,

nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, parents, brothers, William, Edward, Alvin, Henry and Joseph Sofka, and sister, Rosie Molnoskey.

The family will receive friends from 9 am to 9:30 am Friday, May 9, 2025 in St. James Catholic Church with prayers of the Holy Rosary beginning at 9:30 am in the Church. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 am in St. James Catholic Church with Fr. Jason Martini as celebrant. Interment will follow in St. James Catholic Cemetery. Pallbearers: James Molnoskey, Steven Malatek, Vernon Molnoskey, Jr., Johnny Brzozowski, Chris Brzozowski, and Kaylum Brzozowski. Honorary pallbearer, Kenneth Molnoskey. In lieu of flowers the family requests memorials be made to the St. James Catholic Church Building Fund.

Friends may leave their condolences to the family by visiting [www.seydlerhillfuneralhome.com](http://www.seydlerhillfuneralhome.com). Services are under the care and direction of Seydler-Hill Funeral Home.

TAMMY JEAN YORK

Tammy Jean York of Stockdale, Texas passed away on April 14, 2025, at the age of 63 after a 3-year battle with cancer. Tammy was born in Abilene, Texas. Daughter of Charles Thomas Posey and Lois Irene Posey, wife of Bennie York of Stockdale, Texas. Mother of four to Coby York, Morgan Myers of Oklahoma, Jacob York of North Dakota and Layton York of New York.

Tammy loved reading, collecting books, cooking, crocheting, feeding her hummingbirds, spending time with the family, and her dog Sadie and sitting outside on her back porch relaxing. Tammy found



great joy in baking and frequently did bake sales when the kids were in school baking anything from cinnamon rolls to fresh bread. She enjoyed coming to baseball games and track meets to watch

meets to watch her kids play.

Tammy is survived by her sisters Beverley Smith, Kathy Posey Wise and brothers Tom Posey, Troy Posey and Jack Posey.

Memorial Service will be Saturday, April 19, 2025, at 2:00pm at the Finch Funeral Chapel, Nixon.

In Lieu of Flowers/Memorial Contribution to the American Cancer Society.

You are welcome to sign the online guestbook at [www.finchfuneralchapels.com](http://www.finchfuneralchapels.com).

Services in care of Finch Funeral Chapel, LLC.

NICHOLAS NOYES WENTWORTH

Nicholas Noyes Wentworth, a nonagenarian, living at Providence Farm in Waelder, Texas died April 30th, 2025.

Nick was born on March 23rd, 1935 in Massachusetts General Hospital Boston, Mass. He was a halfback on the Stamford, Connecticut state champion football team. He graduated from Babson College with an M.B.A. and served as a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Finance Corps. as the Disbursing Officer at Fifth Army Headquarters.

Houston became home in 1961. There he met and married Bette Wilson in April 1964. He was a Chartered Financial Analyst and President of the Houston Society of Financial Analysts. Nick and three others founded Investment Advisors in 1968. He was President of the firm when he retired.



He and Bette bought a home overlooking Lake Travis in Austin. Later they moved to Bellville where Nick was President of the Bellville Historical Society and a nine-year Treasurer of the Bellville Chamber of Commerce prior to moving to Waelder. He was President of Gonzales Master Gardners.

He is survived by Bette, sons Mark and Alan, his brother Jeff and three

grandchildren, Emily, Allison and Harrison. His parents, Roland and Beatrice Wentworth and sister Martha preceded him in death. Nick will be buried beside Wentworth ancestors at the family plot in Ossipee, New Hampshire, the state where William Wentworth migrated from England to the colonies in 1636.

A memorial service will be held for Nick at Thompsonville Community Church located at County Road 443 in Waelder, Tx. at 11am, Saturday, May 24, 2025.

Friends may sign the guestbook and leave condolences by visiting [www.seydlerhillfuneralhome.com](http://www.seydlerhillfuneralhome.com)

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



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ADDITIONAL OBITUARY,  
PLEASE SEE PAGE 14

WATER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Many area property owners, inside and outside the district, have sold their water rights and these previously granted

permits by the district allows pumping that water out of our aquifers and can severely lower our water levels. There will continue to be additional property owners selling their future rights to water exporters and they have that right to do so. Exporters already secured their permits from previous boards – please do not increase their ability to pump and sell any more of our water. The district’s permitting power is only within our district however, the safe permitting limit has greatly exceeded safe levels without consideration of other avenues exporters may use and develop in the future.

Again, I ask that you adhere to the mission of past insightful citizens and fully reject any future export permit applications of our groundwater and consider our future generations in each of your decisions.

Thank you for your time, consideration and planning foresight to wholly reject any future exporting permit applications. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the important issue of our future and water, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Several specialty physicians utilize our outpatient space to see patients. If you are in need of any of their services, please call their direct phone numbers.

<b>Audiology</b> Amy Trost Hearing Specialist 830-372-2237	<b>Nephrology</b> Azhar M. Malik, MD 361-576-0011 Yong Du, MD 361-576-0011	<b>Ophthalmology</b> Clayton Ckudre, OD 830-339-2843
<b>Chiropractic</b> Jeff Echols, DC 512-799-6811	<b>Pain Management</b> Eric Miller, MD 830-272-7746	<b>Podiatry</b> Terri Quebedeaux, DPM, PA 830-303-0005
<b>Dermatology</b> Vicente Quintero, MD 830-626-5551 Alpesh Desai, DO 713-864-2659	<b>Urology</b> Robert Ryan, III, MD 830-379-8491	<b>Austin Maternal Fetal Medicine</b> 512-821-2540
		<b>Obstetrics</b> Alyson Kirchner, MD, OBGYN 830-379-1500

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# Registration open for VC’s Fall courses

## SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Beginning Thursday, May 1, new and returning students can enroll in Victoria College’s traditional classes – those that lead to a degree, certificate or university transfer – for the Fall 2025 semester. Fall classes begin August 25.

Registration for May Interim, Summer I and Summer II sessions is also currently open.

Eligible students can register online in the Pirate Portal anytime registration is open or schedule an appointment with their advisor by visiting [VictoriaCollege.edu/Advising](http://VictoriaCollege.edu/Advising).

Payment plans are available for students, along with financial aid and scholarships.

Information on classes offered, registration dates, times and payments can be viewed at [VictoriaCollege.edu/ClassSchedule](http://VictoriaCollege.edu/ClassSchedule).

# MOTORCYCLES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

## THE DATA

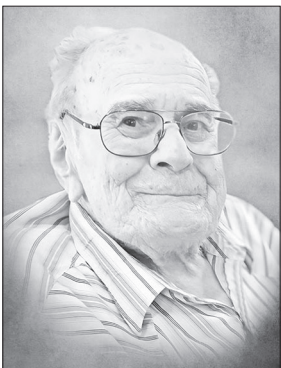
In the more than 9,000 motorcycle crashes in Texas last year, 581 motorcyclists were killed. These crashes can be prevented if drivers learn to share the road and watch out for motorcycles.

## SAFETY TIPS

- Train yourself to notice motorcycles. They’re smaller and lower to the ground than cars. By reminding yourself to keep an eye out for motorcycles, you’ll train your eyes and brain to notice them more easily.
  - Look twice. Always use your turn signals and check your mirrors and blind spots before changing lanes.
  - Use caution when turning. Drivers have trouble judging the speed and distance of motorcycles. Never try to rush a turn ahead of an oncoming motorcycle.
  - Don’t tailgate. Keep a safe following distance. Motorcycles can slow down by downshifting, which doesn’t activate their brake lights.
  - Don’t crowd. If you need to pass a motorcycle, treat it like a car and give it a full lane of space. Never crowd into the same lane.
  - Slow down. Speeding makes every type of crash more deadly. Obey posted speed limits and drive according to conditions.
- To spread these messages, TxDOT’s campaign will use advertisements and an interactive traveling exhibit that demonstrates how easy it is to lose sight of a motorcycle if you’re not paying attention. The exhibit uses virtual reality so participants can experience the perspectives of both driving a car and riding a motorcycle in dangerous situations.
- Share the Road: Look Twice for Motorcycles is an important part of TxDOT’s Drive like a Texan: Kind. Courteous. Safe. initiative. Drive like a Texan is about embracing the pride, camaraderie and responsibility of being a Texan on the road. By making thoughtful choices, we can all help keep each other safe. Learn more at [DriveLikeATexan.com](http://DriveLikeATexan.com).

## OBITUARY

### ROBERT CYRIL VALENTA



Robert Cyril Valenta, 93, was called home by the Lord on Friday, May 2, 2025, in Gonzales, Texas. He was born on February 9, 1932, to Rudolf and Annie Valenta. Robert spent his early years in Gonzales, where he attended local schools and worked on his family’s farm.

In 1950, Robert enlisted in the United States Army and proudly served his country during the Korean War as a wire and electronics repairman. He attained the rank of Sergeant during his three years of service. While stationed in New Jersey, Robert met his beloved wife, Ruth Dilgard. The couple was married on September 8, 1952, in Gonzales, Texas, and

then returned to New York to begin their life together. They shared 62 wonderful years of marriage until Ruth’s passing.

During their time in New York, Robert held various machinist positions. In 1978, the couple relocated to Abilene, Texas, where Robert worked for Gen-

eral Dynamics and later Lockheed Martin. Following his retirement, Robert and Ruth returned to his hometown of Gonzales.

Robert was a devoted husband, loving father, and exceptional grandfather. His family was his greatest joy, and his legacy of love, kindness, and dedication lives on through them.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Ruth Valenta; his parents, Rudolf and Annie Valenta; two sisters and ten brothers; and his son-in-law, Edward Kahrs.

Robert is survived by his daughters, Ruthann (Gary) Cilentio and Barbara Kahrs; his grandchildren, Edward (Trina) Kahrs II, Eric Kahrs, and Diana (Ben) Wilkinson;

his great-grandchildren, Sici, Ethan, Owen, Hailey, and Joe; and many nieces and nephews. The family extends heartfelt thanks to cousin, Sue Valenta Camarillo for the compassionate care and support she provided to Robert.

The family will receive friends from 12 pm to 2 pm Tuesday, May 13, 2025 in Seydler-Hill Funeral Home. Funeral services will follow at 2 pm in the chapel with Deacon Terry Brennan officiating. Interment will follow in Wrightsboro Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Gonzales VFW Post 4817 or to a charity of your choice. Services are under the care and direction of Seydler-Hill Funeral Home.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT WEEKLY REPORTS

Gonzales County Sheriff’s Office			
04/27/25 – 05/03/25			
04/29/25	• Davis, Frank Williams, IV, 48, Gonzales: Warrantless/On-View – Assault Causes Bodily Inj, Requires \$3,500 Bond, Released	Released – Weekender	Total Arrest, Court Commitments, other agency arrest and processing’s:
04/30/25	• Hackle, Johathan, Gerard, 39, Houston: Local Warrant – Unauth Use of Vehicle, Requires \$15,000 Bond; Other Agecny Hold, Remains in Custody	• Vera, Ricardo, JR, 24, Harwood: Commitment/ Sentence – Agg Assault w/ Deadly Weapon, Released – Weekender	
05/01/25	• Madrid, Andy, 53, Dayton: Local Warrant – Driving While Intoxicated 3rd or More IAT, Requires \$50,000 Bond, Remains in Custody	• Estrada, Edward, 39, Tomball: Local Warrant – Driving While Intoxicated BAC >0.15, Requires \$1,500 Bond, Remains in Custody	GCSO 10
		05/03/25	DPS 02
		• Rodriguez, Lisa Marie, 35, Harwood: Warrantless/ On-View – Agg Assault w/ Deadly Weapon, Requires \$25,000 Bond; Warrantless/ On-View – Interfere w/ Emergency Req for Assistance, Requires \$5,500 Bond; Remains in Custody	GPD 02
			WPD 00
			NPD 04
			GISD 00
			SMO 02
			Constable 1 00
			Constable 3 00
			Constable 4 00
			DWCSO 00
			DEA 00
			TPW 00
			GCAI 00
			Rangers 00
			Other 00
			Total 20

# VC awarded \$256K grant for trucking course

## SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Victoria College has been awarded a \$256,100 Texas Reskilling and Upskilling Through Education (TRUE) grant from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to establish a Class B Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) course.

This is the fourth TRUE grant that VC has received to expand its Truck Driving Program. The anticipated start date for the new Class B CDL course is October 2025.

The latest grant will allow VC to hire a new instructor to teach Class B CDL courses in Victoria. It will also fund the purchase of a vehicle to provide students with real-world driving instruction and the renovation of the truck driving range. Funding will also be used to promote course enrollment and

provide scholarships for students enrolled in the Class B CDL course.

A Class B CDL is required to drive a vehicle weighing 26,001 pounds or more, such as delivery or courier trucks, concrete trucks, utility repair vehicles and towing trucks.

According to Lightcast, workforce projections indicate the truck driving occupation will experience a 10 percent increase in jobs in VC’s service area through 2030. Projections show commercial truck drivers in the Golden Crescent region earn a median wage of \$22.73 per hour.

Since 2006, VC has offered truck driving training through a partnership with Houston Community College. Several TRUE grants have allowed VC to establish its own program starting in February 2024, better serving the local workforce and community.

VC previously received a \$115,000 TRUE grant in 2021 to purchase a state-of-the-art truck driving simulator, followed by a \$515,200 TRUE grant in 2022 to purchase four semi-trucks and trailers. In 2024, a \$250,000 TRUE grant supported VC in preparing students to receive a Class A Commercial Driver’s License (CDL).

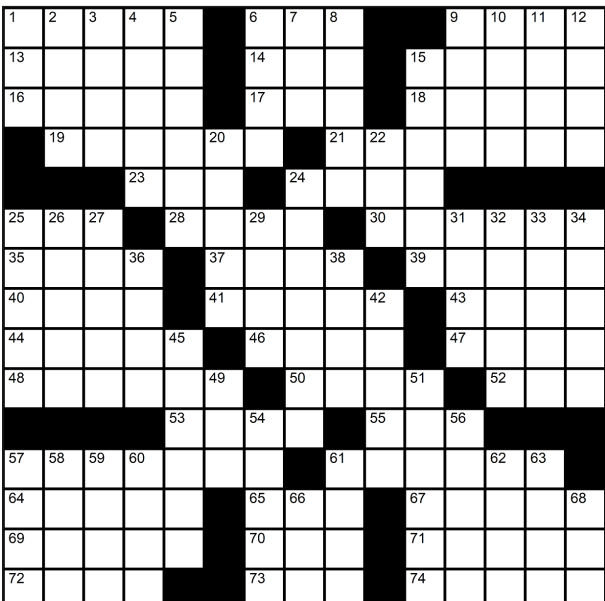
The \$256,100 grant fully funds the launch of the Class B CDL course, covering project expenses.


VC’s Truck Driving Program is available at locations in both Victoria and Gonzales. The program is guided by an industry advisory committee. Local employers are invited to join VC in shaping the program to meet regional workforce needs.

Visit [VictoriaCollege.edu/TruckDriving](http://VictoriaCollege.edu/TruckDriving) to learn more about the program.

# CROSSWORD THEME: MOTHER’S DAY

- CLUES ACROSS**
  1. T. Rockwell’s “How to Eat Fried \_\_\_\_”
  6. Pro football org.
  9. Tea servings
  13. Relating to axis
  14. Gershwin or Levin
  15. Break of day
  16. Repeat, in music
  17. Red Cross bed
  18. Arm bones
  19. \*Mother \_\_\_\_, personification of physical world
  21. \*Mother \_\_\_\_, fictional dog owner
  23. Opposite of hence
  24. Sleeveless garment
  25. Money source
  28. Golfer’s destination
  30. Pass, as time
  35. \*Metamorphoses” poet
  37. \*The Beatles: “Mother \_\_\_\_ comes to me”
  39. \*The Goldbergs” sibling
  40. Unacceptable, to a baby
  41. Alpine singing
  43. Resembling wings
  44. Fill with optimism
  46. Fill to satisfaction
  47. Orion’s \_\_\_\_
  48. Like funeral atmosphere
  50. Lice eggs
  52. Morse code dash
  53. Remainder of a cigarette
  55. Before skip and a jump
  57. \*Mother of \_\_\_\_, a.k.a. Daenerys Targaryen
  61. \*Mother \_\_\_\_, Missionaries of Charity founder
  64. PassÉ
  65. Stir or fuss
- CLUES DOWN**
  1. Took place
  2. Yoked team
  3. Capital of Latvia
  4. Kind of ray
  5. Cast-off skin
  6. French Riviera city
  7. “To” follower
  8. Wood turning device
  9. Tulip starter
  10. Leo’s Karenina
  11. \_\_\_\_ gum, food additive
  12. Put metal to the pedal, p.t.
  15. Difficult to detect
  20. With ample space
  22. Employ
  24. Green and lush, as in trees
  25. \*Mother \_\_\_\_, investigative journalism nonprofit
  26. Convex molding
  27. Twofold
  29. Cambodia’s neighbor
  31. A in UAE
  32. Heaped
  33. Famous Teatro alla \_\_\_\_
  34. \*Mother \_\_\_\_, personification of planet
  36. Shower with affection
  38. Abominable snowman
  42. River in Hades
  45. Personify
  49. \*Mother Superior is the head one at the convent
  51. Foray
  54. Former Russian leaders





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56. \*Mother of \_\_\_\_, a.k.a. nacre

57. June 6, 1944

58. Raja’s wife

59. On the surface

60. Emeralds and rubies

61. Carrying bag

62. Hunk of something


63. Lowest female singing voice

66. Female forest ruminant

68. Archery bow wood

Answers will be provided in next week’s edition.

# SUDOKU



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

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**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.

**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.



# ELECTION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and his wife, Linda K, thanking them “for the great leadership that they served Gonzales with day in and day out.”

“I sent my congratulations to Isaac Anzaldua this evening when I saw the early voting returns. He absolutely smoked me in this campaign!” Sucher posted on his Facebook page. “I am excited about Gonzales’s future with Isaac as mayor and wish him and the community the very best. It will be an honor for me to carry the title of former mayor of Gonzales TX, and Linda K and I are grateful for the time we had serving our fair town.”

Miller was the subject of a recall petition that was submitted to the Gonzales City Council last fall. The measure was placed on a ballot for just District 4 voters. Those voting yes to Miller’s ouster were 216 to 161 voting against.

According to Sec. 6.09 of the Gonzales City Charter, if a majority of the votes cast at such an election cast a yes to recall a person named on the ballot, he/she shall, regardless of any technical defects in the recall petition, be deemed removed from office and the vacancy be filled as vacancies in the city council are filled as provided in Section 3.06 of the charter.

“I just want to say thanks to the people who got out to vote against the recall,” Miller told the Inquirer Saturday night.

Miller’s position on the council will officially be declared vacant after the results of the election are canvassed within five days of the election, per Sec. 3.06 of the Gonzales City Charter.

That portion of the charter also states that in the event of a vacancy in the City Council, if there are between 90 and 365 days remaining in the term of the vacant City Council office then “City Council shall, within 30 days of the vacancy occurring, by majority vote of the remaining members of City Council, appoint an individual to the vacancy for the remaining term of the vacant office.”

Miller’s term would not have ended officially until May 2, 2026 — less than 365 days from the May 3 election date this year.

Torres, a longtime GISD incumbent, faced a challenge from Ale Hernandez in the District 1 race, but won by 27 votes, 165-138. Torres had a 34-vote lead going into Election Day that held

up. “First of all, I want to give all glory to God on this successful win,” Torres said. “Second, to my District 1 supporters who continue to believe in me and supported me with their vote. Last, but not least, to my family, who helped me throughout this whole process! I’m ready to get to work and continue to be the voice for our community.”

Schwausch was challenged by Rocky Gallegos in District 2, yet won 127-72 after taking a 48-vote lead following early voting.

“The constituents of Gonzales ISD District 2 have spoken and I heard you loud and clear,” Schwausch said. “Thank you to all who voted and I appreciate each and every one of y’all. Let’s continue to Grow Greatness!”

Diana C. Olmos is the new mayor in Waelder after she came from behind to defeat Mike Harris, the mayor pro tem who was had stepped into the position following the death of Mayor Roy Tovar last year.

Olmos was behind by three votes, 74-71, after early and absentee voting, but outpolled Harris on election day, 47-35, to win by just nine votes, 118-109.

Incumbent Martha Melchor was re-elected to the council and will be joined by Margie Zapata and Dora Martinez as the top three vote-getters out of a field of seven candidates. Melchor had 157 votes, while Zapata had 115 and Martinez had 82. Incumbent Marie Ibarra Almaraz had 75; Adam Ibarra had 59; incumbent Rachel Vargas Martinez had 51 and Curtis Hadnot Jr. had 38.

In Nixon, incumbent councilmembers Patsy Scherrer and Patricia Dingler will be joined on the council by Jessica “Jae” Garcia. Scherrer led all candidates with 93 votes, while Garcia had 88. Dingler received 74 and TJ Lopez received 42. The top three candidates were elected.

In Smiley, incumbents Diana P. Moreno and Daniel Benavidez were re-elected while Elisa D. Douglas was elected as well out of a field of seven candidates for three spots. Moreno had 77 votes, while Douglas had 76 and Benavidez had 65. Mike Mills had 45, Michaela Mills had 40, Michelle Alvarez Mills had 36 and incumbent Lori Price, who announced she was no longer running due to an impending move out of state, had nine votes.

ELECTION RESULTS — GONZALES COUNTY					
MAYOR: CITY OF GONZALES					
	TOTAL		ABSENTEE VOTING	EARLY VOTING	ELECTION DAY
S.H. "Steve" Sucher	469	42.64%	4	323	142
Isaac Anzaldua	606	55.09%	13	429	164
PROPOSITION: CITY OF GONZALES (DISTRICT 4)					
	TOTAL		ABSENTEE VOTING	EARLY VOTING	ELECTION DAY
Yes	214	54.59%	0	146	68
No	161	41.07%	3	100	58
MAYOR: CITY OF WAEOLDER					
	TOTAL		ABSENTEE VOTING	EARLY VOTING	ELECTION DAY
Diana C. Olmos	118	50.43%	2	69	47
Mike Harris	109	46.58%	0	74	35
ALDERMAN: CITY OF WAEOLDER					
	TOTAL		ABSENTEE VOTING	EARLY VOTING	ELECTION DAY
Martha Melchor	157	22.36%	2	111	44
Dora Martinez	82	11.68%	0	55	27
Adam Ibarra	59	8.40%	2	43	14
Margie Zapata	115	16.38%	2	71	42
Marie Ibarra Almaraz	75	10.68%	0	45	30
Rachel Vargas Martinez	51	7.26%	0	33	18
Curtis Hadnot Jr.	38	5.41%	0	22	16
ALDERMAN: CITY OF NIXON					
	TOTAL		ABSENTEE VOTING	EARLY VOTING	ELECTION DAY
TJ Lopez	42	11.48%	0	26	16
Patsy Scherrer	93	25.41%	0	54	39
Jessica "Jae" Garcia	88	24.04%	0	44	44
Patricia Dingler	74	20.22%	0	41	33
COUNCIL MEMBER: CITY OF SMILEY					
	TOTAL		ABSENTEE VOTING	EARLY VOTING	ELECTION DAY
Elisa D. Douglas	76	21.11%	6	46	24
Michaela Mills	40	11.11%	1	5	34
Michelle Alvarez Mills	36	10.00%	1	5	30
Mike Mills	45	12.50%	1	8	36
Diana P. Moreno	77	21.39%	6	46	25
Daniel Benavidez	65	18.06%	5	45	15
Lori Price	9	2.50%	1	6	2
SCHOOL BOARD, DISTRICT 1 GISD					
	TOTAL		ABSENTEE VOTING	EARLY VOTING	ELECTION DAY
Gloria Torres	165	53.92%	7	132	26
Alejandra "Ale" Hernandez	138	45.10%	0	105	33
SCHOOL BOARD, DISTRICT 2 GISD					
	TOTAL		ABSENTEE VOTING	EARLY VOTING	ELECTION DAY
Rocky Gallegos	72	35.82%	0	55	17
Justin Schwausch	127	63.18%	3	100	24

# REAL ESTATE AUCTION



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# GROUNDBREAKING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tive base bid from the subcontractors for everything needed to construct the facilities came out to \$19,173,278 and there were three alternate bids totaling \$350,318.

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. Any unused money from this allowance remains with the school district.

The total size of the CTE building was 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.

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.

## Fehner & Son Grain and Fehner Firearms would like to wish all Mothers a Happy and Blessed Mother's Day!

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# BURN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

exercise extreme caution when burning is necessary.”

County commissioners had discussed lifting the ban at their April 28 regular meeting, when County Emergency Management Coordinator and Fire Marshal Jimmy Harless told them the county’s Keetch-Byram Drought Index, or KBDI, had dropped to 471, which was much lower than the 556 it was at when the ban was put into effect.

“We’re starting to have some folks, and it’s understandable, that they’re burning stuff, assuming that the burn ban has been removed already,” Harless said.

However, commissioners decided to leave the ban in place for the time being and to allow Davis to lift it if the area received enough rainfall in the following days. Since then, the area has had several days of precipitation and the KBDI dropped to an average of 383, with a low of 183 in some areas and a high of 493 in others.

Gonzales County received additional rain on both Monday, May 5, and Tuesday, May 6, as the area was under an extended tornado watch at one point.

# RAILCAR

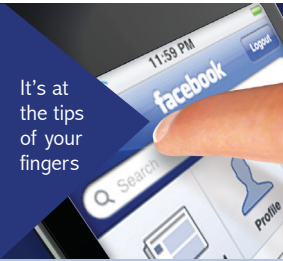
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

County Emergency Management coordinator Jimmy Harless, the men had been working on refurbishing the railcar as employees of an Illinois-based company with a Harwood location which does cleaning and flaring contract work for TXGN and Union Pacific Railroad.

One of the individuals was pronounced deceased at the scene by Precinct 1 Justice of the Peace Deidra Voigt, while the other was transported to BAMC Hospital, 3551 Roger Brooke Drive, San Antonio, in serious condition. Voigt ordered an autopsy be performed on the deceased individual, whose name was not yet being released. The name of the injured individual also wasn’t being released yet at this time.

“On behalf of the men and women of the Gonzales County Sheriff’s Office, we extend our sincerest condolences to the family affected by this unfortunate event,” Sheriff Keith Schmidt said. “We recognize the profound impact such tragedies have on families and the community. We extend our heartfelt condolences to all individuals impacted by this unfortunate loss. Additionally, we wish the second individual a swift and complete recovery.”

Schmidt said the Gonzales County Sheriff’s Office is conducting a comprehensive investigation of the incident. The GCSO is collecting information and evidence, and further details will be disseminated upon the successful conclusion of the investigation.



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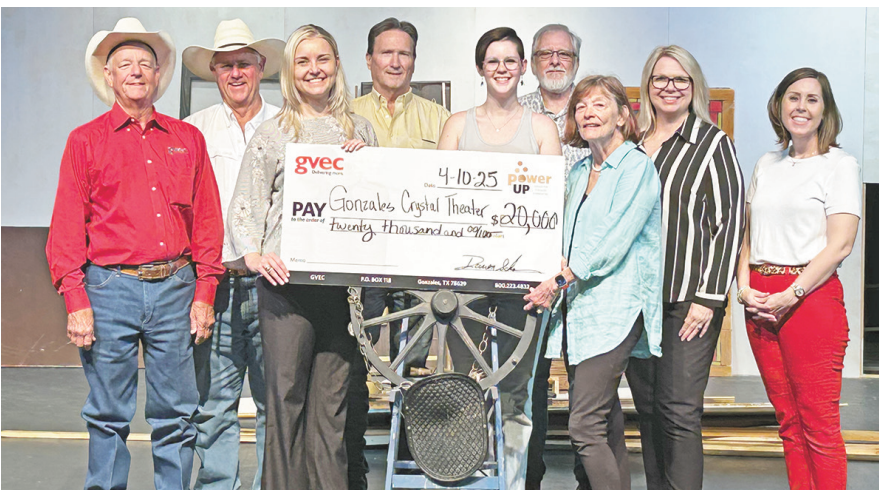
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CONTRIBUTED/GVEC

The Belmont Volunteer Fire Department accepts a GVEC Power Up grant for \$20,000. They will use the grant to install a 29,000-gallon water storage tank, doubling capacity to strengthen emergency response efforts. Pictured L to R: Secretary Tina Mailhot-Roberge, Treasurer Kenneth Schauer, Firefighter John Thomsen, GVEC Economic Development & Community Relations Director Daisy Scheske Freeman, Assistant Fire Chief Jay Tinsley, Fire Chief Brian Schauer, Firefighter Cecil Deadman, Vice President and Training Officer Michael Burkhart, GVEC Board Vice President Henry “Bubba” Schmidt Jr, Firefighter Neil Henze and GVEC Board Secretary Treasurer Morris Harvey.



CONTRIBUTED/GVEC

The Gonzales Crystal Theater, Inc. accepts a \$20,000 GVEC Power Up grant to improve stage safety, backstage comfort and upgrade aging materials. Pictured L to R: GVEC Board Secretary Treasurer Morris Harvey, GVEC Board Vice President Henry “Bubba” Schmidt Jr, GVEC Economic Development & Community Relations Director Daisy Scheske Freeman, Tim Gescheidle, Participant Lena Marie Salazar, Gary Gage, President Barbara Crozier, Crissy O’Neal and Britney Caka.



The City of Smiley Marshal’s Office accepts a GVEC Power Up grant for \$11,452.94. The funds will be used to purchase nine sets of ballistic vests for deputy personal protection. Pictured L to R: Deputy Marshal Jason Criollo, City Marshal Jason Torres, Mayor Lisa Benavidez, Corporal Mark Valli and Sergeant Heath Stier.

ONTRIBUTED/GVEC

# GRANTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

efitting GVEC members and citizens in communities GVEC serves—from emergency response and healthcare equipment to revitalization of parks, historical landmarks and shared community spaces.

In the most recent round of distributions, the Belmont Volunteer Fire Department, Belmont, received \$20,000; City of Smiley Marshal’s Office, Smiley, received \$11,452.94; and Gonzales Crystal Theater, Inc., Gonzales, received \$20,000:

- The Belmont Volunteer Fire Department is active with 24 volunteer members covering over 71,000 acres within their jurisdiction, while also providing mutual aid to surrounding communities. This grant will be used to install a 29,000-gallon Galvalume water storage tank, doubling the capacity of the current aging tank. The upgraded storage tank will ensure the department has an adequate water supply to improve its response efforts during emergency calls.
- The City of Smiley Marshal’s Office is utilizing its funds to purchase nine new ballistic vests for improved deputy safety. One paid and eight unpaid volunteer deputies staff the Marshal’s office. The purchase of new ballistic vests ensures that all deputies have access to adequate personal protective equipment.
- Gonzales Crystal Theater, Inc. will use its funds to improve cooling, add insulation over the stage and backstage areas, repair wall damage, and replace 40-plus-year-old curtains with enhanced fire- and heat-retardant materials.

Other Power Up grants awarded during this cycle include: \$20,000 to City of Schertz Police Department, Schertz, for a TruNarc handheld narcotics detection device; \$20,000 to Connections Individual and Family Services, New Braunfels, for its Recharge Courtyard renovation project; \$20,000 to Cuero VFW Post 3972, Cuero, for the main hall roof replacement; \$20,000 to La Vernia Municipal Development District, La Vernia, to build city pickleball courts; \$20,000 to Marion ISD, Marion, for a CNC plasma torch cutter; \$20,000 to Seguin Area Chamber of Commerce – Leadership Seguin Class of 2025 for a picnic pavilion at Manuel C. Castilla Park; and \$20,000 to Stomping Ground Ventures, Floresville, for the pavilion roof replacement.

“We’re proud to support projects that bring real, lasting improvements to our communities,” said Christine Presley, GVEC Community Relations Representative. “From safety upgrades to recreational enhancements, each project reflects the commitment of service and care our members help foster through Power Up. We’re also here to assist organizations every step of the way—from understanding eligibility to submitting a strong application.”

The next application deadline for the Power Up community grant program is August 15, 2025. For program qualifications and an application, visit [gvec.org](https://gvec.org), or call Christine Presley at 830.857.3424 for assistance.



## May is Better Speech & Hearing Month.

May is recognized as Better Speech and Hearing Month (BSHM). We take this month to raise awareness about communication disorders and the importance of speech and hearing health.

Hearing and speech challenges can be a result of stroke, brain injury, or developmental delays. Other challenges include difficulty finding words, stuttering, and hearing loss. All of which could benefit from seeing a speech therapist.

Therapy offers improvements of speech sounds, language, literacy, voice, cognitive communication, and feeding and swallowing. If you or someone you know struggles with speech or hearing, contact your primary care provider for a speech therapy referral. Services are available in both our Gonzales and Shiner clinics.

**For more information regarding our speech therapy services, please call our therapy department.**

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