



The Gonzales Inquirer

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Argument leads to shooting death near Nixon

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

An argument between two men turned deadly at a Gonzales County residence north of Nixon early Sunday, May 28. According to Gonzales County Sheriff's deputies, the GCSO received a call

at 12:54 a.m. Sunday about shots being fired in the 100 block of County Road 168, which is off Texas Highway 80 near Clear Fork Creek, north of the Nixon-Smiley High School campus.

Upon arrival, deputies found one man who had been the victim of a gunshot wound and who was later pronounced

deceased on the scene. The victim was later identified as Jose Robles Quintana.

A second individual who had been assaulted was transported to Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC) for treatment of injuries. That person was identified as Samuel Garcia-Mendiola, who was also identified as the person who had shot

and killed Robles Quintana.

Garcia-Mendiola was later arrested and charged with murder and is currently being held in lieu of \$750,000 bond.

The incident is currently being investigated by the Gonzales County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Department and The Texas Rangers.

THE CLASS OF 2023 GRADUATES

194 Gonzales seniors walk the stage

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales High School class of 2023 arrived at Apache Field Friday, May 26 to close out the final chapter of their high school careers.

The class of the 2023 reflected on the last four years, and GHS Principal Jon Basha spoke about those four years to the seniors one last time at the



VANDY VAN EPPS

Valedictorian Cooper LaBuhn shakes hands with school board president Ross Hendershot, III and hand's LaBuhn his diploma.

See **GHS**, page 13

Castro returns to speak at Nixon Memorial Day ceremony

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

A U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 5 (CW5) returned to his hometown of Nixon to speak at the Memorial Day ceremony Monday, May 29 at the city's library.

CW5 Demetrio "Jay" Castro III was invited by the American Legion Post 547 to speak and honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

"I would like to thank Angel DeLaCruz and the American Legion for inviting me to speak today and for continuing to serve and support our men

See **CASTRO**, page 18

28 cross the stage for Waelder ISD graduation

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

The 2023 graduating class of Waelder High School saw 28 people walk across the stage to receive their diplomas during commencement ceremonies Saturday, May 27, at the Waelder ISD gymnasium.

Valedictorian Angela Gutierrez De La Rosa called the day a "day of change" for the graduating class.

"It is not just a simple flip of the page, but the start of a whole

See **WAELDER**, page 17



LEW K. COHN

Nixon-Smiley valedictorian Cecilia Villasana checks over her graduation speech before addressing the audience Friday, May 26 at Mustang Stadium.

68 Mustangs march across stage to receive diplomas

Late classmates remain very much on minds of Class of 2023

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

Sixty-eight members of the Nixon-Smiley High School Class of 2023 received their diplomas in person at Mustang Stadium on Friday, May 26, during graduation exercises.

Another two students who were not present physically — but were

See **NIXON-SMILEY**, page 18

Duderstadts donate family Bible to Jail Museum

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales County Jail Museum on Friday, May 26, added a new item to its exhibits that has ties to a historic outlaw.

The museum will open a special exhibit of outlaw-turned-attorney John Wesley Hardin. Museum Director Sandra Wolff said even though Hardin was never held in this particular jail, he did open a law practice in Gonzales and defended people incarcerated in the jail.

Wolff said this story is an example of other stories, especially "young men who grew up and catered to their manhood after the Civil War."

"John Wesley saw firsthand some of the things that the authorities that were put in place to tell the southerners they lost the war. There was some violence and I think it really affected him and he began to hate the authorities that were here. And so, that kind of led to what we all commonly say his outlaw career," Wolff said.

Wolff pointed out that there are two sides of Hardin's history — one being

See **MUSEUM**, page 17

Gonzales County sees increase in May sales tax allocations

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

Sales tax allocations for all four Gonzales County cities were up again this month, according to Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar's office.

See **SALES TAX**, page 13

GONZALES CELEBRATES MEMORIAL DAY



VANDY VAN EPPS

From left: Larry Mercer and American Legion Post 40 members David Tucey and Albert Rodriguez read off the names of the military service members from Gonzales County who gave their lives for their country for the annual Memorial Day ceremony at Texas Heroes Square.

Gonzales City Council discusses sidewalk improvements

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales City Council met for a special called meeting Thursday, May 25 in regards the

2021 Sidewalk Improvement Project.

The council went over the changes in the 2021 Sidewalk improvement project with Diamond X Contracting.

Keith Schauer of Doucet and Associates gave a background of the project and it mostly is to level up St. James Street.

"When we originally designed it, we were thinking that we'd

be able to kind of regrade that and make it work, but then when we backed out there, we were looking at it because we

See **SIDEWALKS**, page 13



GONZALES, WAELDER SENIORS RECEIVE TOMMY CHENAULT SCHOLARSHIPS



CONTRIBUTED

Waelder High School seniors Alfred Vargas and Jaime Zamora are the recipients of the 2023 Tommy Chenault Scholarship, which honors all "Fallen but not Forgotten" veterans from the area. The Chenault award is presented by the Community Foundation of the Gonzales Area in conjunction with the GISD Class of 1964.



CONTRIBUTED

Gonzales High School seniors Carlee Ramos, Carlos Santillan, Dylan Krenmueller, and Jaydon Blackwell are the local recipients of the 2023 Tommy Chenault Scholarship, which honors all "Fallen but not Forgotten" veterans from the area. The Chenault award is presented by the Community Foundation of the Gonzales Area in conjunction with the GISD Class of 1964.

Rivas family takes center stage in 'The Sleeping Beauty'

Reignited passion for dance leads mom, daughters to join company

Three members of the same family will be gracing the stage when Come and Take It Dance and The Crystal Theatre present "The Sleeping Beauty" later this month.

Performances will be at noon and 7 p.m. June 10 and 2 p.m. June 11 at the Crystal Theatre. Tickets can only be purchased online at comeandtakeitdance.com for \$30 per person and there will be assigned seating.

Jessica Rivas, a passionate dancer, started her ballet journey at the tender age of 3 in Brownsville, Texas, under the guidance of Mr. Juan Burgos at Bella's Artes Academy. Her training continued there until she ventured off to college at 18. During her college years, she took a hiatus from dancing, focusing on building a family after getting married.

Despite her busy schedule as a mom of five and han-



Gabriela, Jessica and Alexandra Rivas

dling the bookkeeping for her husband's pediatric practice, Jessica always yearned to share the beauty of ballet with her daughters. Unfortunately, the absence of dance studios in her town made it challenging. However, everything changed when she discovered Come and Take It Dance last year.

Inspired by her meeting with Gary, Jessica made the bold decision to reignite her pas-

sion for dance after a 27-year hiatus. She knew she had found the right place. In November, she started taking classes again and, recognizing the opportunity, also enrolled her two daughters. Now, the three of them embark on their ballet journey together.

Amidst the responsibilities of motherhood and her professional obligations, Jessica finds immense reward in dedicating

time to herself and indulging in the joy of dance. She encourages others to join her in ballet, emphasizing that age or experience level should not deter anyone.

Ballet is not exclusively for little girls in tutus — it is a captivating art form that everyone can appreciate and benefit from. Not only does ballet offer physical activity, but it also improves posture, relieves stress, and brings immense fun and fulfillment.

Jessica's story serves as an inspiration, proving that one can always rediscover and embrace their passion, regardless of life's demands. She encourages individuals of all walks of life to join her on the ballet journey, as the transformative power of dance knows no bounds.

Gabriela Rivas is a talented and driven 14-year-old who recently completed middle school with honors. Her passion for music is evident in her skillful piano playing, which she has been practicing for several years. Gabriela's love for the arts extends beyond music, as she has always dreamed of dancing ballet. She finally found the opportunity to

pursue her passion in Gonzales and has been making impressive progress in just six months of training.

With her dedication and talent, Gabriela is sure to continue excelling in all of her artistic pursuits and is looking forward to her first performance in "The Sleeping Beauty." She will be dancing alongside her mother, Jessica Rivas, and younger sister Alexandra.

Alexandra Rivas, an energetic 8-year-old, has just completed second grade with flying colors. She is a multi-talented young girl who is currently involved in cheer and gymnastics lessons, as well as piano and ballet classes.

Alexandra's love for music is evident in her passion for singing, and she enjoys exploring different genres. In addition to her artistic pursuits, Alexandra also enjoys playing softball and staying active. She is thrilled to be performing in "The Sleeping Beauty" alongside her mother, Jessica, and sister, Gabriela, and is excited to showcase her talents on stage. With her boundless energy and enthusiasm, Alexandra is sure to continue shining in all of her endeavors.

McGinty inducted into IOCS Hall of Fame

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

On April 30, 2023, family and friends gathered at the country home of Kenneth Sekula to celebrate the posthumous induction of Kenneth "Kenny" McGinty of Gonzales into the Infantry Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame at Fort Benning, Georgia, on May 1, 2023.

A catered meal was served, friends reminisced with stories of the Kenny they knew growing up in Gonzales, viewed several displays around the area showing the many facets of Kenny, and Bill McCaskill presided over a very moving Missing Man Table ceremony. Kenny was nominated based on his military service, his civilian contributions, and his dedication and service to his community.

Lt. Col. Kenneth McGinty was nominated by another Hall of Fame member Col. (retired) Brice Barnes, in co-ordination with members of the 2nd/47th/9th Infantry Divisions. Kenny was chosen for this honor as an acknowledgment of his superior leadership in command positions as well as for his heroic actions during the Vietnam



Lt. Col. Kenneth McGinty

War. For those actions, he was awarded two Bronze Stars for Valor, two Purple Hearts, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, five Air Medals, the Army Aviator of the Year in 1986, and many other awards too numerous to mention.

Kenny's military service also included being an Airborne Ranger in the 75th Ranger Battalion, serving two combat tours in Southeast Asia, and serving in the Army Staff at the Pentagon.

When Kenny transitioned into a second career, he didn't stop contributing to others. As a program manager and VP for Lockheed Martin in the defense aerospace industry where he led and coordinated the development of the Apache

helicopter. Kenny flew the Apache, which he named after the local mascot, on one of its first flights to share it with the community of Gonzales.

Kenny never forgot his roots in Gonzales and never stopped giving back. He helped several in FFA, brought the Apache helicopter to town for all to see, helped organize the Come & Take It Tommy Chenault Memorial Golf tournament fundraiser to honor those lost in Vietnam through scholarships in area communities, and offered

ROTC support in GISD. Kenny never turned down an opportunity to speak to the public. In 2019 he was named the parade marshal for the annual Come & Take It celebration.

Kenny McGinty passed away at the age of 77 on June 24, 2022.

He is definitely a true patriot and a hometown hero recognized for service to his country and his community by being inducted into the OCS Hall of Fame in Ft. Benning, Georgia. We salute him and thank him for his service.

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Celebrations

Birthdays

June 1st Corie Connell Carol Daniel Herb Karnau Charlie Rochester	June 3rd Dalton Kuntschik Alyson McKennah	June 6th Jeannie Padilla Sylvia Padilla Sarah S. Patterson
June 2nd Cheyenne Hutton Tress Lester Jarrod Scott	June 4th Matthew Rabin	June 5th Lamont Allen Diane Jurek Greyci Rangel
	June 7th Janet Dierlam Lisa Pakebusch Sanya Simmons	

Anniversary

June 1st
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Gonzales Weather

	June 1 90°/71°	Sunshine and some clouds 25% chance of rain • RealFeel 95
	June 2 89°/72°	A.M. showers, then t-storms 50% chance of rain • RealFeel 94
	June 3 88°/73°	Times of clouds and sun 25% chance of rain • RealFeel 96
	June 4 88°/71°	Cloudy 25% chance of rain • RealFeel 98
	June 5 89°/72°	Clouds and sun with a t-storm 55% chance of rain • RealFeel 102
	June 6 89°/72°	Partly sunny 55% chance of rain • RealFeel 97
	June 7 89°/70°	Mostly cloudy 25% chance of rain • RealFeel 94

BRIEFS

TAG UNDER THE SEA ARTS & CRAFTS

The Robert Lee Brothers Jr. Memorial Library Teen Action Group (TAG) will sponsor Under the Sea Arts & Crafts from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 7 at the Library. This event is open to kids 10 and under. Limited quantities available.

Upcoming Events at J.B. Wells Park in Gonzales

June 1st & 4th – South Texas Tour

June 2nd-3rd – Gonzales Play Day

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Gardening Calendar for June

It has been a good spring for wildflowers unless you are in the Central Texas area centered on Bexar County. Even then most wildflowers did well except for the bluebonnets. Because of the continuing drought in that area the bluebonnets did not bloom or produce seed well. As we go into June the fire wheel, rain lilies, coreopsis, sunflowers, and bee balm are still blooming well. Resist mowing the seeds down as long as you can. Even the bluebonnets could return to full production next year if the rains return in the fall and support the germination and growth of the supplies of bluebonnet seeds that are waiting on the soil for the right timed moisture.

Many lawns made a miraculous recovery this spring and will be heading into June in a state of recovery. Some communities are still in drought restrictions but if you have access to water or if the rains continue it may even benefit to provide fertilizer this month, it is later than we usually fertilize but if you use a slow-release lawn fertilizer to a recovering actively growing lawn, it will benefit the grass.

In the vegetable garden cucumbers, eggplant, okra, and peppers have been doing well. Some gardeners have had problems with spider mites in their tomatoes. If your plants are still clean of the pests it will probably be wise to apply a seaweed spray to the foliage. If you had a problem with the summer squash fending off the vine borers, put a note on your calendar for next year to try tatum squash. It is not susceptible to vine borers and can be used for the same recipes as the summer squash.

Zinnias, moss roses, and vinca are providing color in the sun garden, Penta and begonias are doing well in the shade. The Monarch butterflies have migrated through our area on the way North to Canada. Keep working on growing some native milkweed to provide egg laying options this fall and especially in the future spring visits. Tropical milkweed is also a favorite nectar source and egg-laying site. Also consider planting mistflower, zinnias, salvias, and lantanas for nectar sources for the butterflies. The Monarchs will be back this fall but in the meantime the nectar plants will support the hummingbirds and the other butterflies such as Queens and swallowtails.

Garden Q&A

Texas red oak is the fastest growing oak variety

Q. Which is the fastest growing oak species? What is the most susceptible variety to oak wilt?

A. In most situations Texas red oak is the fastest growing oak variety, but the red oaks are also the most susceptible to oak wilt disease except that they don't have an inclination to interconnect root systems like live oaks. The white oaks such as bur oak, Monterey oak and chinkapin oak are the least susceptible to oak wilt. In fact, they rarely would get the disease.

Q. Is there any miticide to prevent spider mites on tomatoes? My Thunderbird tomatoes were overwhelmed by spider mites this spring. The Ruby Crush eventually were also covered but not until we had harvested a bountiful crop

CALVIN FINCH
 Gardening Q&A



A. Spraying on a seaweed spray works to decrease the reproductive rate of spider mites but other available sprays are not very effective. Another tactic that has some impact is to make sure the weeds are cleared from around the plants.

Q. What is the pest or disease that wiped out my snapdragons earlier this spring. It looked like aphids or some other small bug. Was there a way I could have prevented it? They were blooming so beautifully.

A. The usual disease that infects snapdragons in the spring when the weather warms is rust. Rust is a fungal disease and very difficult to prevent. It does resemble aphids in some ways. When rust shows up on snapdragons most of us move on to replace the snaps with zinnias!

Q. What is the best way to speed up decomposition of organic material to make compost?

A. There is a relatively long list of techniques to speed up the process. Start by chopping up the raw material into small pieces. The raw material mix should be at least 50% green material and you should keep the pile moist. Adding nitrogen fertilizer or manure also speeds up the process.

Texas 4-H Roundup to attract youth for education, competition

BY CALLIE CLINE

Texas 4-H Youth Development Special to the Inquirer

About 2,000 youth and family members of the Texas 4-H program statewide will converge on the Bryan-College Station area June 5-8 for the annual Texas 4-H Roundup. The roundup is hosted by Texas 4-H Youth Development, part of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

As a part of the Texas 4-H Roundup, students and their families from across the state will be on the Texas A&M University campus in Bryan-College Station from June 5-8. (Texas A&M AgriLife photo by Sam Craft)

Texas 4-H Roundup is an annual invitational and qualifying event for 4-H youth who placed in a district-level contest or signed up to compete in one of its

invitational events.

Texas A&M AgriLife faculty and staff from across the state and within the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences will be on hand to assist with the event.

"The Texas 4-H Council chose 'Define' as this year's theme, as they thought about what the program meant to them and what it could mean for younger 4-H'ers," said Montza Williams, Ph.D., Texas 4-H Youth Development program director.

"Members have the opportunity to define their goals, achievements, friendships and memories as they process through every level of the program," Williams said. "We trust the week of competitions and educational opportunities will be defining moments for our members as they push themselves to be their

See **ROUNDUP**, page 17

LIVESTOCK WEEKLY REPORTS

Gonzales Livestock Report
 May 27
Cattle: 945

Compared to our last sale: Number 1 choice calves and yearlings sold steady. Less quality calves and yearlings sold steady. Packer cows sold steady & bulls sold steady.

Stocker-feeder Steers: Medium and large-frame No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 272-285; 300-400 lbs., 265-270; 400-500 lbs., 235-261; 500-600 lbs., 225-231; 600-700 lbs., 205-215; 700-800 lbs., 178-201. Bull Yearlings: 700-900 lbs., 80-115.

Stocker-feeder Heifers: Medium

and large from No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 245-260; 300-400 lbs., 237-241; 400-500 lbs., 211-230; 500-600 lbs., 205-209; 600-700 lbs., 175-198

Packer Cows: Good lean utility and commercial, 78-88; Cutters, 94-103; Canners, 52-77; High yielding fat cows, 88-95.

Packer Bulls: Yield grade 1 & 2, good heavy bulls, 108-120; Light weights and medium quality bulls, 97-105.

Stocker Cows: \$750 to \$1,700. Pairs: \$1,100 to \$1,900.

Cuero Livestock Market Report
 on May 26, 2023

Number of head 1,247
 There were 148 cows and 28 bulls. The packer market on cows and bulls was again slightly higher. Demand continues very strong driving prices higher.

The calf market was almost identical to last week. Middle weight calves were a little higher while lighter weights were a little off. The per head value was only 11 cents difference from last week to this week

Packer bulls: 110.00-130.00
Packer cows:
 canners & cutters 80.00-104.00
 poor & weak 30.00-50.00
 Palpated: 9 BRED 90.00-134.00
PAIRS:
 NONE
 (AVG-HIGH)

Steer Calves:
 Under 200 lbs. NONE
 200-249 lbs. NONE
 250-299 lbs. NONE
 300-350 lbs. 200.00-262.00
 350-400 lbs. 230.00-296.00
 400-450 lbs. 213.00-242.00
 450-500 lbs. 214.00-242.00
 500-550 lbs. 217.00-250.00
 550-600 lbs. 206.00-244.00
 600-700 lbs. 206.00-232.00
 700-800 lbs. 180.00-213.00
Bull Calves:
 Under 250lbs (AVG-HIGH) 229.00-294.00
 250-300 lbs. 233.00-290.00
 300-350 lbs. 234.00-280.00
 350-400 lbs. 232.00-300.00
 400-450 lbs. 216.00-278.00
 450-500 lbs. 215.00-234.00
 500-550 lbs. 211.00-238.00
 550-600 lbs. 205.00-234.00
 600-700 lbs. 198.00-230.00
 Over 700 lbs. 179.00-202.00

Heifer Calves:
 under 200 lbs. (AVG-HIGH) 242.00-280.00
 200-250 lbs. 230.00-275.00
 250-300 lbs. 195.00-260.00
 300-350 lbs. 216.00-239.00
 350-400 lbs. 210.00-270.00
 400-450 lbs. 200.00-250.00
 450-500 lbs. 200.00-240.00
 500-550 lbs. 198.00-244.00
 550-600 lbs. 192.00-213.00
 600-700 lbs. 181.00-220.00
 Over 700 lbs. 159.00-200.00

Medium Cow & Calf Pairs: \$1400-2000
Stocker & Feeder Calves & Yearlings:
 Number 1 steer & bull calves:
 Under 200 lbs.: \$230-300
 200-300 lbs.: \$245-295
 300-400 lbs.: \$225-285
 400-500 lbs.: \$220-270
 500-600 lbs.: \$205-250
 600-700 lbs.: \$192-230
 700-800 lbs.: \$180-217.50
 Number 1 heifer calves:
 Under 200 lbs.: \$210-295
 200-300 lbs.: \$215-290
 300-400 lbs.: \$215-270
 400-500 lbs.: \$210-255
 500-600 lbs.: \$190-245
 600-700 lbs.: \$188-220
 700-800 lbs.: \$170-195
Replacement Heifers:
 350-750 lbs.: \$210-290

The calf market just continues to impress! All classes sold strong to instances a little higher. Demand is extremely good. Calves getting fleshier each week as pastures improve. Packer cows & bulls sold \$1 to \$2 higher on a supply of approximately 225 head. Stocker cows & pairs selling to good demand.

Seguin Cattle Co. Market Report
 May 24
 Quality good all the way through. Stocker cattle another 5 better with packer cows and bulls another 2-3 better.

Cattle - 734
Sheep & goats - 1123
Medium & large frame #1 Steers:
 200-300 lb. .65-2.09-2.85
 300-400 lb. .65-2.03-2.95
 400-500 lb. .80-1.98-2.60
 500-600 lb. .70-1.85-2.40
 600-700 lb. .80-1.82-2.26
 700-850 lb. .80-1.72-2.18

Medium & large frame #1 Heifers:
 200-300 lb. .95-2.06-2.55
 300-400 lb. .60-1.74-2.45
 400-500 lb. .55-1.92-2.45
 500-600 lb. .60-1.78-2.40
 600-750 lb. .90-1.71-1.98

Cows:
Utility & commercial - 78-94-110
Cutters - 77-87-97
Canners - 60-67-75
Palpated cow - NONE
Cow/Calf Pairs - 1400

Bulls:
Heavy High Yielding - 1.10-1.26
Light & Low Yielding - .85-1.09
Sheep & Goats:
Nannies - 80-280
Kid Goats (Fat) - 3.20-3.60
Wethers - 1.40-3.65
Billies - 1.50-3.60
Dorp. Ewes - 80-170
Dorp. Lambs (Fat) - 2.00-2.50
Wooled Ewes - 90-120
Wooled Bucks - 1.05-1.95
Lambs - 1.17-1.67
Barb. Bucks - NONE

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Hallettsville Livestock Commission Co., Inc.

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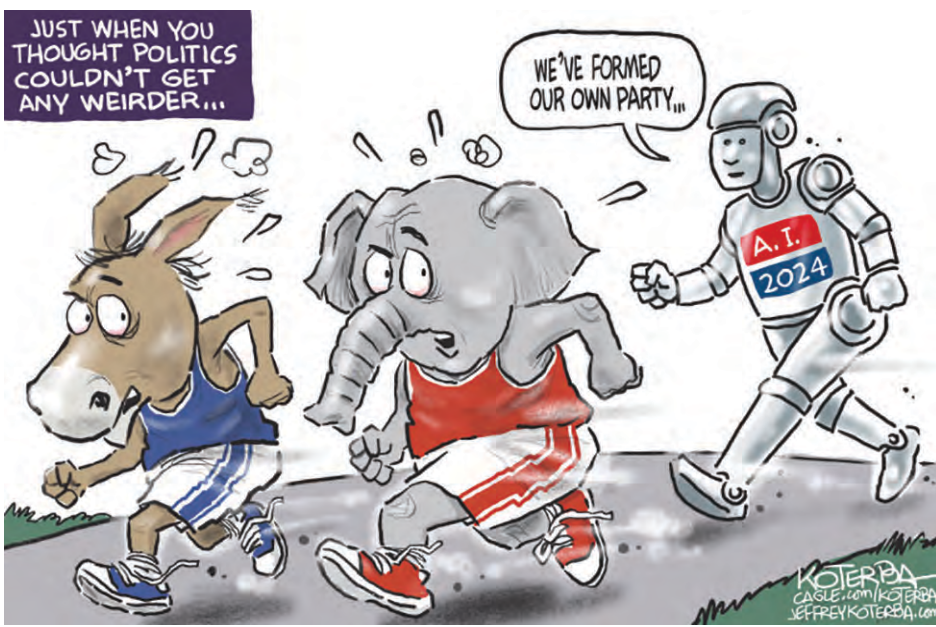
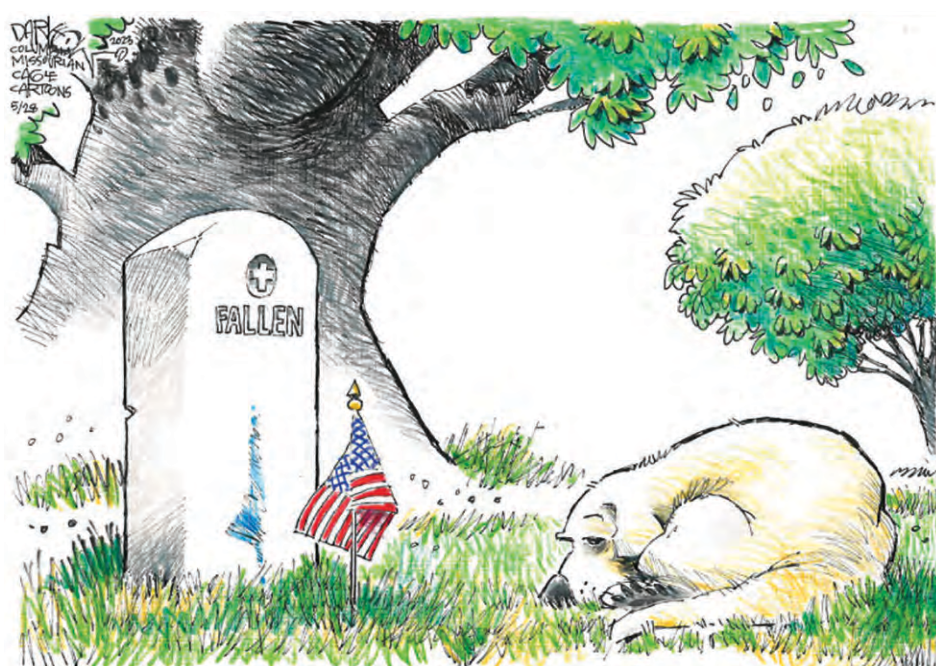
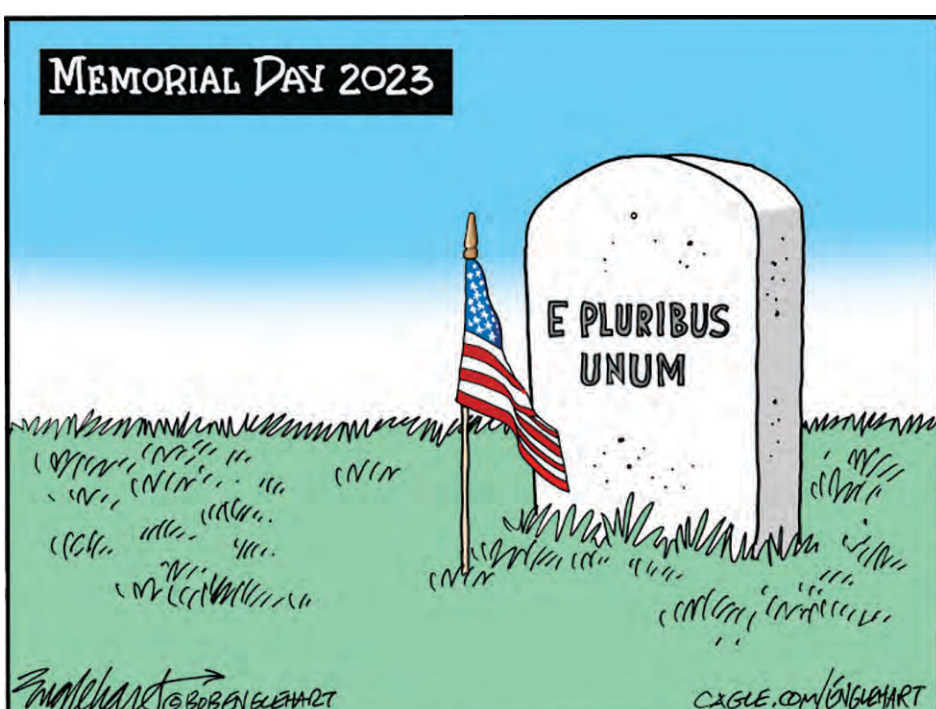
Packer Cows:
 Canner and Cutter Cows: \$76-102
 Utility & Fat Cows: \$70-97
 Low dressing canner cows: \$52-74

Poor/Weak: \$48-60
Packer Bulls:
 Heavyweight Bulls: \$115-127
 Utility & Cutter Bulls: \$103-116
 Lightweight Canner Bulls: \$92-102

Stocker Cows:
 Good Stocker/Cows & Heifers: \$1600-2450
 Medium Stocker Cows & Heifers: \$1050-1500
 Good Cow & Calf Pairs: \$2250-3000

GONZALES CO. HISTORY

- 1841 — first courthouse built (It was on what is now known as Church Square, where the Baptist and Methodist Churches are now located)
- 1879 — June 14, prohibition law passed in Gonzales by four votes.
- 1891 — June 4, Jobe has one of the most complete yards in the state, capable of turning out 40,000 steam pressed brick per day. They employ approximately fifty hands. Just above the brick yards, Mr. T.S. Walker is preparing to build a dam across the Guadalupe River, thus providing cheap power for the City.
- 1894 — June, John Wesley Hardin advertised his law office in town
- 1912 — June 3, after a heavy rain, the Inquirer reports that city employees are going about town digging boxes and pieces of boxes out of the storm drains. The stopped up drains caused unnecessary flooding in the city. Merchants are asked to not stack boxes or debris on their curbs or in the streets and admonished to "keep the welfare of your city in your heart."
- 1917 — June 7, 2702 men in the county have registered for the draft. Ten million five hundred thousand have registered in the country.
 - June 7, Cotton Mill is open.
 - June 14, Mr. H.R. Neitsch, his wife, three children (one is a one-year-old baby who will need three shots per day), and Arthur Ehrig are at the Pasteur Institute in Austin getting rabies treatment as a result of dog bite.
- 1918 — June 26, Mrs. Q.M. Sharp was the first female in Gonzales County to register to vote.
- 1930 — Jimmie Rogers, famed singer, is brought to the stage of the Crystal Theater by owner Lynn Smith, Sr.
 - Ernest Tubb, famed singer, is brought to the stage of the Crystal Theater by owner Lynn Smith, Sr.
- 1934 — June 22, mass meeting called to save Ottine State Park
 - June 23, citizens pledge \$2000 to match the \$2000 appropriated by Commissioners' Court to purchase the land needed for Ottine Park area.



The Gonzales Inquirer

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DR. DON NEWBURY
The Idle American

Parents in the Dark...

Prayers of university presidents and school superintendents for commencement exercises to be executed as planned often are short-circuited.

Some leaders are extremists--the kind who decree that neither blaring air horns nor unseemly yells will be tolerated. Their wish is for "pomp" to be exceeded only by "circumstance." Often, they experience countless "slips 'twixt cup and lip."

On occasion, though, commencement "foul-ups" are trumped by what may well be "Acts of God" that ascend to the peak of memories' mountains....

One recently occurred in Nacogdoches, TX, home of Stephen F. Austin State University. Hours after Mother Nature lashed out, a series of graduation exercises were scheduled for various university schools.

Around 1 a.m., a strong thunderstorm struck. Several trees crashed earthward, severing powerlines. At least one darkened what is arguably East Texas' most beautiful hotel. (The Fredonia Hotel, built in 1955 by Nacogdoches residents, was returned to opulence in 2017. That's when Richard and Barbara DeWitt gave it a multi-million dollar make-over.)

Loss of electricity meant more than darkness. It meant no elevators, no room service, no restaurant, no gift shop. Essentially, "no nothing..."

The Fredonia was packed with graduates' parents and other relatives, all filled with thanksgiving when their slumber began, wondering soon what "God hath wrought."

Earlier, lobby chatter between a few fathers of graduates agreed that "Acts of God" might be needed for their hard-to-motivate offspring to get diplomas.

Some may have just begun dreams of thanksgiving--thinking of sacrifices made, financial burdens borne and frustrations endured--now seemed worth the price. At least they'd have one memorable night at a top-tier hotel to remember....

It seems unlikely that my wife and I would not only be witnesses, but also participants, on this peculiar night at the Fredonia. We were in town to spin stories at a banquet of the Primetimers (senior adult group) at First Baptist Church.

We had yesteryear thoughts about things that went wrong during my "handing out" a few thousand diplomas at dozens of commencement exercises across two decades.

Gallows humor or not, we laughed while getting things together at 6 a.m., still engulfed in darkness. Only cellphone flashlights lit our way. I couldn't find my mouth to brush my teeth without jaw movement, so I told myself a joke. Luggage in hand and assisted by a friend, we made our way down five flights of stairs. Thankfully, safe descent was made possible in near total darkness by beams of cellphones--the very devices we've railed against so many times....

Only later did we learn that critical technology had gone afoul during one ceremony. Graduates' names--recorded earlier to ensure correct pronunciation--could not be summoned from their technological hideout.

Time was of the essence, so a real live person was enlisted to recite several hundred names, few of which he'd ever seen before. Dr. Tom Webster, FBC worship leader, accepted the challenge.

Long-time Nacogdoches folks may have remembered a statement often made by one of their favorite sons, nationally renowned after dinner speaker Bob Murphey. He claimed to speak "fair English and perfect East Texas." Some graduates from country--whose languages have no vowels but lots of syllables--may disagree....

Dr. Newbury, longtime university president, writes weekly and speaks to educational, church and business groups. Contact: 817-447-3872. Email: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Facebook: Don Newbury



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SUMMERTIME IS MAGIC TIME!

This summer, be sure to spend time at your local library. Did you know it is a magical place? Kid Scoop's Jim the Librarian says, "Be sure to tell your librarian the kinds of books you like to read. Your librarian is your guide to the magic of the library!"

Color one of these books each time you read a book this summer!

How many stars can you find on this page in two minutes?

Meet Famous People!

Books called **biographies** introduce you to famous people. Read about the lives of some interesting people this summer!

Use the code to reveal the names of some famous people. Read more about them at your library!	A=26 B=25 C=24 D=23 E=22	F=21 G=20 H=19 I=18 J=17	K=16 L=15 M=14 N=13 O=12	P=11 R=10 S=9 T=8 U=7
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Escape to Fun Places!

Books and stories are set in interesting places, all over the world and even in magical places. Color in part of this rocket's trail for each real or imaginary place you read about this summer.

Magazine Shelf

Every time you spend 10 minutes or more reading a magazine, color in one of the magazines on this shelf.

Travel Through Time!

Do you want to learn about pirates? Dinosaurs? Pyramids? History books can let you travel through time!

Can you find at least 10 differences between these two dinosaurs?

Playing games, following recipes and instructions for crafts all require reading!

Extra! Extra! Reading POPS!

Every time you do a Kid Scoop Extra! Extra! this summer, color in a firecracker!

Standards Link: Use the newspaper to locate information.

This week's **Kid Scoop** page is one big chart to keep track of your summer reading! Save this page and post it somewhere so you can track your reading accomplishments! ☆☆☆☆☆

Summer Reading Bingo

Every time you do one of the following, cross out that box. Score yourself:

- 1-3 boxes: **Bright Beginner**
- 4-7 boxes: **Strong Starter**
- 8-11 boxes: **Rising Reader**
- 12-15 boxes: **Reading Rock Star**
- 16-19 boxes: **Super Summer Reader**
- 20-23 boxes: **Powerhouse Reader**
- All 24 boxes: **ULTIMATE READER!**

Read outside for 30 minutes.	Read in bed.	Read with a friend.
Read to a parent.	Read to someone older than you.	Read to someone younger than you.
Listen to a story read to you.	Play a board game.	Read a book written before you were born.
Read a book a parent enjoyed as a child.	Read under a tree.	Read a book that makes you laugh.
Read a newspaper article to a family member.	Read first thing in the morning.	Get a library card.
Read to a friend over the phone.	Read with your feet in a pool.	Read 10 comic strips.
Read a spooky story.	Read with a friend, taking turns reading aloud.	Read a story written in rhyme.
Read and follow a recipe.	Read by a campfire.	Write a story and read it aloud.

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What do you think is the cutest animal on earth? Why? Write a paragraph to convince others to share your opinion.

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* Statistics published by the Newspaper Association of America from independent researchers.

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PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS

The Gonzales United soccer club took on Lion Club FC Sunday, May 28, at the Schertz Soccer Complex in Schertz, Texas.

Gonzales United kicks off club soccer

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

Soccer continues with the arrival of the Gonzales United soccer club, which began its first weekend of play Saturday, May 20.

The Gonzales United kicked off their second week Sunday, May 28 in Schertz, Texas and faced the Lion FC soccer club.

David Ontiveros, head coach Gonzales United, got the program going with help from Gonzales Apaches FC head coach Shea Seip.

“The soccer program got started because Coach Seip got here and he wanted to improve the whole environment in Gonzales. There’s a lot of kids that play soccer here in town, but they don’t get the experience coming out here and seeing this competition,” Ontiveros said.

Ontiveros added this is a stepping stone and the program is going in the right direction.



The 2023 Gonzales United soccer club.

Seip said it began when he asked Gonzales Youth Soccer League if they have spring soccer. When he learned they did not, he decided to bring soccer

to Gonzales. “With the club, not only do the players get to be on a select team and play all over the state, they get exposure to just how

big of a soccer world there is outside of Gonzales,” Seip said. Seip added that with club soccer, it’ll help these players progress when they enter the

high school level, instead of learning soccer from day one at the high school program.

“They would already know that and be better prepared, especially with the district and the stuff that we do, playing the San Antonio schools. They just have a lot more resources than we do, so it’s narrowing the gap,” Seip said.

As the head coach, Ontiveros is looking forward to these players learning the fundamentals of soccer with the club.

“They’re still young to where they’re getting the foundation of seeing competition like this, so when they get to junior high or get to high school, they can actually have, you know, something that solid to build off of,” Ontiveros said.

For more information on where to sign up with Gonzales United, visit the link below: <https://sites.google.com/view/lysa-gonzales/lysa-gonzales/gonzales-united?authuser=0>.

GOLF SCRAMBLE WINNERS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

The winning team from the May 24 Golf Scramble at Independence Golf Course in Gonzales were, from left, Craig Phillips, Jackie Waldrip, Chuck Emmick, Donnie Janicek, Billy Hyman and Ronnie DuBose.



The second-place team from the May 24 Golf Scramble at Independence Golf Course in Gonzales were, from left, Jake Barnick, Brant Philippus, Blake Cox, Dane King, Kameron Craft and Randall Dupree.

Free Fishing Day slated for June 3

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Each year on the first Saturday in June, anglers across the state pack their tackle boxes and get their fishing poles ready for the Texas tradition of Free Fishing Day. This year, Free Fishing Day lands on June 3 and Texans can fish on any public waterbody in the state without a fishing license.

“Free Fishing Day is a wonderful opportunity for anglers to share their knowledge, skills, equipment, and love for fishing with a new participant, yet it’s also more than that,” said Craig Bonds, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Inland Fisheries Director. “We hope those trying fishing on this special day will also learn that purchasing a license is an act of conservation. A fishing license purchase is one of the simplest and most effective way people can support fisheries science and management.”

Anglers help the conservation effort with their license purchase with 100 percent of fishing license fees going to TPWD. The fees fund on-the-ground conservation efforts such as fish stocking that help make Texas one of the best places in the country to fish. For more information on licensing, visit the TPWD license page.

To help celebrate Free Fishing Day, TPWD offers multiple resources to provide fun, high-quality fishing opportunities to anglers of all skill levels and all ages.

• Fishing 101 - Learn the basics of fishing with tips and a variety of videos. Find resources for how to get started, safety, supplies and

gear, casting and baiting, cleaning and storing fish on the TPWD Learn to Fish webpage.

• Visit Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center - Grab your family for a day of free fishing from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center is offering free admission for everyone, and visitors will have a chance to catch a tagged catfish and win a prize during “Fish Tag Friendly”. In addition, the Texas Fish Art Contest finalist and honorable mentions will be displayed from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Visitor Center. Hot dogs, hamburgers and drinks are on sale beginning at 11 a.m. Visitors can watch the dive show at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., followed by hatchery tram tours after each show. Visitors may bring their own fishing tackle or borrow gear from the TFFC.

• Visit Sea Center Texas - Grab your fishing poles, bait and lawn chairs for a free fishing event for youth ages 2-17. It takes place from 9 a.m.-11 a.m. June 3 at Sea Center Texas in Lake Jackson. Visitors can also explore aquaria and exhibits of Texas marine life, the largest red-fish hatchery in the world, 36 one-acre fish culture ponds, an outdoor wetland exhibit and a 20-foot touch pool that allows visitors to gently touch marine animals such as blue crabs, hermit crabs, stone crabs, snails and even anemones.

• Find a Place to Fish close to Home - Texas offers numerous lakes and rivers with access to fishing throughout the state. The Lake Finder page on the TPWD website can help anglers find lakes by region or alphabetically. Access to information and fishing tips on

more than 150 lakes are available. Check out the River Fishing page to find out where to get access to Texas’ flowing waters.

• Saltwater Fishing from a Pier - There are numerous wheelchair accessible piers available for public use up and down the coast. Public access sites can be found in every bay system.

• Community Fishing Lakes - Live Oak City (CFL), Waterloo Park Pond (CFL) and William Blair Jr. Park Pond East (CFL) are all hosting special events for Free Fishing Day. TPWD Inland Fisheries Dallas-Fort Worth District staff will be on hand at William Blair Jr. Park Pond for Representative Crockett’s Fish N’ Kids event from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. TPWD staff will provide casting education, supply loaner tackle and help the families fish.

• Fish in a State Park: Lake Livingston, Lake Arrowhead, Galveston Island, Sea Rim, LBJ, Bonham, Eisenhower, Martin Creek and Ray Roberts are offering a variety of Free Fishing Day events. Check out the state parks event calendar for more information. Although June 3 is designated as Free Fishing Day in Texas, fishing is free year-round at every Texas State Park.

• Buy a License: The Year-from-Purchase All-Water Fishing Package for Texas residents offers a great value, allowing anglers to fish in fresh and salt water. It’s valid from the date of purchase through the end of the purchase month of the next license year. (Example: License purchased on March 13, 2023 expires March 31, 2024)

Learn more about Free Fishing Day at TakeMeFishing.org.

IN MEMORIAL

Gonzales County Soldiers who paid the supreme sacrifice.

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

J. Knox Green
William Edward Bunton

WORLD WAR I

Frank Maloch
Milton J. Brice
John A. Kalinac
Bryan J. Robinson
John Edgar Freeman
Dr. Walter A. Schlick
John Abner Bartlett
Ferdinand F. Quita
Abern Jones Partain
Cleburne H. Foster
Arthur A. Caraway
Thomas R. Hopkins
Gustavus Robinson
Ross Holmes Alley
Robert A. Davis
Alfred G. Tiekens
Frank Brelsford
Robert F. Brown
George R. Ryan
Alfred W. Reed
Rufus Gillespie
Lacy R. Langley
Alva Rutledge
Walter F. Rueter
Steve Darnak
Wells Meyers
Arnie (Ollie) Mahan
Theafield Dylla
M. Phillipus
Pleas Weber
Henry Drake
Doran Vernor
George Cook
Arthur Pinn
Willie Leck
Jesse J. Long
Henry Numa Keck
Alvin Tolle
Willie and/or Daniel L. Ham
Dan Wiley
Ben A. Ehrig
Otto Cook
Willie Hill
Guy Goss
Winston D. Bower
Paublito Castenado
Joe Collins
Alfred Jurgens
Robert A. Soefje
John E. Wiley

WORLD WAR II

Lester A. Bailey
Joy V. Baker
Edmund W. Bielefeld
John B. Blackmon
Laval D. Brown, Jr.
Paulie C. Buss
Glenn E. Campbell
Leslie M. Caraway
James R. Collins
Clyde C. Crozier
Earl Daniels
Felix Delgado
Horace K. Duncan
Raymond H. Ehrig
Robert C. Farmer
Frank U. Flores
Martin P. Garcia
Guy D. Glass
C.P. Goodwin, Jr.
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Harper W. Harris
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Clyde S. Henley
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Lynwood Logan
Henry W. Malatek
Frank G. Martin
Felipe C. Martinez
Victor I. May
Braxton McKinney
Quillian H. McMichen
James L. Miller
Chester R. Nagel
James E. Newberry, Jr.
Henry P. Olivarez
David K. Ollre
Boyce Penrod, Jr.
Joseph N. Phelps
Eliido A. Quintero
Robert S. Rentz
John B. Rightmer
Chester T. Robinson
Vidal M. Salaz
Louie Schellenberg
James H. Scholl
Wayne Patterson
Roy L. Mudd
Edward H. Sellers
Martin J. Sessions
Horace L. Sherry
Cruz Soto
Juan Soto
Carl E. Spieckerman
M. M. Spieckerman
Henry J. Stehle
Jack K. Swearingen
Juan H. Tovar
Lee C. Trevino
Ignacio G. Vasquez
Joe M. Velasquez
Charlie J. Vlasak
Louis F. Wagner
Calvin W. Warren
Ferd West
John H. Steemer
Loye J. Lauraine, Jr.
Humbert Martinez Galindo
David Pruet Mahan
Jack W. Mang
Huey Irvin Mercer
Charles Darnell Parker
James Wayne Patterson
Fred Henry Hoermann
Sam Scrap Fairchild

VIETNAM WAR

Robert Franklin Asher
Billy Ray Baker
Carl Eugene Bolden
Thomas Dudley Chenault
Louis L. Schautteet, Jr.
David Ray Tomas
Jimmie Tuch

John 15:13

"Greater love has no man that this, that a man lay down his life for his friend."

If any name was left out. Please contact Larry Mercer, Gonzales County Veterans Association, at ljamercer@gvct.net.



GONZALES HONORS THE FALLEN ON MEMORIAL DAY

Above: American Legion Post #40 members' Albert Rodriguez and David Tuce salute the United States and Texas flag with Larry Mercer for the Memorial Day ceremony Monday, May 29. Rodriguez, Tuce and Mercer read the names of those from Gonzales County made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. Below: The Gonzales High School Naval JROTC carries the United States and Texas flag for the annual Memorial Day reading of the names ceremony. Right: The United States flag in Texas Heroes Square at half-staff for Memorial Day Monday, May 29.

PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS



The Gonzales High School Naval JROTC raise the United States and Texas flag for the playing of the national anthem.



Members of the Veterans of Foreign War Post #4817 pay their respect for their fellow service members for the annual Memorial Day Reading of the Names ceremony.



Veterans and community members pay their respect for the service members from Gonzales County who gave their life for their country.



Brenda Cash, of the Republican Women of Yoakum Area, places a wreath in memory of the Gonzales County service members who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.



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The YMCA in Victoria is looking for a **PROGRAM DIRECTOR** for the Gonzales Program Center. This is a full-time, salary position. Contact Bud Oliver at woliver@ymcavictoria.org or 361-575-0511 for more info.

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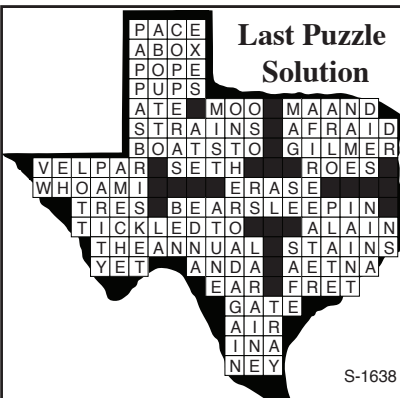
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4	1	6	8	2	3	7	9	5
5	9	2	6	4	7	1	3	8
1	3	5	4	8	2	9	7	6
9	4	8	7	1	6	5	2	3
2	6	7	9	3	5	8	1	4
6	8	4	3	9	1	2	5	7
7	5	9	2	6	4	3	8	1
3	2	1	5	7	8	6	4	9

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So, how are you doing today? Very well I hope, but if not, hang in there, you're not done yet, and are certainly not alone. Another opportunity to exercise our faith can only make us stronger, renewing our hope in tomorrow. It seems that keeping our hope alive in times of adversity is not only a daunting task, but an intense full time job as well. Those of us who follow Christ have a distinct advantage, as God's power is far greater than our own, but for those who don't, you may want to turn your gaze in that direction, you won't be disappointed. Scriptures that have encouraged me along the way are Isaiah 40:29 "He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak" and Psalm 29:11 "The Lord gives His people strength; the Lord blesses His people with peace." Judging by today's opening, you're probably assuming that I'm having a tough go of it myself. Well kinda, but not really, I'll explain. This article marks five years since Eloise passed away, and by no coincidence, five years since I stepped in and started writing these short, hopefully encouraging articles, to honor her legacy and continue what she started many years ago. She also "loved you guys".

Having survived (just barely at times) the first five years of my personal (everyone processes somewhat

differently) grief journey, I encourage anyone that has-is-or will go through this horrendous process to hang in there, as it will get easier with time and healing. Always striving to be the glass half full kinda guy, it was hard to tell if I was sad because I was depressed, or depressed because I was sad? Seems the jury's still out on that one. Either way, clinging to God and working through the process has definitely paid off, as I'm doing much better these days. The truth of the matter is that loosing a loved one sucks!!! It's something we never really "get over", as when they die, an important part of ourselves dies with them. To me, this easily falls into the "Post Traumatic Stress Disorder" category. After being traumatized and stressed to the outer limits of our coping abilities, we find that our lives have been completely upended and are now in total disorder. I honestly remember very little of the first few years after she passed, as it felt like I'd been hit in the face with an anvil, knocking my sense of reality completely out of whack. My very first article was entitled The New Norm, and a half decade later...I'm still trying to figure it out.



ERIC ESTES
Love, Eric and Eloise

I just watched an excellent movie on Netflix starring Tom Hanks about a man navigating through his own battle with grief. Of course with Hanks playing the main character (Otto)

it was very well done, and I could definitely relate to his struggle, but be warned, it's not for people in a dark state of depression as the movie was very intense, so please give that some thought before watching. For me it was simple; God first - understand that there is light at the end of the tunnel - keep busy moving forward and take care of yourself, as you'll need your strength for the battle ahead.

Grieving the losses of life, while taking many different forms, is never quick, easy or pleasant. Whether someone chooses to believe it or not (your own personal choice), I do believe that you were specifically created out of love, with a purpose and plan for your life. Yep, "Mission Possible - if you should choose to accept it". So, put God in your corner, strap on your coolest Tom Cruise glasses, and complete your journey with all the gusto you can muster, 'cause you just never know where the the next chapter could take you!

Love you guys, Eric.

Thompsonville Community Church celebrates 12th anniversary

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Thompsonville Community Church is inviting the public to attend a 'Rededication Service' for their 12th anniversary on Sunday, June 4, 2023, at 2494 County Road 423, Waelder.

They will have Adult Bible Study at 9:15 a.m., with Church Service at 10:30 a.m. The Rededication Service will follow, with a short prayer, a brief history of the Church, and a flag raising. This will be followed by 'Dinner on the Grounds' and other monthly business meeting.

This historical property was donated 164 years ago, the building was erected 126 years ago, with renovations 63 years ago, upgrades 33 years ago, and recent improvements in 2022.

The Thompsonville Cemetery Association continues to help care for the Church building, the adjacent Community Center and the cemetery, down the road. The history here is rich and diversified, however currently they are non-denominational and invite you to learn more about the church at www.thompsonvillecc.com.

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OBITUARIES

CLETO ESCALONA REYNA

Cleto Escalona Reyna, 54, of Waelder, passed away Thursday, May 25, 2023. He was born to his parents Alfonso Reyna Gallegos and Matilde Escalona Ontiveros in Santa Cruz, Matehuala, San Luis Potosi, Mexico on February 26, 1969.

Cleto loved to barbecue, he could easily prove his barbeque chicken was the best. He loved spending time barbecuing for his friends and family and shared his love for them with his food. Cleto was also a kid at heart, playing with all of the kids in the family brightened his day. His pride and joy was his only grandson, "Pablito", he was there for every sports game and activity, and tried to influence Pablito to be more like him. He was a generous man to say the least, often times when he'd visit family from Mexico he'd return with only the clothes he had on, he would give what he could to his family back home. Cleto was loved by his family and friends, he leaves behind an emptiness that his family is feeling, but they know they will meet with him again one day.

He is survived by his daughter Mary Lee Torres (Jose Pablo), his grandson Pablo "Pablito" Torres, his wife Benita Vela, his siblings Jesus Reyna Escalona (Francisca), Maria Vela (Jose), Felipe Reyna Escalona (Felicita), Ruperto Reyna (Faustina), Paulina Reyna, German Reyna Escalona, Evelio Reyna Escalona, Alfonso Reyna Escalona, Maria Isabel Puga (Guadalupe), and Jose Guadalupe Reyna Escalona. He is also survived by numerous



nieces, nephews, cousins, and longtime friend Maria Guadalupe Guerra.

He is preceded in death by his parents Alfonso Reyna Gallegos and Matilde Escalona Ontiveros.

A visitation will take place Friday, June 2, 2023, at Seydler - Hill Funeral Home, from 5:00pm - 7:00pm, with a rosary following at 7:00pm. A Mass of The Resurrection will take place Saturday, June 3, 2023, at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Waelder, Texas at 10:00am. Interment will follow at Waelder Community Cemetery. Pallbearers include Gerardo Reyna, Jesus Reyna, Ruperto Reyna, Jr., Saul Reyna, Carlos Reyna, Benito Vela, Fidel Reyna, and Javier Reyna. Honorary Pallbearers will include Eduardo Reyna, Alfonso Reyna, Jr., Guadalupe Puga, Jr., Francisco Puga, Jose Vela, Jr., and Eduardo Vela.

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

Cleto Escalona Reyna, 54, de Waelder, falleció jueves, el 25 de mayo en 2023. El nació el 26 de febrero de 1969 en Santa Cruz de Matehuala, San Luis Potosi, México a sus padres Alfonso

Reyna Gallegos y Matilde Escalona Ontiveros.

A Cleto le encantaba hacer carne asada, podía demostrar fácilmente que su pollo asado era lo mejor. Le encantaba pasar tiempo haciendo carnes asadas para sus amigos y familiares y compartía su amor por ellos con su comida. Cleto también era un niño de corazón, jugar con todos los niños de la familia alegraba su día. Su orgullo y alegría era su único nieto, "Pablito", él estaba allí para cada juego y actividad deportiva, y trato de influir en Pablito para que se pareciera más a él. Era un hombre generoso, por decir lo menos, muchas veces cuando visitaba a su familia de México, regresaba solo con la ropa que tenía puesta, le daba lo que podía a su familia en casa. Cleto fue amado por su familia y amigos, deja atrás un vacío que su familia esta sintiendo, pero saben que algún día se reencontraran con él.

Le sobreviven su hija Mary Lee Torres (Jose Pablo), su nieto Pablo "Pablito" Torres, su esposa Benita Vela, sus hermanos Jesús Reyna Escalona (Francisca), María Vela (José), Felipe Reyna Escalona (Felicita), Ruperto Reyna (Faustina), Paulina Reyna, German Reyna Escalona, Evelio Reyna Escalona, Alfonso Reyna Escalona, María Isabel Puga (Guadalupe), y José Guadalupe Reyna Escalona. También le sobreviven numerosas sobrinas, sobrinos, primos y su amiga cercana María Guadalupe Guerra.

Le precedieron en la muerte sus padres Alfonso Reyna Gallegos y Matilde Escalona Ontiveros.

El vellorio se llevará a cabo la Funeraria de Seydler - Hill, jueves el 2 de mayo de 2023, a las 5:00pm - 7:00pm, en seguida el rosario será empezando a las 7:00pm. La misa de resurrección será en la iglesia de San Patricio en Waelder, Tejas. El entierro seguirá en el panteón de comunidad de Waelder. Los portadores del féretro incluyen Gerardo Reyna, Jesús Reyna, Ruperto Reyna, Jr., Saul Reyna, Carlos Reyna, Benito Vela, Fidel Reyna, y Javier Reyna. Los portadores del féretro honorarios incluyen Eduardo Reyna, Alfonso Reyna, Jr., Guadalupe Puga, Jr., Francisco Puga, José Vela, Jr., y Eduardo Vela.

Los servicios están bajo el cuidado y dirección de la Funeraria de Seydler - Hill.

THERESA YVONNE CANALES

Theresa Yvonne Canales was born on Oct. 17, 1971, in Ft. Cavazos, Tx, formerly known as Fort Hood, to Margarito and Esperanza Martinez Canales, the fourth of their six children. An Army brat, Theresa's childhood and elementary school years were spent traveling in Europe. Those experiences instilled in her a passion and curiosity for learning about different cultures which deepened throughout her life. She wouldn't have time to learn all that she wanted to know-which was everything-but she filled her time learning all she wanted to know.

The world would always be her classroom and she would always be an enthusiastic teacher and insatiable student.

At Ellison High School in Killeen, Tx. from where she graduated in 1989, Theresa was a popular cheerleader and obo player. She enrolled in Incarnate Word College (now the University of the Incarnate Word) with the intent of becoming a nun. She changed her mind on that career path but still wanted to be an educator, graduating in 1994 with a Bachelor of Arts in English and a Texas Certification for Secondary English & Writing Education (Life).

Theresa's work in community engagement and political activism began as an undergraduate at Incarnate Word. Though never the nun she'd once envisioned herself, Theresa's live and work was one of service, of living out her faith to do good for others. Driving her work was her belief that people should do better by one another and take care of each other. Education, community service, and politics were the avenues she used to channel this passion. Most important to her were children, their health, safety, education, and development. If they were to grow into compassionate and well-informed adults, they needed all the education she and other teachers could give.

Her teaching stints included being a Reading/Language Arts Teacher and Language School Teacher for District-wide Middle School Programs in the Edgewood Independent School District and All Level ESL & 6th Grade Classroom English Teacher at Brooks Academy of Science & Engineering (K-12). But Theresa knew she could increase her impact on her students by having an impact on the policies



which would shape their lives and she knew her way around committee rooms as well as classrooms.

During the Texas House of Representatives 75th Legislative Session in 1997, she worked for State Representative Irma Rangel who chaired the Texas Committee on Higher Education. Theresa was that committee's clerk who was responsible for organizing and disseminating information to committee members. She also researched bills and drafted analyses, speaking points and correspondence of behalf of the committee chair. Among the local elected officials who Theresa worked with in some capacity was Congressman Charlie Gonzalez, Mayor Ed Garza, State Rep. Mike Villarreal, County Commissioner Tommy Calvert Jr., City Councilwomen Rebecca and Phyllis Viagran and Mayor Ron Nirenberg.

Upon learning of her death, Nirenberg said, "She was an incredible person, so generous with her knowledge. I think about her often because she was one of our small circles who advised me on how to run for office. She taught me how to block walk. May she rest in peace."

Her extensive community service included but wasn't limited to being a volunteer coach for Girls on the Run of Bexar County; kitchen volunteer at Haven for Hope and St. Vincent de Paul; former board member for Planned Parenthood Government Affairs Council; Volunteer Adult ESL/Citizenship Teacher at the Valasquez Literacy & Leadership Development Center (City of San Antonio.) There wasn't much which Theresa wasn't interested in or couldn't do. She not only loved cooking, gardening, calligraphy, astronomy, botany, religious practices of various cultures, science, art, literature, music, Shakespeare, and history but could speak knowledgeably on these. She was a talented cook, writer, musician, artist and she developed websites and designed,

coded, and developed databases.

But Theresa's greatest gifts was her zest for life and endless capacity for love. This beautiful and petite smiling force of nature was a source of light, good cheer, and strength for all who knew and loved her. And there are many.

A few years ago, her friend, world-famous poet Naomi Shihab Nye, immortalized Theresa (who sometimes dropped the 'h' from her name) in a poem, "You Are Your Own State Department"

"When your country does not feel cozy, what do you do?"

Theresa walks more now, to feel closer to her ground. If destination within two miles, she must

hike or take the bus. Carries apples, extra bottles of chilled water to give away."

But at the center of her life was her love for children. She was a mother to all the children in her life and had a special relationship with each of her nieces and nephews.

Theresa passed away on May 25. At the time of her death, she was the Outreach Coordinator for St. Mary's University. She was preceded in death by her mother Esperanza Martinez Canales.

She is survived by her father Margarito Canales and stepmother Mary Canales, sisters Laura Morales (Jose Morales), Graciela Canales (Andrés Luna) and brothers Herman Canales (Megen Canales), Christopher Canales, and Adam Canales (Sandra Canales). Her nieces and nephews Christina Trentzsch, Bobby Canales, Magdalena Canales, Emily Canales, Marcos Canales, Andrés Canales, Clarissa Canales and Adrián Canales; great-nephew and great-niece Julian and Araceli Herrera and so many other family members and loved ones.

A visitation will be held Sunday, June 4, 2023, from 5:00pm - 7:00pm at Seydler - Hill Funeral Home, 906 St. Paul St. Gonzales, Texas 78629, with a rosary following at 7:00pm. A Mass of The Resurrection will be held Monday, June 5, 2023, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Gonzales, Texas at 10:00am. Interment will follow at St. James Catholic Cemetery in Gonzales, Texas.

A memorial service in San Antonio will be held at a later date.

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

Insurance for RVs: Know your coverages

Who doesn't love a camping trip in the great outdoors to soak in the sun and listen to the birds chirping? Before you pack up the RV, check your insurance to be sure you're covered for whatever the road may bring your way.



- Travel trailer insurance**
Travel trailers or fifth wheels are pulled with a truck. Your auto insurance might pay for accidents you cause while pulling the trailer.
But you probably need a separate RV policy or endorsement to cover damage to the travel trailer itself. Ask your insurance agent or company.
- Motor home insurance**
Motor homes are drivable and aren't pulled by a truck. Texas law requires you to have an auto policy with liability coverage for your motor home to pay for accidents you cause.
To pay for damage to your own motor home, you'll need collision and comprehensive coverage. That also pays for damage caused by things other than a collision, like fires, floods, and theft.
- Coverage for the stuff inside**
You'll need a RV policy to cover personal property inside your travel trailer or motor home. Your home policy might pay some, but the coverage is very limited. Ask your agent how much coverage you have and if you can buy more.
- Living in your RV**
If you live full time in your RV, consider buying "full-timers coverage." Full-timers coverage includes personal property and liability coverage. Liability coverage pays for others.

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HECTOR ORLANDO DOMINGUEZ

Hector Orlando Dominguez passed away on Thursday, May 25, 2023, at the age of 65. He was born on August 12, 1957, in Nixon, Texas to Refugio Dominguez and Rosa (Guerra) Dominguez.

Hector is survived by his wife of 45 years, Ellie Dominguez; son, Hector Dominguez, Jr.; daughter, Briana Dominguez (Emmanuel Veliz); father-

in-law, Adan Ramirez; bonus grandson, M.J. Veliz; sisters, Ida Estrada, Lana Diaz (Adolpho); Elizabeth Benavidez (Daniel); brothers, Richard Dominguez (Mary), Armando Dominguez (Isabel); numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins that he truly loved. He is preceded in death by his parents; sisters, Yolanda Anaya, Jessica Dominguez; sister-in-



law, Michele Dominguez; mother-in-law, Martina Ramirez.

The family will hold a private memorial service at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Stockdale Church of Christ, 633 State Hwy 123 N, Stockdale, TX 78160.

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OBITUARIES

JESSE NELLE REID HAHN



Jesse Nelle Reid Hahn, 88, of Pleasanton, passed away on Tuesday, May 23, 2023. Born to Tillman Jesse and Elizabeth Scoggins Reid, on July 16, 1936, she grew up in Gonzales and graduated from GHS in 1952. Two days after Nelle turned eighteen, she and Herbert Hahn were married. The newlyweds moved to Waco, where Herbert worked for the U. S. Postal service; then, soon afterward, the fledgling family (that now included son Jim), ministered and worshiped with a succession of Texas churches: Troy, Schertz, Victoria.

From Victoria, they launched out into overseas missions, traveling to Amsterdam, the Netherlands, where they remained for half a decade. Upon returning to the States, the couple (with children Jim and Lori in tow) settled in Vanderbilt, Texas. As Herbert transitioned from ministry into insurance sales, Nelle worked in the advertising department of the Edna Herald newspaper. She would go on to interact with students of Industrial ISD as an elementary classroom aide, a librarian, and a lunch-room attendant. While living in Vanderbilt, the family adopted their third child, Karen.

From 1970 to 1982, Nelle served as the Industrial 4-H chapter leader, teaching classes, overseeing projects, manning booths, and creating award-winning Jackson County Fair displays. In 1985, the Hahns moved to Gonzales where they would live (and ranch) for thirty-two years in the house Nelle had designed. During those passing decades, Nelle applied herself to work, to church, and to family. She labored at Gonzales House, a care home for special needs adults. She owned and managed the local Merle Norman studio. She built sheds and refinished furniture. She taught women's Bible classes and

poured her heart into Seydler Street Church of Christ's annual VBS. She organized and orchestrated the lion's share of her high school graduating class's reunions - up to and including 2022's 70th annual gathering. And, of course, she provided her special brand of attention to her nine grandchildren.

After Herbert's passing six years ago, Nelle moved to Pleasanton to live with Karen and her family. She continued to engage in the activities that interested her - attending grandsons' sports events, reading, painting, and writing stories drawn from memories of her youth. Jesse Nelle Reid Hahn was a woman of integrity -- scrupulously honest, often strong-willed, always opinionated. She was a perfectionist, an artist with a literalist's eye for verisimilitude. Within her beat an empathetic heart for God's "little ones" - ever tender, unabashedly emotional, completely unpretentious. She spoke and taught and lived like the Bible "says what it means and means what it says." A daddy's girl to the core, she loved her family unconditionally, and was equally at home walking a cow pasture, crossing a busy street, mixing a batch of holiday dressing, or cradling a fussy baby. Nelle embodied Scripture's proverbial woman of noble character, who "fears the Lord"; and of whom it is said: "Her children arise and call her

blessed; her husband also, and he praises her. Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all" (Pr 31:28-29). Recently, Nelle had decided to move to Highland Estates, an Austin-based retirement home. She lived there only a matter of days before making her final journey heavenward.

Jesse Nelle Reid Hahn is survived by three children, Jim Hahn of Waco, LoriAnn Hahn Lavallee of Austin, and Karen Hahn Fuselier of Pleasanton; nine grandchildren: Beth Hahn, Rachel Dacke, Colton Fuselier, Colby Fuselier, JoLyn Hahn Kile, Caroline Hahn Gray, Travis Lavallee, Sarah Nelle Lavallee, and Caden Fuselier; grandchildren-in-law Dylan Kile, Summer Fuselier, and Todd Gray; two great-grandchildren, Kayce Fuselier and Lennon Kile; one daughter-in-law Jan Smithy Hahn; two sons-in-law Robert Fuselier and Kirk Lavallee; brother, T. J. Reid, Jr., and sister-in-law Pat Reid; nieces Kay Tolbert Drescher and Darla Reid Hadley; nephew Mark Reid; and numerous cousins. Preceding her in death were her husband Herbert, her parents, her sister Evelyn Reid Tolbert, and brother-in-law Arthur Tolbert.

Visitation is scheduled from 5 to 7 p.m., Monday, May 29, at Seydler-Hill Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m., Tuesday, May 30, also at Seydler-Hill Funeral Home, with her son Jim Hahn of Waco officiating. Interment will follow at Gonzales Memorial Park Cemetery. Pallbearers will be her grandsons, as well as her sons-in-law. Her five granddaughters will serve as honorary pallbearers.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Sunny Glen Children's Home, San Benito, Texas.

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



Sesame Study Club officers include Linda Arledge, Historian; Jenice Benedict, Recording Secretary; Lynn Gescheidle, President; and Kim Strozier, Corresponding Secretary.

Sesame Study Club installs new officers

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Sesame Study Club met at the Robert L. Brothers Memorial Library on May 24, 2023. Hostesses Linda Arledge and Sandra Miller greeted the members with a Memorial Day red, white, and blue-decorated table of refreshments, including raspberries, strawberries, blueberries, pecans, cheeses and crackers, and Ross's cookies from Bluestem.

President Celia Glass called the meeting to order, led the group in the collect, and called for officer and standing committee reports. Treasurer Laura Kaspar reported thank you notes from the Library for Sesame Study Club's honorariums, given in the names of each program presenter this year, and for the Club's donation to the Friends of the Library.

The Library is a special interest of the club, and the monthly report by Christina Menking of the Library Committee showing how much our community uses the library is of great interest. Last month, 5,512 patrons walked through the doors of our library and 1,065 visited the Tinsley Historical Center. Users checked out 1,364 books, 431 videos, and 357 e-books. Internet was used by 245 and 47 new library

cards were issued. The City of Gonzales purchased 128 new books, Friends of the Library added 6, and 9 were donated.

Joan Griffin of the Book Club presented Sandra Richter's book, "The Epic of Eden," a highly acclaimed Old Testament study. She gave the members a copy of the timeline included in the book that she has found helpful in her Bible study. Parliamentarian-Critic Linda Arledge guided the members to a clear understanding of the three types of Sesame Club memberships, and that led to agreement on future actions.

Dana Hamilton of the Good Cheer Committee thanked President Celia Glass for her leadership this year and, in appreciation, presented her with a pin, engraved with her name, President 2022-2023, and Sesame Study Club. President Glass then announced the new officers: President, Lynn Gescheidle; Vice President, Melinda Grady; Recording Secretary, Jenice Benedict; Corresponding Secretary, Kim Strozier; Treasurer, Karen Fougerat; Historian, Linda Arledge; Press Reporter, Diana Fougelle; Parliamentarian, Celia Glass.

Sesame Study Club then adjourned until Wednesday, September 27, 2023.

JANIE IRENE MEDEL



Janie Irene Medel, 73, of Yoakum, passed away May 25th, 2023. Born Janie Irene Guevara on November 27, 1949, in Lockart, Texas to Santiago Guevara and Juanita Lopez. A generous and caring woman, Janie graduated from nursing school in 1984 and served patients in hospitals and rehabilitation homes in Yoakum and surrounding areas for over 30 years.

She is survived by her husband, Avellino Medel, her sons Fernando Cansino, Javier Cansino, and Avellino Medel II, her grandchildren Haley

Smith, Mark Cansino, Candice Chandler, and Scott Chandler, and her sisters Susan Flores and Sylvia Guevara Banda. She

is preceded in death by her parents Santiago and Juanita Guevara, her siblings Minerva Guevara, her siblings Minerva Martinez, Aurora Zumaya, Oralia Curry, Freddie Guevara, and Catarina Guevara.

A visitation will be held at Seydler-Hill Funeral Home on June 1, 2023, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., with a rosary following at 7 p.m. A Mass of The Resurrection will take place at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Gonzales, Tx at 10 a.m. conducted by Fr. Jason Martini.

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

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ACROSS

- "happy as a ____"
- flying saucers
- "legal eagle" charges
- New Braunfels FM
- surgical recovery area in a hosp.
- TX Kenny Rogers early group: "The First ____"
- TXism: "in this ____ of the woods"
- TXism: "____ the horse's mouth" (confirmed)
- "____" Aldrich helped TCU be the national champ in 1938
- Fort Davis football class (2 wds.)
- TXism: "the bigger they ____, the harder they fall"
- TX Farrah Fawcett, e.g. (2 wds.)
- UT Southwestern Medical Center is a leader in treatment of multiple ____
- 8th governor Clark of Texas, for short
- TX Harrelson 2004 film: "She ____"
- country FM station in Abilene
- TX singer songwriter, Griffith
- "____ Bend" is a curve in the Gulf Coast
- famous writer Mark who owned land in Archer County
- many Texas towns had a prisoner of ____ in World War II
- birth st. of honorary Texan, John Wayne
- man in 45-across was every ____ cowboy
- like a proton but with no electric charge
- fortunately
- dir. from Weatherford to McGregor
- TX ____ "Bum" Phillips
- Amtrak tracks relating to the roof of the mouth
- dishonest schemes
- "one ____ time"
- evergreen tree
- TX Ross Perot 1st naval rank (abbr.)
- cowboy bolos
- TXism: "if the saddle squeaks, ____ paid for"
- Texas-based 1943 film: "King ____ the Cowboys"
- gun rights grp.
- "____" Cavern State Park
- in Upshur County on U.S. 259 (2 wds.)
- Hondo is seat of this county
- former Ranger closer, Henke (init.)
- large tub
- meat & veggie dish cooked in a pot
- state residents
- TXism: "strong as ____ breath"
- save from danger
- "____ Brown & His Band of Renown"
- TXism: "could ____ through a crowbar" (hot chili)
- fish-eating duck
- hammer targets
- TXism: "does a ____ have a climbing gear?" (yes)
- 17th governor, Roberts (init.)
- TX Tommy Lee Jones film: "Eyes of ____"
- "siestas"
- TXism: "raining ____ and dogs"
- Korean car
- TXism: "hot as ____ griddle"
- language of the Romans

DOWN

- Dez Bryant city
- TXism: "he'd argue with ____ post"
- TXism for "store bought molars"
- Sulphur Springs AM
- past Oilers WR, Givins (init.)
- TXism: "dead as a ____"
- TXism: "pay ____ never mind" (ignore)

TEXAS CROSSWORD
 by Charley & Guy Orbison
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SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

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

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.

Retired teachers participate in spring conference

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Gonzales County Retired Teachers Association took part in the May 11 Texas Retired Teachers Association District 13 Spring Conference in Kyle.

Debbie Lewis, Diane Halliburton, Robin Finch, Fayerene Smith and Karen Smith were active participants in the Table Talk Sessions sharing ideas with officers from the other 13 counties. Trivia questions to answer, door prizes, and awards kept

the tempo up in between agenda items. Larry Yawn gave a legislative report. A 13th check would be renamed a supplemental check. The process for a COLA continues to move forward. Stay tuned to Tim Lee at 4 p.m. on Thursdays for updates. Keep your eyes on the goal! The District 13 Fall Conference is scheduled for Sept. 14, 2023, in Kyle. Hope to see you there! The GCRTA held their



Robinson

regular meeting on May 16 at Abiding Word Lutheran Church. Guest speaker was Melisa Robinson, assistant manager, Victoria College Gonzales Center, who hared flyers promoting Health Careers, Continuing Education, Industrial Trades, (HVAC, plumbing, and electrical) and noted part-time positions available for tutors and WebEx Proctors. The presentation was very informative.



Debbie Lewis, Diane Halliburton, Robin Finch, Fayerene Smith and Karen Smith.

CONTRIBUTED

GHS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

graduation ceremony.

“As a freshman, you came in a little nervous and excited at high school. And then, in March of 2020, COVID happened, and we shut down school. We were unaware of what was going to happen, or how school was even going to look,” Basha said.

Basha joked with the seniors one last time and told them they still have to make up those nine weeks they’ve missed from freshman year.

“All joking aside, I’m

honored to be able to stand here in front of you today, your last day as a student for GISD, and your first day as a GISD alumnus. I will ask that you always remember where you come from, and never forget to tell your story,” Basha said.

Cooper LaBuhn was named the valedictorian of the class of 2023, and Maria Vazquez was named Salutatorian.

“The day is finally here where we celebrate the journey that we embark on throughout our years

at Gonzales,” Vazquez said. “We as a class have a lot to be proud of as we reminisce on our years at Gonzales High School.”

Vazquez said she was blessed to be part of this year’s graduating class of 2023 and knows after ceremony they’ll part ways and begin their separate lives.

“You will be faced with many challenges, but I truly believe that every one of us is more than capable of overcoming anything that comes our way. These challenges

will allow us to continue to grow and to create a life you’re proud of,” Vazquez said.

Valedictorian LaBuhn reminded his fellow seniors to remember the great experiences that shaped at Gonzales

“It’s important to remember the experiences that shaped us throughout our years of high school. Maybe it was sports, maybe it was band. Maybe it was academics. Maybe it was spending time with your friends,” LaBuhn said.

“As we gear up to leave this all behind, think about what or who made you the way that you are. What shaped you into the graduate that you are today?” LaBuhn added.

Class president Haley Bairrington closed out the graduation ceremony with the moving of tassels.

“As we embark on our greatest years of our lives, to open new chapters in this very special way, something I believe very strongly that this is the greatest class to gradu-

ate from Gonzales High School,” Bairrington said.

Bairrington, LaBuhn, Vazquez and the class of 2023 remembered their classmate Morgan Farrar, who would’ve graduated with them had she not passed away several years earlier.

“I wish Morgan was here to celebrate with us. I know she’s looking down upon us from heaven,” Bairrington said.

One hundred and ninety-four seniors graduated from the class of 2023.

GONZALES COUNTY SALES TAX ALLOCATIONS - MAY

County	City	Rate	Net Payment This Period	Comparable Payment Prior Year	% Change	Payment YTD	Prior Year Payment YTD	% Change
Gonzales	Gonzales	1.500%	\$282,129.58	\$274,808.21	2.66%	\$1,333,712.40	\$1,280,030.47	4.19%
Gonzales	Nixon	1.500%	\$35,548.12	\$34,109.11	4.21%	\$169,310.16	\$148,372.64	14.11%
Gonzales	Smiley	1.000%	\$3,432.85	\$2,597.40	32.16%	\$15,025.74	\$12,428.26	20.89%
Gonzales	Waelder	1.500%	\$12,486.23	\$7,540.49	65.58%	\$59,701.37	\$32,407.88	84.21%

SALES TAX

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Hegar announced he will send cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose districts \$1.2 billion in local sales tax allocations for May, 4.3 percent more than in May 2022.

These allocations are based on sales made in March by businesses that report tax monthly and sales made in January, February and March by quarterly filers.

For the month of May 2023, Gonzales County municipalities received a combined \$333,596.78 in sales tax allocations, up \$14,541.57 or nearly 4.56 percent more than the \$319,055.21 received during May 2022.

For the year, county municipalities have received \$1,577,749.67, an increase of \$104,510.42 or almost 7.1 percent above the \$1,473,239.25 received through the first five months of 2022.

Sales tax allocations for Gonzales, the largest city in the county which generates the lion’s share of sales tax revenue, were \$288,129.58, up \$7,321.37 or 2.66 percent above the

\$274,808.21 received during May 2022.

This sets a new record for the month of May in Gonzales and is the eighth best month on record for the city since the Comptroller’s Office began keeping track of sales tax allocations.

For the year, the city has received \$1,333,712.40, up \$53,681.93 or 4.19 percent, above the \$1,280,030.47 received at this same point in 2022.

Waelder received a total of \$12,486.23, up 65.58 percent or \$4,943.74, above the \$7,540.49 received in May 2022. This is the second-best total for sales tax allocations for any month in Waelder history, a little less than \$3,900 behind the record \$16,327.73 the city received last month.

For the year, Waelder


has received \$59,701.37, up \$27,293.49, or 84.21 percent, above the \$32,407.88 received at this point in 2022. In the past two months, the city has collected \$28,813.96 and the city is just \$25,075.20 off the record \$84,776.57 it received in all of 2022.

Sales tax receipts for Nixon were \$35,548.12, up \$1,439.01, or 4.21 percent, above the \$34,109.11 received in May 2022. For the year, the city has received \$169,310.16, up \$20,937.52, or 14.11 percent, above the \$148,372.64 received at this same point last year.

Finally, Smiley’s sales tax receipts were \$3,432.85, up \$835.45, or 32.16 percent, from the \$2,597.40 received in May 2022. For the year, the city has received \$15,025.74,

up \$2,597.48 or 20.89 percent above the \$12,428.26 received in the first five months of 2022.

Three cities in Gonzales County — Gonzales, Nixon and Waelder — collect a 1.5 percent sales tax rate, while Smiley collects a 1 percent sales tax.




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Sales will be along Hwy. 90 and throughout the towns.

Maps will be available by Friday, May 26, at the Chamber offices and on the website
www.schulenburgchamber.org/90miles-on-90



SIDEWALKS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

raised the curbs along the buildings to reduce the number of steps,” Schauer said. “So, by the time we leveled it up and made it work, we had to add some base in there to make this work right.”

The council approved, 5-0, the Change Order to the 2021 Sidewalk Improvement Project with Diamond X Contracting in the net amount of \$73,067.00 for additional work associated with the project.



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TO

Gonzales County Wildlife Management Association

Annual Banquet and Buck Contest Awards

2023-2024

Membership Dues, Lease License Renewal and Buck Contest Sign-up
New Members Welcome

JUNE 24, 2023

Head Drop-Off / Social | 4:30 PM
Dinner | 6:00 PM

GONZALES ELKS LODGE #2413

1222 E Sarah DeWitt Dr.
Gonzales, TX 78629

Keynote Speaker

Alan Cain, TPWD White-Tailed Deer Program Leader
Topic: Chronic Wasting Disease

Elections to be held for the following: Officers and Board of Directors

KINDLY RSVP BY JUNE 10TH

TY TINSLEY
830-857-4842 | tytinsley@gmail.com

GONZALES HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2023 GRADUATES



PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS

The Gonzales High School class of 2023 end the graduation ceremony with the traditional throwing of the caps.



The Gonzales High School class of 2023 walk in line into Apache Field for the graduation ceremony.



Senior Class President Haley Bairrington pumps up her fellow seniors one last time for the closing ceremony.



The Gonzales ISD School Board at Apache Field of the 2023 Gonzales High School graduation ceremony Friday, May 26.



Gonzales High School salutatorian Maria Vasquez reads her speech to her fellow seniors at Apache Field for the graduation ceremony.



Seniors Carlee Ramos and Layne Thiele walk out of the Gonzales High School buses onto Apache Field for the 2023 GHS Graduation ceremony.



The Gonzales High seniors walk to their seats for the graduation ceremony at Apache Field.



Families gather in the Apache Field stand as their class of 2023 seniors walk the field and receive their high school diplomas.



Above: Gonzales High School Principal Jonathan Basha spoke to the seniors of the class of 2023 one last time at the GHS graduation ceremony at Apache Field.



Gonzales High School Naval JROTC instructor Curtis St. Pierre was one of the GHS staff members that walked the seniors into Apache field for the graduation ceremony.



GISD Superintendent Dr. Elmer Avellaneda certifies the class of 2023's completion of high school requirements.



Senior and student council president Mariela Fernandez walks to the stage to give the valedictorian speech.



The Gonzales High School Class of 2023.



Gonzales High School valedictorian Cooper LaBuhn walks to the stage to give valedictorian speech to his graduating class at Apache Field.



The Class of 2023 throws their caps into the air to celebrate the end of graduation ceremonies.
PHOTOS BY LEW K. COHN

NIXON-SMILEY HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2023 GRADUATES



The class of 2023 walks onto the field at Mustang Stadium in the processional while the high school band performs "Pomp & Circumstance."



Valedictorian Cecilia Villasana shares a hug with her father, board member Chris Villasana, after receiving her diploma.



Criselle Stansell flashes a "23" with her fingers as she holds her diploma.



Salutatorian Jennifer Vasquez is overcome with emotion as she delivers her address.



Flowers on the front table at the Nixon-Smiley High School graduation were placed in memory of Anthony Rene Acuna and Gianna Sophie Jewett, members of the Class of 2023 who died before they could graduate.



Above: Kaelyn Baker receives her diploma from Board President Richard Lott. Left: Spencer Brown receives congratulations for receiving his diploma. Below: Superintendent Jeff VanAuken and Board President Richard Lott clap for the senior graduating class.



Natalee Mendez gives the invocation as the fourth-highest ranking senior for the Class of 2023.



Mady Velasquez receives her diploma from Superintendent Jeff VanAuken.

Waelder High School Class of 2023 wait for their classmates to finish the processional.

PHOTOS BY LEW K. COHN



WAEOLDER HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2023 GRADUATES



Vanity Hernandez looks for her father to give him a rose during graduation ceremonies.



Lorelei Moreno recites the Pledge of Allegiance to the American and Texas flags.



Keynote speaker Kaitlin Steger compliments the Class of 2023 on their hard work.



Above: Members of the class of 2023 had their photos taken with this balloon display as they walked into the auditorium. Right: Students decorated their mortarboards with original artwork as individual as themselves.



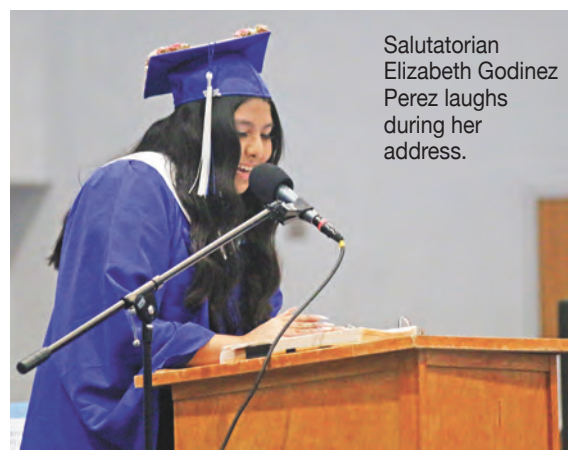
Zyriah Toran was so happy to graduate that as soon as she got off the stage, she started dancing.



Above: Samahni Thompson stands under the balloon arch to have her photo taken during the processional. Left: The class of 2023 move their tassels to symbolize the transition to graduates.



Valedictorian Angela Gutierrez De La Rosa receives her diploma from board member Troy Sullivan.



Salutatorian Elizabeth Godinez Perez laughs during her address.



Makayla Medina reads the invocation in English while Annette Rangel waits to deliver the Spanish rendition under the watchful eye of Superintendent Ron Lilie.

WAELDER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

new book, a book full of unknowns," she said. "This book will contain new adventures and challenges that will help us continue to grow. Even though change can be scary, I know we're gonna be all fine."

Gutierrez De La Rosa mentioned the challenges she faced as a newcomer not only to Waelder, but to the United States. She not only has graduated at the top of her class but will be moving on to attend a university this fall despite English not being her native language.

"When I moved to the United States, it was not just a simple geographical change; it was also a lifestyle change," Gutierrez De La Rosa said. "This change was specifically significant because I didn't know the language."

She said at first she struggled with her schoolwork and felt badly for herself, but thanks to the intervention of some of her teachers, she began to learn English and her grades improved steadily. She quoted her mother, who likes to say that "if you have an ability, you can show it regardless of adverse circumstances."

Her advice, especially to her younger siblings and relatives, was simple: "Do not let anyone tell you you can't do it, and if they do, prove them wrong. The satisfying part is proving them wrong."

In closing, Gutierrez De La Rosa told her fellow graduates to "light a candle for your dreams and complete them, even if it takes a long time and it's a hard road. Remember that every day is an opportunity to change your life and be who



LEW K. COHN

The Waelder High School Class of 2023 toss their caps into the air Saturday, May 26, to culminate graduation exercises at the gymnasium.

you want to be."

Elizabeth Godinez Perez, the class salutatorian, told her fellow students this was a day they had all been waiting on for many years.

"Graduates, we have all been waiting for this day to come. After all these tough years of learning and hard work, we've managed to be where we are today," Godinez Perez said. "You should all be proud of yourself for getting to this point in your journey. We have made great memories, long lasting friendships, that will never be forgotten."

She thanked the teachers at Waelder ISD for "for putting up with us through all these years. But on a serious note, thank you for expanding our

knowledge and showing us that we can be so much more than where we live."

She reminded graduates that "this is not the end of our journey."

"This is only the beginning. We will achieve good things and live life to the fullest," Godinez Perez said. "We can never know what can happen at any moment, so use your time well. Do the things you love and conquer your life your way."

Waelder High School social studies teacher Kaitlin Steger, the keynote speaker for graduation, told the students they are "paving a new path into your futures."

"You're eager and probably nervous about pursuing your

interests and embarking on a new path. But honestly, you should be confident in taking this next step," Steger said. "You persevered and deserve all the successes that life has to offer. It can be easy to worry about the future, to worry about how the new generations will carry the burden of social and civic responsibilities into whatever struggles may arise. But I can take a deep breath and not worry so much, because I know that you guys will be out there."

"And I know that you'll make a difference. I know you will strive to act with compassion and empathy," Steger added. "You already recognize the struggle for justice, and that it's an ongoing pursuit that is absolutely necessary and worth

the struggle. You know the reward might not always be immediate. And even if your act of integrity, so unwitnessed doing the right thing will always be worth it."

Steger challenged the graduating class to "recharge and refocus all your effort and commitment from the last four years to succeed, succeed in whatever path you choose. carry all your compassion, wisdom and justice into the future. We're kind of depending on you."

Principal Ashley Taylor read biographies for each senior during the processional and later would award scholarships and present the class for certification to superintendent Dr. Ron Lillie, who recognized the businesses in the community who contributed to the 2023 graduating class and also told students when it was time to symbolically move their tassels from right to left to observe the rite of passage to graduate.

Diplomas were awarded by Taylor, Lillie and the WISD School Board.

Student openings were delivered by Makayla Medina (English) and Annette Rangel Ramirez (Spanish) while the student closings were delivered by Vanity Hernandez (English) and Yesica Ramos Zelaya (Spanish). Lorelei Moreno led the pledges to the American and Texas pledges.

During the recession, members of the 2023 graduating class gave roses to members of their family and friends before coming back for the traditional tossing of the caps.



TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE PHOTO BY SAM CRAFT

Competitions, such as this wool judging at the 2022 State 4-H Roundup, are a part of the attraction for 4-Hers from across the state.

ROUNDUP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

best and grow by expanding their boundaries."

COMPETITIONS, WORKSHOPS AND CAREER FAIRS

Roundup is held on the Texas A&M University campus and other places in Bryan-College Station and will include around 50 diverse competitions and 12 educational workshops that tie in with the many projects 4-H has to offer.

Participants can also attend a College Career Fair, participate in a statewide community service project and interact with trade show vendors. Additionally, the Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation will award more than \$2.7 million in scholarships to 227 youth.

The week-long event will begin the afternoon of June 5 with the College Career Fair and Trade Show, as well as a Say Yes to FCS signing presentation for future family and consumer sciences educators, state officer candidate speeches and high-energy kickoff activities.

June 6 begins the three days of contests, followed by evening assemblies in Reed Arena. The evening assemblies will consist of an awards ceremony from that day's competitions, the

recognition of scholars and volunteers, live music and other activities.

Roundup attendees can enjoy hotels, shopping, local attractions, and food and beverage establishments throughout the week in the Bryan-College Station area.

Participating students and their families look forward to roundup every June and travel to Bryan-College Station from counties across Texas, Williams said. Not only does the Texas 4-H Youth Development Program create lifelong memories for those involved, but its members also gain leadership and problem-solving skills that equip them to navigate their future.

"The first week in June is always a great time to come together to celebrate Texas 4-H - our members and volunteers," Williams said.

MUSEUM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

his good friends who took care of his two children.

Those good friends would be Fred and Henrietta Duderstadt, who took care of Hardin's wife and three children while he was serving in prison.

When Hardin's wife passed away, the Duderstadt family would adopt the three children as their own.

Wolff said during that time, there were always some good people around to take care of other people, especially children and wives who had no way to make a living.

Jump to the present: the Duderstadt family took part in the ceremony to tell both sides of Hardin's history and the placement of their lost and found family Bible.

The Bible went missing for many years and was discovered in 2015. Janell Duderstadt, great-great-great daughter of Fred and Henrietta, said she received a Facebook message with a picture of the Bible with her great-great-great grandparents' names on it.

The Bible was returned to the family and is now on display at the jail museum.

Don't Miss a Beat

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WANDY VAN EPPS

Kenneth Duderstadt places his family Bible on display at the Gonzales County Jail Museum Friday, May 26.

Congratulates the 8-year-old All Stars!

Coaches: Joseph Rivera, Emmy Cannan, Gerard Nuñez, Head Coach G Nuñez

Players are: Traedyn Smith, Luke Nuñez, Riley Cannan, Brody Garcia, Laken Escobedo, Nathan DeLuna, Brody Wilkerson, Grady Hilbig, Jax Venegas, Auggie Rivera, Avion Alvarez, Not pictured: Nate Gilliam.

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CASTRO

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and women in and out of uniform,” Castro said.

Castro graduated Nixon-Smiley High School in 1995, but in 1993, in his junior year of high school, he joined the Army under its split-option program under the Army reserves.

“This is a surreal moment for me, considering that a short 30 years ago, I was here running the streets as a pestilent little boy with no direction and now I am in front of all you today as senior Army officer,” Castro said.

The ceremony honored service members who came from Nixon, and included Gold Star family Joseph and Pauline Villanova, whose son, Cpl. John Longoria, died in combat in 2005 in New Ubaydi, Iraq.

“The Gold Star lets the community know that their service member died or was killed while serving their country. Today we continue that tradition recognizing and supporting the families of our service members, our Gold Star Families,” Castro said.

Castro and the Vil-

lanovas — together with Nixon Mayor Dorothy Riojas, DeLaCruz and retired Army Natividad Ruiz — placed wreaths in honor of those service members from Nixon who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

Castro closed out the ceremony, paraphrasing a passage from Charles Province:

“It is the service member, not the minister who has given us freedom of religion. It is the service member, not the reporter, who has given us freedom of the press. It is the service member, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech. It is the service member, not the campus organizer, who has given us freedom to protest. It is the service member, not the lawyer, who has given us the right to a fair trial. It is the service member, not the politician, who has given us the right to vote. It is the service member who salutes the flag, who serves beneath the flag, and whose coffin is draped by the flag, who gives us our blanket of freedom.”

Army CW5 Demetrio “Jay” Castro III (middle) places a wreath with Gold Star Family, Joseph (right) and Pavline Villanova (left), in memory Villanova’s son Marine CPL John Longoria who was killed in action New Ubaydi, Iraq in 2005.

PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS



American Legion Post 547 members Natividad Ruiz (retired U.S. Army) and Angel DeLaCruz (retired U.S. Marine Corp) salute in the playing of Taps in honor of those from Nixon that made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.



Army CW5 Demetrio “Jay” Castro III speaks at the Nixon public for the annual Memorial Day ceremony Monday, May 29.

NIXON-SMILEY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

very much in attendance in spirit — also were awarded diplomas.

The district recognized the achievements of Anthony Rene Acuna and Gianna Sophie Jewett, both of whom passed away before they could walk the stage with their classmates. Flower arrangements placed on the front table by the podium were dedicated to their memory.

The dearly departed were very much on the minds of valedictorian Cecilia Villasana and salutatorian Jennifer Vasquez, who mentioned them in their addresses to those present.

“First and foremost, Gianna, Anthony — I’m talking to you, too,” Villasana said. “Y’all may not physically be with us right now, but your spirit surrounds us. In this beautiful moment, it will remain with us for the rest of our days. We love you dearly.”

Villasana noted that the class has “experienced so much — both together and on our own.”

“We’ve gained loved ones lost some and then gained others,” she said. “We’ve made every grade possible from zeros to a hundreds. We’ve had good times and bad times, wins and losses. But if there’s one thing that can be said about the past, it is that you can’t change it. You can only learn, heal and grow from it.

“And then you get to the present,” Villasana added. “You can do a million different things to control your own destiny. With every second that passes, your present becomes your past and your future becomes your now. Homework, parties, friends, family, sports, band, work, FFA, clothes, money, jobs, college, or 1,000 different things to think about — but there’s one thing that many of us forget and that is to stop and smell the roses. By this, I mean taking a moment to appreciate where we are.”

She told her classmates that while it may not be easy, “the fruits of our effort will be worth it.”

“As all of us have proven, we are strong,” Villasana said. “We’ve overcome challenges, both spoken and unspoken. And the years to come are no match for the power that we all possess to take control of our lives and make them our own.”

“Our time here as the senior class of 2023 is over. High school has been one heck of an experience,” Vasquez said in her salutatory address. “We have experienced loss, hardships, and moments of joy and achievement. As a class, we experienced beautiful moments together as well as times that shaped who we are today.

“Today marks an

important milestone — the start of our future. I hope that we all follow our dreams and reach our goals despite all the obstacles we may face in the future, and may we not give up when times get tough.”

Vasquez thanked her “guardian angels from heaven, who have guided me, especially my best friend Gianna, who I know is here with us today and is watching over us as we prepare to graduate tonight.”

She spoke with pride about the impact Mr. Garces had on her life when he introduced her to a pre-college program with the University of Texas at Arlington, where she spent the summer after her junior year, strengthening her academic skills.

As a result of her hard work, Vasquez will be the first in her family to go to college. She will be attending the University of North Texas on a Terry Foundation scholarship valued at \$223,200, or \$27,900 per semester for eight semesters.

“Thinking of a full ride scholarship sounds great, but being debt free, it is so difficult to earn. Who doesn’t want a full ride scholarship? Right?” Vasquez said. “You think about it and it seems so far away and impossible.

“Well, guess what? I’m here to tell you that it is not impossible. I still can-

not believe I earned a full scholarship to attend my dream school. This opportunity was made possible through years of hard work and perseverance. To those we leave behind, don’t stop working or persevering, because hard work truly pays off. If you want it, work for it. Even if you don’t reach your desired goal, the skills you will learn along the way will open doors to opportunities you never even imagined.”

Natalee Mendez, the fourth highest ranking senior, delivered the invocation, while Ana Vasquez, the third highest ranking senior, gave the welcome. Sebastian Ortiz, the fifth highest ranking senior, delivered the farewell.

Principal Jim Weaver presented the senior class while superintendent Jeff Van Auken and the N-SCISD board of trustees presented diplomas to the graduates.

Gonzales ISD takes part in summer feeding program

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Meals will be provided to all children 18 and younger without charge and are the same for all children regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability, and there will be no discrimination in the course of the meal service. Meals must be consumed on-site. Meals will be provided at the sites and times as follows:

- GONZALES HIGH SCHOOL – OPEN SITE**
- 1801 North Sarah DeWitt Dr., Gonzales, TX 78629
 - Breakfast: 07:00 am – 8:00 am
 - Lunch: 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
 - June 6 – June 29, 2023 (Monday – Thursday); July 10 – 20 (Monday – Thursday); July 24 – 26

- GONZALES ELEMENTARY – OPEN SITE**
- 1600 Saint Andrew St, Gonzales, TX 78629
 - Breakfast: 07:10 am – 08:00 am
 - Lunch: 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
 - June 5 – June 29, 2023 (Monday – Thursday)

- CITY OF GONZALES SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM – INDEPENDENCE PARK – OPEN SITE**
- 820 St. Joseph St, Gonzales, TX 78629
 - Lunch: 11:15 am – 11:45 pm
 - June 5 – June 30, 2023 (Monday – Friday)

- FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH VBS – OPEN SITE**
- 422 Saint Paul St., Gonzales, TX 78629
 - Breakfast: 08:00 am – 09:00 am
 - Lunch: 11:00 pm – 12:00 pm
 - June 19 – June 23, 2023 (Monday – Friday)



The Gonzales Inquirer will be closed on **Tuesday, July 4, 2023** in observance of Independence Day.

The deadline for all advertising and editorial copy in the **July 6 edition** is **Noon on Monday, July 3.**

Have a safe and happy holiday from The Gonzales Inquirer staff!

The Gonzales Inquirer
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SALUTING GONZALES COUNTY'S

**CLASS
OF 2023**

**HONORING THE
GRADUATES
FROM GONZALES,
NIXON-SMILEY,
SHINER ST. PAUL, AND
WAELDER HIGH SCHOOLS**

A PRODUCT OF
**The
Gonzalez Inquirer**

Head of the Class



GONZALES



Valedictorian

COOPER MARK LABUHN



Salutatorian

MARIA YUDITH VAZQUEZ.



NIXON-SMILEY



Valedictorian

CECILIA VILLASANA

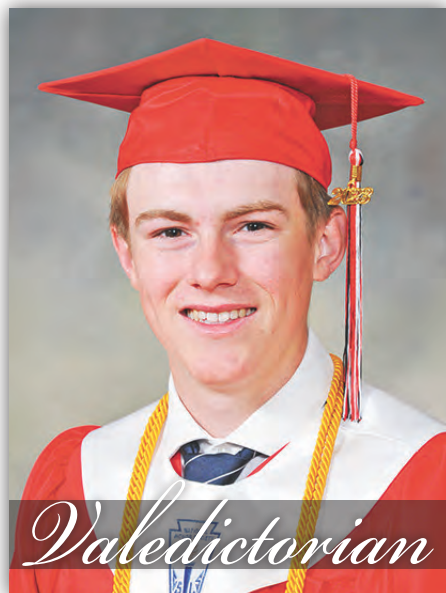


Salutatorian

JENNIFER VASQUEZ.

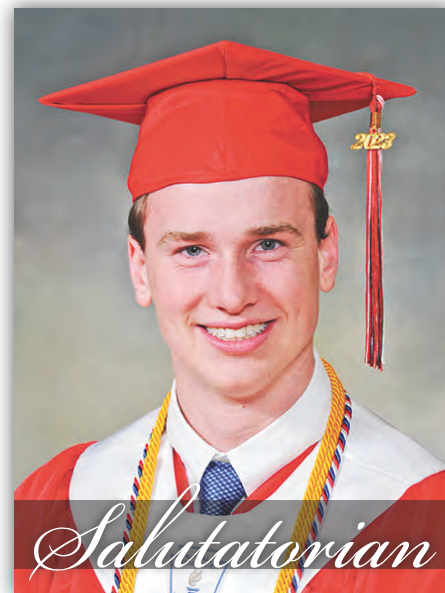


SHINER ST. PAUL



Valedictorian

JACOB WACHSMUTH



Salutatorian

JOSEPH TWYFORD



WAEOLDER



Valedictorian

ANGELA GUTIERREZ



Salutatorian

ELIZABETH GODINEZ



CLASS OF 2022
GONZALES HIGH



Ivan
Aguirre



Samantha
Alaniz



Christian
Almaguer



Yazmin
Almendarez



Logan
Alva



Israel
Alvarez



Daisy
Arevalo



Luke
Avant



Haley
Bairrington



Kristyn
Baker



Mariela
Balderas



Kyndall
Banda



Carla
Barrera



Christian
Barrera



Blayne
Belin



Jaydon
Blackwell



Aaliah
Bolden



Byron
Boothe



Andrea
Borjon



Leslie
Borjon



Brody
Borrer



Hadley
Borrer



Bryce
Brown



Bryan
Cabrera



Christian
Camarillo



Joe
Canales, Jr.



Justus
Cantu



Gage
Cardenas



Anahi
Cardona



Cristian
Cardoza



Yaqueline
Cardoza



Zaiden
Carranza



Christiny
Carrizales



Rafael
Castro
Garcia



Nohelia
Chavez



Heidi
Cleveland



Kassidy
Contreras



Ylaina
Cortes



Ethan
Crouch



Brayden
Davis



Marissa
Deleon



Mariana
Deleon



De'Adrain
Dilworth



Oce'Anna
Dyre



Riley
Eckols



JR
Edlridge, Jr.



Joshua
Esparza



Mariela
Fernandez



Ivan
Gallegos



Mercedes
Gallegos



Noraiyah
Gallegos



Hector
Gamez



CLASS OF 2023
GONZALES HIGH



Erika Garcia



Jose Garcia



Noe Garcia



Derrick Garza



Kobey Glass



Nayeli Godinez



Joseph Gold



Brenda Gonzalez



Jennifer Gonzalez



Jose Gonzalez



Michael Gonzalez



Philip Gonzales, Jr.



Tyrann Gonzales



Clemente Govea



Lucero Govea



Juan Granados Angel



Hemma Guevara



Christopher Hagans



Bethany Haile



Colby Heller



Emma Heller



Aidan Hernandez



Karisma Hernandez Yole



Edward Herrera



Oscar Herrera



McKenzie Hodges



Hayden Hull



Roman Ibarra



Jarren Johnson



Lauren Johnson



Kyleigh Kehoe-Grant



Zander Kluting



Dylan Krenmueller



Cooper LaBuhn



Kaylea Larsen



Karley Leal



Belen Leon



Faith Lester



Luis Llamas



Aubrey Lopez



Kael Lopez



Steven Maldonado



Julihanna Manuel



Alexzavier Martinez



Angel Martinez



Mackena Masias



Sebastian Matamoros



Darion Matehuala



Nyeshia Mayberry



Keelin McCoy



Rylan McGehee



Jadon Medina



Kaylynn Mendez



Brendon Mercer



Congratulations!
Haley Bairrington

We are all so proud of you!
Can't wait to see your future accomplishments!

Love,
Mimi, Bobo & Family




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Class of 2023

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Phone: (830)672-6030
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Shirley Hodges – Owner

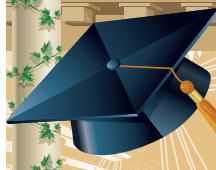
Congratulations




COOPER LABUHN

and all
2023 graduates!

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McKenzie Faith Hodges
Gonzales High School



Congratulations to our Gonzales Lady Apache Graduate and our future TCU-Horned Frog. We are so proud of all your accomplishments. Keep going after your dreams. Blessings for a wonderful future, Kenzie.

We Love You,
Nana, Dad, Uncle Kit, Aunt Rhonda and Krissy Jo

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar reminds families to save for higher education

Special to the Inquirer

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar is encouraging families to save for their children's higher education expenses using the state's 529 college plans.

"As we come to the end of another school year, all of us with school-age children are reminded just how fast the time flies," Hegar said. "It's also a reminder that now is the perfect time to start saving for college by opening a 529 account, or even contributing to an existing plan. Families will find that when it comes to planning for their children's future education, starting early is key and every little bit adds up."

Texas offers three tax-advantaged 529 plans: the Texas College Savings Plan® (TCSP) and the LoneStar 529 Plan® (LS529), both college savings plans, and the Texas Tuition Promise Fund® (TTPF), a prepaid college tuition plan. The plans are known as 529 plans because they are authorized by Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code.

TCSP and LS529 allow families to save for college by investing in one or more portfolios, either by enrolling in TCSP directly or in LS529 through a financial adviser. The college savings plans may be used to pay for qualified education expenses at schools nationwide and even at some foreign schools. The college savings plans are open for enrollment year round.

TTPF helps families lock in today's rates for all or some future undergraduate resident tuition and schoolwide required fees at any two- or four-year Texas public college or university, excluding medical and dental institutions. TTPF newborn enrollment is available through July 31 to lock in 2022-23 prices for children younger than one year of age; general enrollment begins Sept. 1 to lock in 2023-24 prices. Texas residency requirements apply.

The Texas Prepaid Higher Education Tuition Board administers all three 529 plans through the Comptroller's office.

For more information about the Texas 529 plans, visit [SaveNowForCollege.com](https://www.savewillforcollege.com) or call 800-445-GRAD (4723). Select Option 3 for the Texas College Savings Plan, Option 4 for the LoneStar 529 Plan or Option 5 for the Texas Tuition Promise Fund.





Debunking the non-traditional higher-education stigma

TEXAS NEWS SERVICE Special to the Inquirer

Many college students balance family and work responsibilities with academics - making non-traditional higher education a lifeline to a future degree and career. But high school counselors do not always encourage students to go that route.

The COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown boosted interest in distance learning, according to Sue Subocz, associate president and provost of Walden University.

Many students who transfer from community colleges to online learning, which opens up higher education to a group of people who might not otherwise get to participate, she said.

“Getting that foundation - really understanding - if

you’re going to make your way through the rest of the degree, it’s just going to facilitate that process of earning that bachelor’s later,” Subocz said. “You don’t have to start there to end there.”

Walden offers online nursing programs leading to bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees, Subocz said, positions that need filling in Texas, which is now short about 30,000 nurses - a number expected to double by 2032, according to the Texas Nursing Association.

Jacinto Ramos, who completed his Doctor of Education degree through Walden, said the college’s mission statement aligned with his lived experience and professional goals.

“I did have one semester where I fell off - life got so hectic - and I recall the phone calls I was getting from Walden personnel - checking in on me, making sure that I

was OK, so that social emotional support meant the world to me and helped me get back on track the very next semester,” Ramos said.

Subocz said there are still stigmas associated with non-traditional forms of higher education, even those schools are a significant contributor to a diverse and multicultural workforce population.

“You can start in a place where class size is often half, a third, a quarter of what you’re going to see at a university with highly qualified faculty and that it comes at about a tenth of the cost - it just makes you wonder why everyone doesn’t do it,” she said.

According to the American Association of Community Colleges, community college graduates dominate certain professional fields, including those of health and security - which includes 80% of all law enforcement officers, EMTs, and firefighters.



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*Hats off to the graduating
classes of 2023!*

Study finds racial, gender gaps in students' college plans



**PUBLIC NEWS SERVICE
Special to the Inquirer**

A new survey of 25,000 high school seniors finds 74% say they want to go to college - but only 66% expect to enroll. The nonprofit YouthTruth found the 8% percent gap widens to 14% for Native American students, 10% for Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islanders, 9% Hispanics, and 8% for African American students.

Que Dang, executive director of student equity and success at Pasadena City College, says COVID and the resulting job losses disproportionately hurt families of color - causing college dreams to suffer.

"A lot of it has to do with folks really struggling with different stresses that are

happening throughout their lives. So, it's not just around education, but it's around mental health, getting jobs; it's also around trying to provide for their families," Dang said.

To make it easier for students to afford to attend, all community colleges in California now have a Basic Needs Center that can help with rent, food and mental-health supports. There is also a statewide network of mentors, including some that specifically work with African American male students.

The survey also finds 83% of female high school seniors aspire to go to college, and 77% believe they can actually go - while only 68% of their male counterparts want to go to college, and just 57%

believe it is a real option. Part of the difference can be blamed on societal norms that discourage men from seeking help, according to Dang.

"A lot of them don't want to ask for help," Dang explained. "And so they don't seek out services in the same way as women. And there are so many support systems to help them get through college, but they have societal pressures, like men wanting to 'do it themselves.'"

The report also finds the percentage of seniors expecting to attend a four-year college has held steady at 46% over the last three years, and that Black students are increasingly under-represented on community college campuses.

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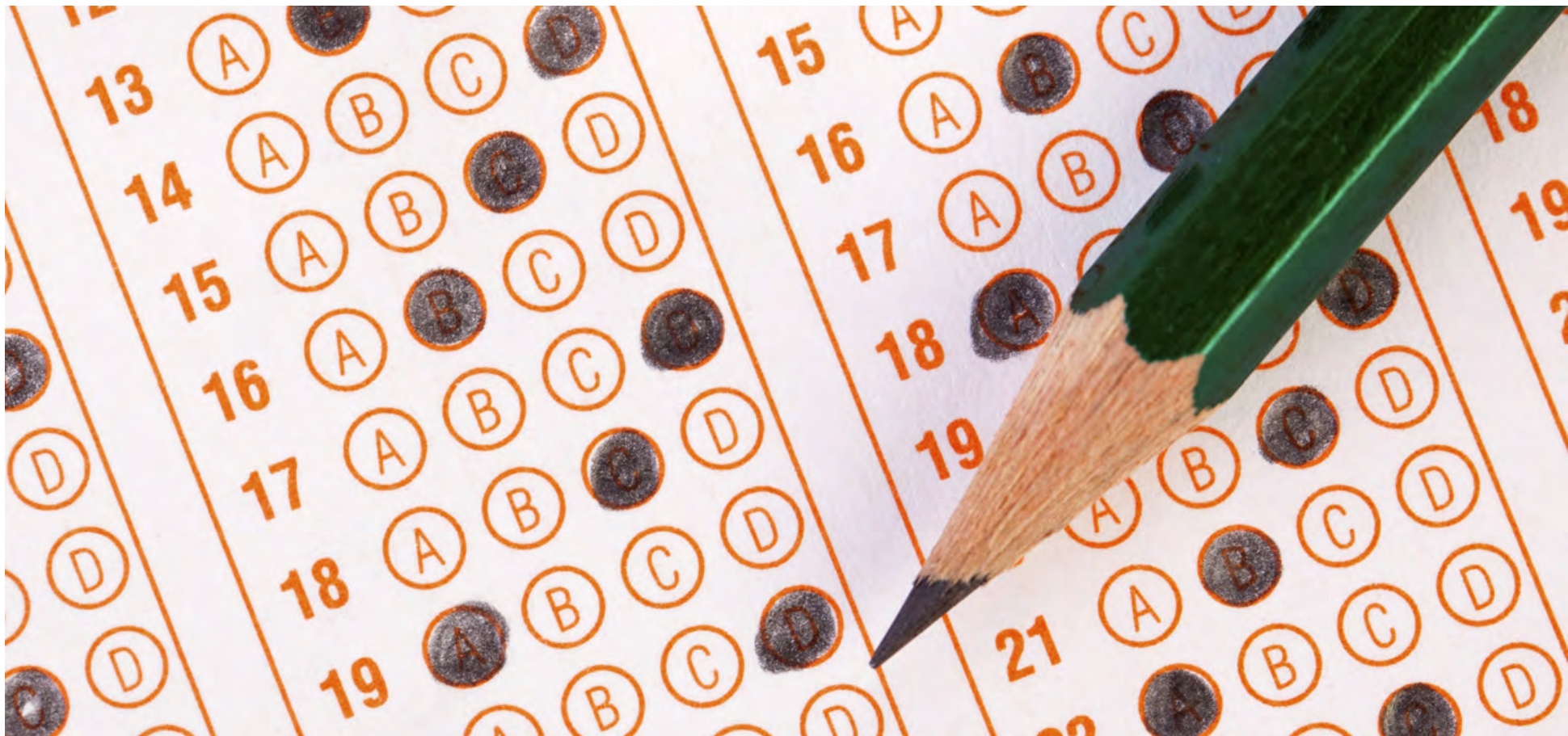
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Colleges are dropping the SAT in admissions

Why that's a good thing for most girls

BY NADRA NITTE, EDUCATION REPORTER
The 19th

This story was originally published by The 19th

More than two-thirds of colleges and universities won't require the SAT for 2023 admission. That includes elite institutions such as Harvard and Stanford as well as the University of California system, which has dropped the test as an admission requirement permanently.

For SAT critics, test-optional admission at colleges and universities took far too long to become prevalent. The test has been accused of putting students from underrepresented communities of color at a disadvantage for years. Less known is that boys have consistently outscored girls on the test, a pattern that

dates back decades, underestimating girls' future college grades.

"The SAT test and other standardized tests claim that their value is in predicting college grades," said Bob Schaeffer, executive director of FairTest: National Center for Fair & Open Testing. "Despite the fact that young women get lower scores on the test than young men, they earn higher grades when matched for identical courses in college than the boys."

Here's what we know about the test and the gender gap.

WHAT IS THE SAT?

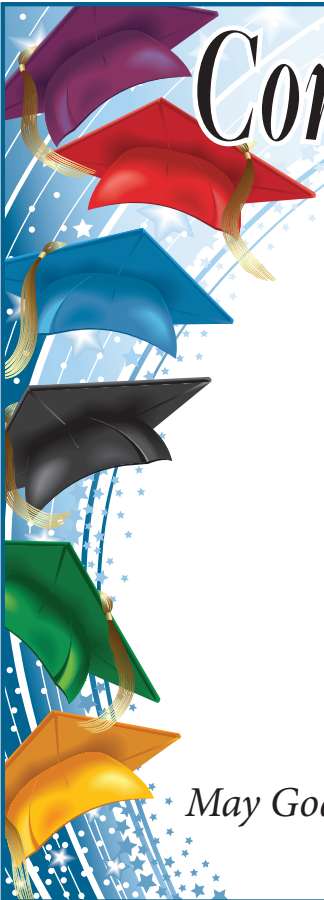
Princeton University psychology professor Carl C. Brigham invented the SAT. Brigham was a eugenicist who published a 1923 book called "A Study of American Intelligence" that analyzed, by race, the results of IQ tests given to World War I Army recruits. Brigham feared that academic achievement in the United States would decline as the country became more racially diverse. After publishing his book, he

developed his own version of the Army IQ test and administered it to first-year students and prospective students at Princeton and Cooper Union, respectively.


Then, the College Entrance Examination Board, which started in 1900 with 12 presidents of top universities to administer college entrance exams and standardize the admissions process, tapped Brigham to devise an exam that a broader group of schools could use. Now known as the SAT, that test was first administered to high school students in 1926.

It would take until 1952 for the Educational Testing Service to develop the SAT most familiar to the public today. That exam included a verbal section that tested students' reading comprehension skills, understanding of analogies and antonyms, and aptitude for sentence completion questions. Today's test also includes a math section made up of questions that draw on students' ability to solve algebra, geometry and other problems. Scores go up to 1600.

By the mid-20th century, hundreds of thousands



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We are very proud of you!
May God bless you and keep you safe always.
 Love you, Mom and Dad

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Congratulations Alexzavier!
 We are so very proud of you. We wish you all the best and can't wait to see what else you accomplish as you continue onto the next chapter of your life.
 With Love,
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Love, Dad, Mom, Danyelle, Kameron, Baby Boy Craft, Keaton & Lindsay

Victoria College announces innovative plans, UHV partnership to address regional nursing shortage

Special to the Inquirer

Victoria College officials recently announced that new plans are underway to help address the regional nursing shortage, including a new hybrid track within VC's Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Program and a partnership with the University of Houston-Victoria that will allow students to complete the ADN Program and UHV's Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Program simultaneously.

Both initiatives are aimed at providing greater flexibility and accessibility to students pursuing nursing careers while meeting the demand for highly skilled nurses.

"Victoria College is committed to providing the trained and educated workforce needed in the region," said Dr. Jennifer Kent, VC President. "I commend the Dean of Allied Health and her team for their innovative plan to make nursing school a reality for more community members who have to work to provide for their families."

VC currently offers two options for students pursuing an associate degree in nursing, which is required to become a Registered Nurse (RN). Students who have no prior nursing experience can enroll in the two-year ADN Program, which is offered face-to-face, while students who have already become Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVNs) can enroll in a one-year transition program that includes an online component for lecture courses.

Similar to the transition program for LVNs, the new hybrid track will offer new nursing students the flexibility of online lectures combined with in-person skills training at VC's state-of-the-art Health Sciences Center and clinicals at affiliated healthcare facilities.

"We are excited to offer the convenience and flexibility of online learning while maintaining the essential hands-on components provided through clinicals and skills exams," said Darla Strother, Dean of VC's Division of Allied Health. "VC recognizes the evolving needs of today's students, and the new hybrid track



will allow us to better accommodate the needs of those who work and have diverse schedules. Many of our students are parents themselves and juggle real-world responsibilities in addition to the rigors of being a student."

In order to accommodate the additional clinical spaces needed for students enrolling in the new hybrid track, VC plans to incorporate some evening and weekend rotations into the clinical schedule for all its allied health students.

"It has always been essential for our healthcare students to gain hands-on experience during our clinical partners' busiest daytime shifts," said Strother. "That is certainly still the case, but we are now strategically broadening our clinical experiences to include some evenings and weekends."

In addition to the hybrid track, VC plans to partner with UHV to offer a concurrent program that provides a streamlined

pathway for nursing students to earn both an Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). Under the new partnership, students will have the opportunity to enroll in VC's two-year ADN Program while simultaneously being admitted into UHV's four-year BSN Program.

In the nursing pathway, it is common for students to complete a BSN to position themselves for future job advancement into leadership roles.

"A BSN degree is a window of opportunity for students. It provides a pedestal for progressing to graduate degrees," said Dorothy Thomas, Clinical Assistant Professor and Director of the UHV Nursing Program. "In addition, our UHV and VC concurrent nursing program gives prospective nursing students an initial BSN Program opportunity, which increases nursing students and the nursing workforce. As nurse educators,

we strive to be a model of excellence and provide nurses with all the necessary educational services."

Students who enroll in the new concurrent program will complete their prerequisites and program of study courses at VC in two years and will then enter the ADN Program at VC while simultaneously enrolling in UHV's online BSN courses. Upon successful completion, students will be eligible to take the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) to become a registered nurse and will have the opportunity to obtain their BSN degree at the same time.

"The nursing shortage in our country is critical, and its impact on smaller communities is significant," said Thomas. "This partnership is long in the making and sets a goal of increasing nurses in our community and surrounding communities. We take pride in our community; therefore, our students at both institutions are our pride."

Dr. Daniel Cano, Chief Medical Officer at Citizens Medical Center and a member of VC's Board of Trustees, agrees the nursing shortage is not going away anytime soon.

"The introduction of a new hybrid track in VC's nursing program as well as the college's partnership with UHV to introduce a concurrent ADN-BSN program demonstrate VC's commitment to addressing this challenge with innovative solutions," he said.

The VC Foundation has also received a generous donation from the M.G. and Lillie A. Johnson Foundation to fund additional scholarships for students pursuing health careers.

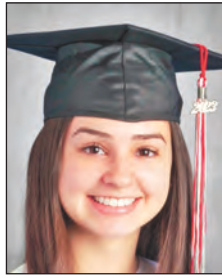
Victoria College is accepting applications through June 1 at 4 p.m. for its Fall 2023 cohort of ADN Program students. Applications are also being accepted for VC's one-year Vocational Nursing Program, which will begin in Jan. 2024. The deadline to submit the application and required documentation is Oct. 1 at noon. For more information or to apply for either nursing program, visit VictoriaCollege.edu/HealthCareers.



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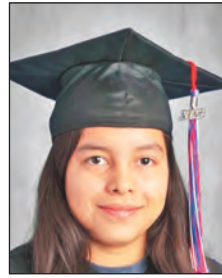
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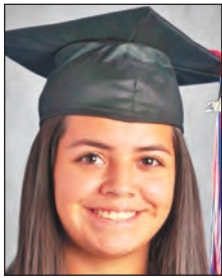
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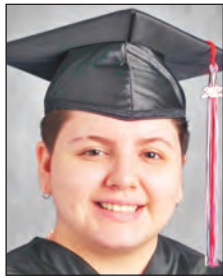
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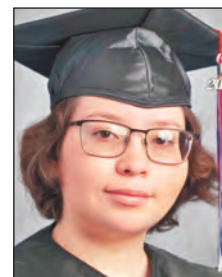
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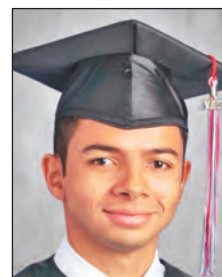
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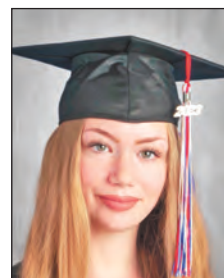
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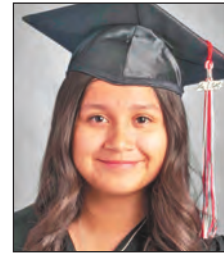
Alexander Tirado Cruz



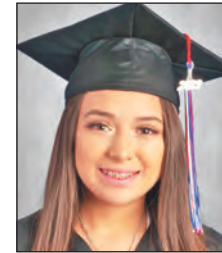
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Your mom and I are very proud of the young man you have become. You set your mind to become a Game Warden at a young age and you are following that dream.

Love you,
Dad and Mom

SATS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

of students were taking the SAT. But the Educational Testing Service did not secure its biggest client — the University of California system — until 1960, after years of courting. Since then, the SAT has become a tradition for college-bound teenagers, but it's a tradition that has yielded different outcomes for girls than for boys.

WHY HAS THE SAT FACED ACCUSATIONS OF GENDER BIAS?

Evidence of a gender gap surfaced as early as 1985, when *Ms. Magazine* ran its first article on the topic. Ten years later, a University of California, Berkeley, study found that the SAT underpredicted girls' academic achievement in college by as much as 140 points. The test's gender gap has never closed. In 2017, Art Sawyer, founder of Compass Education Group, which trains students for standardized tests, conducted an SAT score analysis to find that "proportionally 45 percent more males are in the 1400-1600 score range" than girls.

Some have pointed to girls' historically lower math scores on the test to explain the gap. In their 2009 book "Still Failing at Fairness," David Sadker and Karen Zittleman note that boys scored 10 points higher on the SAT than girls in mathematics as far back as 1967. In 2020, the gap was 15 points, but it has been as high as 41 points.

Phyllis Rosser, the researcher who first reported on the gender gap in *Ms. Magazine*, also pointed out that a disparity exists on the SAT's reading samples, where girls often score lower than boys. Girls' main edge on the SAT has long been the writing part of the verbal section, where they sometimes score up to 14 points higher than boys, she found. Rosser, whose work on the subject grew into a book, "The SAT Gender Gap," discussed her research before the U.S. House Judiciary Committee, arguing that girls of color are penalized by college entrance exams. Many girls of color not only contend with a gender gap on the SAT but also a racial gap, one that remains a problem, with Black and Latinx students scoring lower than their White and Asian American counterparts, particularly in math.

The overall advantage that boys have on the SAT can also be found on the preliminary scholastic assessment test (PSAT), the shorter, similar test students take ahead of the SAT. PSAT scores determine the winners of the highly competitive National Merit Scholarship and have had similar gender disparities. "For decades, boys scored so much higher than girls that two out of three Merit semifinalists were male," according to Sadker and Zittleman.



DO TEST FORMATS AND STEREOTYPES CONTRIBUTE TO THE GENDER GAP?

Some researchers have attributed gender performance disparities on standardized tests to the fact that these tests are timed and have multiple choice formats. Research published in 2018 in the *Educational Researcher* found that test format accounted for about 25 percent of the gender gaps in state- and district-level achievement tests given to 8 million elementary and middle school students nationwide.

According to Sadker and Zittleman, boys might have the edge on multiple choice tests because they're more likely to guess when they don't know an answer. In contrast, girls tend to skip answering questions they're unsure are correct and heed test instructions that say they'll lose points for wrong answers. Comparable data does not exist for trans, nonbinary and gender nonconforming students.

The multiple-choice format isn't the only disadvantage girls face on standardized tests. A 2019 study published in *Nature* found that the gender gap on math and science tests closes when women are given more time to complete assessments. Timed tests may also increase test anxiety, a problem that has a greater effect on women's scores on high-stakes assessments.

Additionally, women test-takers may experience a

phenomenon called "stereotype threat."

"That's the notion that if you are in a high-stakes kind of situation like the SAT, you are afraid of living up to a stereotype, like women aren't good at math," Steven G. Brint, a distinguished professor of sociology and public policy at the University of California, Riverside, told *The 19th*. "You sort of lose your composure, and the whole idea of stereotype threat kind of hovering above you as you take the test could lead to a lack of confidence, lack of focus, fear of living up to the stereotype."

WHAT ABOUT THE ACTUAL QUESTIONS?

Some SAT critics say there are problems with the SAT's content, such as reading passages that lack women characters or describe activities stereotypically associated with men. The College Board said it takes measures to prevent gender bias from surfacing on the tests, telling *The 19th* that its test development process includes "numerous rigorous reviews."

"All passages and test questions undergo content and fairness reviews by internal and external experts from diverse backgrounds," the College Board said in a statement. "As part of the test development process, item statistics are analyzed to identify potential bias based on a number of characteristics of the test-taking population, including gender."

The College Board said it analyzes any differences

SATS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

in performance that may not be achievement-related among groups of students.

But these steps don't necessarily eliminate bias, said Schaeffer, who is concerned about the test including questions that resonate more with boys than with girls. When boys did not perform as well on reading passages, for example, test officials added more references to sports, politics and business, FairTest complained in the 1990s. Yet, comparable moves weren't made to help girls perform better on the math section.

Schaeffer argues that systematic discrimination based on race, gender and other factors are baked into the testing process. His main objection, though, is the use of standardized testing to determine students' futures. Over the past decade, companies such as Google, McKinsey and Goldman Sachs have all asked job applicants for their test scores at some point.

"That your college-going talent is based on answering multiple choice questions in rapid fire is an underlying assumption that has a sexist bias," Schaeffer said. "In addition, there have been a number of publications that have essentially said, 'We don't know why there's a gender gap, but it's there and it's pervasive.'"



“The SAT test and other standardized tests claim that their value is in predicting college grades. Despite the fact that young women get lower scores on the test than young men, they earn higher grades when matched for identical courses in college than the boys.”

—Bob Schaeffer, Executive director of FairTest: National Center for Fair & Open Testing

WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE SAT GENDER GAP?

Advocates for changes in standardized testing say the SAT gender gap can have long-term effects on girls. It can affect which scholarships they receive and, in some cases, stop them from attending a selective college entirely. Sara Harberson, a former college admissions officer, dean of admissions and director of college counseling, told The 19th that colleges have often set minimum SAT scores for admissions.

"The SAT has been a great influencer in college admissions because it is a very quick way for an admissions officer to know how competitive a student is in the applicant pool," said Harberson, now CEO and founder of Application Nation, which helps parents navigate the college admissions process. "Even before I would read an application, I knew that if a student did not have a certain SAT score, they simply were not going to be admitted regardless of what else was in the application."

Colleges and universities have long recognized that test scores don't necessarily predict a student's academic performance. Still, some higher education institutions rely on the SAT to bulk up the number of men in their student body, Harberson said, because more women than men apply.

"The colleges aren't going to go out of their way to say, well, 'This young woman is so incredible, and even though her test scores are a little bit lower, let's admit her anyway,'" she said. "There are higher expectations for those girls because there are so many of them in the applicant pool."

For students interested in pursuing certain careers and graduate school programs, their SAT scores might come into play again, cutting them off from potential opportunities, test critics say. The gender gap might also be used by some to double down on gender stereotypes and suggest that girls and women simply aren't cut out for STEM careers.

WHAT'S THE SAT'S FUTURE?

A number of colleges have already moved away from requiring the test. Bowdoin College in Maine stands out for going test-optional back in 1969, making it a very early trendsetter. Franklin & Marshall College in Pennsylvania was also a leader in this trend, establishing a test-optional admissions process for select students in 1992 and then everyone in 2006.

"This policy was created because, decades ago, F&M recognized that a student's academic performance in high school was a far better predictor for how they would perform in the college classroom," said Jimmie Foster, vice president for enrollment management, in a statement to The 19th. "Particularly, when compared to their performance on a test on a random Saturday morning."

A test-optional future for most colleges and universities could reduce the barriers girls experience during the admissions process. But Harberson said that colleges aren't dropping the admissions requirement for selfless reasons. School officials noticed that scrapping the entrance exam requirements resulted in an increase in applications, especially from underrepresented students, Harberson said. Selective institutions strive to get as many applicants as possible, she added, and the rise in applications can help them diversify their student bodies.

"I can't imagine any college that cares about application totals and diversity going back to requiring the test," Harberson said. "The vast majority are going to be staying test-optional."

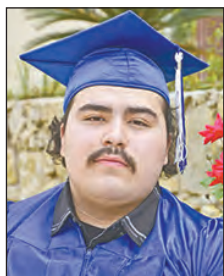
FairTest estimates that 1,800 colleges and universities are currently test-optional, compared with just over 100 three decades ago.

Given the gender and other biases associated with the SAT, Harberson has just one question about this shift: "Why did it take this long?"



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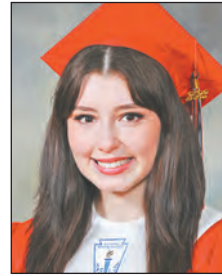
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Anna Reeves



Cole Robinson



Jacob Seibert



Brayden Slaughter



Cortney Tuch



Jacob Twyford



Joseph Twyford



Jackson Ulcak



Jacob Wachsmuth



Matthew Wagner

HISTORIAN Jacob Twyford

Jacob Kevin Twyford, the son of Kevin and Wendi Twyford, has been named the Historian of St. Paul High School's Class of 2023. Jacob came to Shiner Catholic School in the 7th grade. Throughout high school, Jacob has been on the High Honor and Honor Roll, and is a part of the National Honor Society. He participated in TAPPS State Academics and Fine Arts and won 8th in Calculator Applications in his junior and senior years, 6th place in Calculator Applications his sophomore year, and 4th place in Duet Acting his junior year. He was also a part of the first-ever Debate Team at St. Paul High School, placing 3rd as a team at state. He also completed in Advanced Mathematics and Prose Interpretation, qualifying for state in each. Jacob is also an active member of the Student Council and was elected as Senior Class President and as Class Historian during his freshman, sophomore, and junior years.

Jacob is also the co-coordinator for a public service organization called J-Squad, and an active member of Club Med. Jacob is an active member of Saints Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church and serves as an altar server, a lector for school masses, leads and plays piano for the church choir, and has volunteered at Catholic Heart Work Camp. He has also been an active member of the St. Paul Theatre Department under the direction of Angela Decou, making state appearances at the TAPPS State One Act Play competition, and winning a State All Star Cast Award his senior year as Antipholus of Egeus in Shakespeare's "The Comedy of Errors."

Jacob has also volunteered his time with various other organizations throughout high school, including St. Paul Booster Club plate drives, the Miss Sparkles Pageant, and the Saints Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church Spring and Fall Picnics. In the summers, Jacob volunteered his time at the school, helping the teachers prepare their classrooms for the new school year. He also had a summer job with Splashway Waterpark and Camp Ground, earning an Employee of the Month award. He also completed the 100 Mile Club during the summer of his junior and senior years.

Jacob competed in multiple sports throughout high school and was a member of the varsity cross country and varsity basketball teams all four years, the track & field team for three years, and the tennis team for two years. He received Academic All State in Tennis. Jacob also filmed for the St. Paul Football Team his junior and senior year.

Along with sports and school, Jacob plays piano under the instruction of Mrs. Vida Burnett. He has studied piano for fourteen years and has competed in the National Piano Guild Auditions and in the Piano National Federation of Music Clubs at the district and state level, earning Superior and Outstanding Ribbons.

Jacob will be attending Christendom College in the fall to earn a degree in Mathematics on the pre-med track and hopes to continue his education by attending medical school, eventually becoming a practicing physician.



CLASS OF 2023 SHINER ST. PAUL HIGH

VALEDICTORIAN **Jacob Wachsmuth**

Jacob Kyle Wachsmuth is the Valedictorian for the St. Paul High School Class of 2023. He is the son of Jake and Christine Wachsmuth and the brother of Ashley Wachsmuth. Jacob has attended Shiner Catholic School since he enrolled in Pre-K 3 in the fall of 2008. During his time at St. Paul High School, Jacob has participated in football, basketball, baseball, and track. He has also participated in TAPPS One Act Play, TAPPS Band, and TAPPS Academics. He was a member of the St. Paul National Honor Society and was the Vice President of Club Med. In addition to school activities, Jacob has been involved in numerous church and community activities. At Sts. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church, Jacob has been a liturgist, altar server, and volunteer for the past eight years. He has also participated in his parish's youth ministry program, the J-Squad. In the community, Jacob has volunteered at various events such as Church picnics, Downtown Market Days, brewery events, and town holidays. During the summer of 2022, he held a summer job working as a personal banker at the local branch of South Star Bank. Jacob participated at the HOBY Leadership Camp in the summer of 2021, and the RYLA Leadership Camp in the summer of 2022.

During his Freshman year, Jacob was a cast member on the 3rd place TAPPS Division 3 State One Act Play team. He was a member of the football team that won the District Championship and the TAPPS Division 4 Football State Championship. He won the St. Paul Voice of Democracy Essay Contest. He was on the High Honor Roll every quarter of the school year and received the Spanish 1, English 1, and World Geography Class Awards.

As a Sophomore, Jacob was a member of the football team that won the District Championship and the TAPPS Division 4 Football State Championship. He was awarded 3rd place in the St Paul Voice of Democracy Essay Contest, won the District 24 Voice of Democracy Essay contest, was a Texas Voice of Democracy Essay Contest State Finalist, and received a

\$1000 scholarship. Jacob was on the TAPPS 2A Track District 4 championship team where he ran the 400 meter dash. He was an alternate runner for the TAPPS 2A Track South Regional Runner-Up team and on the TAPPS 2A Track State Runner-Up team. He once again was on the High Honor Roll every quarter of the school year, received the Algebra II award, and was inducted into the National Honor Society.

During his Junior Year, Jacob became the starting quarterback of the football team; His team won the District Championship and the TAPPS Division 4 Football State Championship. He was named Honorable Mention All-District Quarterback. He once again earned 3rd place in the St Paul Voice of Democracy Essay, won the District 24 Voice of Democracy Essay Contest, was named a Texas Voice of Democracy Essay Contest State Finalist, and received a \$1000 scholarship. He was a part of the TAPPS 2A Academic Contest Runner-Up team where he placed 5th in Number Sense, 5th in Advanced Math, and was the State Champion in Cal-

culator. He was a member of the basketball team that made the playoffs. He also ran the 400 Meter Dash and the 1600 Meter Relay. He was a member of the TAPPS 2A Track District 4 Runner-Up team, the South Regional 3rd place team, and the State 5th place team. His 1600 Meter Relay team advanced to the State Track Meet which qualified him to be a part of the Academic

All-State Track Team. In baseball, he was a member of the District Championship team and the TAPPS Division 5 Baseball State Runner-Up team. He continued to earn High Honors every quarter and was given the Pre-Calculus Class Award.

During his Senior year, Jacob was named a National Merit Commended Scholar. He won the St Paul Voice of Democracy Essay Contest. He was the Republican Women of Yoakum

Area Essay Contest Grand Champion and was awarded a scholarship of \$1200. Jacob was the starting quarterback for his football team. His team won the District Championship and finished as the TAPPS Division 4 Football State Runner-Up team. He was named the TAPPS Division 4 District 2 2nd Team All-District Quarterback and was also named to the TAPPS Division 4 Academic All-State Football team. He was one of only eighty members of the Texas High School Coaches Association and Texas Army National Guard Academic All-State ELITE Football Team. His team also had the opportunity to participate in the Catholic Bowl at The Star in Frisco, Texas. He became a starter on the Basketball team. He was a part of the TAPPS 2A Academic Contest 3rd place team where he placed 7th in Number Sense, 7th in

Lincoln-Douglas Debate, and was the State Runner-Up in Calculator. He also ran the 400 Meter Dash and the 1600 Meter Relay for the track team. He advanced to Regionals in both events with a 2nd place finish in the 400 Meter Dash and a 3rd place finish in the 1600 Meter Relay. His team finished this meet as the District Champions. At Regionals, Jacob placed 5th in the 400 Meter Dash and his team placed 3rd in the 1600 Meter Relay. His team also won the TAPPS 2A South Regional Championship. He ran the 1600 Meter Relay at the State Track Meet where his team finished as the 4th place team. He was TAPPS Academic All-State in track and he was one of forty members of the Texas High School Coaches Association and Texas Army National Guard Academic All-State ELITE Boys Track Team. Jacob was the starting Right Fielder for his school's baseball team. This team advanced to the TAPPS Division 5 state tournament. Jacob also served as a student coach for the St. Ludmila football, basketball, track, and softball teams. He also coached PSIA Calculator and helped two kids advance to the State contest where those students finished 2nd and 10th. Jacob once again earned High Honors during every quarter of his Senior Year. Due to his participation in Dual Credit, Jacob will graduate with twenty-six hours of college credit. Jacob plans to attend Texas A&M University in order to obtain degrees in nutrition and kinesiology in order to become a coach and teacher.



SHINER ST. PAUL HIGH SCHOOL
GRADUATING CLASS OF 2023

SALUTATORIAN **Joseph Twyford**

Joseph Kevin Twyford, son of Kevin and Wendi Twyford, is the 2023 Salutatorian of St. Paul High School. Joseph came to Shiner Catholic School in the 7th grade. Throughout high school, Joseph received many honors. He made the High Honor Roll and won many class subject awards including Biology, Religion I, Algebra I, Spanish II, Theater, Geometry, and Religion III. Joseph was also awarded National Merit Commended Student for his outstanding performance on the PSAT/NMSQT. Joseph participated in various extracurricular activities as well. He competed and placed in academic events at the State level including Number Sense, Mathematics, Spelling, and Current Events. He earned a State Championship in Solo Acting and a State Championship in Duet Acting with his partner Alexa Escobar. Joseph was a part of the first-ever debate team at St. Paul and was the individual runner-up in Lincoln-Douglas Debate at the TAPPS State Academic and Speech Meet. This year, he was the top overall speech participant at the State Meet scoring 22 points.

Joseph took theatre all four years of high school, winning two All-Star Cast Awards at the TAPPS State One-Act Play competition during that time. His accolades in acting and academics earned him the TAPPS Fine Arts Student of the Year Award for the 2021-22 school year.

Joseph competed in track and field, basketball, and football throughout high school. He threw the shot put and discus in track and field and is a two-time State Champion in the shot put, a three-time State Second Runner-Up in the discus and was Academic All-State. In Basketball, he

earned a First Team All-District award his senior year and Academic All-State. In football, Joseph was a part of three State Champion Teams and a State Runner-up Team. He was an Honorable Mention All-State Offensive Lineman his senior year and was awarded TAPPS Academic All-State, First Team Academic All-State by the Texas High School Coaches Association.

Joseph also loves to play the piano. He is under the instruction of Mrs. Vida Burnett. He has been playing for 14 years, winning numerous state and national awards through the College of American Musicians and the Texas Federation of Music Clubs.

Joseph is a member of Student Council and served as Treasurer. He also served as Class Vice President for three years and Class President for one year. Joseph is a member of the National Honor Society. Joseph is an active member of Sts. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church. He altar serves at Mass, plays the piano for the choir, live streams, and volunteers at Church events such as the picnics and the annual Gala, and the J-Squad.

Joseph was selected to attend Texas Boys State in 2022. There, he was elected as an Associate Justice to the Court of Criminal Appeals and served as a country delegate. His city was awarded the prestigious honor of "Best City," scoring the most points in activities from elections to sports out of each city at Boys State.

Joseph will attend Christendom College in Front Royal, Virginia in the fall to pursue a degree in Political Science. He hopes to further his education by attending Law School and becoming a lawyer.



Congratulates the Class of 2023

We are especially proud of the accomplishments of our seniors and their families, and we support a bright future to all graduating seniors.

Gonzales High School



Clemente Govea



Sebastian Matamoros



Gage Cardenas



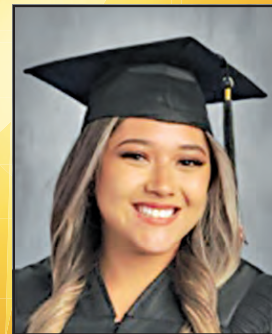
Jose Pizano Guzman



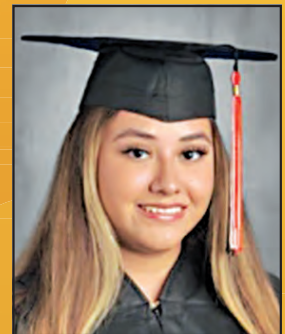
Matilda Bonilla



Hector Gamez



Erika Garcia



Ana Orozco

Shiner High School



Angel San Martin