



# The Gonzales Inquirer

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**GONZALES MAIN STREET HOSTS ANNUAL  
Star-Spangled Spectacular**

**FROM STAFF REPORTS**

Come out and celebrate 247 years of American independence when Gonzales Main Street presents its annual Star-Spangled Spectacular Fourth of July on Tuesday, July 4, from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. at Independence Square.

There will be food trucks, live music and a fireworks show that will light up the sky faster than you can say "Oh, say can you see!"

Children's activities include a patriotic bike decorating contest and parade sponsored by VFW Post 4817, balloon animals, water slides, a petting zoo and more.

The music kicks off at 6 p.m. with Cheyenne Saenz, a country singer/songwriter and musician from Von Ormy, performing until 7 p.m. From 8 p.m. to 9:30

See **EVENTS**, page 7

## GISD board discusses possible bond election

**BY VANDY VAN EPPS**  
Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales ISD School Board had a special called meeting Monday, June 26 at the GISD administration building to discuss a potential bond election for November 2023.

GISD Superintendent Dr. Elmer Avellaneda said there's been a lot of discussion on a potential bond issue in the near future for the school district and he invited experts from Region 13 Education Service Center to discuss the process that would be required.

Jerry Vaughn, coordinator of field services agents, talked about Region 13 and what they

See **BOND**, page 16

## Avellaneda celebrates his first year as GISD superintendent

**BY VANDY VAN EPPS**  
Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales Independent School District celebrated one year under the leadership of Dr. Elmer Avellaneda last week.

Avellaneda was hired as the new superintendent of schools at GISD after the conclusion of the 2021-22 school year, and he immediately had an impact on the district and the community.

"I'd like to thank the community for welcoming me with open arms and supporting me in my first year, you know, I can't be successful without community support,"

See **GISD**, page 12

## Commissioners set uniform speed limit of 35 on county roads

**BY LEW K. COHN**  
Inquirer Publisher

Roads in Gonzales County that are maintained by the county will now have a maximum speed limit of 35 miles per hour after the court adopted an order altering the speed limits on Monday, June 26.

The order establishes a "maximum prima facie reasonable and prudent speed limit" of 35 mph for all county roads in Gonzales County and will allow law enforcement to enforce violations as Class C misdemeanors punishable by a fine of between \$1 to \$200 plus court costs in

See **SPEED LIMIT**, page 12

## Gonzales County man sentenced for sexual abuse of child

**BY LEW K. COHN**  
Inquirer Publisher

A Gonzales County man was sentenced by 25th District Judge William D. Old III to 70 years in prison Friday, June 23, for sexually abusing a child for nearly eight years before being brought to justice.

Francisco Gonzales had previously been found guilty during a jury trial of continuously sexually abusing a child, which is a first-degree felony and is punishable by no less than 25 years and up to 99 years or life in prison plus a \$10,000 fine.

Prosecuting attorney David Smith praised the victim in the case, who had been molested by the defendant from the age of 3 up to the age of 11. He said the victim had experienced "a living nightmare" of abuse from

See **ABUSE**, page 12

### REUNION AT EGGLESTON HOUSE



Descendants of Milton David and Ola Mae (Eggleston) Low gathered Sunday, June 4, 2023 for a reunion at the Eggleston House. Milton David Low, the son of William David and Ellen Eliza (Baker) Low, and Ola Mae Eggleston, the daughter of Newton Howard and Esther Ann (Compton) Eggleston and the granddaughter of Horace and Sarah Ann (Ponton) Eggleston, were united in marriage on October 18, 1908 in Gonzales County. The descendants united to dedicate a tree, given by the family, that was planted at their ancestors' home. The Gonzales City's Mayor's wife, Mrs. Linda Sucher, was present for the dedication.

CONTRIBUTED

## County eligible to receive \$2.4 million in grant funds

**BY LEW K. COHN**  
Inquirer Publisher

Gonzales County has the opportunity to apply for and receive more than \$2.4 million in mitigation funding from the Texas General Land Office. Now, county officials just have to decide what projects they would want to fund with the grant.

Jessica Daidone, senior disaster recovery and resilience grant manager and team lead for Langford Community Management Services, met

See **GRANT**, page 7

## Community School Supply Drive to be held July 15

**STAFF REPORT**

With the new school year just around the corner, many Gonzales students are faced with the possibility of not having much-needed school supplies.

On Saturday, July 15, there will be a community school supply drive and giveaway at the Edwards Association Community Center from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The schools that benefit from this program are Gonzales ISD, Grace Christian Academy, Emmanuel Christian School, and Legacy Ranch.

The following school supplies are needed for students: notebook paper, crayons, pens, glue sticks, folders, composition notebooks, colored pencils, notebooks/binders, and kleenex/tissues.

Local businesses and the community have an option to adopt a classroom for \$75. With the donation, a classroom will be provided with a box of supplies that'll help them throughout the school year.

For more information on who to contact, go to the Gonzales Community School Supply Drive page on Facebook.



# Fire destroys abandoned house in Nixon; no injuries

## FROM STAFF REPORTS

An early morning fire Thursday, June 22 that destroyed an old wood frame home in Nixon is under investigation. Gonzales County Emergency Management Coordinator Jimmy Harless said

the fire was first reported at about 5:18 a.m. at 906 E. 2nd Street in Nixon — a 782-square-foot white house that was apparently built in 1930. “We are not quite sure what happened,” Harless said. “It was a very old, abandoned wood frame house that did

not have electrical power to it. It appears that a small fire may have started in the shed behind the house. There had been a pretty bad electrical storm early that morning so maybe that was the cause. “Nobody lived in the house and no one was injured. The fire was contained

to just the two structures on the property by the Nixon Fire Department.” The cause of the fire is under investigation at this time as fire officials are trying to determine the origin of the blaze and whether it was manmade or electrical in nature.

## BRIDGE DEDICATED



CONTRIBUTED

A new bridge has been dedicated at Pioneer Village. This bridge makes access to the Village from the front gate main trail much more handicapped-friendly. This will be especially appreciated by those who have been unable to walk the “Trail of Lights” during Stars in the Village in December. An anonymous donor made this bridge possible and the Pioneer Village Board of directors is very grateful.

# Smiley may see improved fiber-optic internet

BY CLAYTON KELLEY FOR THE INQUIRER

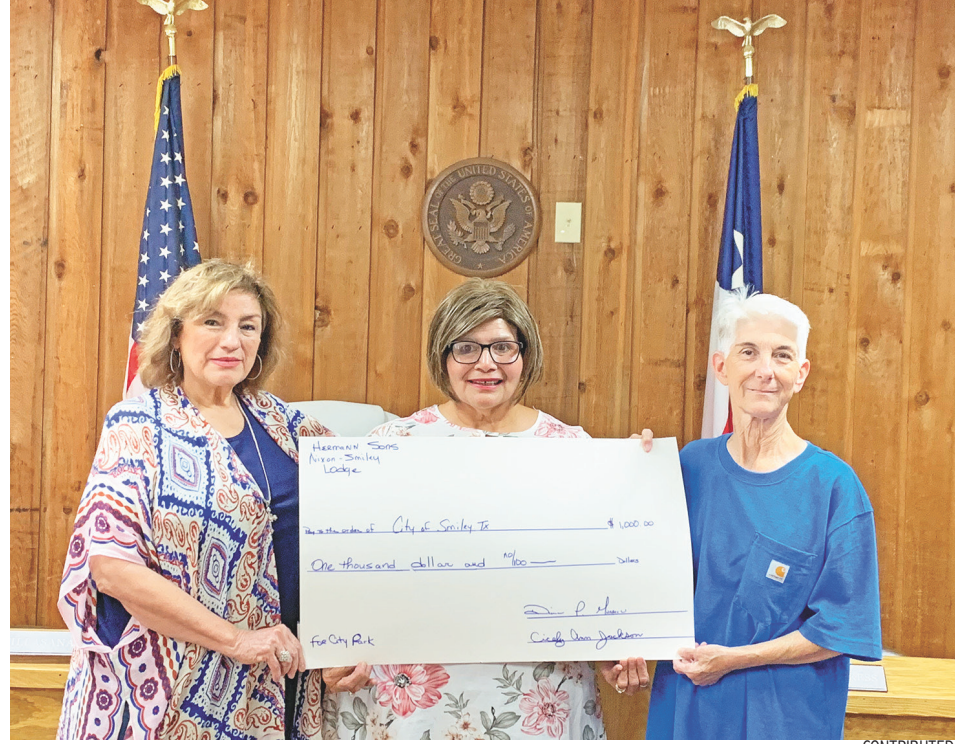
The City of Smiley soon may be seeing improved fiber-optic internet after receiving a presentation at the June 21 meeting.

“A presentation by Rise Broadband was given,” Mayor Lisa Benavides said. “This is for faster internet service to all the citizens in Smiley. The fiber-optic cable would not interfere with existing fiber optic that the Nixon-Smiley school has in place.”

Council did table this agenda item as it will potentially be discussed further at future meetings.

The utility report stated that containers are in for the dumps to start using and brush was picked up and burned. Several new water meters were also installed.

The Smiley Bantham Activity Group (SBAG) is also gearing up for several upcoming events for



CONTRIBUTED

On Wednesday, June 21, the Nixon-Smiley Hermann Sons #327 Lodge donated the first \$1,000 to the future City of Smiley Park. Mayor Lisa Benavidez graciously accepted the donation gifted by Hermann Sons representatives Diana Moreno and Ann Jackson on behalf of the citizens of the Smiley community.

the year. On Aug. 5, there will be a back-to-school drive supply at the Stella Ellis Hart Public Library. Fall festival will also be Oct. 21 at the fire depart-

ment. Youths can also expect to see the library reading program during Thanksgiving break. Smiley is also seeking an additional full-time

employee for the utilities department. “They will be working with our utility men with our wastewater,” Benavides said.

# Tour Gonzales unveils redesigned website

## SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

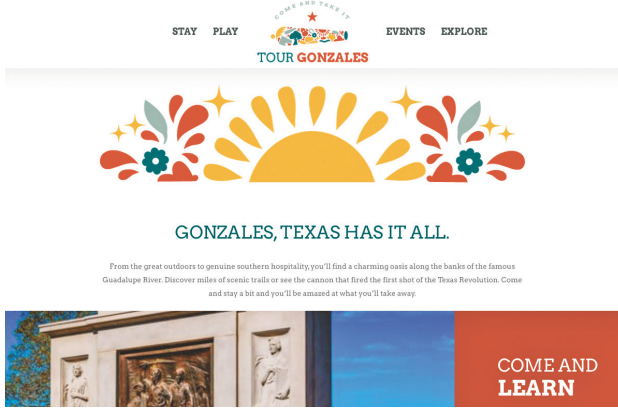
Tour Gonzales is thrilled to announce the launch of the re-designed TourGonzales.com website.

Gonzales native Mary Scheske, of Mary Making TX, partnered with Tour Gonzales to update the website with complete listings of Gonzales attractions, dining and shopping options and things to do in the area.

Local photographer, Madison Lindner, of ML Photography, contributed to the site with new photographs of historic homes, buildings, and attractions.

The site features main topics: Stay, Play, Events, and Explore with sub-categories.

“Stay” features Gonzales bed and breakfast locations, hotels, RV parks, and vacation rentals. “Play” features arts and culture, dining, and



shopping. “Events” lists local events by month including the Come and Take It Celebration, featuring a new map of the festival grounds. Businesses and organizations hosting community events can submit events to be featured on the calendar with a simple form. “Explore” shows Gonzales historic homes, historical markers, museums, collections and more. Tourists can sign up to receive information from Tour Gonzales via

mail and can quickly see the official visitors’ guide, Discover Gonzales, published by Gonzales Inquirer.

“We wanted the website to be a one-stop site where tourists and locals can easily learn about Gonzales, its attractions and what’s going on in the area,” said Melissa Henderson, Director,

Gonzales Chamber of Commerce. “We updated the site with new photography and content that highlights Gonzales and heritage tourism.”

The website will be constantly evolving with updated events, historical information for Gonzales’s upcoming Bicentennial and more. A wedding-focused page is in the works to feature venues, catering options, florists, and other wedding-related businesses. Find something missing or have a suggestion? We would like to hear your feedback! Email edits, updates, and suggestions to Melissa Henderson at director@gonzalestexas.com, or contact the Gonzales Chamber of Commerce.

## The Dental Office of Gloria Haug, D.D.S.

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We will reopen July 10th



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# LCRA offering grants for community projects

## SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Lower Colorado River Authority is offering grants of up to \$50,000 to support first responders and improve local community centers, museums, parks and more.

LCRA awards Community Development Partnership Program grants for community projects twice a year to nonprofits such as volunteer fire departments, emergency responders, local governments, schools, libraries, civic groups, museums and other tax-exempt nonprofit organizations. The grants are not available to individuals, for-profit entities, professional associations, social service projects or limited-use facilities.

Applications for the next round of grants will

be available online at lcra.org/cdpp in July and must be submitted by midnight July 31.

Most grants are for \$25,000 or less, but several grants of up to \$50,000 are awarded every grant cycle.

Applicants requesting more than \$5,000 in grant funding must supply matching funds of at least 20 percent of the total project cost. The projects must benefit or be available to an entire community and improve the value of a capital asset through building, renovating or purchasing equipment.

Visit lcra.org/cdpp for eligibility requirements. The online application will be available on the webpage beginning July 1.

For more information, email grants@lcra.org or call 800-776-5272, ext. 3140 or ext. 1627.



### Split Oak Cattle Company

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## Celebrations Birthdays

<b>June 29th</b> Terry Pemberton Colleen Riker Skylar Williams	<b>July 3rd</b> Mary Brown Cory Molina
<b>June 30th</b> Christy Brosch	<b>July 4th</b> Happy Birthday USA!
<b>July 1st</b> Joel Koricanek Haley Roberts Melanie Svoboda	<b>July 5th</b> Claire Harkey Marquise Hastings Kirby Knox Heath Lipke Corrien Scivally Jose Torres
<b>July 2nd</b> Barb Escobar Connor Caraway Richter	

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## Gonzales Weather

	<b>June 29</b> 103°/77°	Mostly sunny and hot 8% chance of rain • RealFeel 104
	<b>June 30</b> 102°/75°	Humid with sun and some clouds 25% chance of rain • RealFeel 103
	<b>July 1</b> 100°/77°	Mostly sunny, very warm and humid 10% chance of rain • RealFeel 106
	<b>July 2</b> 100°/75°	Sunny to partly cloudy and humid 25% chance of rain • RealFeel 106
	<b>July 3</b> 96°/76°	Variable cloudiness with a thunderstorm in a couple of spots; humid 40% chance of rain • RealFeel 99
	<b>July 4</b> 94°/76°	Partly sunny and humid 25% chance of rain • RealFeel 97
	<b>July 5</b> 94°/76°	Very warm and humid with episodes of sunshine 25% chance of rain • RealFeel 96

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Gonzales Inquirer



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

June 30th – 2 Dumb Blondes

July 1st-2nd – South Texas Tour

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 1922 Co. Road 197, Gonzales, TX 78629



## Deadhead your zinnias to keep the blooms coming until Thanksgiving

**Q. Our zinnias look great and are attracting lots of butterflies. How long will they last into the fall?**

A. Zinnias in general last until about Thanksgiving but individual plants may not last that long depending on the variety and the weather. If you deadhead the spent blooms or harvest blooms to use for cutting flowers, it will stimulate production of new flower buds. I let my Dreamland zinnias proceed until they drop seed and reseed themselves, but September is the latest you could get that to work. If you want zinnias to be blooming until Thanksgiving plant seeds like California Giant now or plant one of the many transplants available at area nurseries.

**Q. Last month we planted a new Mexican White Oak but unfortunately, we failed to water it enough after the rains quit again, and the leaves are wilting. We have watered it now but have not seen a response yet. Is it done for?**

A. It probably still has a chance to survive. How generous are you with the water when you water it? Do not rely on a sprinkler. Let a hose run slowly on top of the root area for at least an hour 2 times a week until it experiences a revival.

## Garden Q&A

with CALVIN FINCH



Keep watering it into the winter. If you are watering with a drip or soaker hose run it for 4 hours twice per week. The 4 hours for the soaker hose is when you have barely turned on the spigot. Be generous with the water but do not waste it.

**Q. Does it hurt the Monarch and other butterfly feeding on the milkweed if we spray the aphids off with a water spray?**

A. My first reaction is to say "not directly" but it would hurt the Queen butterfly eggs and caterpillars that are on the milkweeds now and it is not necessary. By the time the Monarchs migrate through this fall the lady bugs and wasps will probably reduce the aphid and milkweed beetles on the plants.

**Q. My grass greened up when**

we had those rains last month. I sprayed a portion of the lawn with Roundup and just as you predicted the grass started to wilt after a week and I went ahead and planted Asian Jasmine into the killed sod. I fertilized the area with 19-5-9 slow-release fertilizer and am watering the Jasmine twice per week to address the dry hot weather. Can you think of anything I should change?

A. No your conversion regime sounds correct and should work exactly as predicted. Please keep me informed.

**Q. What tomatoes do you recommend that I plant this fall and when?**

A. Plant in early to mid-July. Certainly, seek out Ruby Crush and BHN 968 cherry tomatoes. They are fast producers and the tastiest selections available. Also give the 2023 Rodeo Tomato Thunderbird a spot in the garden. Red Snapper, Tycoon, Valley Cat, Celebrity, and Phoenix are always good choices. Spray them with Seaweed Extract spray to help slow spider mite reproduction. Spray both sides of the leaves once per week or more. Spider mites are a special problem in the heat.

## Local Tractor Supply store to host Farmers' Market July 1

### SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

On Saturday, July 1, 2023, the Gonzales Tractor Supply store will host a Farmers' Market featuring locally-grown, fresh produce, as well as other seasonal products.

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

From 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., shoppers can stop in for baked goods, arts and crafts and homemade crafts, all produced by neighbors in the Gonzales area.

This event is open to the public and will take place at 1619 Hwy 90A. For more information, please contact the Gonzales Tractor Supply at 830-672-5707.

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## LIVESTOCK WEEKLY REPORTS

### GONZALES LIVESTOCK REPORT

No sale Saturday, July 1  
 June 24  
 Cattle: 1014  
 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., 295-300; 300-400 lbs., 272-280; 400-500 lbs., 252-265; 500-600 lbs., 221-245; 600-700 lbs., 207-217; 700-800 lbs., 181-205.  
**Bull Yearlings:** 700-900 lbs., 95-145.  
**Stocker-feeder Heifers:** Medium and large from No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 267-285; 300-400 lbs., 232-260; 400-500 lbs., 217-227; 500-600 lbs., 207-210; 600-700 lbs., 183-200.  
**Packer Cows:** Good lean utility and commercial, 82-90; Cutters, 94-109; Canners, 52-77; High yielding fat cows, 90-94.  
**Packer Bulls:** Yield grade 1 & 2, good heavy bulls, 110-118; Light weights and medium quality bulls, 97-108.  
**Stocker Cows:** \$750 to \$1,600. Pairs: \$1,100 to \$1,800.

### CUERO LIVESTOCK

June 23, 2023  
 Number of head 1,631  
 There were 282 cows and 29 bulls. The packer market on cows and bulls appeared to be much stronger. The special consignment saw pairs as high as \$3,050 and bred cows up to \$1,450. Top bull was a Charolais for \$3,700.  
 The calf market was much higher particularly on weights

under 550 pounds. Demand was very active across the board. Overall the average calf was \$9/ head higher on 27 pounds less weight than last week with a \$12/cwt higher price.

<b>Packer bulls:</b>	108.00-125.00
<b>cows:</b>	
canners & cutters	85.00-106.00
poor & weak	30.00-50.00
Palpated: 67 BRED	\$750-\$1,450
<b>PAIRS:</b> 38	\$1,000-\$3,050
<b>Steer Calves:</b>	(AVG-HIGH)
Under 200 lbs.	NONE
200-249 lbs.	255.00-286.00
250-299 lbs.	273.00-303.00
300-350 lbs.	260.00-294.00
350-400 lbs.	241.00-270.00
400-450 lbs.	251.00-290.00
450-500 lbs.	240.00-282.00
500-550 lbs.	229.00-252.00
550-600 lbs.	216.00-246.00
600-700 lbs.	205.00-238.00
700-800 lbs.	192.00-229.00
<b>Bull Calves:</b>	(AVG-HIGH)
Under 250lbs	246.00-288.00
250-300 lbs.	240.00-298.00
300-350 lbs.	246.00-304.00
350-400 lbs.	235.00-296.00
400-450 lbs.	235.00-282.00
450-500 lbs.	218.00-270.00
500-550 lbs.	215.00-250.00
550-600 lbs.	201.00-233.00
600-700 lbs.	194.00-228.00
Over 700 lbs.	190.00-210.00
<b>Heifer Calves:</b>	(AVG-HIGH)
under 200 lbs.	246.00-300.00
200-250 lbs.	206.00-252.00
250-300 lbs.	225.00-268.00
300-350 lbs.	229.00-264.00
350-400 lbs.	218.00-260.00
400-450 lbs.	215.00-250.00
450-500 lbs.	211.00-244.00
500-550 lbs.	208.00-285.00
550-600 lbs.	202.00-245.00
600-700 lbs.	193.00-225.00
Over 700 lbs.	178.00-194.00

### HALLETTVILLE LIVESTOCK COMMISSION CO., INC.

Sale date: June 20  
 Cattle on hand: 1350  
**Packer cows:**  
 Canner and Cutter Cows: \$80-118  
 Utility & Fat Cows: \$76-106  
 Low dressing canner cows: \$55-78  
 Poor/Weak: \$48-62  
**Packer Bulls:**  
 Heavyweight Bulls: \$116-132  
 Utility & Cutter Bulls: \$105-118  
 Lightweight Canner Bulls: \$98-110  
**Stocker Cows:**  
 Good Stocker/Cows & Heifers: \$1350-1600  
 Medium Stocker Cows & Heifers: \$1000-1325  
 Good Cow & Calf Pairs: NONE  
 Medium Cow & Calf Pairs: \$1425-1600  
**Stocker & Feeder Calves & Yearlings:**  
**Number 1 steer & bull calves:**  
 Under 200 lbs.: \$230-315  
 200-300 lbs.: \$240-310  
 300-400 lbs.: \$235-295  
 400-500 lbs.: \$225-285  
 500-600 lbs.: \$205-245  
 600-700 lbs.: \$195-232.50  
 700-800 lbs.: \$180-215  
**Number 1 heifer calves:**  
 Under 200 lbs.: \$210-285  
 200-300 lbs.: \$220-275  
 300-400 lbs.: \$210-270  
 400-500 lbs.: \$205-265  
 500-600 lbs.: \$190-255  
 600-700 lbs.: \$180-205  
 700-800 lbs.: \$170-195  
**Replacement Heifers:**  
 350-750 lbs.: \$220-260  
**NO SALE JULY 4TH**  
 The calf market was a little softer this week. Mid & heavier weight classes sold steady to \$3 lower. Light weight sold \$5 to

\$10 lower overall. Average of all calves was \$3 lower. Still a very strong market. Packer cows sold \$3 to \$6 higher on a total supply of approximately 200 head.

### SEGUIN CATTLE CO.

June 21  
 Market 5-7 softer in places. Packer cows and bulls steady. Cattle - 702  
 Sheep & goats - 1014  
**Medium & large frame #1 Steers:**  
 200-300 lb. .40-1.65-2.35  
 300-400 lb. .20-2.09-2.87  
 400-500 lb. .55-1.90-2.61  
 500-600 lb. .55-1.66-2.36  
 600-700 lb. .70-1.41-2.12  
 700-850 lb. .65-1.45-2.16  
**Medium & large frame #1 Heifers:**  
 200-300 lb. .90-1.61-2.44  
 300-400 lb. .50-1.54-2.16  
 400-500 lb. .60-1.66-2.18  
 500-600 lb. .60-1.63-2.30  
 600-750 lb. .70-1.60-1.92  
**Cows:**  
 Utility & commercial -65-86-108  
 Cutters - 70-78-86  
 Canners - 67-73-80  
 Palpated cow - 425-1400  
 Cow/Calf Pairs - 700-2000  
**Bulls:**  
 Heavy High Yielding - 1.10-1.33  
 Light & Low Yielding - .85-1.09  
**Sheep & Goats:**  
 Nannies - 80-340  
 Kid Goats (Fat) - 2.40-3.65  
 Wethers -2.35-3.65  
 Billies - 1.40-2.85  
 Dorp. Ewes - 40-145  
 Dorp. Lambs (Fat) - 1.80-2.24  
 Woolled Ewes - 80-120  
 Woolled Bucks - 1.50-2.25  
 Lambs - 1.27-1.82  
 Barb. Bucks - \$350\*400

## Gonzales Livestock Market, Inc.

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Mike Brzozowski  
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## Nixon Livestock Commission, Inc

### SALE

Every Monday-10:30am

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Rodney Butler  
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## Traveling over the Fourth of July holiday?

Slow down or move over for tow trucks and emergency vehicles

### SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

When tow trucks and other emergency vehicles – police, fire, EMS and highway response trucks – are stopped on the side of the road with their lights activated, state law requires drivers to slow down or move over.

Texas traffic laws require drivers to leave the lane closest to the emergency vehicles stopped on the road (if the road has more than one lane traveling in the same direction) OR to slow down at least 20 miles per hour below the speed limit.

TDLR regulates the towing industry as well as the Driver Education and Safety program.

Safety tips for driving this weekend:

- Slow down and pay attention to what you're doing. If you get tired, pull over in a safe spot and walk around to re-energize.
- Don't drink and drive, even a little bit.
- Designate a (sober) driver.
- Stay off the mobile phone – this includes texting. Designate a "co-pilot" to oversee the phone while you're driving so you can concentrate on the task at hand.
- Stay weather-aware. We're not expecting bad weather, but this is Texas and you never know.
- Leave plenty of time to get to your destination. Roadways are likely to be crowded. Drive friendly – the Texas way!

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Dear Editor,**  
On behalf of the Edwards Association, I would like to thank the Inquirer so much for the wonderful coverage of the Juneteenth celebration.

I also want to thank Mayor Sucher, the Gonzales Main Street Director Tiffany Hutchinson-Padilla and her staff for their support, the Gonzales Police Department, the businesses along the parade route who opened their doors to the parade participants while they awaited their grand entrance on Independence Square.

Thank you also to the city workers who withstood the heat to make this celebration a success. Last but certainly not least, a huge thank you to everyone who came out to support the Juneteenth Celebration. God bless.

Respectfully,  
**David B. Tucs**  
Edwards Association President

**Dear editor,**  
Gonzales, Texas is NOT eye-catching!

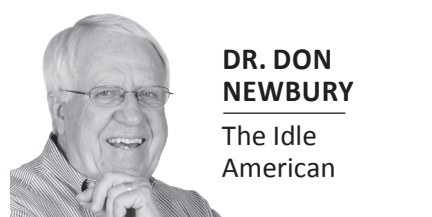
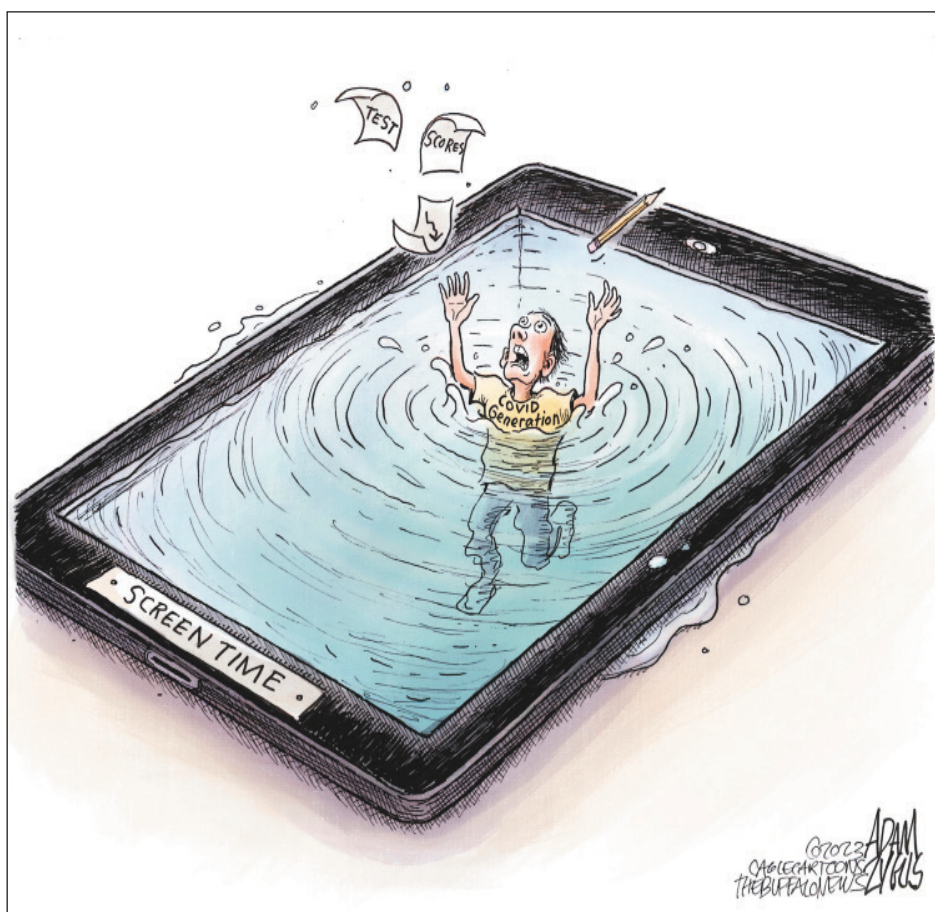
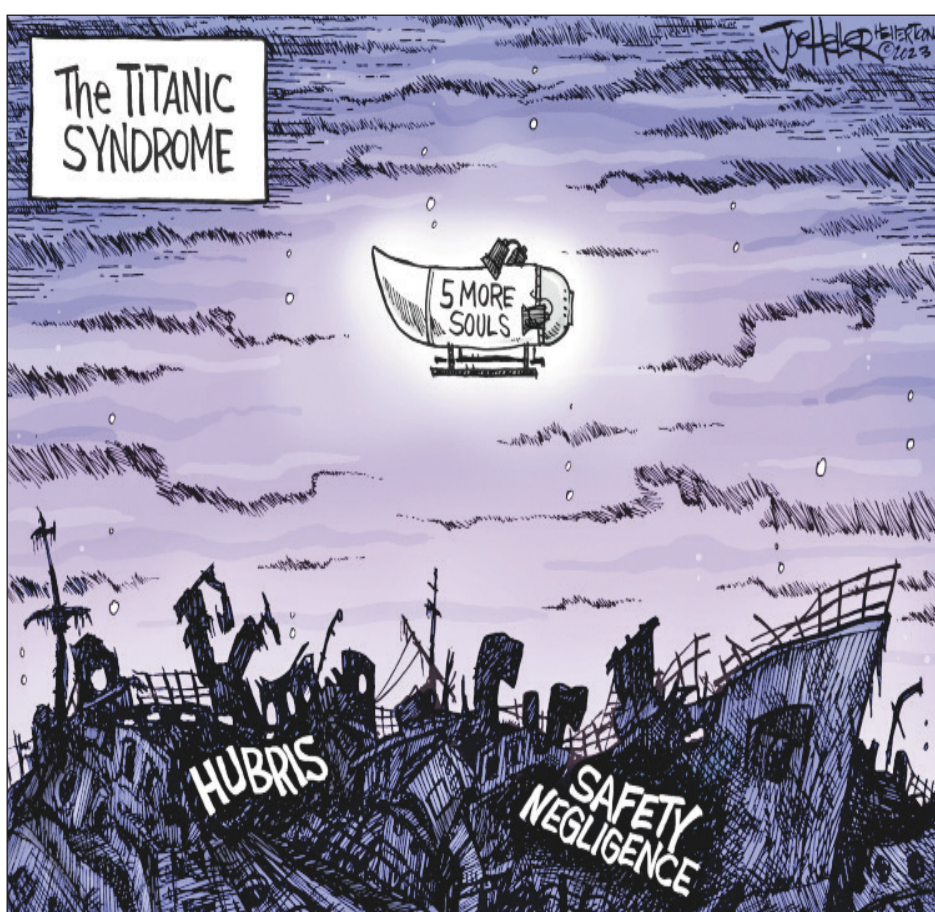
Gonzales, Texas IS an eye-sore! Travelling through Gonzales, Texas on 90A, East or West, from one side of town to the other, is a nightmare in the Twilight Zone.

Nowhere in the Gonzales Inquirer article does it mention the 90A neglected center median through town that has been — for several years — an eye-sore.

Tall grass needs mowing, trees need to be trimmed, garbage / trash needs to be picked up...

That would restore pride and be a great start to the beautification of Gonzales, Texas.

Enough said.  
**Rick Sulik / Retired / Senior Citizen**  
Shiner



**DR. DON NEWBURY**  
The Idle American

## Where mats don't welcome...

Before football coaches have gone any distance in the minefield-laden careers they've chosen, they learn that the welcome mat--so warmly extended before their first game--often is jerked away before there's time to leave a footprint.

Finally deciding to accompany his wife to Europe after breaking promises to do so for decades, one old coach had run plumb out of excuses. After all, they had reached retirement years with reasonable health, enough money and plenty of time.

With a shaky hand, creaking bones and weakening enthusiasm now "coughed up" with a wheeze, the old mentor signed the check for a turnkey vacation. It covered all charges for plane tickets, hotels, meals and guided bus tours. Had he known there'd be such a rude welcome at the first hotel stop, he might have canceled the whole deal....

\*\*\*\*\*

The sign out front was light years short of welcoming. It was--the old coach felt--insulting, demeaning and in all ways off-putting. The message seemed clear, written in big block letters actually intended for motor coach drivers: NO FOOTBALL COACHES ALLOWED.

The aged mentor couldn't have been more offended if a panhandler had grabbed his wallet and skedaddled.

His throat tightened as he registered a protest....

\*\*\*\*\*

The seasoned guide was ready for the barrage, probably having made similar explanations many times for befuddled football coaches.

He said that in Europe, soccer is almost as popular as football is in the US, and is, in fact, often called football by Europeans. He explained that many fans often leave hotel rooms in ruins, particularly after losses. "Many hotels decided it wasn't worth it to host such groups, choosing simply to display signs which clearly warned drivers of motor coaches filled with rugby fans to pass on by."

The tour guide explained that in Europe, most folks refer to buses as "coaches." He said it is not to be taken literally by any individual, "particularly on my bus," he whined. "NO FOOTBALL COACHES ALLOWED" is really for drivers of motor coaches delivering rowdy fans....

\*\*\*\*\*

No matter how much the tour guide tried to mollify, the old coach found it difficult to settle down.

Stomach churning, he thought sleep might help. Not so. He dreamed negatively of his career that was heavy on the loss side....

He dreamed of trudging from the stadium after the final whistle of an 0-10 season, unintentionally jostled a fan exiting on crutches.

"No offense. No offense," the coach apologized.

"You got that right," the fan snapped, "And your defense ain't any better..."

\*\*\*\*\*

Memories continued to surface. At one new job, reporters and photographers crowded the press conference, hailing the new coach who was to be the savior of a team that usually finished dead last in the half of the standings that made the top half possible.

"I am fired with enthusiasm as I take this job," he gushed. "You can quote me on that."

Things didn't go well. After the 0-10 season, he stumbled through his final interview, remembering that when he took the job, he was 'fired with enthusiasm.' He opined that he was leaving the same way, "fired with enthusiasm!"...

\*\*\*\*\*

He also remembered one stop where the "quarterback club" was a weapon, not an organization.

Also dredged from memory was the recommendation of a fellow coach. "Early on, I was warned that in coaching, I should never own a home that didn't have wheels on it," the coach said. "So, I decided to spend my entire career living in a mobile home, always ready to move to the next place. It is important to remember that fans will name a street after you one day and chase you down it the next."

A final thought from the old mentor was the likelihood that most fans will be with you all the way--win or tie....

**Dr. Newbury, a longtime university president who has written weekly since 2003, continues to speak throughout Texas. Contact: 817-447-3872. Email: newbury@speakerdoc.com.**

## The Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales Inquirer, 622 St. Paul, Gonzales, TX 78629 is a periodical postage paid at Gonzales, Texas and additional mailing offices.

Postmaster: For change of address, notify **The Gonzales Inquirer**, P.O. Box 616, Gonzales, TX 78629-0616

### Mail Subscription Rates

Payable in advance

In county	
One year .....	\$48
Six months .....	\$36
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Out of county	
One year .....	\$60
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One year .....	\$40
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The Gonzales Inquirer is published every Thursday by Guadalupe Valley Publishing Co. USPS 221-740 • ISSN 1059-7158 • 622 St. Paul St., P.O. Box 616 • Gonzales, TX 78629

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



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# Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

Find Kid Scoop on Facebook

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Many countries celebrate their independence days in unique and fun ways. This week, Kid Scoop takes a trip around the world to discover how other countries show their love of independence.

## Celebrate Independence Around the World!

The Fourth of July in the United States commemorates America's independence from Great Britain. On July 4, 1776, a group of Americans signed the Declaration of Independence. Today, Americans celebrate with parades, barbecue, fireworks shows, and wearing red, white and blue.

### Viva México!

Mexicans celebrate "Grito de Dolores" (meaning "Cry of Dolores") on September 15. On that day in 1810, Father Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, a priest in the town of Dolores, made a speech demanding the freedom of Mexico from Spain. Now on this day, the president rings the original bell from Father Hidalgo's church and recites Hidalgo's original speech. The president ends with the cry, "Viva México!" which can be heard the rest of the night during celebrations, fireworks and other fun activities.

**Use the code to learn what "Viva México" means.**

**SECRET CODE**

C = M =   
 E = N =   
 G = O =   
 I = V =   
 L = X =

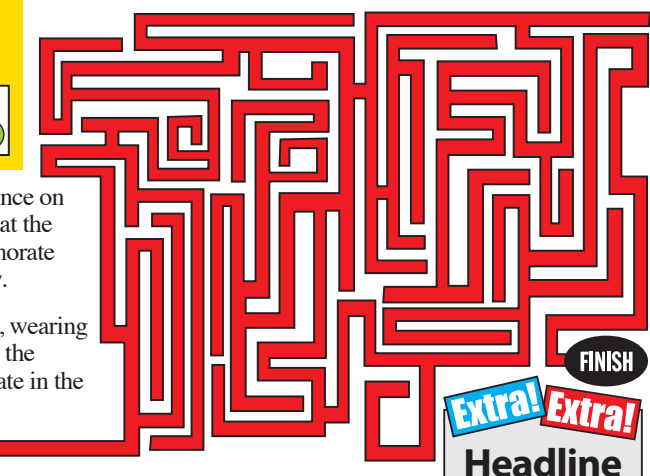
### Flying Kites for Freedom in India

The night before Independence Day in India, the president of the country gives a speech about how the country is doing.

On the day itself, August 15, citizens gather and watch their country's flag being hoisted to the top of the flagpole. This happens at offices, homes and schools. Afterwards, families and friends get together and enjoy delicious food.

Lots of people also fly kites on Independence Day to symbolize India's freedom from the British on August 15, 1947.

**Karan's Kite**  
 Karan's kite has stripes. His kite has a tail, but not a short one. Karan doesn't like polka dots on kites. It is not a box kite.



### Poland

People in Poland celebrate their independence on November 11 when citizens place flowers at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier to commemorate soldiers who have died for their country.

Citizens attend parades and ceremonies, wearing Poland's colors: red and white. In Warsaw, the capital city, thousands of runners participate in the annual Independence Day Run.

### Sum It Up!

After reading this page, write three short statements for each country that sum up how independence is celebrated there. Poland is done for you.

Poland	United States	India	Mexico
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wear red and white clothing</li> <li>Participate in the Independence Day Run</li> <li>Put flowers on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier</li> </ul>			

### Headline Fun

Look at the headlines in today's newspaper. Rewrite each headline so it means just the opposite.

Standards Link: Writing Applications: Write in a variety of formats.

### Kid Scoop Puzzler

Loud fireworks can scare pets. Be sure to keep your pets indoors on Independence Day.

Dash through today's newspaper to find the letters that spell the words on these firecrackers. Spelling an entire word "defuses" the firecracker. Can you spell them all in five minutes?

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

### Double Double Word Search

CELEBRATE  
 HIDALGO  
 PARADES  
 KITES  
 MEXICO  
 FLAGPOLE  
 FREEDOM  
 CHURCH  
 WORLD  
 SPEECH  
 POLAND  
 TODAY  
 INDIA  
 BELL  
 RED

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

F	I	O	C	I	X	E	M	T	E
R	N	R	G	O	L	A	O	T	L
E	D	E	E	L	I	D	A	P	O
E	N	S	E	D	A	R	A	P	P
D	A	B	N	Y	B	D	K	E	G
O	L	I	N	E	D	E	I	N	A
M	O	D	L	R	O	W	T	H	L
S	P	E	E	C	H	C	E	E	F
D	C	H	U	R	C	H	S	A	Y

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

### Kid Scoop Together: Missing Words

Fireworks have blasted some of the words out of this article. Can you find where each missing word belongs?

**Chinese Cook Has a Blast**

Most Independence Day celebrations include setting off fireworks. The exploding excitement of fireworks had its origins in a in China.

About 1,000 years ago, a Chinese cook three ingredients found in kitchens at that time. A from the cooking fire his concoction into a blast of sparks! Some say this was the firework.

The three ingredients were saltpeter (used for pickling , sulfur (used to make fires hotter) and charcoal (the wood from the cooking fire).

**KITCHEN EXPLODED FOODS FIRST COMMONLY SPARK MIXED COOKING CHARRED WORLDWIDE**

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Use context clues to understand the meaning of words.

### Kid Scoop-doku

Complete the grid by using all the letters in the word WORLD in each vertical and horizontal row. Each letter should only be used once in each row. Some spaces have been filled in for you.

	L			
W	O	R	L	D
		L		O
L				
			O	L

### Write On!

## My Best Birthday

What was your best birthday celebration ever?

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The **Gonzales Inquirer**  
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## GCVMA hosts Independence Day golf tourney

### STAFF REPORT

The 11th annual Gonzales County Veterans Memorial Association (GCVMA) three-man scramble golf tournament returns this Tuesday, July 4 for the Independence Day holiday at the Gonzales Independence Golf Course off Water Street in Gonzales.

Tee time is at 8 a.m. and the cost is \$150 per team. There will be a Superman Drive on Hole No. 10 for \$20. Cart rental is available at the club house and players have two Mulligans each.

The price includes refreshments (meat, snacks, soda and water), but players must BYOB. Prizes will be given for first through third based on a full

field, plus there will be closest to the pin and longest drive prizes.

All proceeds for the tournament will go towards the Gonzales County Veterans Memorial Association, and will go towards funds to build a memorial to honor veterans past, present, and future.

The GCVMA has raised around \$218,369.32 from donations, fundraisers

and paver brick sales.

For more information about the tournament, click the link below to the GCVMA Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064549038662>.

You can also call Derek Gramann at 830-857-3199 or Bill Kessler at 830-203-0002 or the golf clubhouse at 830-672-1324.

### GOLF SCRAMBLE WINNERS



The winning team from the June 14 Golf Scramble at Independence Golf Course in Gonzales were, from left, Tyler Palmer, Ty Winkenwerner, Will Ruddock, Brian Sample and Ryan Lee.

CONTRIBUTED



The second-place team from the June 14 Golf Scramble at Independence Golf Course in Gonzales were, from left, Brant Philippus, Mark Nutt, Eldon Farek and Ryan Benes.

CONTRIBUTED



The winning team from the June 21 Golf Scramble at Independence Golf Course in Gonzales were, from left, Jarrid Boehm, Mike Turk, Gabe Villareal, Ace Stone and Hector Sanchez.

CONTRIBUTED



The second-place team from the June 21 Golf Scramble at Independence Golf Course in Gonzales were, from left, Greg Freeman, Jordan Boothe, Billy Hyman, Brian Petter and David Meredith.

CONTRIBUTED



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Left to Right: Nixon-Smiley graduates Bradyn Martinez and Braxton Regalado receives their scholarship checks from STCA board member coach Michael Enriquez Monday, June 26.

## Mustangs receive \$1,000 STCA scholarships

### STAFF REPORT

Two Nixon-Smiley Mustangs graduates received their \$1,000 scholarships from the South Texas Coaches Association.

Class of 2023 graduates Bradyn Martinez and Braxton Regalado both received scholarships Monday, June 26.

Martinez and Regalado earned their scholarship monies from the STCA All-Star games in May.



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### Sizzling Summer SALE



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**JOSH MENDOZA**



**JOSH CROUCH**



### Gonzales Breakfast Lions Club

Would like to Thank their


#### 11th Annual 3 Man Scramble Golf Tournament Sponsors

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SAGE CAPITAL BANK  
CARAWAY FORD

SPECIAL THANKS TO:  
**BILL & GLENDA KESSLER**  
FOR THEIR HELP AND EXPERTISE!!!


**Our Winners:**



1st Place: Ron Pekar, Arron Estler & Ron Darsleck.



2nd Place: Butch Jackson, Bill Kessler & Mike Higgenbotham.



3rd Place: Bradley Boehl, Lexi Boehl & Gabe Villareal.

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO CAME OUT AND PARTICIPATED!!!**



## Fehner & Son Grain and Firearms

would like to wish everyone  
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Fehner Firearms is closed on Mondays

# EVENTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

p.m., Los Escorpiones del Norte, led by Danny "Chuco" Banegas, take the stage to get you up off your feet and rocking to the beat.

Then, from 9:45 p.m. to 11 p.m., Conjunto icon Jaime DeAnda will be the headliner and you can see him just 11 days before he is inducted into the Texas Conjunto Music Hall of Fame and Museum in San Benito on July 15. DeAnda has been a vocalist and master accordionist for more than four decades who continues to entertain and captivate audiences throughout the Lone Star State and beyond.

The fireworks show begins at dark. And you can get your drink on with your favorites from the 5D Travelin' Tavern.

Other sponsors include GVEC, Texas Farm Bureau, J Bar B Foods, TNW Corporation, City of Gonzales, BYK, H-E-B, TXGN Railroad, CREW Men's Store, DuBose Insurance, Sudz Car Wash, Energy Waste Rentals and your Gonzales Inquirer.

## COG: Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission

Total Allocation: \$80,317,000.00

HUD MID				
Entity	Allocation	Percentage of Total Allocation	LMI Portion	LMI Percentage
Victoria County	\$6,576,000.00	15.42%	\$ 3,288,000.00	50.00%
Victoria	\$19,524,900.00	45.78%	\$ 9,762,450.00	50.00%
77979 Calhoun County	\$7,428,500.00	17.42%	\$ 3,714,250.00	50.00%
Port Lavaca	\$9,119,600.00	21.38%	\$ 4,559,800.00	50.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$42,649,000.00</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$ 21,324,500.00</b>	
State MID				
Entity	Allocation	Percentage of Total Allocation	LMI Portion	LMI Percentage
Calhoun County (Excluding Zip 77979 Calhoun County, Point Comfort, and Seadrift)	\$1,353,700.00	3.59%	\$ 676,850.00	50.00%
Point Comfort city	\$663,200.00	1.76%	\$ 331,600.00	50.00%
Seadrift	\$1,736,200.00	4.61%	\$ 868,100.00	50.00%
Dewitt County	\$1,337,900.00	3.55%	\$ 668,950.00	50.00%
Cuero	\$2,511,300.00	6.67%	\$ 1,255,650.00	50.00%
Yoakum	\$2,209,900.00	5.87%	\$ 1,104,950.00	50.00%
Yorktown	\$1,209,700.00	3.21%	\$ 604,850.00	50.00%
Nordheim	\$1,385,400.00	3.68%	\$ 692,700.00	50.00%
Goliad County	\$1,848,500.00	4.91%	\$ 924,250.00	50.00%
Goliad	\$1,483,000.00	3.94%	\$ 741,500.00	50.00%
Gonzales County	\$2,459,200.00	6.53%	\$ 1,229,600.00	50.00%
Gonzales	\$2,999,400.00	7.96%	\$ 1,499,700.00	50.00%
Nixon	\$1,433,500.00	3.81%	\$ 716,750.00	50.00%
Smiley	\$1,475,900.00	3.92%	\$ 737,950.00	50.00%
Waelder	\$1,360,600.00	3.61%	\$ 680,300.00	50.00%
Jackson County	\$1,460,600.00	3.88%	\$ 730,300.00	50.00%
Edna	\$2,124,000.00	5.64%	\$ 1,062,000.00	50.00%
Ganado	\$1,549,300.00	4.11%	\$ 774,650.00	50.00%
La Ward	\$853,100.00	2.26%	\$ 426,550.00	50.00%
Lavaca County	\$2,907,000.00	7.72%	\$ 1,453,500.00	50.00%
Hallettsville	\$1,397,600.00	3.71%	\$ 698,800.00	50.00%
Moulton	\$962,400.00	2.55%	\$ 481,200.00	50.00%
Shiner	\$946,600.00	2.51%	\$ 473,300.00	50.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$37,668,000.00</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$ 18,834,000.00</b>	

# GRANT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

with county commissioners in a workshop Monday morning to discuss the funding, which is set aside by the Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission (GCRPC) and has been specifically allocated for Gonzales County.

A grand total of \$80,317,000 in federal funds has been allocated by the General Land Office (GLO) to the GCRPC for local distribution to cities and counties within the region. It is believed that such "regional investments will work to reduce risk related to hurricanes, tropical storms and depressions, flooding, wind, and other hazards."

"Right now, the allocation Gonzales County is getting is \$2,459,200 to be used for mitigation projects," Daidone said. "This is money allocated to you. You're not competing for it, but we still have to submit an eligible application to the GLO."

"One of the main factors is you have to use half of it in low-to-moderate income areas (LMI) within the county. That's a little like \$1.2 million of it has to be used towards LMI. When you factor in grant costs and your engineering costs, it'll leave you roughly like \$1.9 million in construction."

Daidone said she was notified Thursday that

applications have opened up through GCRPC and the county now has 120 days to submit an application for funding, which would put the due date for the application at around Oct. 21.

"The clock is ticking now, but it's still plenty of time," Daidone said. "We have a lot of information from your previous grant for this application, so it's really just working with you and the engineer to come up with projects to submit to this."

Daidone said the money cannot be used to renovate or rehab the Gonzales County Courthouse due to restrictions on the use of federal funds. While the money can be used to work on roads, Daidone noted it is "kind of harder to prove low-to-moderate income on specific roads."

"If you are going to do roads, just keep in mind the county might have to do door-to-door surveys for those kinds of projects," Daidone said. "Among the projects they show on the list are drainage, generators, water, sewer, streets, elevated storage tanks. You have time, like I said. You don't have to sign anything right now."

In response to a question from a citizen, Daidone said the county could use the money to improve and upgrade water lines, but would have to do a partnership with the water supply corporation.

Daidone suggested the county could continue to use Hanson Professional Services as the engineering firm for the grant, since they are the engineers on the county's tower project, but commissioners indicated they would want to find a different firm. Daidone said she would need to supply language for a future agenda item that would terminate the county's relationship with Hanson and the court would have to officially take action on that.

In other action, the court voted unanimously to appoint Col. James Kirkwood to the Gonzales County Historical Commission as he was the only individual who submitted an application after the opening was advertised in the Inquirer.

Kirkwood is retired from the U.S. Army living in Georgia, the author of "The History of Black Communities and Settlements in Gonzales County" and he is also involved in preservation of the Terryville Cemetery.

Kirkwood had already been recommended to the court by commission chair Glenda Gordon and although he lives out of the county, he can participate with the commission through Zoom meetings.

This was the first appointment made by the county since implementing a new policy that all board and commission positions had to first be advertised before being filled.





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5:00PM - 11:00PM**

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**WATERSLIDES**

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**AND MORE.....**



**Music By**

**CHEYENNE SAENZ**  
6:00PM-7:00PM

**LOS ESCORPIONES DEL NORTE**  
8:00PM-9:30PM

**JAIME DE ANDA**  
9:45PM-11:00PM




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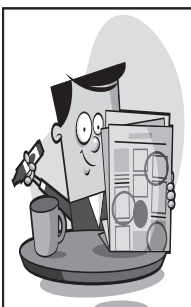
### ERRORS

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

**CALL TODAY**  
**830-672-2861**

### 050 GARAGE SALES

**THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY** of Gonzales is having a rummage sale on Saturday, July 15th, from 9-3 at the St. James Parish Hall. If you would like to donate any items for this, it would be greatly appreciated. We are accepting any donations in good condition. Example: Furniture, clothes, kitchen items, home décor, baby items, etc. All proceeds will go to the church. For more information, call Kathy at 830-263-4218 or Lupe at 830-534-7915.



Find what you are looking for in the Inquirer!

The **Gonzales Inquirer**

### 055 ESTATE SALES

**Henry Estate Sale**  
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### 850 HELP WANTED

### 850 HELP WANTED

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Must have a valid Texas Driver's license, a satisfactory driving record, a high school diploma or equivalent and a Water Operator Class C and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator's Certificate (Class D) preferred or be able to secure a license within one year of hire.

Duties: water and sewer sampling and testing, readings, climbing, lifting, sending reports, digging and other maintenance duties as needed. This position may require overtime, on-call and weekends.

Work is performed mostly outdoors and at water and wastewater facilities. Backhoe experience is a must.

Application deadline: July 18th, 2023. Starting pay: \$15 per hour. (Negotiable depending on experience and licensing).

Applications may be picked up at Smiley City Hall, 207 Steele Street, Smiley, Texas 78159 (between 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.) or request by email: [smileytx@gvec.net](mailto:smileytx@gvec.net). The City of Smiley is an Equal Opportunity and Drug Free Employer. Applicants must pass a background check.

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**CAL MAINE FOODS Inc.** Happy Hen location is looking for Shipping and Receiving, Palletizer. Benefits include: Vacation, Sick leave, Hosp. Ins., Dental, Vision, 401K, ESOP. Apply in person: Cal-Maine Foods Inc., 1974 CR 283 W, Harwood, Tx 78632. Monday-Friday 7-4.

### 850 HELP WANTED

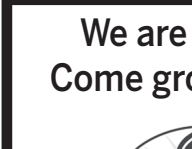
**TEXAN NURSING AND Rehab** of Gonzales is now hiring for the following position: Full Time: C.N.A., all shifts; LVN, all shifts, full-time, with a \$1000 Sign On and Referral Bonus. Individual should be multi-task oriented, self-motivated, and must enjoy working around the elderly. Please apply in person: Texan Nursing and Rehab of Gonzales, 3428 Moulton Rd., Gonzales, Texas 78629. EOE



Instructor needed to teach Certified Pharmacy Technician course at the Gonzales facility. Classes begin in August 2022. Prefer minimum of one year experience. For more information call (361) 572-6446 or email [HealthCareers@VictoriaCollege.edu](mailto:HealthCareers@VictoriaCollege.edu). An Equal-Opportunity Institution



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



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### 850 HELP WANTED

**Part-time Instructor needed for CDL Truck Driving Course to be held at the VC Gonzales Center.**  
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**The Gonzales Inquirer**

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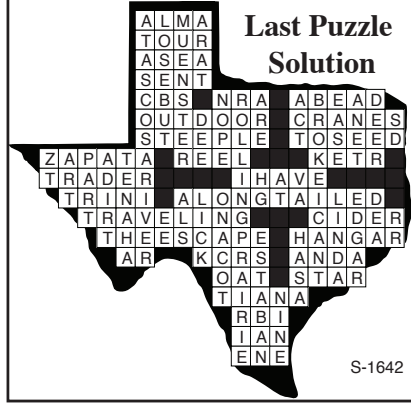
950 PUBLIC NOTICES 950 PUBLIC NOTICES

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Malt Beverage Retailer's On-Premise Permit by Low Down Bottle Shop Limited Liability Company dba Low Down Bottle Shop, to be located at 350 St. George, Gonzales, Gonzales County, Texas. Officers of said corporation are Matthew Davidson, Principal/Manager.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Malt Beverage Retailer's Permit by Nochillnayab Inc., doing business as Palmetto Food Mart to be located at 12315 Seydler Street, Gonzales, Gonzales County, Texas 78629-2730. Officer of said company is Nayab S. Vapiwalla, President/Secretary.

## June 22 Puzzle Answers

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



**Last Puzzle Solution**

ALMA TOUR ABEAD  
T O U R O U T D O O R C R A N E S  
A S E A S T E E P L E T O S E E D  
S E N T K E T R I  
C B S N R A A B E A D  
O U T D O O R C R A N E S  
S T E E P L E T O S E E D  
Z A P A T A R E E L K E T R I  
T R A D E R I H A V E  
T R I N I A L O N G T A I L E D  
T R A V E L I N G C I D E R  
T H E E S C A P E H A N G A R  
A I R K C R S A N D A  
O A T S T A R  
T I A N A  
R B I  
T I A N  
E N E

S-1642

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Bluebonnet Trails has a position on their board available and Gonzales County is currently taking applications. If you are interested in serving on this board please pickup or print an application from the Gonzales County Website on the County Commissioners page. The application form can also be picked up at the County Judges Office, 414 St. Joseph St, Gonzales, TX 78629 and must be returned to their office by email or in person before July 5, 2023 by 5:00 P.M.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Gonzales ISD is requesting proposals for two (2) Yamaha 411 SWC Silver Sousaphones with Cases (or similar product).

Proposal packets are on the Gonzales ISD website ([www.gonzalesisd.net](http://www.gonzalesisd.net)). Proposals may be mailed or hand delivered to 1615 St. Louis Street, Gonzales, TX 78629 (M-Th 8a-4p) or submitted via email to [amanda.smith@gonzalesisd.net](mailto:amanda.smith@gonzalesisd.net). Regardless of delivery method, all proposals must be received prior to, or at, 2:00 p.m. on Monday, July 10, 2023. The district has the right to accept or reject any proposal based on the best interest of the district.

**NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF SUZANNE B. VRANA, DECEASED NO. PW23-0268**

**NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR**

Notice is hereby given that on June 13, 2023, Letters Testamentary as Independent Executor upon the above Estate were issued to:

ANDREW W. VRANA

by the Honorable County Court of Gonzales County, Texas, in Cause No. PW23-0268 pending upon the Probate Docket of said Court.

All persons having claims against the Estate being administered are hereby requested to present the same within the time prescribed by law to the following:

Shanks & Hauser, L.L.P.  
Vanessa Lanceley Hauser  
5300 Memorial Drive, Suite 800  
Houston, Texas 77007  
[vanessa@shankshauser.com](mailto:vanessa@shankshauser.com)

**Notice to Creditors**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of BILLIE JEAN BRUNS, Deceased, were issued on June 13, 2023, in Cause No. PW23-0275, pending in the County Court of GONZALES County, Texas, to: Thomas H. Bruns.

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

c/o Sue C. Ortman  
Attorney at Law  
403 St. George  
Gonzales, Texas 78629

Dated the 26 day of June, 2023.

*Sue C. Ortman*  
Sue C. Ortman  
Attorney for Applicant  
403 Saint George Street  
Gonzales, Texas 78629  
Tel: (830) 672-9535  
Fax: (830) 672-8654

**Notice to Creditors**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of IRENE R. CHAVARRIA, Deceased, were issued on June 15, 2023, in Cause No. PW23-0272, pending in the County Court of GONZALES County, Texas, to: Diana R. Gaytan and Doris J. Valle.

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

c/o Christie Ortman Fullilove  
Attorney at Law  
403 St. George  
Gonzales, Texas 78629

Dated the 19 day of June, 2023.

*Christie Fullilove*  
Christie Ortman Fullilove

Ortman Fullilove Law, PLLC  
Attorney for Applicants  
403 Saint George Street  
Gonzales, Texas 78629  
Telephone: (830) 672-9535  
Facsimile: (830) 672-8654  
[christie@ortmanfullilovelaw.com](mailto:christie@ortmanfullilovelaw.com)

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**CALL US TODAY 1.800.443.2528**

950 PUBLIC NOTICES 950 PUBLIC NOTICES 950 PUBLIC NOTICES 950 PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Cause No. 28,429

THE STATE OF TEXAS)  
COUNTY OF GONZALES)

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

In the name and by the authority of the State of Texas Notice is hereby given as follows:

To the Unknown Owner(s) of Thomas Harold Fears, Jr. (collectively, "Condemnees")

and all other persons, including adverse claimants, owning or having or claiming any legal or equitable interest in or lien upon the following described property, to-wit:

**Being property situated in John E. Garwin Survey, Abs. 22, Gonzales County, Texas, in a called 577-acre tract of land recorded in Volume 135, Page 48, Clerk Records of Gonzales County, Texas.**

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT YOU HAVE BEEN SUED and Ironwood Midstream Energy Partners, LLC, as Condemnor, has sued Condemnees, by petition filed on December 27, 2022, in a suit styled *Ironwood Midstream Energy Partners, LLC v. Unknown Heirs of Thomas Harold Fears, Jr.*, for the acquisition of easement rights that are described in the live pleadings in this suit now pending in the 2nd 25th Judicial District Court of Gonzales County, Texas, and the cause number is 28,429. YOU MAY EMPLOY AN ATTORNEY.

Condemnor seeks easement rights on the above-described property by the power of eminent domain.

All parties to this suit, including Condemnor and Condemnees, shall take notice of all claims and pleadings now on file and which may hereafter be filed in said cause by all other parties herein.

The address of Condemnor, Ironwood Midstream Energy Partners, LLC is 15727 Anthem Parkway, Suite 510, San Antonio, Texas 78249.

Failure to respond may result in judgment by default or judgment in the absence of objections rendered for the relief demanded in the petition.

You are hereby commanded to appear at a Special Commissioners Hearing on the 25th of July, 2023, to be held at 10:00 a.m. in the District Courtroom of the Gonzales County Courthouse, 414 St. Joseph Street, 2nd Floor, Gonzales, Texas 78629.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said court in Gonzales County, Texas, this 26th day of June, A.D., 2023.

*Janice Sutton*, Gonzales County District Clerk  
*K. Alarcon*, Deputy Clerk

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**Bankruptcy Sale** – Bid Deadline July 18. Entitled 49± AC Multifamily Development Site, potential for 595 units with retail, 1001 FM 969, Bastrop, TX. Potential for either 426 duplex units or 214 duplex units & 380-unit apt complex. Entitlements completed & partial infrastructure in place. Hilco Real Estate Sales, 855-755-2300.

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## COOKING WITH PARIND

# GRILLED PRIME LAMB 'LOLLIPOPS' with a chimichurri herb sauce

Hello everyone. My name is Parind Vora. In this column we talk cooking, tricks to cooking, and sometimes eating.

We are just getting in to the Texas summer, so it's hot, but at least it didn't start until June this year. On top of the 100 degrees weather, it's also annoyingly humid. So, we're contemplating grilling something outside so we don't heat up the house and maybe just in time for some cooler evening respite from the searing daytime heat.

A grilled lamb dish that has tons of flavour as well as some refreshing acidity. It's also perfect for a picnic that can be eaten at room temperature!

I suggest you get a prime grade lamb rack either locally or one of the 'whole paycheck' type stores or even from the internet. Two states that are known for their lamb in the chef world are Colorado and New Mexico though Texas is making a strong showing these past few years. Have the lamb frenched (the bones trimmed of meat to make it pretty) or buy it that way if that appeals to your sensibilities.

Start the Chimichurri sauce the day before so, like soup, it's better the next day.

### Ingredients:

2 organic or farmed prime grade, frenched lamb rack

### Chimichurri

- ½ bunch fresh parsley chopped medium coarse
- ¼ bunch fresh cilantro chopped medium coarse
- 1 teaspoon picked fresh French thyme
- 1 teaspoon picked fresh Italian oregano
- 1 whole peeled garlic clove minced
- kosher or sea salt to taste
- Crushed red pepper to taste
- ½ cup of strong olive oil (Greek or Italian)
- 1/6 cup red wine vinegar

Mix all of the chimichurri ingredients together the night before and let the flavour meld. Taste with dry bread to check the seasoning and adjust as necessary but just don't eat all of the chimichurri.

Get the grill hot (at or over 500F) While the grill is heating up cut the lamb racks into 1 or 2 bone chops by cutting in between the rib bones work-



ing around the chine bone. A flexible boning or filet knife works well or just power through the chine bone using a heavy chef's knife 8" or longer.

Season the lamb with kosher or sea salt. Let sit for 10-15 minutes then grill quickly (1 min per side) so it is cooked medium rare or to your preference of

doneness. Serve this dish "family style" on a platter. Serve with the chimichurri on the side as a dipping sauce.

I would serve this dish with a nicely chilled rosé from Provence or a rough and tumble Rosso di Montalcino from Italy or any other sangiovese clone you enjoy. Cheers.

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# Are you content?

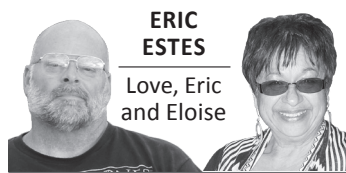
How's your week been? I hope it's been everything you wanted and more. Yep, life's short, gotta grab and appreciate those joyful moments as they come. They'll definitely make life more fun, and will help keep us afloat during the not so joyful times.

It seems that the trending thought for quite some time now has been to pursue and acquire anything and everything that will please you and make you happy at all cost, even if it means throwing others under the bus to "get yours". Extreme self-centeredness really never brings about true happiness, peace of mind, and the deep sense of contentment we all, at the end of the day, strive for. We've all heard or read about very wealthy people, who after a lifetime of acquisition, live turbulent lives in spite of great wealth. Assorted addictions, failed marriages, estranged families etc. Hey, I like stuff as much as the next person, but it will never replace love as the most important factor in realizing a deeply satisfying existence. I can guarantee you that when Eloise passed away, the very last thing on my mind was something I owned.

In the letter that the apostle Paul wrote to the Philippians, he explained that whether he had little or had a lot, the secret to being content was the knowledge that he could do all things through him (God) who strengthened

him. The Oxford dictionary defines contentment as a state of "peaceful happiness or satisfaction." First Timothy 6:6 states that "True godliness with contentment, is itself, great wealth." I imagine that the vast majority of us, as we take our last breath will be thinking of those we love, not the cars and houses we'll leave behind, and as it should be. For many unfortunate souls, they'll probably be wondering if they missed the boat and lived too shallow a life, as they'll die without many really caring about them...a sad way to go, for sure. Yep, love is definitely the way to go!

Speaking of love, part of caring for others is listening to them, what's important to them, what bothers them, and how they feel about things. As we just passed Father's Day, apparently my oldest son and his wife were listening when I explained that I was nearly out of Brut, my favorite cologne, and brought a gift box packed with enough Brut to keep me smelling good far into eternity. I'd recently been trying some Old Spice I'd found in a cabinet, but wasn't sure if it would work out as I'd recently tried some "Young Spice" but sadly... my body rejected it. Yep, getting Old (frown emoji). Being as I don't get out much these days, I mainly splash a little on before going shopping, hoping not to have Edna puke in aisle nine again,



**ERIC ESTES**  
Love, Eric and Eloise

quite embarrassing for both of us. But for heavens sake Edna, lay off the chimichangas before hitting the stores!

My aromatic gift box arrived just in time. After a long hard, sweaty day working outside, and before freshening up, I decided I'd better feed my racoons before hitting the shower. As they're always excited to see the food guy, one of my favorites ran up and started eating from my hand. To my surprise, her eyes rolled back in her head, she quivered and passed out. I immediately swung into action administering CPR-R. Cardiopulmonary Racoons Resuscitation, and fortunately she's ok. Now I shower and splash on some smell good before feeding time, and judging by the smiles on their faces, they're happier and more content with the new arrangement. I guess the take-a-way here would be: be happy and content with even the small things, as you never know when a small, smelly old man might ruin your day!

Remember to keep laughing at life, cause it's definitely laughing at us. Love you guys, Eric.

## Emmanuel Fellowship to offer Biblical Citizenship Course

### SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

If you love America and are frustrated by what you see happening in our country today, there is a way for you to help change the direction of our country.

The perversion of justice, lack of direction, and ever-increasing taxes and government debt we are facing is leading our country to self-destruction. If something does not change, we will see our nation fall, even though America was built on eternal principles.

Our founding fathers gave us a document which we can use to correct the many faults we see in government today. It is called the Constitution of the United States. All of us have a general idea of what it says, but unless we demand our representatives at the state and national level to abide by that Constitution, it will continue to be ignored, and we will continue to move in the wrong direction.

However, there is an excellent eight-class series that will help you learn your rights and how to stand up for them. With Rick Green, David and Tim Barton, and Kirk Cameron among the primary presenters, the Patriot Academy organization has constructed what they call a Biblical Citizenship course.

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See **COURSE**, page 12

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<b>BAPTIST</b> Clark Baptist Church FM 794, Gonzales	St. James Baptist Church Hwy 80, north of Belmont.
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Elm Grove Baptist Church 4337 FM 1115 Waelder, TX, 78959	Union Valley Baptist Church FM 1681, NW of Nixon
First Baptist Church 422 St. Paul, Gonzales	<b>CATHOLIC</b> St. James Catholic Church 417 N. College, Gonzales
First Baptist Church 403 N. Texas, Nixon	Sacred Heart Catholic Church St. John St., Gonzales
First Baptist Church Highway 108 N., Smiley	St. Joseph Catholic Church 207 S. Washington, Nixon
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Greater Palestine Baptist Church S. of 90A (sign on Hwy 80)	St. Phillip Catholic Church Highway 87, Smiley
Greater Rising Star Baptist Church	<b>CHRISTIAN</b> First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) 712 Crockett, Luling
Harwood Baptist Church North of Post Office, Harwood	<b>CHURCHES OF CHRIST</b> Church of Christ 1323 Seydler St., Gonzales
Iglesia Bautista Macedonia 201 S. Congress, Nixon	Church of Christ (Iglesia de Cristo) 201 E. Second St. Nixon
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Leesville Baptist Church E. of Highway 80 on CR 121	Church of Christ, Belmont
Memorial Heights Baptist Church 1330 N. College, Gonzales	<b>CHURCHES OF GOD</b> Community Church of God 1020 St. Louis, Gonzales
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<b>EVANGELICAL</b> La Vos del Evangelio, Mision Capilla del Pueblo W. Central at Hwy. 87, Nixon	Cowboy Church of Gonzales County J.B. Wells Show Barn
<b>FULL GOSPEL</b> Camp Valley Full Gospel Hwy 80, 7 mi. north of Nixon	El Centro Cristiano "Agua Viva" 403 Highway 90 W, Waelder
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<b>JEWISH</b> Adat Haderech, a Messianic shul HashemYeshua1 @yahoo.com	Encouraging Word Christian Fellowship Highway 80, Leesville
<b>LUTHERAN</b> First Evangelical Lutheran 1206 St. Joseph, Gonzales	Lighthouse Church of Our Lord 1805 Weimar, Gonzales
Abiding Word Lutheran Church LCMS 1020 St. Louis St., Gonzales	New Life Temple for Jesus Christ 16214 US 90 W, Harwood
<b>METHODIST</b> Belmont United Methodist Highway 90A, Belmont	River of Life Christian Fellowship 207 Steele St., Smiley
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“The successes that I’ve had this year has been directly correlated with the support that I’ve received from the community. It’s been a wonderful year because of the community support.”

—Dr. Elmer Avellaneda, Gonzales ISD superintendent

## GISD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Avellaneda said. “The successes that I’ve had this year has been directly correlated with the support that I’ve received from the community. It’s been a wonderful year because of the community support,” Avellaneda added.

Avellaneda enter the job with a goal of being an “authentic leader,” being actively part of the school district and the community.

“I think I have done a great job with being involved in the community, being visible in the community, listening to the community’s needs and wants, and being transparent with the community every step along the way,” Avellaneda said.

Under Avellaneda’s leadership, the school district approved several partnerships that’ll benefit the students and the district; this includes a partnership with Victoria College with three different pathways for students for electrical, plumbing and HVAC.

“This will not only help students get certified in these three pathways, but also give them something tangible they can have when they leave the high school to gain a well-paying job,” Avellaneda said.

The district also started a grow-your-own initiative that

helps staff members who are close to finishing their four-year bachelor’s degree get the support they need to finish their degree.

Lastly, the district began a partnership with the YMCA and brought in a satellite YMCA for the 2023-24 school year.

“GVEC has been a huge partner with that and has helped us financially to get that started. We have really supported our staff and the needs they had in the classroom, as well as created a positive climate and culture in our community and district,” Avellaneda said.

Avellaneda had to deal with challenges in his first year and one of the biggest obstacles was gaining trust from the community.

“That has been a priority for me since I arrived and I’m continuing to be that authentic leader that this district and community needs to gain the public’s commitment and the public’s trust,” Avellaneda said.

Entering year two as superintendent, Avellaneda said the district is facing obstacles at the state level and some things are still up in the air at the Texas Legislature.

“There’s just so much up in the air at the state level. And it’s hard — it’s difficult to plan

what we need to do moving forward financially when a lot of the things are still stuck at the state level,” Avellaneda said.

The 2023-24 school year will have projects that includes security and safety, Avellaneda said, adding there are several initiatives to improve academics as well.

“There’s been a lot of discussion with the Board of Trustees on a potential bond for this upcoming academic school year. So (it’s all about) safety, security, academics and a potential bond for the upcoming school year,” Avellaneda said.

When asked about potential bonds, Avellaneda said he and the school board are in the discussion phase at this time.

It’s been over 365 days since Avellaneda became the superintendent at GISD, and he has a message for the version of himself which started on day one.

“Wear very comfortable shoes. You’re going to be everywhere and you’re never going to be in your office. You’re never going to be sitting down. You’re going to be meeting with the community. You’re going to be out in the community. You’re going to be leading meetings out in the community,” Avellaneda said.

## SPEED LIMIT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

accordance with the Texas Transportation Code.

Commissioners held a public hearing at the Courthouse prior to adoption of the order, with only two people speaking up and both in favor of lowering speed limits due to concerns in their neighborhoods about people driving too fast.

“I had approached Commissioner La Fleur and asked that we get some reduction in speed or speed limit signs in our particular area around (County Roads) 284 and 436,” June Calendar said. “Our particular road has been paved and with the pavement came much more speed from the other vehicles and we have at least five blind corners on that street.

“And when they come out of those corners, sometimes they end up in people’s fences, as (Judge Davis) might have had that happen a couple times. They’re blind corners; you can’t see and the road is very narrow in some places, so I do believe that we need a speed limit posted so that our law enforcement officers can indeed address the issue.”

“My concern is the area around 381 and 354. At that particular corner, I believe 35 miles per hour is too fast,” Alex Perez added. “I would like to know who we contact as far as a survey by the state to reduce the speeding even further, because right now, there is no control signal for 381, which slows the traffic now coming from that area to the T-intersection on 354.

“And I feel that’s an extremely dangerous intersection. The road extremely narrows and there’s culverts there, and there have already been accidents there and I believe 35 is extremely fast.”

Davis told Perez the court could have adopted a speed limit as low as 30 mph without needing a traffic survey conducted by the Texas Department

of Transportation.

Precinct 2 Commissioner Donnie Brzozowski said he believes the county first should set the speed limits at 35 across the board and then monitor them to determine if further changes are needed.

“That way, we give our law enforcement officers the power so they can write tickets and it slows (the cars) down. I think we need to go ahead and go with the 35 and then see what happens and how traffic flows,” Brzozowski said.

A former DPS trooper, Davis said the next important step would be to make sure signs get posted as soon as possible because the signs serve as the prima facie (Latin for “based on first impression or face value”) evidence of the speed limit. Signs can run up to \$100 each for the sign post and sign itself.

“If there’s not a sign posted on there, even though it’s 35, I guess it would actually be 60 even though it has been through court and set for 35,” Davis said. “So I guess if a person was to receive a ticket during the time that there was no posted sign for 35, then that would be a defense to prosecution.”

Calendar urged the court to consider putting money into the budget for signage for the new speed limits.

“I realize that signs are a cost for the county but I also realize we’ve had several accidents on our road and I think that’s a cost the county should consider bearing,” she said.

Commissioners had an option to consider setting a speed limit of 20 miles per hour in any area that could be called an “urban district” on a county maintained road, but opted not to do so after indicating they were not sure what areas, if any, would qualify for the lower speed limits without extensive study.

## COURSE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

of the Constitution and what each of us can do to assure adherence to the wisdom written into that Constitution. Each session is filled with information revealing truths about how our government was originally designed to function and how our current government has departed from that original intent.

That knowledge empowers us to confront our elected officials and demand a return to the rights and privileges promised in the Constitution. The sessions are an hour to an hour and a half long, but are so interesting they seem to go by far more quickly than that.

Emmanuel Fellowship will be presenting this series free of charge on Thursday evenings, beginning Thursday, July 6 at 6:30 p.m. The sessions are open to any citizen who wants to see positive changes in our government.

If you love America, you need to attend these sessions. You not only will develop a greater respect for what our founding fathers gave us in the Constitution, but you will be better equipped to maintain the legacy of freedom which they won for us.

I encourage every freedom loving citizen to join us in learning Biblical Citizenship. Emmanuel is located at 1817 St. Lawrence Street in Gonzales. Childcare will not be provided for this series. We hope to see you there.

## ABUSE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Gonzales.

Defense attorney Adrian Perez noted his client had not been convicted of any previous criminal activity in the past and asked for leniency in sentencing.

## New ER Group to Lead Emergency Care

Gonzales Healthcare Systems is excited to announce its partnership with Gonzales Emergency Partners, a locally organized group of emergency medicine physicians that will be providing emergency care in our facility. While this group is a newly founded one, the experience these physicians hold spans decades. And more importantly, this group boasts a local component, with one physician born and raised in neighboring Shiner, Texas. We pride ourselves on neighbors caring for neighbors, and this new partnership only adds to this sentiment.

Gonzales Emergency Partners is comprised of six emergency medicine physicians: Dr. Eric Baden, Dr. Alex Kresta, Dr. Celeste Leon, Dr. Anisha Malhotra, Dr. Charles Spencer, and Dr. Emily Wagner.

Dr. Wagner comes to us from Shiner, Texas. What better way to treat our patients than with a friendly face from just down the road. Dr. Kresta is a native Texan, and enjoys hunting and fishing in his down time. Both Dr. Baden and Dr. Spencer are former military, with Dr. Baden serving in the US Army and Dr. Spencer serving in the US Navy. We are honored to have them caring for our patients. Dr. Malhotra is originally from New Delhi, India. She trained in Chicago, and made her way to Texas six years ago. Dr. Leon currently sees patients in our emergency department, and we are excited that she will be part of Gonzales Emergency Partners and continuing her work at our facility.

Each physician is specially trained in emergency medicine, as they treat any ailment that walks through our ER doors. This training allows them to assess the situation, and treat the patient in the most effective and efficient way possible. With assistance from our nurses and other clinical departments, patients can be assured that they will receive the best possible care during their stay in our emergency department.

Gonzales Emergency Partners will join the GHS team and begin seeing patients in our emergency department July 1, 2023.



Dr. Emily Wagner

Dr. Alex Kresta

Dr. Anisha Malhotra

Dr. Eric Baden

Dr. Charles Spencer

Dr. Celeste Leon

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OBITUARIES

MARY JEAN NEUSE



Mary Jean Neuse, 86, of Gonzales, passed away Sunday, June 25, 2023. Mary Jean was born March 18, 1937 in Gillett, Texas to Jullien and Emma Spiekermann Marrou. She married Edgar Gene Neuse on February 2, 1958 in the First Lutheran Church of Gonzales. She was a life-long member of the First Lutheran Church.

Her name was Mary Jean. Not Mary, Mary Jean. The only exception was her siblings who called her Jean and so her nieces and nephews called her Aunt Jean. Otherwise, it was Mary Jean.

Mary Jean loved to travel. Every summer while the boys were growing up included at least one trip to Six Flags or Astroworld, plus a longer odyssey with favorites being Colorado and Arkansas. Later, she and Edgar enjoyed spending time in Europe, especially Germany and France. There they documented family landmarks including homes, churches, and cemeteries with connections to their roots.

Besides being Mom, Mary Jean's occupation was banking. She started at Gonzales State Bank in 1955, was a vice-president at Independence Savings and Loan, and ended her professional career in 1999 when she retired from the loan department at American National Bank.

She loved spending time with friends. She was part of the "group of seven" that came together when they joined the Orange Jackets in

the 8th grade. They spent their high school years as an inseparable gang going everywhere in the Marrou family Buick, affectionately known as the White Elephant. They had a life-long bond. In her later years she played cards weekly with her special group of friends. Any appointments or other commitments were planned around the weekly game of "hand and foot."

Mary Jean's family was her passion. She performed a tremendous amount of genealogy research, uncovering the roots of both her ancestors and Edgar's. There was never a doubt of her love for her extended family or those closer who came to her house every Christmas. She loved each-and-every one of us and we knew it. Like her mother, she made everyone feel special. Her chocolate cake was always requested for birthdays and any family gatherings included her highly coveted sweet rice.

Mary Jean is survived by her loving family; sons,

Nathan Eugene Neuse (Marilyn) of Gonzales, Paul Edward Neuse, (Dianne) of Gonzales, Gary Alan Neuse (Charlotte) of Hallettville, sister, Mabel Gray of Gonzales, grandchildren, Kendel Neuse, Stefanie Marcus (Stace), Adam Neuse (Amber), Cortney Connor (Mark), Colin Grahmann, Carson Neuse (Jordan), Connor Neuse (Shellbe), Cason Neuse, Elizabeth Neuse, and Brooke Rivera (Josh), 18 great-grandchildren and 6 great-great grandchildren and many beloved nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, parents, sisters Emily Gray, Ella Menard, and Ruby Mae Marrou, brothers, J.T. Marrou, and Tommy Marrou.

The family will receive friends from 5 pm to 7 pm Wednesday, June 28, 2023 in Seydler-Hill Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 10 am Thursday, June 29, 2023 in the First Lutheran Church with Larry Fortune officiating. Interment will follow in the Gonzales IOOF Cemetery. Pallbearers: Carson Neuse, Connor Neuse, Cason Neuse, Adam Neuse, Nolan Marcus, and Kristopher Marrou. Memorials may be made to the First Lutheran Church. Friends may leave their condolences to the family by visiting www.seydlerhillfuneralhome.com. Services are under the care and direction of Seydler-Hill Funeral Home.

WILLIAM ANDREW SIEVERS



Will Sievers, 76, died in the early morning of Wednesday, May 24th, 2023, at Seton Northwest Hospital, surrounded by his loving wife and daughter. He was born on April 19, 1947 in Gonzales County, Texas to Melvin and Melva (Beeson) Sievers.

Will, better known to those growing up as Andy, graduated from Gonzales High School in 1965. Following graduation, he served with the U.S. Navy on the USS Intrepid during the Vietnam War. In 1970 he married Ludonna Baron and became the proud father to William Aaron Sievers on June 28, 1973. Andy and Ludonna divorced in 1982. He then joined the Austin Police Department in 1986 as well as continuing to serve his country in the Army National Guard. Patrolling the City of Austin led him to meet his love and wife of 35 years Amy Veron Hasbrouck. They married on August 9, 1987 at Camp Mabry. As he brought his son Aaron Sievers, Amy brought her daughter Cate Robinson and they became a family of four. He spent many years serving his country and retired from both the Austin Police Department and the United States Army National Reserve. Will spent much of his spare time and retirement building with cement and rocks in nature, as well as showing his true artistry through his carvings.

In addition to his parents, Will is also predeceased by his half-brother Bobby Rentz. Surviving in addition to his wife Amy (Hasbrouck) Sievers, are his son, William Aaron Sievers "Aaron" (Loretta) of Birmingham, Alabama; daughter Catherine June Robinson "Cate" (Robin) of Austin,

Texas; two granddaughters, Addison June Tenney "Addie" and Piper Louise Tenney of Austin, Texas; sister Fern Sievers Rajnoch (James) of Lockhart, Texas; brother Mark Sievers (Kathy) of Bertram, Texas; half siblings Johnny Rentz of La Porte, Texas, Barry Tate (Patty) of Virginia, Tammy Arnold of Victoria, Texas, and Kenneth Allen Tate of Victoria, Texas; as well as his close cousin Dr. Lee Roy Rice Jr. (Marie) of Burnet, Texas, and several other cousins, aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

Two services will be held in remembrance. The first service will be held on July 1st, 2023 at 10 a.m. at Monthalia United Methodist Church, 1926 County Road 112, Cost, Texas. He will receive Austin Police Department Honors at this service. Those unable to attend this service can view it through Zoom.

**Zoom Information:**  
<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/85710539852?pwd=NFVLSzFDeS9LVHA3b0NXamlrRVhmdz09>  
 Meeting ID: 857 1053 9852  
 Passcode: j5i3V1  
 Final interment services will be held on Friday, July 7th, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in Shelter 3, 1520 Harry Wurzbach Road, San Antonio, Texas. He will receive full military honors. Those who wish to remember Will in a special way may make contributions in his memory to the "In Memory" Program at <https://www.vvmf.org/In-Memory-Program/> or to the "Wounded Warrior Project" at <https://support.woundedwarrior-project.org/>.

66th Harwood Homecoming set for July 9

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Please join us for a wonderful time of celebration and remembrance at the 66th annual Harwood Homecoming on July 9 at the Harwood Community Center.

They will be serving a BBQ meal at noon for the cost of \$10. Attendees are asked to call or text 830-857-6070 (or email [cclair@gvtc.com](mailto:cclair@gvtc.com)) by July 3

to reserve enough meals. Please be reminded that the beautiful cemetery is maintained solely through the generous donations of patrons and the hard work of volunteers. This is the only fundraising event they have for the cemetery. Donations will be accepted that day or may be sent to the Harwood Cemetery Association, PO Box 70, Harwood, TX 78632. All donations are tax deductible. Copies of the financial statement and recent

obituaries will be available at the registration table.

For burial or general information contact Steve Anyan at 281-750-6073 or Julie Fairchild at 830-857-6070. Election of committee members is at 7 p.m. Sept. 2 at the Harwood Community Center.

All volunteers are welcomed to work together the last Saturday of October to do some detail cleaning of the cemetery. They will begin at 8 a.m. with breakfast tacos. Harwood Cemetery Association looks forward to seeing Harwood friends, families and neighbors at the July 9 Harwood Homecoming.

LAW ENFORCEMENT WEEKLY REPORTS

Gonzales County Sheriff's Office

06/11/23 - 06/17/23

06/12/23

• Glasco, Jadrien Deondre, 11/1997, Luling: Possession Marijuana <2 oz, Released on \$1,000 Bond; Possession Controlled Substance PG 2 <1G, Released on \$5,000 Bond

06/13/23

• Gibson, Lachelle Sinead, 07/1991, Austin: Local Warrant - Injury Child/Elderly/Disabled w/ Intent Bodily Injury, Requires \$100,000 Bond, Remains in Custody

06/14/23

• Ontiveros-Hernandez, Edgar, 12/1993, Waelder: Public Intoxication, Released on Order to Appear  
 • Wadyka, Gregory Brock, 02/1993, Hurst: Local Warrant - Possession Marijuana <2 oz, Released on \$5,000 Bond  
 • Velasquez, Sabrina Leann, 06/1998, Victoria: Local Warrant - Possession Controlled Substance PG 1 <1G, Requires \$50,000 Bond  
 • Glover, Maya Monique, 11/2002, Houston: Possession Controlled Substance PG 2 >4G <400G, Released on \$8,500 Bond; Possession Marijuana <2 oz, Released on \$1,500 Bond

06/15/23

• Rodriguez, Miranda Marie, 12/1983, Waelder: Local Warrant - Criminal Trespass, Released on \$1,500 Bond

06/16/23

• Dovalis, Nicholas

Alexander, 07/1992, San Antonio: Commitment/ Sentence - Intoxication Assault w/Vehicle SBI, Released - Weekender  
 • Bivins, Don Wesley, 03/1989, Gonzales: Commitment/Sentence - Criminal Mischief >\$2,500 <\$30K, Released - Weekender  
 • Hasting, Dustin Dewayne, 09/1989, Gonzales: Commitment/ Sentence - Manufacture Deliver Controlled Substance PG 1 >4G <200G, Released - Weekender  
 • Ramirez, Nicolas Andrew, 01/2000, Waelder: Commitment/ Sentence - Assault causes Bodily Injury Family Member, Remains in Custody  
 • Arroyo-Humphreys Jr., Mario Michael, 03/2000, Nixon: Public Intoxication, Released on Order to Appear

06/17/23

• Garcia, James David, 03/1994, Gonzales: Commitment/ Sentence - Driving while Intoxicated, Released - Time Served

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 Agent

1731 Seydler St.  
 Gonzales, TX 78629

o 830-672-7518  
 m 830-857-6296  
 e [BJonesCaka@txfb-ins.com](mailto:BJonesCaka@txfb-ins.com)

FARM&RANCH / ANNUITIES / MEDSUP

TEXAS FARM BUREAU INSURANCE  
 AUTO / HOME / LIFE

Gonzales Healthcare Systems JUNE 2023

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
			1 Dr Ryan Dr Echols	2
5 Austin MFM	6 Dr Echols	7 Dr Quebedeaux Dr Miller	8 Dr Ryan Dr Echols	9 Dr Miller Amy Trost
12 Austin MFM Dr Malik Dr Desai	13 Dr Echols Dr Quintero	14 Dr Quebedeaux Dr Twitero	15 Dr Ryan Dr Malik Dr Echols	16 Dr Bui
19 Austin MFM	20 Dr Echols	21 Dr Quebedeaux Dr Miller	22 Dr Ryan Dr Kirchner Dr Echols	23
26 Austin MFM	27 Dr Echols	28 Dr Quebedeaux	29	30

LOCATED AT THRIVE:

Orthopedics	Surgery	Cardiology	Dermatology
Gloria Box, M.D. (830) 672 - 8497	Kathleen Koerner, DO, FACOS (830) 672 - 8497	William Craig, M.D. (830) 672 - 3845	Dr. Desai (713) 864-2659

Specialty Physician Outpatient Clinic

- Audiology**  
Amy Trost, Hearing Specialist  
(830) 372-2237
- Chiropractic**  
Jeff Echols, DC  
(512)799-6811
- Dermatology**  
Vicente Quintero, M.D.  
(830) 626-5551  
Dr Desai  
(713) 864-2659
- Nephrology**  
Azhar M. Malik, M.D.  
(361)-576-0011  
George Osuchukwu, MD  
(361)576-0011  
Yong Du, MD  
(361)576-0011
- Obstetrics**  
Alyson Kirchner, M.D.-OBGYN  
(830) 379 - 1500
- Pain Management**  
Eric Miller, M.D.  
(830) 272-7746
- Urology**  
Robert Ryan, III, M.D.  
(830) 379-8491
- Ophthalmology**  
Joseph Kavanagh, M.D.  
(830) 379-3937
- Orthopedics**  
Trent Twitero, M.D.  
(830) 625-0009
- Podiatry**  
Terri Quebedeaux, D.P.M., P.A.  
(830) 303-0005  
Charles White, D.P.M  
(830) 303-0005
- Austin Maternal Fetal Medicine**  
(512) 821-2540



Total Arrest, Court Commitments, other agency arrest and processings:

GCSO	13
DPS	02
GPD	03
WPD	00
NPD	01
GISD	00
SMO	00
Constable 1	00
Constable 3	00
Constable 4	00
DWCSO	00
DECA	00
TPW	00
GCAI	00
Rangers	00
Other	00
Total	19

REUNION

**BREITSCHOPFF-KUNTSCHIK REUNION**  
 Breitschopff-Kuntschik Reunion is set for Sun. Aug. 6, 2023 at KC Hall on the Shiner Highway in Gonzales. The Frank Kuntschik families will provide the meat & utensils. Everyone is asked to bring two side dishes. Doors open at 10 a.m. Questions call Dian Paterson 361-652-2597.

# GVTC Communications president, CEO Sorrells to retire

## SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Ritchie Sorrells, the visionary President and CEO of GVTC Communications, has announced his decision to retire at the end of June 2024.

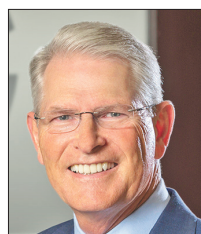
Sorrells has dedicated the last 20 years to serving the needs of our community. Since he was appointed CEO in 2003, Sorrells has evolved the company from a monopolistic telephone-centric cooperative to a highly competitive full-service communications provider.

Under Sorrells' dynamic leadership, GVTC experienced unprecedented growth and successfully navigated key transitional phases. His strategic foresight positioned GVTC as the premier FTTH (Fiber-to-the-home) provider for residential and business customers in far North San Antonio, the Texas Hill Country, and South-Central Texas.

With his direction, GVTC has now reached over 84% of the 90,000 rooftops in their service area with access to state-of-the-art fiber optic services.

In 2016, Sorrells spearheaded the launch of GVTC's wholesale services, tapping into the rapidly burgeoning data transport market. Under

his guidance, a robust fiber ring was established, connecting San Antonio, Austin, Houston, Lubbock, and smaller markets. Through strategic partnerships with regional telecom companies, GVTC now offers data transport services extending throughout Texas and even



Sorrells

crossing international borders into Mexico.

Not only did GVTC launch the only member dividend program in the nation under Sorrells' direction, but the company has been named a best place to work and recognized nationally as a leading broadband service provider.

Sorrells' commitment to corporate citizenship led to the establishment of The GVTC Foundation, GVTC's employee-run philanthropic branch. Since its inception in 2006, the foundation has contributed nearly \$6 million to strengthening communities within GVTC's service area.

Sorrells, a staunch proponent of

digital transformation and data-driven strategies, leaves GVTC in a robust operational and financial state.

Under Sorrells' tenure, GVTC has doubled its customer base and tripled annual revenue while maintaining the same number of employees.

Reflecting on his tenure, Sorrells said, "As I prepare for retirement from my role as President and CEO of GVTC, I am humbled and grateful for the opportunity to have served this incredible organization and its members. Together, we have connected communities, empowered businesses, and bridged the digital divide. It has been an honor to lead a team of dedicated professionals who share a passion for delivering reliable and innovative telecommunications services.

"As I step into the next chapter of my life, I carry with me the memories of our collective achievements and the knowledge that the cooperative is poised for even greater success in the hands of capable leaders. Thank you all for your unwavering support, and I am excited to witness this cooperative's continued growth and positive impact in the years to come."

Chuck Knibbe, Chairman of The GVTC Board of Directors, expressed gratitude for Sorrells' invaluable contributions.

"Ritchie's remarkable achievements during his impressive 20-year tenure at GVTC have left an indelible mark on our cooperative. His leadership has prepared us to navigate future challenges and seize new opportunities," Knibbe said. "As we search for our next CEO, we are well-positioned thanks to Ritchie's tireless efforts. We wish Ritchie, Lynne, and his family all the best as they embark on this new chapter."

While Mr. Sorrells' retirement marks the end of an era, GVTC remains committed to its mission and is confident in its future. The board is currently initiating a comprehensive search process to identify a successor who will continue to drive GVTC's growth and maintain its high standards of service.

GVTC expresses its deep appreciation to Ritchie Sorrells for his visionary leadership and significant contributions to the company. His legacy will continue to inspire GVTC's leadership, employees, and partners for many years to come.

## CRYSTAL THEATRE PERFORMERS



CONTRIBUTED

A shot from a Crystal Theatre youth workshop long ago. "The newest youngest campers" have been participating in an introduction to the theater week beginning Monday, June 26. Who knows where what they learn will take them?

## Sam Houston State University announces Spring 2023 Dean's List

### SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The students listed on the Dean's List of Academic Honors at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas, are undergraduates who have achieved a grade point average of at least 3.5 out of a perfect 4.0 in all work attempted while enrolled in not less than 12

semester hours. The university would like to recognize the following students for earning the honor for the Spring 2023 semester.

- GONZALES**  
 Madelynn Brown  
 Juan Jordan  
 Katelyn Ostby

## University of Mary Hardin-Baylor announces honor roll for Spring 2023

### SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in Belton announced that 507 students have been listed on the Spring 2023 Provost's Honor Roll. To receive this recognition, a

student must achieve a 3.85 grade point average (GPA) or better on a 4.0 scale.

In conjunction with this, 486 students were named on the Dean's Honor Roll for Spring 2023. To receive this recognition, a student must achieve a

3.5 - 3.849 grade point average (GPA) on a 4.0 scale.

**WAELEDER**  
 Monica Velazquez

**SHINER**  
 Camille Darilek

## Chamber to host Power Hour at Shear Designs

### FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Gonzales Chamber of Commerce will hold a Power Hour — a happy hour networking event — every last Thursday of the month from

5:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. at a local member business. For June, the Power Hour will be held this Thursday, June 29, at Shear Designs, 805 N. Saint Joseph St., Gonzales. Those present can enter to win a prize every 15 minutes.

GONZALESINQUIRER.COM

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### ACROSS

1 chewy movie candy

5 TXism: "get your ducks in \_\_\_"

6 Austin has "Art-O-\_\_\_" annually

7 Palestine AM radio

8 TX Willie's is 90

9 chicken fried steak & Bar-B-Q in Texas

16 Rockport is "where the fun never \_\_\_"

18 TXism for "mean man" (2 wds.)

21 TX Kenny Rogers' "Love or Something Like \_\_\_" (1978)

22 TX Buck Owens' "I've \_\_\_ Tiger By the Tail" (1964)

23 a player for the Spurs or Cowboys

24 "\_\_\_ Brothers Band" recorded "Down in Texas '71" directed by TX King Vidor: "\_\_\_ Passage" (1940)

34 TXism: "news wrangler" (abbr.)

35 select

36 TXism for "old man"

37 rub out writing

39 TXism: "lit out for \_\_\_" (departed)

43 TX Tanya's 1st hit: "\_\_\_ Dawn"

44 U.S. Army post in San Antonio: "\_\_\_ Houston"

45 Houston's Olajuwon initials, before "Hakeem"

46 Pecos AM radio

47 this Cesar made Astros 40-man roster in 2023

49 TXism: "\_\_\_ a skunk" (intoxicated)

52 seeing organ

53 TXism: "brains \_\_\_ box" (computer)

54 TXism: "dot \_\_\_" and cross the t's"

55 opposite of "anode"

58 Jewish snack food

59 Texas-based TGI Fridays has restaurants in \_\_\_ wan

60 TXism: "the tail \_\_\_" (last)

61 oil "weights" standard

## TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison  
 Copyright 2023 by Orbison Bros.

P-1643

11 TX-born Roddenberry wrote script for 1971 film "Pretty Maids All in \_\_\_"

12 Incaviglia who played for Rangers & Astros

13 rented

14 "each" abbr.

15 oil or gas additive

17 Ozona newspaper

19 "Deaf" Smith's given name

20 TXism: "he could \_\_\_ eagle" (good cowboy)

24 summer necessity in Texas (abbr.)

25 TX Lucy, the original Southern Belle (init.)

26 Texas singer "Meat \_\_\_"

27 sullen, sulky

28 \_\_\_ dog (homeless)

29 snuggle

31 TX Ely who was TV's "Tarzan"

32 TXism: "\_\_\_ many irons in the fire"

33 "Star Trek" fan

38 assumed name

40 TX Steve Miller's "Living in the \_\_\_"

41 Hitler follower

42 Fort Worth "Coliseum" name before it was "Cowtown" (2 wds.)

48 pool hall shout: "\_\_\_ em"

50 "oh dear" (hyph.)

51 Beatty of "Big Bad John" with TX Dear

56 poker stakes

57 Houston's 2nd wife, Rogers

### DOWN

1 TXism: "\_\_\_ the bottom of a well"

2 easternmost city in Texas

3 TXism: "Sunday go \_\_\_ clothes"

4 TX Steve Forrest old TV series

9 city that put Cowboys out of playoffs in 2023 (abbr.)

10 TXism for "miser"

## SUDOKU

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

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.

## GONZALES, NIXON DEPARTMENTS CO-HOST COASTAL BEND PEACE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION



CONTRIBUTED  
Last week, the Gonzales County Sheriff's Office and Nixon Police Department co-hosted the Coastal Bend Peace Officers Association meeting at the Nixon Community Center. Both Sheriff Keith Schmidt (top left) and Nixon Police Chief Miguel Cantu (top right) spoke during the meeting. Nations Christian Fellowship and DRR Towing Service provided the food, while Deborah Pena provided the desserts. Donations from D&G Wrecker, West Motors, Dix Towing, D&C Wrecker, KB's Autostation and D&T Wrecker also helped to put on the event.

# High profile cases topic of upcoming RWOYA meeting

### SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals was established in 1891. The appeals of all death penalty cases come directly to this court from the trial courts.

Judge David Newell has served on the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals since his election in 2014. Nine years may seem a short time to serve on this historically established court; however, Judge Newell has been involved in many crucial and high-profile cases and will be speaking about some of these cases and other many interesting things about serving on the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals.

Twice, Judge Newell has served as Chairman of the Editorial Board for the Texas District and County Attorney's bi-monthly journal, The Texas Prosecutor. He also co-authored a regular byline for the journal, "As the Judges Saw It," a column that analyzed and summarized the significant decisions of the Court of Criminal Appeals and the United States Supreme Court. He served repeatedly on the planning committee for the Advanced Criminal Law Course for the State Bar of Texas. He currently lives in the Houston area with his wife, Shayne, and their two sons.

RWOYA invites the public to at-



Judge David Newell, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals

tend this program and luncheon to be held Wednesday, July 12, at the Yoakum Community Center, 105 Huck St, Yoakum. Doors will open at 11:30 a.m. Lunch will be served following the invocation, pledges to the flags, and introductions of elected officials. Free-will donations are appreciated. Judge Newell will take questions from the audience following his presentation.

For more information, please contact Vickie Vickers, RWOYA First Vice President and Programs Chair, 512-554-5678.

## SHINER HERITAGE QUILTERS SHARE THEIR WORK



CONTRIBUTED  
The Shiner Heritage Quilters Guild has donated 11 quilts and four pillow cases to Norma's House, Children's Advocacy Center. Pictured from the left are Laisha Rangel (Bilingual Forensic Interviewer/CST Care Coordinator), Barbara Stevenson (Program Director/Forensic Interviewer), Laura Kaspar (Guild Member) and Emily Cook (Forensic Interviewer/Volunteer Coordinator). Norma's House is in Gonzales and Hallettsville and serves the communities in Gonzales and Lavaca counties.

## VC Academy of Lifelong Learning Open House scheduled for July 13

### SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Victoria College's Academy of Lifelong Learning will hold its Fall 2023 Open House on Thursday, July 13 from 1:30-4 p.m. in the Conference & Education Center at VC's Emerging Technology Complex located at 7403 Lone Tree Road in Victoria.

The Academy of Lifelong Learning provides members the opportunity to participate in classes and social activities for continued intellectual and personal growth. The Fall 2023 schedule will include over 60 classes including a day trip to Rockport, history classes, book clubs, monthly lunch meetups, and much more.

Guests who attend the come-and-go Open House can pay their annual membership dues, view the Fall 2023 schedule and visit with members and instructors. Refreshments will be served. This event is free and open to the public.

The annual membership fee of \$60 allows members to participate in any of



CONTRIBUTED  
VC's Academy of Lifelong Learning Open House is scheduled for Thursday, July 13 at the Emerging Technology Complex located at 7403 Lone Tree Road in Victoria.

the academy's activities offered during the fall and spring semesters at no additional charge, with the exception of a few activities that have a supply or travel fee.

For more information, visit Victoria-College.edu/ALL, email WCE@Victoria-College.edu, or call (361) 582-2520.



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**  
SERVING GONZALES COUNTY SINCE 1858

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## Notice of Public Hearing on Gonzales Central Appraisal District Budget

The Gonzales Central Appraisal District will hold a public hearing on a proposed budget for the 2024 fiscal year.

The public hearing will be held on July 20, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. at the appraisal district office, 1709 E. Sarah Dewitt Drive, Unit B, Gonzales, Texas.

A summary of the appraisal district budget follows:

The total amount of the proposed budget.	\$1,996,725.00
The total amount of increase from the current year's budget.	\$ 102,573.00
The number of employees compensated under the proposed budget.	14
The number of employees compensated under the current budget.	14

The appraisal district is supported solely by payments from the local taxing units served by the appraisal district.

If approved by the appraisal district board of directors at the public hearing, this proposed budget will take effect automatically unless disapproved by the governing bodies of the county, school districts, cities and towns served by the appraisal district.

A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection in the office of each of those governing bodies. A copy is also available for public inspection at the appraisal district office.

**GONZALES CENTRAL APPRAISAL DISTRICT**  
1709 E. Sarah Dewitt Drive, Unit B  
P.O. Box 867  
GONZALES, TEXAS 78629  
(830) 672-2879



# Fourth of July cookout prices drop slightly from 2022's record high

## SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

A summer cookout for Fourth of July will cost consumers slightly less than last year's record prices but significantly higher than two years ago, according to the American Farm Bureau Federation's (AFBF) marketbasket survey.

The national average cost of a summer cookout for 10 people is \$67.73 and \$63.60 in Texas, about 6% less than the national average.

The national grocery bill is down 3% from 2022, but still about 14% higher than prices were just two years ago. Last year set a record high since AFBF began the survey in 2013, and 2023 comes in as the second-highest cost.

The cookout favorites include cheeseburgers, chicken breasts, pork chops, homemade potato salad, strawberries and ice cream, among other products.

"Americans spend a smaller percentage of their income on food than people in any other country and that's thanks to a vibrant farm sector, supported by a strong farm bill program," Texas Farm Bureau President Russell Boening said. "But it's important to note that when retail prices go up, it doesn't mean farmers are getting a windfall. When prices go up, it's usually because their costs have gone up, and farmers only get 14% of the retail food dollar."

The marketbasket survey shows a year-to-year increase in the cost of hamburger buns, beef

and potato salad, while there are drops in the cost of chicken breasts, lemonade and cookies.

The retail price for a package of eight hamburger buns increased 17% to \$2.26. Home-made potato salad will cost \$3.44, up 5% from 2022. The cost of 2 pounds of ground beef rose 4% to \$11.54.

Several factors influence the increases. Drought conditions have increased the cost of feed and reduced the number of available cattle for the summer grilling season, driving up beef prices. Higher potato prices can be attributed to poor weather leading to a drop in production, and general inflation is driving up the price of processed foods like bread.

Our survey found one exception to the increased price of processed foods. A package of cookies will cost 10% less than 2022. The price of chicken breasts and eggs, which had reached record-high prices in

2022, are both lower. This is good news as the number of avian influenza cases has fallen, which has allowed chicken populations to recover. Lemonade is 16% less expensive, at \$3.73, due to a drop in the cost of lemons.

Although historically high, the cost of the cookout breaks down to \$6.77 per person nationally and \$6.36 per person nationally. When put in a global context, Americans spend a smaller percentage of their income on food than any other country.

The federal government's broader Consumer Price Index report for food at home shows an overall increase of 5.8% compared to a year ago. Farm Bureau's informal marketbasket survey examines only those foods commonly associated with summer cookouts.

Volunteer shoppers across the country, including Farm Bureau members and others, collected data from 240 different stores in every state and Puerto Rico.

## INDIVIDUAL PRICES, AFBF 2023 SUMMER COOKOUT

- 2 pounds of ground beef, \$11.54 (+4%)
- 2 pounds of chicken breasts, \$8.14 (-9%)
- 3 pounds of pork chops, \$14.37 (-6%)
- 1 pound of cheese, \$3.53 (no change)
- 1 package of hamburger buns, \$2.26 (+17%)
- 2 ½ pounds of homemade potato salad, \$3.44 (+5%)
- 32 ounces of pork and beans, \$2.44 (-3%)
- 16-ounce bag of potato chips, \$4.53 (-4%)
- 13-ounce package of chocolate chip cookies, \$3.90 (-10%)
- ½ gallon of ice cream, \$5.29 (+3%)
- 2 pints of strawberries, \$4.56 (+3%)
- 2 ½ quarts of lemonade, \$3.73 (-16%)



**“If we're going to utilize that strategic plan that you have in place from TASB, that's fine. And then we've got to identify what is going to be our focus plan. What are we going to focus on? What are those projects we're going to look at? And then very importantly, we got to have a financial plan.”**

— Jerry Vaughn, coordinator of field services agents

## BOND

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and he said they provide services to school districts and charter private schools.

"We assist school districts in improving student performance and all areas of the things that school districts have to deal with," Vaughn said.

Region 13 has partnered with Casey Sledge of Sledge Engineering to specifically reduce cost and improve public construction projects, Vaughn said.

"Our vision is simply to provide school districts with the tools, resources and expertise to make every project accountable, transparent, efficient for your taxpayers. Ultimately, we know that as a board, anytime you start into a project, you're ultimately responsible to the taxpayers, and we will help you deliver the very best project that we can and keep it very transparent for the taxpayers know what's going on," Vaughn said.

"We want to be the independent source of truth, someone that you can count on to help you out when you need to know the right answer when you need to know the answer now," Vaughn added.

Vaughn went over with the board about the bond process and stated to the board that they have to touch or talk about each step and can't leave any out, he said.

"That's the process we've got to go through. If we're going to utilize that strategic plan that you have in place from TASB, that's fine. And then we've got to identify what is going to be our focus plan. What are we going to focus on? What are those projects we're going to look at? And then very importantly, we got to have a financial plan," Vaughn said.

The district has less than five months from a list of projects for the bond for the November election, but Vaughn stated that there's no law to have it in November, but another opportunity exists to have the bond election in May 2024.

No action and vote was made to this agenda item with it merely being for discussion at this time. The district has not announced an exact amount they would be seeking for any potential bond issue since everything is in the preliminary stages.

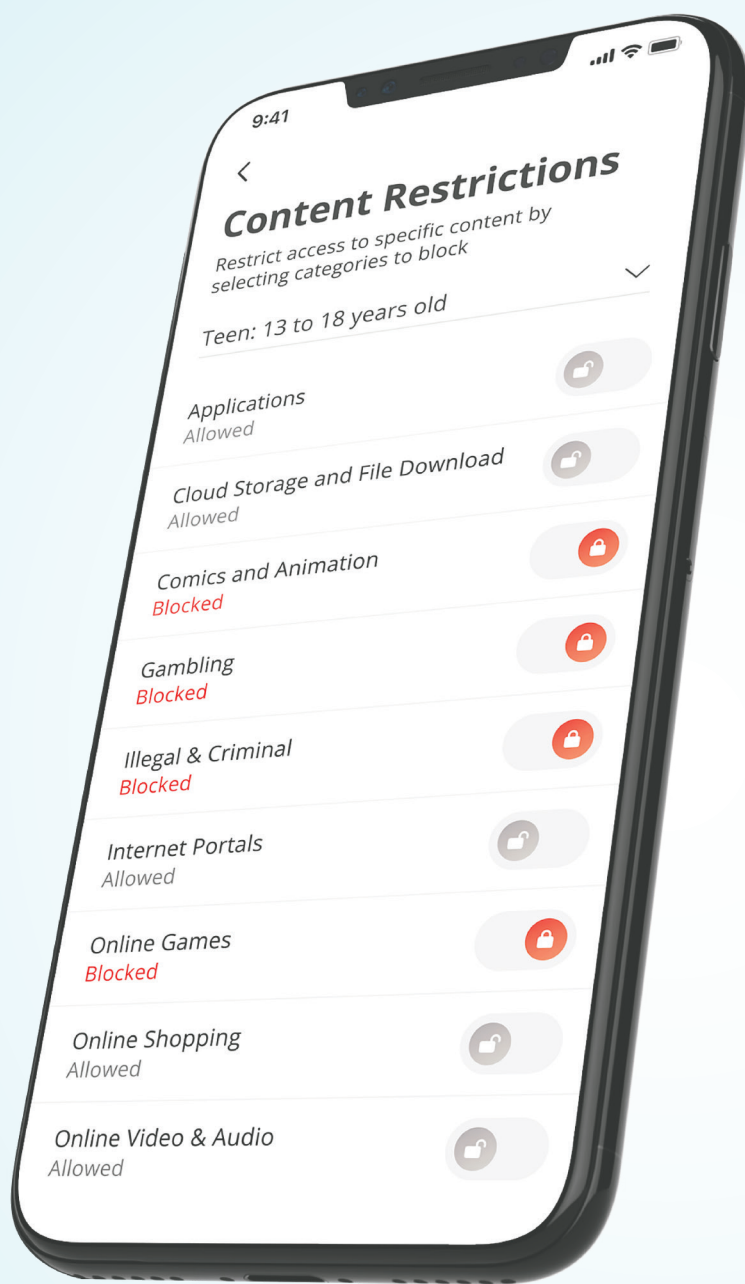


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