

The **Gonzales Inquirer**

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Architect, engineer discuss Courthouse restoration and master plan with Gonzales commissioners



LEW K. COHN

Tere O'Connell of O'Connell Architecture LLC, far right, speaks to Gonzales County Commissioners about what is needed before they can apply for a grant to restore the Gonzales County Courthouse. Seated in the back and to the left of O'Connell is engineer Charles "Chuck" Larosche of WJE Engineers.

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

Gonzales County has a fast approaching deadline if it wants to apply for up to \$10 million to help restore the Courthouse, an architect told commissioners Monday, Nov. 27.

Tere O'Connell of O'Connell Architecture LLC told the court the deadline for submitting a draft master

plan, which the Texas Historical Commission must have before the county can qualify for any Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program (THCPP) grant funds, is Feb. 5, while the deadline for the final draft of the master plan is April 5.

The county does not have an official "master plan" for the Courthouse. A plan created by John Volz of Volz & Associates in 1993

only addressed immediate structural deficiencies in the Courthouse tower and was not truly a "master plan," said O'Connell, who was part of the Volz team that helped design the late-1990s restoration of the Gonzales County Courthouse prior to the creation of the THCPP by the Texas Legislature.

A master plan must

See **COURTHOUSE**, page 6

County population grew 1.2% since 2020

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

Gonzales County has seen its estimated population grow by 1.2 percent since 2020, according to data released this month by the Texas Demographic Center at The University of Texas at San Antonio.

According to the 2020 census, the population of Gonzales County was 19,653, but the Population Estimates and Projections Program estimated that an additional 234 people are living in Gonzales County, bringing the total population estimate to 19,887 as of Jan. 1, 2023.

See **POPULATION**, page 17

Hazmat spill shuts down parts of US 183, US 90 A

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

Gonzales first responders spent much of Monday night, Nov. 20, dealing with a hydrochloric acid spill that ended up shutting down parts of US Highway 183 (Water Street) and US 90A (Sarah DeWitt) for about five hours.

Gonzales County Emergency Management Director Jimmy Harless said the Gonzales Police Department received a report about a spill in the parking lot at Stripes, 114 US 90A, at about 9:20 p.m. Monday.

See **HAZMAT**, page 18

HOSPITAL CELEBRATES 45 YEARS



WANDY VAN EPPS

Gonzales Healthcare System CEO Bradon Anzaldua looks at the table displaying photos and newspaper clips of the 45 year history of the hospital Wednesday, Nov. 28.



WANDY VAN EPPS

Gonzales resident Brian Jurek shows off a much smaller pumpkin patch compared to last year. Last year many bees hovered over his pumpkin patch, but due to drought this year very little showed up to pollinate his patch.

Gonzales resident abuzz about bee shortage

BY WANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The Texas drought has impacted the state — including a Gonzales resident's pumpkin patch.

Last fall, Brian Jurek showed off his pumpkin patch and how it grew larger than it expected. This year, he noticed there weren't enough bees to spread the pollen around the patch.

"Last year I had this beautiful pumpkin patch and I had hundreds and hundreds of pumpkins," Jurek said. "This

See **BEEES**, page 18

GISD, DPS enter lease for former admin building

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Gonzales Independent School District (GISD) has announced a new partnership with the Texas Depart-

ment of Public Safety (DPS) and the Division of Highway Patrol. The GISD Board of Trustees approved a contract to lease the GISD property located at 1711 N. Sarah DeWitt

Drive.

The property, which is adjacent to the Gonzales High School, was previously

See **GISD**, page 18

Disturbance call leads to weapons and drug charges

Suspect was arrested three weeks earlier on federal parole violation

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Gonzales County Sheriff's deputies arrested a known convicted felon on drug and weapons charges as well as outstanding warrants after

responding to a disturbance call on Nov. 21 — just three weeks after being arrested by GCSO on a federal parole violation warrant.

According to GCSO, deputies were dispatched at 8:10 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 21, to a home in the 200 block of County Road 342 for a reported disturbance involving a male subject known by deputies to act out with violence. When deputies ar-

See **ARREST**, page 6

Winterfest home tour welcomes all to see city's beauty

Editor's Note: Christmas in Gonzales ... Excerpts from a Texas Homes and Living article written by Barbara Priesmeyer Crozier, Dec 2007... ring more true today for the 2023 Winterfest Holiday Home Tour than it did then.

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Today, the lights shine brightly in Gonzales, illuminating the homes and almost two hundred years of Christmas traditions for visitors to this fascinating little city that is the heartland of Texas and its history - Gonzales.

See **TOUR**, page 17



Previously deported individuals apprehended by GCSO

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

A Gonzales County deputy made a traffic stop on Nov. 18 that led to the apprehension of 10 individuals — several of which previously were deported for having been in the United States in violation of immigration laws.

According to the Gonzales County Sheriff's Office, a deputy was working as part of Operation Border Star and conducted a traffic stop on Interstate 10 at 5:10 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 18, on a Houston-bound Ford Econoline van for an expired registration sticker. During the stop, the deputy

learned that there were a total of 10 individuals inside the van, and upon speaking with each person, the deputy learned that all 10 were allegedly in the country without legal permission and a background check showed several of those had been deported to their country of origin previously.

"Due to the illegal status of the individuals, they were detained and transported to Devine, where they were released into the custody of Border Patrol," the department said in a statement. "We are thankful these individuals chose to stop, as many times, they will attempt to flee from

law enforcement, causing themselves or innocent bystanders to become injured. "This stops marks yet another time the Operation Border Star Grant has allowed our deputies to work extra in an attempt to achieve our mission of making Gonzales County a better and safer place to raise our children."

Christmas comes early at local children's party hosted by Marshalls

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Mayor Steve "Santa at Heart" Sucher "Santa" made a grand entrance at a children's party hosted and sponsored by Debbie & Steve Marshall, friends and family! Santa arrived with a billowing "HO-HO-HO" and with jingle bells too! The children ran to greet him as they escorted Santa and Mrs. Claus to their seats by the Christmas Tree. Santa had a patient ear as he listened to what the children wanted this year. There were hundreds of toys to choose from. The children and staff enjoyed food catered by The Farm-

ers Daughter of Gonzales and Community Health Centers of South Central Texas and hot chocolate by Judah's Java Cafe' located in Luling. An assortment of desserts made handmade with love. A special treat by Daya's Snow Cone was a hit! Santa was in the company of many princesses who came to celebrate the Christmas spirit with the children, provided by Perfect Parties by Lucinda from San Antonio. The party included arts and crafts tables, coloring and paint stations and games such as pin the nose on the snowman. Other enjoyed festivities included a magic show presented by Bobby Cordell Magi-

cal Entertainment, face painting, balloon twisting, a bubble show, bounce house, popcorn by Fred Ward and Tony the Clown — all of which helped make this event a memorable Christmas celebration for the children. Additional sponsors included Community Health Centers of South Central Texas, the Farmers Daughter, Victoria College, JL Gray, Sandra Michna & Mike Kobala in memory of Stephen, Ann Hicks & Family, EncapSulite, Karen & Rob Blakeley, Olivia Seifert, Lux Texas Realty Group, Body's by Arden, St. Vincent De Paul Society, Lotus Solutions, and Bastrop Community Senior Center.

Operation Border Star recovers stolen vehicle, makes arrest

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Gonzales County Sheriff's deputies recovered a stolen vehicle and arrested a convicted felon who was in possession of a firearm after a traffic stop earlier this month. A deputy was working Operation Border Star and monitoring traffic on Interstate 10 near Waelder at about 6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 18, when he conducted a registration check on a black Kia passenger vehicle traveling west towards San Antonio and learned the vehicle was reported by the Austin Police Department as having been stolen on Nov. 13, 2023.

The deputy was able to safely bring the vehicle to a stop and detain the driver, who was identified as Richard Allen Strickler, 40. During the stop, the deputy located a loaded handgun in the vehicle and learned Strickler is a convicted felon and is prohibited from possessing a firearm. Strickler was arrested on charges of unauthorized use of a vehicle and unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon. He has been released from the Gonzales County Jail after posting \$25,000 total bond.

"It was unclear what (Smith's) intentions were driving a stolen vehicle while possessing a handgun, but the deputy was able to safely apprehend this male preventing any further criminal acts from being committed in the Gonzales County community," GCSO said in a release. "We are extremely thankful and proud of our deputies who work day and night and even chose to work extra hours all in an attempt to make the Gonzales County community a better place to live."



Strickler



Briggs Equipment donates \$5,000 to Legacy Ranch

CONTRIBUTED

Steve Marshall with Briggs Equipment in New Braunfels presents Pamela Rodriguez, administrator of Legacy Ranch Kids with \$5,000 to help purchase a much-needed transit van. Assisting in the presentation were Captain and Dutchess from the Legacy Ranch Kids Horse program. Briggs was founded in Dallas in 1896 and is one of the world's leading providers of material handling equipment. Steve added "As a Texas company, Briggs is always looking for meaningful opportunities to give back and support the communities we serve. We are proud to support Legacy Ranch Kids. With the holidays fast approaching, what better way to give back than to invest in reliable, safe transportation for the kids at The Ranch?"

MARSHALL RECEIVES LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Debbie Marshall, was awarded the Lifetime Achievement by the Braination Foundation. This foundation acknowledges community leaders who have made significant contributions, enhancing lives and embodying the strength and kindness of the human spirit. Nominees are carefully chosen based on their impact in categories such as Community Leadership, Visionary Leadership, Educational Achievement, and Lifetime Achievement. Debbie Marshall, in particular, has been honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award, the highest accolade presented by the foundation. Her dedication to children and her selfless contributions to the community were highlighted as key factors in receiving this prestigious award.

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Celebrations

Birthdays

November 30th Nathan Burek Ashten Escobedo Matthe Gomez Terry Schomburg Hester Betty Hull Ellen Lehnert Billy Parker Stan Pylant Mark Yackel	Abbie Dolzal Kyle Fortenberry Lania Karol Andrea Lee Sandy Moore Debbie Remschel Marvin Siegel Laura Siptak Krystal Voigt	Kim West
December 1st Marjorie Cardenas Dennis Droupy Kevin Johnson	December 3rd Larry Hanks Mattie Ramos	Betty Jean Tharp Rafaela Whiteley
December 2nd Donna Behrendt	December 4th Betsy Boenisch Cheyenne Brown Jerry Floyd Bo Ivey	December 5th Linda Falks Richard Flax Jacey Harkey Sydney Hermann Bobby Manning Christian Melchor Anita Rogers Betty Jean Tharp Rafaela Whiteley
December 6th Bobby Cox Abby Guerra Ernie Martinez James Reyes		

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Gonzales Weather

	November 30 57°/47°	A thick cloud cover with a couple of showers in the afternoon 62% chance of rain • RealFeel 56
	December 1 67°/50°	A shower in places in the morning; otherwise, milder with partial sunshine 43% chance of rain • RealFeel 70
	December 2 70°/52°	A morning shower in places; otherwise, cloudy 40% chance of rain • RealFeel 68
	December 3 60°/49°	Rain and a thunderstorm 70% chance of rain • RealFeel 56
	December 4 66°/46°	Remaining cloudy with a couple of showers around, mainly late in the day 55% chance of rain • RealFeel 66
	December 5 67°/43°	Mostly sunny 0% chance of rain • RealFeel 68
	December 6 71°/42°	Mostly cloudy 25% chance of rain • RealFeel 69

Upcoming Events at J.B. Wells Park in Gonzales

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DECEMBER GARDENING CALENDAR

The winter gardening period is continuing. It is time to plant onions if you have not done so yet. Most area nurseries offer at least six selections, a mix of yellows, reds, and whites, including 1015, Red Creole, and Bermuda. The reds have the least mild taste. One good strategy is to purchase 1015 or another mild variety and red cayenne for your recipes or salads for which you want a more potent onion taste. I like to plant the onion transplants every 4 inches in a row and then harvest the middle two plants for green onions by Mid-April. The remaining onions will reach full size by June 1 when the tops will flop over indicating they are ripe and ready for harvest.

You should be able to harvest from your broccoli, kale, chard, spinach, and, Brussels sprouts, mustard plants if you had planted them back in October. If you haven't planted them yet do so as soon as possible. Prepare the soil in your planting bed with 10 cups of slow release lawn fertilizer such as 19-05-09 or a winterizer fertilizer such as 18-06-12. Adding 2 inches of compost is always important too. The soil preparation is also necessary for the onions, carrots, lettuce, beets, turnips, English peas that you are planting (or have already planted)

Have you thought about purchasing a live Christmas tree? There are some attractive selections that can fill a role in your landscape after they host the Holiday decorations for this season. Consider a small version of Deodora cedar, Arizona cypress, Italian Stone Pine,

See CALENDAR, page 17

Extension service's brush and forage conference set for Dec. 6 in Seguin

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will be hosting a brush and forage conference on Dec. 6 in Seguin.

The conference will be held from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the AgriLife Extension office in Guadalupe County, 210 East Live Oak St. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. Registration is \$40 and seating is limited to 60 attendees. The deadline to RSVP is Dec. 1. To RSVP, contact the office at 830-303-3889. Lunch will be provided.

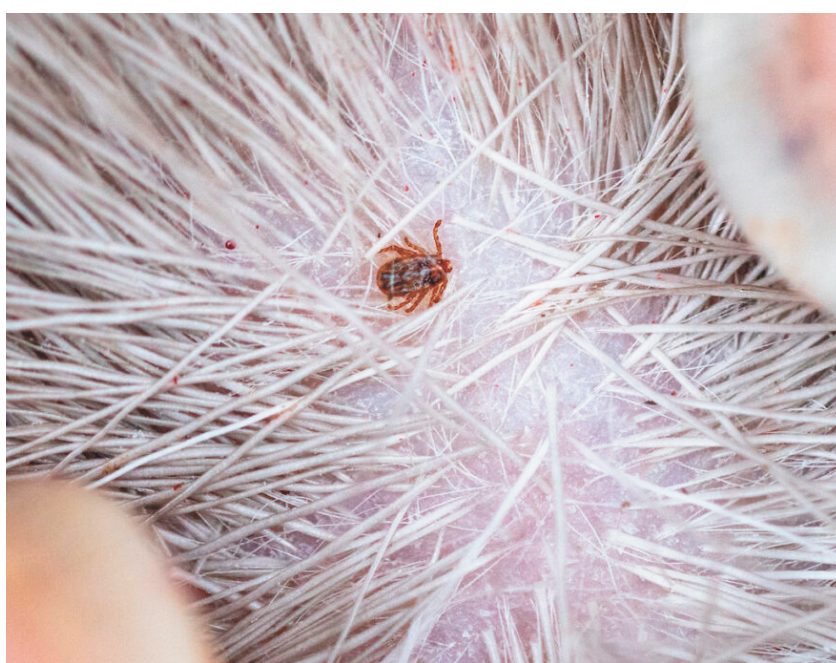
A total of five Texas Department of Agriculture continuing education units will also be available for commercial, non-commercial and private pesticide applicators. These units include three general units, one integrated pest management unit and one laws and regulations unit.

WORKSHOP AGENDA AND TOPICS

The workshop will have the following topics and presenters:

- Managing insects in the pasture – Dalton Ludwick, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension entomologist and assistant professor in the Department of Entomology, Corpus Christi.

- External parasite management plan for livestock and the latest on fever ticks – Karl Harborth, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension livestock specialist and assistant professor in the Department of Animal Science, Corpus Christi.



TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE PHOTO BY MICHAEL MILLER
Participants will be able to learn how to manage external livestock parasites, weeds and insect pests during the Dec. 6 Brush and Forage Conference in Seguin.

- Tips for a successful herbicide brush treatment – Megan Clayton, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension range specialist and professor in the Department of Rangeland, Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, Uvalde.

- Preparing for weeds in the pasture this spring – Josh McGinty, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension agronomist and professor in the Department of Soil and Crop Sciences, Corpus Christi.

- Picolinic acid chemistry, PAC, training – Clayton.

The picolinic acid chemistry training covers the application requirements needed for the use of Invora herbicide for brush and weed management on rangeland sites. Applicators must complete the training every two years before applying the herbicide.

For more information, contact Jeff Hanselka, AgriLife Extension agriculture and natural resources agent in Guadalupe County: j-hanselka@tamu.edu or 830-303-3889.

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Garden Q&A with CALVIN FINCH



Q. Our Whopper Begonias look beautiful. How long will they last into the winter? What is a good replacement plant?

A. Begonias will last into the winter as long as the temperatures remain mild. Since they are planted in sheltered locations in the shade they often last into the winter. Quite often the tops will freeze back but then they regrow when spring arrives. Some of the best replacement plants are cyclamen and primula.

Q. I am confused by the rules to prevent oak wilt by painting the new wounds on oak trees. When do we paint, when the temperatures are mild but how mild? Is now a time to paint all the wounds to prevent the spread of the disease?

A. The disease organisms and or mites that carry them are active when the temperatures are mild but it is hard to guess exactly how severely cold or hot or for how long the temperatures need to be high or low to prevent the disease spread. The safest tactic is to paint all wounds

immediately when they are discovered whether it is cold, hot, or mild outside.

Q. We planted Crawford lettuce two weeks ago, but it is not germinating. The seed is supposedly only one season old, any ideas?

A. Other gardeners have reported that it is growing, the soil should be cool enough. One common issue that prevents leaf lettuce germination is if the seed is covered by soil or even mulch. Just set the seed on top of the soil in the row.

Q. Why do you recommend the addition of compost every year or two to the vegetable garden? Doesn't it accumulate? What are the advantages besides nutrients?

A. Compost supplies a limited amount of nutrients to the garden soil but mostly it improves drainage, water holding capacity, reduces compaction, and allows gas exchange. The organic material in compost decomposes on an ongoing basis so to maintain a reasonable level it must be replenished on a regular basis.

LIVESTOCK WEEKLY REPORTS

GONZALES LIVESTOCK MARKET
No Sale Saturday, November 25, 2023

NIXON LIVESTOCK

November 20th
Cattle – 892
Steers:
200-300 lbs - \$274-284-335
300-400 lbs - \$248-258-330
400-500 lbs - \$225-235-320
500-600 lbs - \$212-222-273
600-700 lbs - \$197-207-240
700-800 lbs - \$173-183-217
Heifers:
200-300 lbs - \$207-217-310
300-400 lbs - \$208-218-270
400-500 lbs - \$200-210-243
500-600 lbs - \$195-205-245
600-700 lbs - \$182-192-210
700-800 lbs - \$177-187-199
Slaughter Cows - \$50-106
Slaughter Bulls - \$96-116
Stocker Cows - \$650-1100
Pairs: \$815-1600

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Unveiling the healing power of hemp

A Doctor's perspective on CBD and Texas legalization

BY GARTH O. VAZ, M.D.

In the realm of plant medicine, few have been as misunderstood and unfairly treated as hemp. As a medical professional with a passion for my patients' health and well-being, I believe it is crucial to shed light on the distinctions between hemp and marijuana, particularly given the recent adoption of the 2018 Federal Farm Bill as well as the Texas Department of Agriculture which removed hemp from the definition of marijuana in the Controlled Substances Act (CSA).

Firstly, let's clarify the relationship between hemp and marijuana — they are essentially different classifications of the same cannabis plant. Hemp is grown primarily for industrial and medicinal purposes, boasting a rich history that dates back thousands of years. Marijuana on the other hand is cultivated for both recreational and medicinal usage, and its psychoactive component, THC, is what induces the famous "high", thus its recreational value.

It's heartening to note that Texas recognized the potential benefits of hemp, legalizing it in 2019 through the Texas House Bill 1325. This legislation allows for the production and sale of hemp-derived CBD products containing 0.3% or less of THC. CBD, or cannabidiol, is a cannabinoid — a chemical compound found in the cannabis plant — that interacts with our body's endocannabinoid system (ECS).

The endocannabinoid system is a complex network of neurotransmitters that regulate various bodily functions, including cognitive processes, fertility, immune responses, appetite, pain sensations, mood, motor function, memory, and more as clinical studies continue. When one consumes cannabinoids from the cannabis plant, they interact with the ECS through neuroreceptors. It's quite a wonder that the human body is already equipped to produce and handle cannabinoids!

CBD and THC are the two most prominent cannabinoids in cannabis, with hemp containing mostly CBD and minimal THC, while marijuana has higher levels of THC. Unlike THC, CBD is non-intoxicating, non-addictive, and holds great promise for a range of health benefits. Studies suggest its efficacy in chronic pain management, anxiety reduction, and promoting better sleep. Notably, the FDA has approved Epidiolex, a CBD drug, for treating epilepsy.

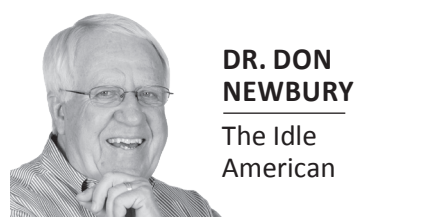
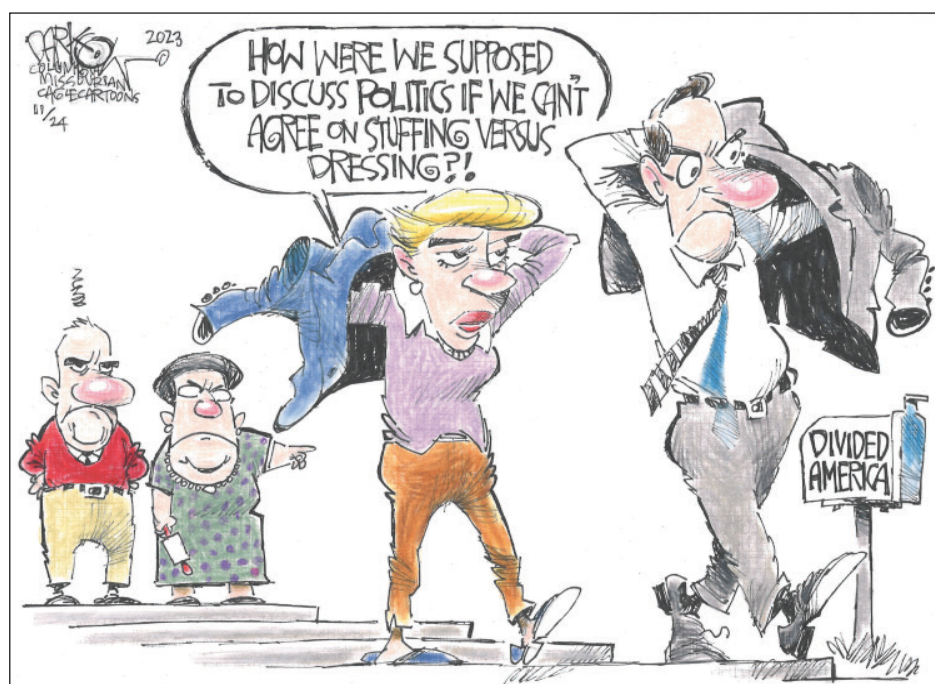
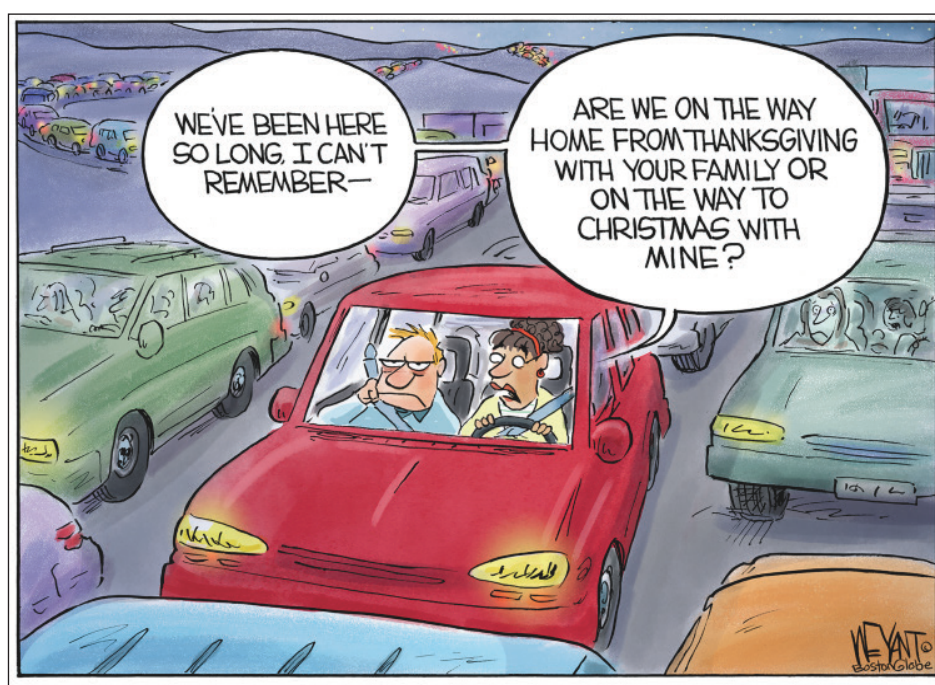
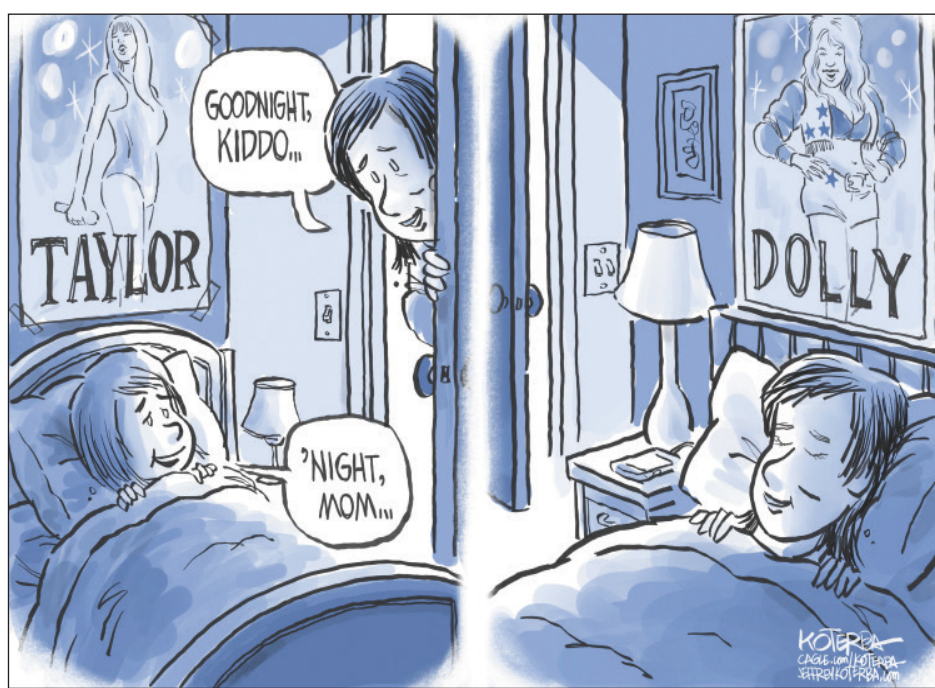
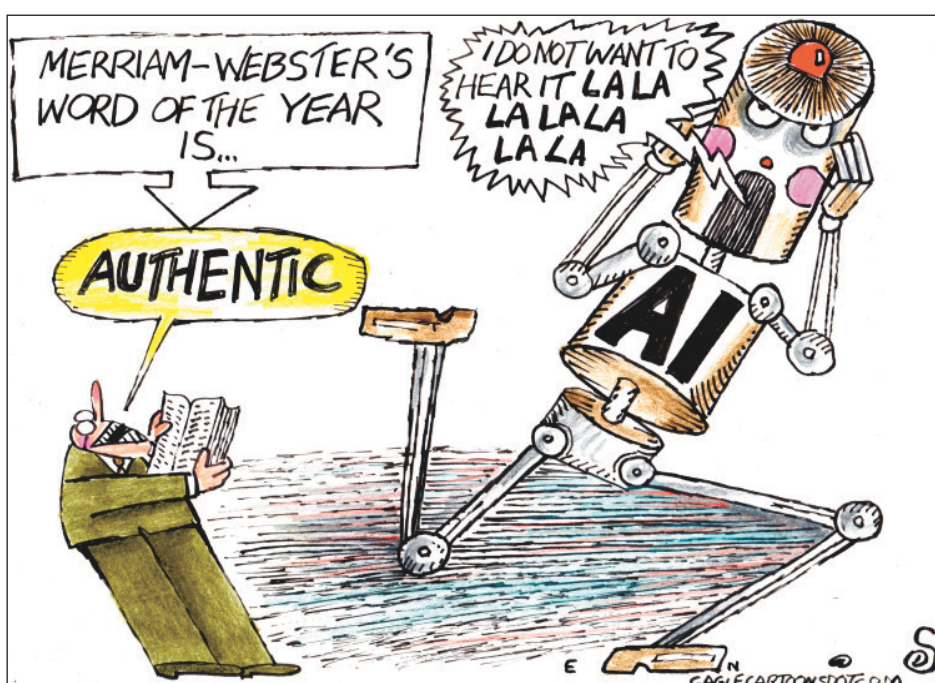
Beyond its medicinal potential, hemp has been a staple in human civilization for millennia. A sustainable and fast-growing crop, hemp yields durable textiles, clothing, ropes, paper, cosmetics, oils, biofuels, and medicinal products. It is a veritable marvel of nature that, unfortunately, endured a nearly century-long vilification due to misguided policies like the Marihuana Tax Act of 1937.

To appreciate hemp's historical significance, consider this: George Washington himself grew hemp to make ropes, sacks, and canvas. However, the aforementioned Act, aimed at curbing recreational marijuana use, inadvertently ensnared hemp in its restrictions. For almost a century, hemp faced unjust stigma and misunderstanding due to the phenotypic (observable) similarities to marijuana.

As we unravel the science behind this remarkable hemp plant, it becomes increasingly clear that the benefits of hemp are numerous. Products made from CBD isolate and our CBD distillate contain no THC, ensuring no psychoactive effects. Resulting from the absence of THC, consumption of our CBD products do not show up in drug tests either. This makes our products ideal for making issues like pain, anxiety, and more, offering a safe, natural and effective alternative to traditional pharmaceuticals.

The recent legalization of hemp-derived CBD in Texas marks a pivotal moment in harnessing the therapeutic potential of this ancient plant. As we continue to explore the science behind CBD and other cannabinoids, it's crucial to dispel misconceptions, embrace the sustainable benefits of hemp for health, and foster a new era of natural healing.

Dr. Garth Vaz is a family practice physician at The Vaz Clinic, PA in Gonzales.



DR. DON NEWBURY
The Idle American

'Making do' back when...

"You oughta get yourself an Apple watch," a friend suggested. I stopped short of suggesting that he should keep time however he chooses. I countered that I will stick with a calendar, sun dial and wristwatch.

Perhaps noting an ever-so-faint smile, he blathered on, explaining what Apple watches can do, even hailing an ambulance if a watch-wearer has a fall. (He did whisper a disclaimer on the 911 call feature if the carpet is too thick or the battery too low.)

I walked away in thanksgiving, not so much seasonal, but thinking that I am lucky to have a few friends who embrace technology and really want to do their part in keeping me "vertical and ventilating."...

The conversation made me think of my old daddy, who probably never thought himself to be versatile. Familiar with grueling farm work and a do-everything guy with wrenches and pipes, he greatly valued his wind-up stopwatch used mostly when he officiated basketball games.

Athletically inclined, T. J. Newbury officiated high school basketball games at small schools in Brown and adjoining counties during the Depression.

Usually, the only game official, he often endured three days and nights working both boys' and girls' basketball tournaments, usually pocketing \$10 for what today would be considered cruel and unusual punishment for such taxing toil. His duties didn't stop with whistleblowing. He also kept the "official time." He'd likely have been the official scorer, too, had there been a way to hang the book from a belt loop. Further, he kept a close eye on the chalk board, where a youngster kept track of the score for all to see....

Thankfully, this was before the three-point shot, so young score keepers only had to add one or two points (free throws or floor baskets), so advanced mathematical acumen wasn't required.

At one game in the mid-1940s, a classmate who usually arrived at the gymnasium early enough with chalk in hand to be named score keeper languished at home with a "bad cold."

My dad assigned the youngster's duties to me. During one thoughtless moment, I blundered, and the recollection still causes moistening of eyes and twitching of body....

After a successful free throw, I awarded the shooter two points. Immediately, Dad stopped the game, gently asking for a re-count.

Worse, though, were the cutting comments of classmates, some of whom were snickering that I couldn't even add "one" and get the right answer. Oh, the cruelty of it all....

Dad didn't bring it up on the way home. In fact, he comforted me, just as he had a year earlier when I was a third-grader.

During an arithmetic lesson, Mrs. Byrd asked, "Don, what's 'tootum' three, 'tootum' four and 'tootum' five?"

Later, I realized she probably slurred the word "times," but it sounded like "tootum" to me. I answered, "Mrs. Byrd, I'm not even sure what 'tootum' is."...

I spoke to the Southwest Christian School football team recently, conveying details of a recent visit to the doctor, who asked me to recite the alphabet.

Expecting the question, I memorized a modified, rapidly-fired answer: "Z, y, x, w, v, u, t, s, r, q, p, o, n, m, l, k, j, i, h, g, f, e, d, c, b, a." His jaw dropped, the doctor answered, "Now forward, smart aleck."

Enough of this. I'm not buying an Apple watch. Challenged by QR codes, artificial intelligence and other technical stuff, I have drawn dirt lines that I have no plans to cross. I am, however, conveying deepest Thanksgiving greetings beautifully worded on a sign seen recently: "Pray for eyes that see the best in people, for a heart that forgives the worst, a mind that forgets the bad and a soul that NEVER loses faith in God." Happy Thanksgiving!...

Dr. Newbury, a longtime university president, writes weekly and speaks regularly throughout Texas. Contact: 817-447-3872. Email: newbury@speakerdoc.com.

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PUBLISHER
Lew Cohn

STAFF WRITER
Vandy Van Epps

CONTRIBUTING
Betty Cohn
Clayton Kelley

BOOKKEEPER
Sanya Simmons

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COURTHOUSE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

include an executive summary; documentation of the historical and architectural development of the county and the Courthouse; an evaluation of existing conditions; restoration and rehabilitation recommendation and any supporting documents necessary.

“One of the things that people underestimate is the extent of the historic research that needs to be conducted,” O’Connell said. “It needs to have every Commissioners Court minutes that referred to the courthouse or the architectural development and the history of courthouses in the county. I think you only had one preceding this. But when that was built, why it was built, when it burned down, which was 1893, and then the history of construction of this courthouse through its changes over time. There was a big series of changes in 1958, I believe, and then again from the 1995 to 1999 time period.”

The current Gonzales County Courthouse was designed by famed architect J. Riely Gordon and was completed in 1896 at a cost of \$64,450 after the original burned down December 3, 1893 — nearly 130 years ago. Gordon used a Romanesque Revival design that featured a Greek cross layout complete with corner entrances and a rotunda. A new roof was put on the building in 1958.

O’Connell said other documentation will include information about “all of the important people that have been involved with the courthouse.”

“Were there important court proceedings that happened in this courthouse?” she asked. “Who were the leaders? Who are the ghosts? Then we would talk about the current historic designations and the easements that exist on the Courthouse. Fortunately for you, it has every historic designation available to county courthouses, so that helps you in your final scoring categories.”

O’Connell said the master plan will “pick apart ... every little thing about this building — the masonry, the plaster, the decorative painting on the wainscoting and the finishes throughout the courthouse window conditions, so on and so forth.”

The plan might determine if the building needs a fire sprinkler system or look at the security needs the building may have in order to make it safer. There could be hardware changes that must be addressed to help the building function while “still retaining its historic integrity,” O’Connell said.

Other issues that might be addressed include how to get people out of the building safely in case of emergency; accessibility improvements; and records and archive storage.

O’Connell said working on county courthouses has been “the bulk of my experience over the course of my career.”

“I’m very fond of the architecture, the architect who designed it, the history and the lore, the importance of the courthouse in the community, and the responsibility that you have as county to take care of this beautiful building,” she said.

In addition to O’Connell Architecture LLC, the team working on the master plan is comprised of WJE Engineering, which will be responsible for structural

engineering and waterproofing services, and HMG Engineering, which will be responsible for mechanical, electrical and plumbing engineering.

“I wanted (WJE) on our team because they are so exceptional, not only at the structural analysis of the building, but at waterproofing issues,” O’Connell said. “We have coatings that are peeling off at the courthouse and there might be some water coming into the basement area. There’s some issues that need to be addressed and I wanted an expert on our team to help identify and address those issues.”

She noted that when the past work was done on the Gonzales County Courthouse 25 years ago, then-County Judge Henry Volland was known to be frugal and “he thought that window air conditioners were just fine.”

“We had window air conditioners for most of the courthouse at the time, and they were all purchased new as part of that project in 1997, but, of course, you know, they rattle and make a lot of noise,” O’Connell said. “Getting a central air conditioning system into your building in a way that will not undermine the architectural integrity and reduce the physical impacts to the building,

while still getting the ductwork and the air circulation that you need, is one of the biggest challenges. HMG has done that on several other J. Riely Gordon courthouses.”

Carl “Chuck” Larosche of WJE told commissioners he had recently scouted out the Courthouse to see firsthand what work is needed.

“As you’re probably aware, you’ve got some fenestrations that leak and you’ve got a little bit of wood deterioration on the frames,” Larosche said. “We’ve got some issues with the surface water and then some issues with the masonry.”

Larosche said the limestone on the Courthouse was coated by paint or some other substance at some time.

“I don’t know who coated it, but now the question in my mind is, ‘Can I get it all off and restore it? Do I have to re-coat it? Do I have to strip it and clean it?’” Larosche said.

He added that there were “a number of side drainage issues” with standing water that is not moving away as necessary from low-lying areas.

“If you look at the sealant beads around the hardscape to the building, they’re shot,” Larosche said. “They were shot a while ago, and you have some subsurface

water migration that has manifested itself through the walls in the basement area, so that certainly needs to be addressed.”

Larosche also spoke about the wrought-iron structure of the Courthouse, which he said will present some challenges when it comes to doing modifications for HVAC upgrades not unlike ones he experienced during renovations at the Capitol in Austin.

He told commissioners it will be key to get “a very tight opinion and proper costs for the restoration of the building.”

“You don’t get a second chance to go back and ask THC,” Larosche said. “You get one shot at that money so the money and the conditions all have to be very accurately identified.”

The Legislature has allocated \$64 million for this biennium of THCPP funding and county’s receive a maximum of up to 80 percent funding, meaning they must foot the bill for at least 20 percent of the cost.

If the county qualifies for the full \$10 million from THC, it would have to put up at least \$2.5 million of its own funds to pay for the project and providing an overmatch, or additional funds, does help a county stand out on its application, O’Connell said.

ARREST

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

rived, they witnessed the subject, later identified as Robert Joseph Smith, 39, trying to leave the property in a vehicle.

Deputies instructed Smith to stop and get out of the vehicle, at which point he accelerated the car back towards his house, jumped out of the vehicle and ran on foot towards the rear of the residence.

Deputies pursued Smith on foot and the suspect went back into the house through a side door. Officers chased him into the residence and swiftly apprehended Smith without incident as they were aware of his violent tendencies and wanted “to ensure the safety of all occupants and the general public,” GCSO said in a statement.

A search of Smith’s vehicle revealed a firearm was in plain sight of the passenger side of the car. Knowing Smith was a convicted felon, deputies placed him under arrest for unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon. With probable cause, they searched his vehicle for more weapons and located 0.17 ounces of marijuana and 5.6 ounces of a substance believed to be methamphetamine.

Additional charges of evading arrest or detention with previous con-

victions, possession of a controlled substance in penalty group 1 or 1B less than or equal to 200 grams and possession of marijuana less than two ounces were filed against Smith, who also had outstanding warrants for interfering with an emergency request for assistance, assault of a family or house member by impeding breathing and unlawful restraint.

Smith had just been arrested on Nov. 1 by GCSO deputies working a Border Star grant when they learned he was staying at a residence in Gonzales while he was the subject of an active felony warrant for federal parole violation. He was found in hiding in a closet in the home and was taken into custody without incident, but was apparently released from Gonzales County Jail after the parole hold was dropped by federal authorities.

Smith also was arrested in 2013 by San Antonio police for aggravated robbery with a deadly weapon after robbing a woman at gunpoint.

He remains currently in the Gonzales County Jail in lieu of \$46,000 bond on the outstanding warrants and \$75,500 bond on the new charges stemming from the Nov. 21 incident.

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4-H TOP HONORS



CONTRIBUTED

On Tuesday, Nov. 28, 4-H members from Gonzales County 4-H took top honors at the District 10 Educational Presentation Contest in Kerrville, Texas. Ellie Irving won first place in the Senior Beef Category with her presentation about the techniques and economics of dehorning cattle, and Abby Irving won second place in Senior Health Category with her presentation about the evolution of pasteurization of milk. Both Ellie and Abby will advance to the State 4-H Roundup Contest in College Station in June 2024. Jack Irving won third place in the Intermediate Health Category with his presentation about service dogs. Sam Irving won third place in the Intermediate Safety Category with his presentation about poisonous snakes. The 4-H members designed a Power Point Presentation and used props to educate the audience. If you are interested in doing an educational presentation, please contact Gonzales County 4-H at the Texas A&M AgriLife office at 830-672-8531.

GVTC Foundation's Thanksgiving Give Back delivers 503 meals

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The GVTC Foundation proudly celebrated the 11th annual Thanksgiving Give Back Project by delivering 503 meals to families experiencing hardship within the GVTC service area. What began as a humble initiative over a decade ago has grown into the Foundation's most significant annual community endeavor.

From its inception, the primary vision of the Thanksgiving Give Back Project has been to offer comfort and sustenance to neighbors undergoing challenging times. This initiative aims to provide a sense of relief, allowing families to partake in a traditional Thanksgiving meal amid their difficulties.

Since its establishment in 2012, the Foundation has collaborated with local food pantries, empowering them to identify recipients within the GVTC service region.

Over the years, the project expanded its scope, inviting various organizations to join in by gathering essential food items needed for a complete Thanksgiving feast, including frozen turkeys, traditional sides, bread, and desserts. Remarkably, GVTC employees and their families take a hands-on approach by packaging and personally delivering these meals the Saturday before Thanksgiving.

This year, the 11th annual event set out to support 500 families. This exceptional achievement has significantly contributed to nourishing thousands within our community, showcasing the immense impact of collective generosity and goodwill.

The success of this year's project owes immense gratitude to the support and dedication of community organizations, local food pantries, and two Meals on Wheels programs. Some of the notable contributors and partners include:



- H-E-B
- Brookshire Brothers Canyon Lake
- Walmart
- Sonora Bank

- Physician's Premier ER
- Boerne YMCA
- Specht Elementary
- Living Rock Academy
- Hot Works

LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES

- Hill Country Daily Bread
- Hill Country Family Services
- New Braunfels Food Bank
- Blanco Good Samaritan
- Helping Hands
- Provisions
- GCAM
- CRRC
- Habitat for Safe Seniors
- Hope Center
- Bulverde / Spring Branch MOW
- The Center MOW

ORGANIZATIONS

- Boerne Education Foundation
- Shepherd of the Hills
- Boerne Community Theatre
- Startzville Elementary CIS
- Bracken Christian School
- Davenport HS Band
- Smithson Valley HS FACS
- Gloria Deo Academy
- Recovery Werks!
- Smithson Valley NJROTC
- The Vine Wellness Group
- Blanco Middle School
- Mountain Valley Elementary CIS
- Gonzales HS Leos
- Rebecca Creek Elementary CIS
- Gonzales HS FCCLA
- Kendall County Juvenile Probation

Since its inception, the Thanksgiving Give Back Project has provided support to 3,240 families, aligning with the GVTC Foundation's steadfast commitment to enhancing community life through charitable contributions and volunteerism.

With the escalating needs in the community, the project continues to attract attention and forge partnerships. Anticipating future needs, commitments have already been secured for the upcoming year. Generous donations and food contributions enable the expansion of annual support to more families, welcoming all to participate in this meaningful cause.

The unwavering dedication of GVTC employees, donors, and customers underscores their heartfelt commitment to this initiative. The GVTC Foundation remains deeply grateful for the opportunity to make a meaningful impact during this holiday season and eagerly anticipates the project for the upcoming year.

For more information about The GVTC Foundation and ways to engage in community outreach efforts, please contact info@gvtcfoundation.com or visit thegvtcfoundation.com.

VC employees donate \$21,283 in 2023 Pirate Cup campaign

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Victoria College employees donated or pledged \$21,283 to the 2023 Pirate Cup employee giving campaign to support VC students and initiatives.

"We are honored to have such great support from Victoria College employees," said Amy Mundy, Executive Director of Advancement and the VC Foundation. "They demonstrate their care and dedication every day for the ultimate benefit of our students. We appreciate our employees' hard work and generosity."

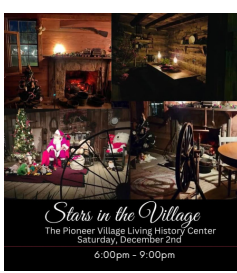
A total of 153 VC employees participated in the campaign. Employees contributing to the campaign were able to designate their gift to the initiatives of their choice. Options included student scholarships, endowment funding, employee grants and program or department needs as well as Victoria College's greatest needs.



CONTRIBUTED

The top three captains for Victoria College's 2023 Pirate Cup employee giving campaign were, from left, Elaine Everett-Hensley, Carol Walters, and Pam Neuman.

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Gonzales Main Street Winterfest Schedule

Saturday, December 2, 2023

8:00 AM - 10:00 AM	REGISTRATION OPEN FOR GONZALES ELKS LODGE COOKOFF
8:30 AM	BREAKFAST WITH SANTA (tickets required)
10:00 AM	SANTA'S MARKET OPENS
11:00 AM	Jingle Mingle Check In (tickets required)
12:00 PM	LIVE ENTERTAINMENT - SAXOPHONIST
1:00 PM	LIVE ENTERTAINMENT - SAXOPHONIST
2:00 PM	PERFORMANCE BY - COME & TAKE IT DANCE
2:30 PM	CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT HOSTED BY - GONZALES ELKS LODGE #2413
3:00 PM	LIVE ENTERTAINMENT - THE MAGPIES
4:00 PM	PERFORMANCE BY - THE APACHE FLAMES DANCE TEAM
5:00 PM	PERFORMANCE BY - STUDIO E DANCE
6:00 PM	CHRISTMAS CAROLING BY THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS
7:00 PM	PARADE
8:00 PM - 10:00 PM	LIVE ENTERTAINMENT - BRANDI BEHLEN

<p>FOOD & BEVERAGE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colchada's • The Pizza Guys • Alright Boyz BBQ • Tex-Mex Up in Smoke • Sweet Chaos • FunTastic Carnival Food • Nani's Sweetier Side • Sweets on the Streets • 5D Tavern • Windmill Winery 	<p>SANTA'S MARKET Open from 10:00am - 10:00pm Vendors located around Independence Square</p>
<p>FUN & GAMES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mechanical Reindeer • Christmas Tree Bounce House • Bungee Trampoline • Balloon Animals • Petting Zoo • FCCA Booth • Pet UGLY SWEATER contest • Face Painting • Fishing Booth • Christmas Sweater Contest • enter at Holly Jeanne Boutique or Hollerin' Heifer 	<p>MERCHANDISE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allegiance Signs & Graphics • Arabella's Boutique • Botas Matamoros • Charms galore • cross culture solutions and arts • Jammn Canna LLC • Joann's Homemade Crafts • K and D Gifts and Things • Lone Star Cannons • Lone Star Market Place • Mama P's Wholesome Grinding Co. • Ind. Mary Kay Beauty Consultant • Mimi's Freeze Dry Candy • Mobile Kiosk • Neverland • Old Schoolhouse Apiary • Renewal by Andersen • Royal Branding Co. • Sammy D's Gifts & Things • "So Cute" Wreaths & More • Southern Swag Clothing Co. • Temporary Tatoos • That's My Style • TJGray Etc. - Everything Pets • Triple H Saddlery • Triple S Crafts

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

ERRORS

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

CALL TODAY

830-672-2861

050 GARAGE SALES

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 9am-3pm. 3 Family Yard Sale. 15744 US Hwy 90A W, 1.7 tenths of a mile from Belmont Store on the right.

110 APPLIANCE REPAIR

COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL Appliance Repair. Call 210-774-9336.

190 LAWN, GARDEN

TREE TRIMMING & Removal. Yard maintenance. Serving Gonzales area since 1987. Call Dennis Droupy, 830-672-2000.

210 MISC. SERVICES

JOEL'S OUT-DOOR SERVICES. Skid Steer Service. Dump trailer & flatbed trailer for hire. Fence Cleaning, Bulldozing & Firewood for sale. Lot cleaning. Tree trimming. 830-832-6985.

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Gonzales, TX 78629
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Personas que hablan español y requieren un interprete, favor llamar a manager al siguiente numero 830-582-1343.

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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.

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

CAL - MAINE FOODS INC. is hiring for Plant Palletizers & Cleanup positions. Benefits include: Vacation, Sick Leave, Hosp. Ins., Dental, Vision, 401K, ESOP. Apply in person. Cal-Maine Foods Inc. 1680 CR 431 Waelder, TX 78959. Mon-Fri 7-4. 830-540-4205 or 830-540-4684.

All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination.

We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.



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

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

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950 PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice to Creditors

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Michael Dean Downey, Deceased, were issued on November 20, 2023, in Cause No. PW23-0304, pending in the County Court of Gonzales County, Texas, to: John E. Brumme, Jr.

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: **Robert W. Bland**
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 119
GONZALES, TX 78629

Dated the 20th day of November, 2023.

Robert W. Bland
Attorney for John E. Brumme, Jr
State Bar No: 24044756
P.O. Box 119
GONZALES, TX 78629
Telephone: (830) 672-2437
Facsimile: (830) 672-2439
E-mail: rbland@gvec.net

NOTICE OF REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS FROM SUBCONTRACTORS

Weaver & Jacobs Constructors, Inc., the Design-Build Contractor, will accept proposals from subcontractors for the Nixon-Smiley Consolidated ISD Phase 1 Land Clearing Project located in Nixon, Texas, until 2:00 pm on Tuesday, December 5, 2023. This project is for clearing roughly 30.3 acres of land and burning/removal of debris from the location.

Bids should be submitted to:

Brenden Morris
Weaver & Jacobs Constructors, Inc.
301 Cooperative Way
Cuero, Texas 77954
Ph. 361-277-9300 Fax 361-277-9274
Email: bmorris@weaverandjacobs.com

Interested bidders may obtain bidding documents by contacting the Design-Build Contractor for instructions. No paper plans are being issued. In accordance with the Government Code Chapter 2267, in determining to whom to award a contract, the Design-Build Contractor may consider any relevant factor a private business entity would consider in selecting a vendor. The Design-Build Contractor reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, to waive any informalities in the proposal process, and to accept the proposal which it considers to offer the best value to the Owner.

850 HELP WANTED

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

Electrical Instructor
Welding Instructor

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

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VICTORIA COLLEGE
Victoria College is recruiting for full-time, twelve-month, non-tenure track instructors to teach Commercial Truck Driving for the Workforce & Continuing Education Department. **Classes will begin in January 2024.** Position may include the role of Program Coordinator. Class size is limited to four students per tractor.

Starting earned monthly salary for the twelve-month position is \$4,944.89.

For more information and to complete an online application, please go to www.VictoriaCollege.edu and click on Jobs@VC. EEOE

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Find what you are looking for in the **Inquirer!**

The **Gonzales Inquirer**

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

CITY OF GONZALES
PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION & CITY COUNCIL

The Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on December 4, 2023, at the Gonzales City Hall, 820 St. Joseph St. at 5:15 p.m., to allow for public comment on a rezoning request listed below. After consideration and recommendation by Planning & Zoning Commission and Public Hearing, the amendments will be presented to City Council for a Public Hearing and possible approval on December 14, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the Gonzales City Hall, 820 St. Joseph St. on the following rezoning request:

Request to rezone the properties listed below from C-1, Light Commercial District to DMU, Downtown Mixed Use District:

Property Address:
425 St. James
Parcel: 11636

Property Address:
515 St. Joseph
Parcel: 11650

Property Address:
507 St. George
Parcel: 11660

Property Address:
726 St. Paul
Parcel: 11668

Property Address:
509 St. Joseph
Parcel: 11673

Property Address:
510 St. Andrew
Parcel: 11674

Property Address:
313 St. Lawrence
Parcel: 11679

Property Address:
621 St. Joseph
Parcel: 11701

Property Address:
510 St. Paul
Parcel: 11706

Property Address:
322 St. George
Parcel: 11708

Property Address:
623/627 St. Paul
Parcel: 11714

Property Address:
300 Blk St. George
Parcel: 11722

Property Address:
500 Blk St. James
Parcel: 11723

Property Address:
516 St. Paul
Parcel: 11725

Property Address:
305 St. Lawrence
Parcel: 11754

Property Address:
621 St. Paul
Parcel: 11798

Property Address:
602 St. Paul
Parcel: 11820

Property Address:
617 St. Paul
Parcel: 11836

Property Address:
619 St. Paul
Parcel: 11838

Property Address:
419 St. James
Parcel: 11865

Property Address:
415 St. George
Parcel: 11888

Property Address:
421 St. James
Parcel: 11889

Property Address:
335 St. George
Parcel: 11919

Property Address:
300 Blk St. George
Parcel: 11920

Property Address:
342 St. George
Parcel: 11921

Property Address:
332 B St. George
Parcel: 11924

Property Address:
521 St. Joseph
Parcel: 11928

Property Address:
307 St. Lawrence
Parcel: 11956

Property Address:
607 St. Joseph
Parcel: 11968

Property Address:
612 St. James
Parcel: 11971

Property Address:
306 St. George
Parcel: 11986

Property Address:
405 St. James
Parcel: 11990

Property Address:
614 St. Paul
Parcel: 11998

Property Address:
411 St. James
Parcel: 12002

Property Address:
418 St. Francis
Parcel: 12003

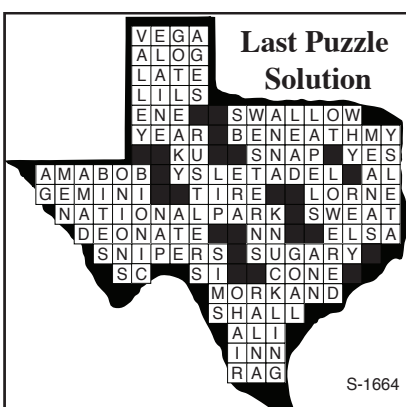
Property Address:
301 St. George
Parcel: 23487

Property Address:
200 Blk St. Lawrence
Parcel: 24911

Property Address:
607 St. Joseph
Parcel: 27437

The City Council encourages citizens to participate in the public comment and public hearing process for all applications for zoning or rezoning before the City Council. Citizens unable to attend meetings may submit their views to Kristina Vega, City Secretary for the City of Gonzales, by mailing them to P.O. Drawer 547, Gonzales, TX 78629. For additional information, contact the City Secretary office at (830)-672-2815.

November 23 Puzzle Answers



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

CLASSIFIEDS

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS WAELDER ISD'S State Financial Accountability

Waelder ISD will hold a PUBLIC HEARING - F.I.R.S.T. Report - at 6:00 p.m. on Dec. 18, 2023 in the Cafeteria, 109 N. Ave. C., Waelder, TX. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss WISD's rating on the state financial accountability system.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE CITY OF GONZALES PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION & CITY COUNCIL

The Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on December 4, 2023, at 5:15 p.m. at the Gonzales City Hall, 820 St. Joseph Street, to allow for public comment on the staff proposed amendments to the City of Gonzales Code of Ordinances described below. After consideration and recommendation by Planning & Zoning Commission and the Public Hearing, the proposed amendments will be presented to City Council for a Public Hearing and possible approval on December 14, 2023, at the Gonzales City Hall, 820 St. Joseph Street at 6:00 p.m. on the following specific proposed amendments:

Amendments to City of Gonzalez Code of Ordinances Chapter 14, Articles 14.200, 14.400, and 14.600 related the addition of new land uses for Bakery, commercial; Bakery, retail; Bar; Brewery/Distillery/Winery, industrial; Brewery/Distillery/Winery, craft; and Brewpub; associated land use definitions and off-street parking regulations.

The City Council encourages citizens to participate in the public comment and public hearing process for all matters presented before the Planning & Zoning Commission and City Council. Citizens unable to attend meetings may submit their views to Kristina Vega, City Secretary for the City of Gonzales, by mailing them to P.O. Drawer 547, Gonzales, TX 78629. For additional information, contact the City Secretary office at (830)-672-2815.

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42nd Annual Oklahoma Select Bull Sale, Sat. Dec. 2nd - 1 p.m., 800 East B Street, Atoka, OK. Just East of Hwy 69-75. 806-790-2535, www.lawrencefamilytousin.com.

Farm, Ranch, Construction Equip. Auction, 9 a.m., Dec. 2, 1036 S. FM 331, Sealy, TX. Onsite and online. Switzer Land & Auction Services, 979-885-2400.

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950 PUBLIC NOTICES

WAELDER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

EXHIBIT C-2

Data Control Codes	10 General Fund	20 Capital Projects Fund	98 Other Funds	98 Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES				
5700 Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 2,805,255	\$ -	\$ 227,638	\$ 3,032,893
5800 State Program Revenues	1,323,138	-	205,552	1,528,690
5900 Federal Program Revenues	251,235	-	121,980	373,215
5020 Total Revenues	<u>4,379,628</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>555,170</u>	<u>4,934,798</u>
EXPENDITURES				
0011 Instruction	2,316,515	-	107,931	2,424,446
0012 Instructional Resources & Media Services	48,496	-	-	48,496
0013 Curriculum & Instructional Staff Development	39,852	-	-	39,852
0021 Instructional Leadership	-	-	2,632	2,632
0023 School Leadership	249,352	-	-	249,352
0031 Guidance, Counseling & Evaluation Services	75,589	-	-	75,589
0033 Health Services	66,400	-	-	66,400
0034 Student Transportation	180,538	-	-	180,538
0035 Food Services	295,528	-	-	295,528
0036 Extracurricular Activities	119,153	-	36,578	155,731
0041 General Administration	494,606	-	-	494,606
0051 Facilities Maintenance and Operations	456,474	-	11,417	467,891
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	54,451	-	177,950	232,401
0053 Data Processing Services	174,297	-	-	174,297
0071 Debt Service - Principal	287,432	-	130,000	417,432
0072 Debt Service - Interest	63,616	-	93,063	156,679
0073 Debt Service - Bond Issuance Costs	-	76,641	750	77,391
0081 Facilities Acquisition and Construction	-	1,853,846	-	1,853,846
0093 Payments to Fiscal Agent of SSA	56,200	-	-	56,200
0099 Other Intergovernmental Charges	65,185	-	-	65,185
6030 Total Expenditures	<u>5,043,684</u>	<u>1,930,487</u>	<u>560,321</u>	<u>7,534,492</u>
1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	<u>(664,056)</u>	<u>(1,930,487)</u>	<u>(5,151)</u>	<u>(2,599,694)</u>
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
7914 Non-Current Loan Proceeds	-	3,380,000	-	3,380,000
7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	-	<u>3,380,000</u>	-	<u>3,380,000</u>
1200 Net Change in Fund Balance	(664,056)	1,449,513	(5,151)	780,306
0100 Fund Balance - Beginning	4,315,305	-	203,233	4,518,538
3000 Fund Balance - Ending	<u>\$ 3,651,249</u>	<u>\$ 1,449,513</u>	<u>\$ 198,082</u>	<u>\$ 5,298,844</u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

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

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COOKING WITH PARIND

Rustic shepherd's pie - a cold weather favourite

Hello everyone. My name is Parind Vora. I am the chef/owner of Gonzales Bistro and in this column, we talk cooking, tricks to cooking, and sometimes eating.

We seem to be nestling into winter and keep getting cold fronts, but it has not been freezing, yet.

I wanted something comforting yet completely different from anything Thanksgiving as we are between Thanksgiving and a similar Christmas meal.

One of my favourite cold weather meals is traditionally rustic shepherd's pie, which is a hearty, rich, and a stick-to-your-rib, thick mutton (older lamb) stew topped with mashed potatoes and baked until it is bubbly hot.

Cottage pie is the same basic 'casserole' but made with beef instead. Feel free to substitute beef for the lamb.

Most often the lamb is ground but I prefer stewed chunks in my pie but ground lamb is definitely a time saver.

So, pick your preference and let's get started.

Ingredients:

1 pound of diced or ground lamb or beef cleaned of any sinew and seasoned with copious amount of salt and pepper

2 pounds of mashed Yukon gold potatoes made with garlic and parmesan cheese

Medium dice of a large white onion

½ cup dried exotic mushrooms

6-8 bay leaves

½ cup of frozen English peas

2 carrots medium dice

3 tablespoons of all-purpose flour

1.5 tablespoon of tomato puree

2 tablespoons of good butter

2 tablespoons of whole milk

500ml of a good amber or stout beer

2 ounces of grated sharp cheddar cheese

Fry the seasoned lamb/beef with the chopped onion, bay leaves, and diced carrots in the butter over medium heat. Add the tomato puree and stir for a minute or until the tomato paste darkens. Add the



flour and stir until everything has a light coating of flour and it browns. Now add the dried mushrooms and slowly blend in the beer. Cook, stirring, until the mixture thickens and boils.

Cover and simmer gently for 30 to 90 minutes or until the lamb is very tender but not falling apart if you used dice. Don't let it become too dry. Add water as it is needed. You should always have just enough liquid to come about 2/3 up the side of the meat and veggies. Let cool to room temperature and refrigerate overnight. Next day use a spoon to remove big pieces of fat and the bay leaves. Heat a small amount and taste for tenderness and seasoning. Re-adjust the batch as necessary. Fill a casserole dish no more than 2/3 full with the lamb stew. Top with the frozen peas. Top with the prepared mashed potatoes. Spread

on top of the cold lamb stew mixture and sprinkle the grated sharp cheddar cheese over the mashed potatoes.

Bake for 25-45 minutes in a pre-heated oven at 350° F. Ensure that the lamb stew under the potatoes is hot and bubbling and the mashed potato topping is golden brown. If not broil until the right colour is achieved.

Let rest at least 20 minutes before cutting in. Serve with a leafy salad and a tart vinaigrette.

The wine I would invariably choose with this dish is a rustic Rhone wine like an inky and brooding Cornas or a Sancerre rouge. If choosing a white then it would be an older fume blanc from California or a zero-dosage champagne.

Cheers.

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Advent-Christmas concert slated for Dec. 9

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

KIST BY GRACE, a Christian Praise and Worship band based in Orchard, Texas, will be performing an ADVENT-CHRISTMAS CONCERT on December 9, Saturday, beginning at 4:00 p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church, 615 South Eagle, Weimar. Following the concert, attendees are invited to come to Faith's Fellowship Hall for refreshments and celebration of the season. Enjoy the Christmas decorations, great music by the band, and refreshments as we celebrate the Christ of Christmas.

The members of the band have come together to keep God's music and Word in the public place and produce an experience they hope will appeal to all walks of life. Celebrating Jesus Christ is, and always has been, the greatest celebration ever.

Most of the membership of KIST BY GRACE started their careers on stage in church, and moved toward the secular genres such as country and rock. They have been on stage for the majority of their lives, entertaining audiences all over the United States and other countries.

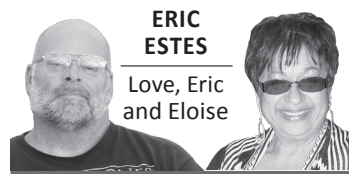
The band consists of Debra Gayle originally from Petal, Mississippi, Kevin "KP" Peikert from Egypt, Texas, Melissa Mund from San Antonio, Texas, Jacob Reid from Houston, Texas, Bryan Graham from Paris, Texas, Tim Mund from Dallas, Texas, Kim Nessler from Needville, Texas, and Cory Chenoweth from Rome, New York. You'll find Debra doing Vocals/Keys, Melissa---Vocals/Keys, Kevin---Vocals/Lead and Acoustic Guitar/Keys, Bryan---Lead Guitar, Kim---Cello, Jacob---Bass, and Tim---Drums.

Our nation and the world has experienced so many "storms," and challenging struggles. Come and have your spirits lifted and your faith strengthened. Experience the gifts of JOY, PEACE, LOVE and HOPE at Faith Lutheran Church in Weimar.

On Sunday, December 10, Faith Lutheran will have a communion worship service at 10 a.m. including the Children's Christmas Program. All are welcome to the Sacrament and no one is ever turned away.

For further information, contact Pastor Herb Beyer at 361-798-0155 or beyfam55@gmail.com.

Little by little



ERIC ESTES
Love, Eric and Eloise

Howdy folks, hope you all had a great Thanksgiving and are primed for the rest of the holiday season, while giving thanks to the one who's blessed us with the opportunity to do so. Yep, Jesus is still the "Reason for the Season"!

It's predicted that our 2023-24 south Texas winter will be somewhat wetter than normal, with average temperatures for most of it. Seeing as this has already been a pretty wet fall, and with peoples' shopping ramping up for the holidays, it reminded me of a conversation I had with Eloise some years ago. While we were out shopping during a hot and humid summer, she turned to me with a puzzled look on her face exclaiming that her handbag was damp. After a little thought I told her there could only be one explanation, it simply had to be the rare occurrence of...Purse-peration!

As promised, with many already considering their upcoming New Year's resolutions, many concerning bettering their health, I'll be sharing some of what I've learned through research and experimentation, yielding some pretty decent results. Things that had I'd realized earlier, could have saved time, effort and discomfort along the way. Unfortunately, sometimes good information gets mixed in with the bad, leaving the only option of using ourselves as guinea pigs, having to

just plug away until we start to figure things out, just like scientists do. In the book of Exodus, God, after freeing the Israelites from Egyptian rule, sent an angel before them to help possess the land they were promised, removing their enemies, not all at once, but little by little.

This has been a much demonstrated strategy in my own life as well. It seems that most things we go through are a process and just don't happen overnight. Personally, I'd rather have a universal remote control so I could just press a button and the desires of my heart would magically appear, without the work and learning curve we all get to stumble through. But yeah, that ain't gonna happen. However, after many years of the old "if at first you don't succeed" philosophy, I have found some easier ways of doing things, where we can get the results we're after, while not quite working so hard at it. Hopefully, in the pursuit of better health, some of what I've learned can help those of you interested in this area to get better results with less effort.

I realize that just the mention of diet and exercise sends chills up the spines of most folks, and

I don't blame you, as I've battled this myself. However, the good old "US of A" didn't become one of the most overweight and sickest countries on earth overnight, and unfortunately, won't move into a state of better health overnight either. However, starting "VERY-VERY" slowly (total baby steps) and remembering the concept of little by little, just showing up "somewhat" consistently, over a long period of time, will accumulate into results you might not have believed were possible. While there will be some effort required, it doesn't have to be anywhere as hard, or as uncomfortable as we've been lead to believe.

Through moderate effort over a period of time, I've managed to shed over 65 lbs, built some muscle, minimized many aches and pains, and am feeling better than I have in years. Going from barely being able to get down on the floor and back up not too long ago, to being able to pirouette in the shower...ok, too much information, but you get the picture. In 1Cor. 10:13 it says that our temptations are no different than anyone else's, and that God won't let them be more than we can stand, and always provides a way out so we'll be able to endure. If this topic interests you, stay tuned...

Until next time, love you guys, Eric.

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Iglesia Bautista Memorial Highway 97, Waelder	Gonzales Memorial Church of God in Christ 1113 Hastings, Gonzales	PRESBYTERIAN Pilgrim Presbyterian Church CR 210 off FM 1116
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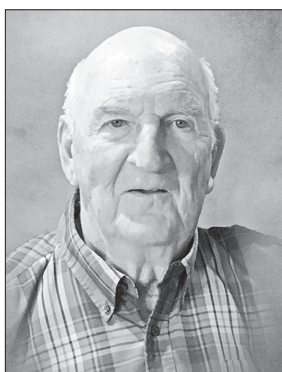
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OBITUARIES

LESLIE R. TALLEY



Leslie R. Talley, 91, of Cost, passed away Tuesday, November 21, 2023. Les was born on December 13, 1931 in San Antonio, Texas, to Leslie Erven and Alva Mae Caraway Talley. Les was a member of the Abiding Word Lutheran Church in Gonzales, where he and his wife, Helen, were founding members.

Les graduated from Breckenridge High School in 1949. Following graduation, he enrolled at Southwest Texas State Teacher's College in San Marcos. He was a member of both the basketball and tennis teams. While at Southwest Texas, he met the love of his life, Helen Thieme, on the tennis court. He graduated in 1953, with a B.S. in Education. In 1957 he continued his education, graduating with a Masters Degree in Administration.

Les and Helen were married on May 25, 1952, in Cuero, Texas. Both were hired to teach in the Clear Creek ISD in September of 1953. In June of 1954, Les, a member of the Army Reserve, was called to active duty in the Korean Conflict. He was assigned to the army base in Kaiserslautern, Germany as a dental assistant. Les and Helen were stationed in Germany until April of 1956. Helen said that "Les' Germany assignment was certainly a most enjoyable Army Tour of Duty." Upon discharge, they returned to League City and Clear Creek ISD

to continue their careers as educators.

Les thoroughly enjoyed teaching and coaching. In 1963 he was the assistant coach when the Clear Creek High School boys' basketball team won the 3A State Basketball Championship. In 1965, Les became the principal of Edward H. White Elementary School in El Lago, Texas. He remained there as principal until his retirement in June 1992. His 27 years at Ed White Elementary were probably his most rewarding years spent in education. Les was surrounded by dedicated teachers, cooperative parents, and great students; and they became his school family. Upon retirement the street in front of the school was renamed as "Les Talley Drive" in his honor. Following retirement, Les and Helen settled in Cost, Texas, where they loved spending time on their ranch with family and friends.

Les is survived by his beloved wife of 71 years, Helen Talley; his three children and their

families: Mike Talley and wife, Darla, of Duncanville, Texas; Gary Talley and wife, Joy, of Corpus Christi, Texas; and Nancy Davison and husband, Charles, of Rockwall Texas. He is blessed with 7 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Jack Talley.

Les will be remembered as a kind and generous husband, father, grandpa and friend. He will be greatly missed by all.

The family will receive friends for visitation, from 5 pm to 7 pm on Friday, November 24, 2023, at Seydler-Hill Funeral Home in Gonzales, Texas. Funeral services will be held on Saturday, November 25, 2023, at 10 am, at the Abiding Word Lutheran Church in Gonzales, Texas. Interment will follow at the Odd-Fellows Cemetery in Gonzales, Texas. Pallbearers: Mike Talley, Gary Talley, Justin Talley, Peter Davison, Michael Talley and Tim Davison. The funeral services may be viewed live on the Facebook page of Abiding Word Lutheran Church in Gonzales. Memorials may be made to the Abiding Word Lutheran Church or to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research. Friends may leave their condolences to the family by visiting www.seydler-hillfuneralhome.com. Services are under the care and direction of Seydler-Hill Funeral Home.

OSCAR GRANT III



Oscar Samuel Grant III was born November 1, 1962, to Jennie Taylor and Oscar S. Grant II in Gonzales, Texas. Oscar confessed Christ at an early age at Providence Baptist Church. Our father Oscar left this world on November 11, 2023, at the age of 61. He will always hold a special place in our hearts.

Our dad was a talented musician and drummer. Growing up he played in his family's band, with his brothers, sister and father. They performed in various places around the area and loved doing it. He took a lot of pride and loved music, whether it came to playing the drums or being a connoisseur of different genres of music.

Oscar was a devoted family man to his chil-

dren. He loved attending any basketball games that his children were playing in. He was always a big supporter when they needed him.

Oscar was a hard worker and needed to do whatever the family needed. He had a big heart towards those he loved. Our dad would help a stranger on the side of the road whose car had broken down, even when

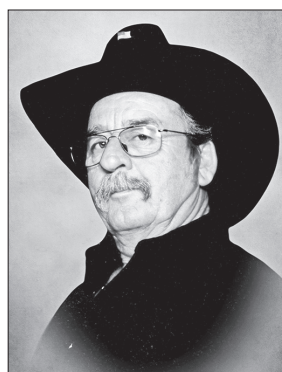
it would inconvenience him. He was a man who enjoyed living, joking, and laughing with his family and friends.

Oscar Grant III was preceded in death by his father; Oscar S. Grant II, two aunts; Annie Ruth Grant, and Ora Lee James one brother; Ornal Grant, grandparents; Ruth Ella Brooks

He leaves to cherish his memory; mother, Jennie Grant, four children; Tristan, Latrel, Oscar IV, and Jazmin Grant. Two brothers; Russell Grant (Stephanie) and Mark Grant and one sister; Yvette Grant, cousins, other family members and friends. He will be deeply missed.

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STANLEY LEWIS BIAS



Stanley Lewis Bias, 75, of Gonzales, went home to the arms of his precious Lord and Savior, November 21, 2023 after a 3-year battle with pancreatic cancer. Stan was born in Bakersfield, CA on November 21, 1948 to MT Bias and Dessie Samples. After the death of his dad, the family moved to Stratford, TX. He was drafted into the US Army and served in Vietnam from 1968 to 1969. While serving he also earned his GED.

Stan married his soul mate Jeannie Long on December 31, 1977 in Guymon, OK and moved to Dumas, TX. Stan made a career working for the railroad. He held multiple positions over the years working for the Rock Island Railroad and Santa Fe Railroad. In 1992 Stan was transferred to Gonzales, TX to open the new short-line Texas Gonzales and Northern Railway, (TXGN). He served as General Manager until his retirement. After a short retirement he went back to work for WB Farm and Ranch for 12 years. Stan has been a VFW member and active member of the Elks Lodge from 1992 until his death. He was a kind and gentle man who

would do anything for anyone. He was loved by all who knew him. He was a true blessing to his wife, kids, and grandkids.

Stan is survived by his adoring wife of 46 years, Jeannie Bias of Gonzales. His 3 children, Natalie Capshaw of Conneaut Lake, PA, Joey Bias of Carlsbad, NM, Renee and husband Michael Rhodes of Burnet, TX, 5 grandchildren, Coke Capshaw, Mesa Capshaw, Lacie Rhodes, Branstan Rhodes and Chloe Rhodes, brothers Eddie Bias (Mittie) of Palacios and Benjamin Hulen of Dalhart as well as his nieces and nephews. He was preceded in

death by his father, MT Bias, mother, Dessie Hulen and dad Charles Hulen and a brother, Charles "Chuck" Hulen.

A memorial service will be held at 2 pm Friday, December 1, 2023 in Seydler-Hill Funeral Home with Rev. Clint Lowery officiating. Honorary pallbearers: Michael Rhodes, Coke Capshaw, Branstan Rhodes, Wayne Burnam, Wayne Cole, Donnie Grauke, Elks Lodge Officers past and present, and WB Farm and Ranch staff past and present. In lieu of flowers the family requests memorials be made to the National Pancreatic Cancer Foundation or the Disabled Vets. Friends may leave their condolences to the family by visiting www.seydler-hillfuneralhome.com. A meal will be served before the memorial service at Memorial Heights Baptist Church. Directions to view this service through Livestream will be posted on the day of service. Services are under the care and direction of Seydler-Hill Funeral Home.

ELIZABETH "BETTY" OTELIA REESE PETTUS



Elizabeth "Betty" Otelia Reese Pettus died Monday, November 20, 2023, in Gonzales. She was born on December 12, 1938, to Henry Carlos Reese III and Claytie Woods Pace Reese in Gonzales, Texas. Elizabeth was a graduate of the Gonzales High School Class of 1956 and the University of Texas with a teaching certificate. After graduation, she taught school for several years.

On August 14, 1964, she married William Thomas Pettus, Jr. She was a member of the Presbyterian Church of Gonzales, Texas. She was preceded in death by her father, her mother, her husband,

her brother Henry Reese IV, and her sister Claytie Reese.

She is survived by her sister Susan Brent Najvar, brother-in-law, Michael Najvar, niece Samantha Kehl, niece Kasey Reese Floyd, nephew, Noel Henry Reese and numer-

ous nieces and nephews.

A visitation will take place on Friday, November 24, 2023, at Seydler - Hill Funeral Home from 10:00am to 11:00am, a funeral service will begin at 11:00am. Interment will follow at Gonzales Masonic Cemetery. Pallbearers will include Noel Reese, Clayton Reese, Carson Reese, Hank Floyd, Michael Najvar, and Steven Kehl.

Memorials may be made to the Parkinson's Foundation. All services are under the care and direction of Seydler - Hill Funeral Home.

Texas Farm Bureau's 90th Annual Meeting set for Dec. 1-3

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Farmers and ranchers from across Texas will head to Frisco to help Texas Farm Bureau ring in its 90th anniversary during the organization's annual meeting Dec. 1-3.

"Celebrating 90 years is by no means a small feat for any organization," TFB President Russell Boening said. "What began as a vision all those years ago has grown into a grass-roots organization unlike any other, and Texas Farm Bureau remains a vital voice for agriculture as we look toward the future."

Members from 205 Farm Bureaus will work to craft policy positions and prepare for the challenges agriculture faces.

About 1,000 farmers and ranchers are expected in Frisco to discuss the latest agricultural issues, recognize successes from the year and evaluate the organization's policies.

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November 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1 Dr. Quebedeaux Dr. Miller	2 Dr. Ryan Dr. Echols	3
6 Austin MFM	7 Dr. Echols	8 Dr. Quebedeaux Dr. Twitero	9 Dr. Ryan Dr. Echols	10 Amy Trost Dr. Miller
13 Austin MFM Dr. Malik Dr. Desai	14 Dr. Echols Dr. Quintero	15 Dr. Quebedeaux Dr. Miller	16 Dr. Ryan Dr. Malik Dr. Echols	17 Dr. Bui
20 Austin MFM	21 Dr. Echols	22 Dr. Quebedeaux	23 Dr. Ryan Dr. Kirchner Dr. Echols	24
27 Austin MFM	28 Dr. Echols	29 Dr. Quebedeaux Dr. Miller	30 Dr. Ryan Dr. Echols	

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Dermatology Vicente Quintero, MD 830-626-5551	Ophthalmology Joseph Kavanagh, MD 830-379-3937
Nephrology Azhar M. Malik, MD 361-576-0011 Yong Du, MD 361-576-0011	Orthopedics Trent Twitero, MD 830-625-0009
Obstetrics Alyson Kirchner, MD, OBGYN 830-379-1500	Podiatry Terri Quebedeaux, DPM, PA 830-303-0005 Charles White, DPM 830-303-0005
Cardiology William Craig, MD 830-672-3845	Dermatology Alpesh Desai, DO 713-864-2659
Orthopedics Gloria Box, MD 830-672-8497	Surgery Kathleen Koerner, DO, FACOS 830-672-8497
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LAW ENFORCEMENT WEEKLY REPORTS

Gonzales County Sheriff's Office
11/11/23 – 11/18/23

11/12/23
• Ramirez, Juan Domingo, 06/1974, Waelder: Warrantless/On-View – Evading Arrest Det w/Veh, Released \$2,500 Bond; Warrantless/On-View- Unl Carrying weapon, Released - \$1,500 Bond

• Ramirez, Nicolas Andrew, 01/2000, Waelder: Local Warrant – Assault caused Bodily Injury Family Member, Requires \$25,000 Bond, Remains in Custody
• Alfred, Jammell Vernon, 04/1992, Houston: Warrantless/On-View – Poss Marij <2oz, Released - \$1,000 Bond

11/13/23
• Rangel Valdez, Maximiliano, 06/2002, Plantersville: Warrantless/On-View – Poss Marij <2oz, Released \$500 Bond; Warrantless/On-View – Poss CS PG 2>=1G<4G, Released \$5,000 Bond

11/15/23
• Marin, Carlos Javier, 02/1993, Nixon: Commitment/Sentence – Injury Child/Elder/Disable w/ Int Bodily Inj, Remains in Custody
• Torres, Michael Paul, 06/1999 San Antonio: Warrantless/On-View – Poss Marij <2 oz, Released \$1,000 Bond

11/16/23
• Balderas, Jose Adam, 02/1977, Gonzales: Warrantless/On-View – Theft of Firearm, Requires \$5,000 Bond, Remains in Custody

11/17/23
• Scott, Walter Andrew, 12/1964, Channelview: Local Warrant – Tamper/Fabricate Phys Evid w/Inten to Impair, Requires \$100,000 Bond; Local Warrant – Poss CS PG 1<1G, 1 Bond all Counts,

Local Warrant – Sexual Assault, Requires \$100,000 Bond; Local Warrant – Sexual Assault, 1 Bond all Counts, Local Warrant – Bail Jumping and Fail to Appear Felony, Requires \$25,000 Bond; Local Warrant - Bail Jumping and Fail to Appear Felony, Requires \$25,000 Bond; Local Warrant - Bail Jumping and Fail to Appear Felony, Requires \$100,000 Bond, Remains in Custody

• Oden, Wesley Alan, 08/1985, Brenham: Local Warrant – Agg Sexual Assault Child, Released – Weekender
• Fields, Zyshawn, 02/2000, Gonzales: Commitment/Sentence – Burglary of Habitation, Released – Weekender

• Garza, Lisa, 06/1979, Gonzales: Commitment/Sentence – False Report Statement Officer/Agent HMO, Released – Work Release
• Goolsbee, Christopher Edmond, 11/1982, Houston: Warrantless/ON-View – Driving While Intoxicated, Remains in Custody

11/18/23
• Brown, Zachary Dean, 01/2001, Lafayette: Other Agency Hold – Criminal Mischief >=\$100 <\$750, Released \$750 Bond

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

GCSO	13
DPS	02
GPD	03
WPD	01
NPD	02
GISD	00
SMO	00
Constable 1	00
Constable 3	00
Constable 4	00
DWCSO	00
DEA	00
TPW	00
GCAI	00
Rangers	00
Other	00
Total	21

Surviving the Holidays set for Dec. 9

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

For someone who has experienced a loss, the holidays can be the hardest time of the year. Many find themselves wondering how they will survive the weeks surrounding Christmas, feel increased loneliness, and simply dread the holiday season.

Surviving the Holidays is a GriefShare 2-hour holiday ministry program that is especially

for people who are grieving a loved one's death and uses the same format as the regular 13-week GriefShare program. Through video, discussion time and receipt of a survival guidebook, attendees will learn how to deal with the many emotions they'll face during the holidays, what to do about traditions and other upcoming changes, as well as helpful tips for surviving social events.

Abiding Word Lutheran Church currently hosts the 13-week GriefShare program and will be offering Surviving the Holidays on Saturday, Dec. 9 from 10 a.m. to noon. This program is free and open to the public. For more information or to register for Surviving the Holidays, call 713-582-0794. For information on the regular 13-week GriefShare program, go to www.griefshare.org.

SHINER GASLIGHT THEATRE AWARDS



CONTRIBUTED
Congratulations to the award recipients from the Shiner Gaslight Theatre's production of Bo Wilson's "The Charitable Sisterhood Christmas Spectacular!" The production ended Sunday, Nov. 19, with an awards ceremony. From left, Emily Perez (Lights and Sounds Technician) received the Lamplighter Backstage Award; Diane McCommas (Bea Littleton) received the Best Adult Debut Award; and Meredith Hairrell (Director) received the Sister Michelle Award. Also pictured, front and center, is "Joseph! First Salvation's Joseph!" created by Bob Barrera Originals.

Parkinson's support group to hold Christmas party

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

At 6 p.m. Dec. 7, there will be a special meeting of the Gonzales Area Parkinson's Support Group in the fellowship hall of the Presbyterian Church, 414 St. Louis Street, Gonzales, Texas.

This will not only be our regular monthly meeting, but will be a Christmas party meeting. Not only are all people with Parkinson's Disease in our community and surrounding area invited, and encouraged to attend, but we also hope to have guests from our sponsoring group in New Braunfels to join us so we can show our appreciation for the help they have given us to get this local group organized here.

Also encouraged to attend are caregivers, spouses (or significant others), and family members who would like to learn more about the disease and caring for their loved ones. There will be Christmas themed refreshments to enjoy and maybe a Christmas carol or two.

There will be a time for setting our goals for 2024 and discussing programs and subjects that participants would like to know more about Parkinson's Disease, treatments available, symptoms, and any other related subjects.

After the business portion of the meeting, there will be a separate time of sharing for caregivers and folks that are dealing with the disease in their everyday lives.

Memorial Hospital Auxiliary hears update from CEO Anzaldua

BY ELIZABETH BREFORD BENNETT
Special to the Inquirer

The Memorial Hospital of Gonzales Auxiliary met at 2 p.m. Oct. 31, 2023 at Thrive. Seven members attended. President Betty Neubauer called the meeting to order. First Vice President Sylvia Mercer introduced hospital CEO Brandon Anzaldua. He spoke about the expansion of the hospital in the Surgery Department, upgrade in the patients

rooms, and the use of robotics. After bids were opened, construction should begin in late January with completion date of March 25, 2024.

September minutes of the meeting were read and approved. The Treasurer read the report. Second Vice President Irene Oakes reported 102 volunteer hours worked. A 100-hour bar was awarded to Jo Ann Hajovsky. Memorials were given by Pam Parker and the Gonzales Livestock Market in memory of Peggy Barnett, a past Auxiliary member.

Following a discussion, a motion was made by Irene Oakes and seconded by Sylvia Mercer to have a BOGO half-off sale in the Gift Shop. The motion passed. We will also put up a FREE COFFEE sign.

Wassail Party is coming up in December. The date of Dec. 13 was selected from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Announcement will be in the newsletter as well as members will be called with Wassail information.

Next meeting will be Nov. 28 at 2 p.m.

Motion to adjourn was made by Barbara K., seconded it by Irene O.

Door prizes were won by Zilpha Dolezal, Betty Neubauer and Dyna DuBose.

A side note from Elizabeth Bennett not in the minutes, "Next year is on us all. If you find yourselves wondering how to fill your time, please consider wearing a blue jacket, meeting & helping folks find a nice gift in the shop. Time goes by, don't be a 'Wish I had.' Welcome to all who will."

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ACROSS

- San Antonio AM
- TX Ivory Joe Hunter's "Since ___ You Baby"
- TXism: "suit ___ company" (family)
- Dallas public FM
- TX Willie's "Turn ___ the Party's Over"
- "ugly" in Mexico
- UT QB in 1973 Cotton Bowl victory
- Emmitt's home state (abbr.)
- this TX David was Colorado Rockies pitcher (1993-96)
- pizza toppings
- this moves "Big Tex's" jaw (2 wds.)
- archaic plural of cow
- historic "___ R. Swenson Cattle Co."
- TXism: "grabbing ___ straws"
- "Tapestry" artist (2 wds.)
- NM ski destination for some Texans
- init. of Gov. Runnels (1857-59)
- 1st newspaper in Texas territory: "___ Texas"
- TXism: "scared ___ out of my wits"
- EI ____, Texas
- what UT's Darrell Royal called the goal line (2 wds.)
- preowned vehicle: ___ car
- this Linares was first director of Texas Lottery
- TXism: "___ tailed tooter" (party animal)
- Indian warrior (2 wds.)
- ex-Cowboy Dorsett
- TXism: "___ as dirt"
- mother of ex-Cowboy coach Jimmy Johnson
- ch. 8 in Dallas refused to air this cop series when it first started (2 wds.)
- dog or bat disease
- brandin' or shootin'
- TXism: "___ wit" (stupid)
- explosive letters?
- 1st chance for football score (2 wds.)
- very old Lockhart church: Episcopal
- south Dallas suburb
- TXism: "hard as putting up ___ in a windstorm"
- actor Ngor of film "Vietnam, Texas"
- Gen. Robert ___
- young fellow
- TXism: big frog ___ the pond" (VIP)
- TXism: "never sign anything in the ___ a neon light"
- TXism: "dusters" (dry ___)
- Houston's Pennzoil Place has ___ towers
- great TX blues guitarist Vaughan (init.)
- a night to stay up: New ___
- a club to use near the green (2 wds.)
- walked with long steps
- Texas need (abbr.)
- "Texas Monthly," e.g. (abbr.)
- TXism: "don't give a hoot ___ holler"
- in Wichita County on highway 258
- NASA drink
- TXism: "he ___ itchy trigger finger"
- sauropod track in Glen Rose (2 wds.)
- grinds food finely
- TX Cyd Charisse first stage name
- TXism: "she talks ___ streak"
- bet the lot (2 wds.)
- TX Willie hometown
- singer Bobby in TX-filmed "State Fair"
- public auction, e.g.

TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
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SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

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

Answers found in next week's Classifieds.



VANDY VAN EPPS

Gonzales head basketball Steven Pinchback talks to his players on the sideline in a timeout Wednesday, Nov. 23 against Laredo LBJ Johnson.

Apaches take on Laredo Johnson at Frost Bank Center

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales Apaches and three other high school teams got the chance of a lifetime Wednesday, Nov. 22, to play at the home of the San Antonio Spurs.

Gonzales joined Laredo LBJ Johnson, Corpus Christi Tulo-so-Midway and Corpus Christi Flour Bluff for a pair of games at the Frost Bank Center for the Spurs Hardwood Series.

The Apaches faced Johnson in the second game of the series and new head basketball coach Steven Pinchback wanted to give his team an opportunity his players had never experienced before.

“We had an opportunity to come over here and play. My thing was to get the kids some exposure. They’ve never had an opportunity like that in Gonzales, so I was fortunate enough coach hit me up and we made it happen,” Pinchback said.

The Apaches fell to Johnson, 74-36, but Pinchback said they recently got players back from football and haven’t had a full practice with them yet.

“The football guys, they’re going to be a key part of what we got going. They’re just super rusty right now. Basketball is not a sport you can just show up. You’ve got a little bit of work, so once we take care of some of the little things, we’ll be fine,” Pinchback said.



Apache senior Weston Ruddock (2) dribbles the ball inside Laredo LBJ Johnson’s two point line Wednesday, Nov. 20.

VANDY VAN EPPS



Above left: Junior Jermane Upshaw (10) battles through a Laredo LBJ Johnson player towards the basketball Wednesday, Nov. 23. Above right: Gonzales junior Gavin Lekgega (1) moves the ball down the court of the Frost Bank Center against Laredo LBJ Johnson Wednesday, Nov. 23.



The Apaches took on a 6A school in Johnson, and Pinchback has experience in playing against 6A schools.

“I’m all about playing up. Being from DeSoto, you play the best to be the best. Now right now, I know, we’re not where we need to be and we’re gonna take some lumps. But like my

dad always said, ‘It’s always greater later.’ It’s about the big picture, not this little moment in time,” Pinchback said.

The Apaches took on the Nixon-Smiley Mustangs Tuesday, Nov. 28, and coach will prepare his players to face the in-county team.

“We’re just gonna prepare

like we do every opponent. We just try to see what they do and take away what they want and like to do. The main thing I’m trying to get these kids to do is play hard, play smart and play together,” Pinchback said.

The Gonzales Apaches will hit the road Thursday, Nov. 30 for a tournament in Lockhart.



VANDY VAN EPPS

Apache senior Gavin Lekgega (1) goes one-on-one with Mustangs senior Luke Moses (2) in a non-district game Wednesday, Nov. 28.

Mustangs shoot past Apaches, 63-54, in cross-county matchup

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
The Inquirer

The Gonzales Apaches and the Nixon-Smiley Mustangs met Tuesday, Nov. 28 in Nixon for a cross-county matchup.

The Apaches and Mustangs played fast, physical basketball at the start of the game. The Apaches took the lead, 30-28, in the third quarter, but the Mustangs took advantage of turnovers and rebounds and scored 16 unanswered points to take a 44-30 lead.

Gonzales continued to press in the fourth quarter and cut the Mustangs’ lead to five points in the fourth quarter.

“We made some strides. We did some good things. I thought we turned them over late, kind of sped them up a little bit, which is what we wanted to do. We just had a lot of our main guys have foul trouble,” Apaches head coach Steven Pinchback said.

A lot of the players know each other, and Nixon-Smiley junior Tristen Mikesh said it’s fun playing against players he grew up with, but once they get on the court, it is personal.

The Mustangs outlasted a late rally by the Apaches in the final two minutes with a 63-54 victory, and Mustangs head basketball coach Carlton McKinney enjoys seeing these two Gonzales County squads square off.

“I like these kinds of days because I think the kids get excited about it. They know each other — I mean, you see them going out there and at each other and Gonzales has always had really good athletes and they’re always gonna be a quality opponents and they do a good job,” McKinney



VANDY VAN EPPS

Nixon-Smiley’s Carl White (4) and Gonzales’ Weston Ruddock (2) jump in the air for the tip off in the Mustangs versus Apaches game Wednesday, Nov. 28.

said.

The Apaches and Mustangs both have tournaments Thursday, Nov. 30; Gonzales will travel to Lockhart and Nixon-Smiley will head to Karnes City.

Both coaches will take advantage of what they see in their players heading to their respective tournaments.

“We have a lot of good things tonight,

See **MUSTANGS**, page 15

Lady Apaches fall to Lady Leopards, beat Three Rivers

STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Lady Apaches lost a tough contest between the La Grange Lady Leopards Monday, Nov. 20 at home.

The Lady Apaches came back from a double-digit deficit in first half and cut La Grange’s lead to two points in the final minutes of the fourth quarter.

La Grange closed out the game, however, beating the Lady Apaches, 56-51, handing Gonzales their fourth loss of the season.

The Lady Apaches would rebound from the loss on Tuesday, Nov. 21, with a 49-22 win over the Three Rivers Lady Bulldogs.

Gonzales will travel to Marion Thursday, Nov. 30 for their first tournament of the season.



VANDY VAN EPPS

Gonzales junior Kilee Schwaush shoots a free throw for the Lady Apaches against La Grange Monday, Nov. 20.



VANDY VAN EPPS

The Gonzales Lady Apaches in the huddle with head coach Mark Belford against the La Grange Leopards Monday, Nov. 20 at home.

Lady Apaches fall to Yoakum

STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Lady Apaches hosted the Yoakum Lady Bulldogs Tuesday, Nov. 28 at the Apache Gym.

The Lady Apaches and the Lady Bulldogs kicked off the game with a close first quarter; Gonzales scored seven points and the Yoakum scored nine to end the quarter.

Yoakum took a 22-14 lead over the Lady Apaches at the end of

the first half; Yoakum outscored Gonzales, 13-7 in the second quarter.

In the third quarter, the Lady Apaches scored 12 points to Yoakum’s 14 points; Yoakum’s lead was 36-26 at the end of the third quarter.

The Apaches fell to Yoakum, 46-37, after outscoring the Lady Bulldogs, 11-10, in the final frame.

Gonzales will travel to Marion for its first tournament of the season Thursday, Nov. 30.

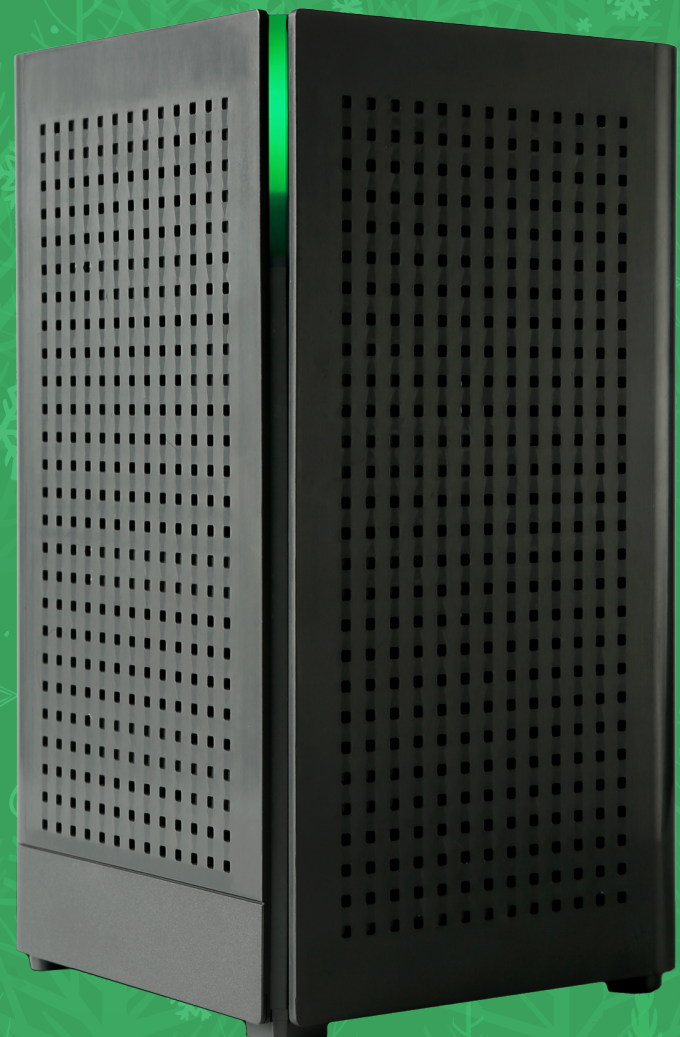
COME & BAKE IT: THE RESULTS ARE IN



Contestant	Division	Category	Product	Place
Diane Harrison	Adult	Pie	Aunt Vivian's Pecan Pie	First place
Jessica McKinney	Adult	Miscellaneous	Crissant Bread Pudding with Bourbon Caramel Sauce	First place
Barbara Brzozowski	Adult	Yeast Bread	Mom's Cinnamon Rolls	First place
Dana Roehr ★	Adult	Cake	Pecan Pie Layer Cake	First place
Jordan Barfield	Adult	Quick Bread	Pumpkin Pecan Quick Bread	First place
Monica Atkinson	Adult	Cookies	Praline Thumbprint Cookies	First place
Jessica McKinney	Adult	Cake	Aunt Rose's Beatnik Cake	Second Place
Diane McCaskill	Adult	Miscellaneous	Pecan Pie Brownies	Second Place
Doreen Fink	Adult	Pie	Toll House Chocolate Chip Pie	Second Place
Jordan Barfield	Adult	Cookies	Brown Butter Maple Pecan Cookies	Second Place
Camila Camacho	Youth	Cake	Choco Flan with pecans	First place
Emily Fogle	Youth	Cookies	Sweet and Salty Chocolate Chip Cookies	First place
Jayden Cheatham ★	Youth	Candy	Grandma's Tuxedo Fudge	First place
Libby Molnoskey	Youth	Miscellaneous	Pecan Cobbler	First place
Monserrat Camacho	Youth	Quick Bread	Banana Bread with Pecans	First place
Rayden Cheatham	Youth	Pie	Pecan Pie - Great Grandma's Version	First place
Kayden Cheatham	Youth	Cookies	Butter Pecan Cookies	Second Place
Reese Holton	Youth	Quick Bread	Chocolate Chip Banana Nut Bread	Second Place
Reese Holton	Youth	Candy	Candied Pecans	Second Place

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CALENDAR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Aleppo Pine placed on your patio or in the house for a short time and then transplanted into a spot in the landscape where they can grow to full size.

Are you ready for a freeze? If not, just think about the last 2 years and the record freezes that we had, one of which was a Christmas freeze. Move all the tropical plants such as

Chinese hibiscus, bougainvillea, and Porter weed into a sheltered site, Have the cloth ready to cover your lemons and limes with heat sources for inside the cover. Poultry heaters work well. If you use mechanics lights make sure the lights are not non-heat providing LED bulbs.

If your tomatoes have made this far be ready with the cover. Every

time that they can survive a low temperature you will probably have another 2 weeks to collect fruit.

Cyclamen and primula are the most spectacular blooming plants for winter. Be ready to protect the blooms if the forecast is for 28 degrees or less. Pansies and violas are the most cold tolerant; they make it through most winters without fuss.

TOUR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Dressed in holiday splendor, these homes, churches, and public buildings will fling open their doors to greet the season and share their history Dec 2-3 during the Winterfest 2023 Celebration. If visitors haven't already bought their home tour tickets online at gonzaleshistorichomes.org they can start at 827 Saint Joseph Street in 1914 Frank Fly House (now Laurel Ridge Inn and Christmas) to grab their tickets and get a glimpse of the historic property.

Journey just a few blocks north on the avenue to 1027 Saint Joseph, and visitors can step into the 1913 W. F. Robertson House. The delightful property with the period additions to the original home, along with outdoor gardens and the curious tree in the middle of the street creates a sentimental snapshot of the generations who have lived, loved, and decorated there.

Tucked between two monumental 19th Century homes and a short five blocks away, sits the charming T R Skinner cottage at 205 Saint Andrew Street. Built in 1914, this delightful Queen Anne cottage was headed for demolition twenty years ago. Today, its lovingly restored long-leaf pine interior welcomes visitors from far and wide.

Travel a few blocks to the East on the corner at 521 Saint Peter Street, and visitors will discover the 1868 John Fauth Cottage. Its inspired renovation features a state-of-the-art "Chef's" kitchen with imported Italian marble and appliances, along with spa-inspired baths and

contemporary stained glass.

As is often typical of a historic Texas cottage, one enters through a wide central hallway now filled with the owner's religious art and artifacts. The 14-foot ceilings create an almost dizzying space and showcase a bronzed metal ceiling and hanging period lanterns.

Round a corner and on the avenue at 903 Saint Lawrence Street, visitors enter the mahogany-paneled reception hall of the magnificent R S Dilworth House. The home, designed by noted architect J Riely Gordon, was completed in 1911 after over 3 years of planning and construction.

The house is three stories with a full basement and is enclosed in brick and wrought iron fencing with an ornate gate leading to marble steps and a terrazzo porch. Once inside, the sweeping stairway forms a graceful bow in front of original stained-glass windows.

Trek a few blocks south to one of the highest vantage points in the inner city and the pristinely preserved J B Wells House awaits the visitor at 833 Mitchell Street. Constructed of long leaf pine hauled by ox teams from the port of Indianola, much of the interior woodwork and furnishings are crafted from local black walnut. The recently recognized house-museum belongs to the Daughters of the Republic of Texas and is managed by the local chapter.

Rounding out the 2023 tour are two of Gonzales' early churches showcasing not only their sanctu-

aries, but their magnificent organs.

On Saturday, Dec 2nd at 4:30 PM Chris Oelkers, visiting from Good Shepherd Austin, will be the featured organist at The Gonzales Presbyterian Church, 414 Saint Louis in a free concert.

As the church, erected in 1925, approaches its centennial anniversary, ten memorial stained glass windows bathe the sanctuaries with luminous light.

At the Episcopal Church of the Messiah, 721 Saint Louis Street, the Pilcher organ was one of only five in Texas when it was presented to the church in 1928. On Sunday, Dec 3 throughout the 2 to 6 PM tour hours, visiting organist, Richard Zabransky, will be playing the magnificent instrument.

The Church of the Messiah, completed and consecrated in 1885, has been completely restored this year. In the restoration the original tongue and groove ceiling was uncovered. And now, above black walnut paneling, original stained glass, a spectacular hand-carved black walnut angel lectern, the original vaulted ceiling graces the interior.

These jewels of Texas Christmas reflect not only the history of Texas, but shine a light on the inspired Texans committed to their preservation. The homes stand as tangible evidence of Gonzales spellbinding past, and illuminate a future filled with the hopes and dreams of the intrepid, imaginative, resourceful people who live, love, and celebrate Christmas in them.

POPULATION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Among municipalities in the county, the city of Gonzales gained an estimated 24 people, growing from the 2020 census total of 7,165 to an estimated 7,189 people as of Jan. 1, 2023, according to the Texas Demographic Center. That represents a 0.3 percent increase in population in a little over two years.

Meanwhile, Nixon's population grew by an estimated 36 people, going from 2,341 in the 2020 census to an estimated 2,377 people as of Jan. 1, 2023, or approximately 1.5 percent. Waelder's population has grown by an estimated 2.7 percent, or 25 people, from 933 in the 2020 census to an estimate of 958 from the Texas Demographic Center.

Finally, Smiley has grown by an estimated 4.0 percent, or 19 people, from 475 reported by the 2020 census to an estimated 494 residents as of Jan. 1, 2023.

Among neighboring cities, Shiner has grown by an estimated 2.7 percent, or 57 people, from the 2,127 reported in the 2020 census to a January 2023 estimate of 2,184 people by the Texas Demographic Center. Cuero, meanwhile, has seen an estimated population decrease of 2.2 percent, or 176 individuals, from the 8,128 people reported in 2020 to 7,952 as of Jan. 1, 2023.

Yoakum has seen an estimated population decrease of 0.5 percent, from a 2020 census total of 5,908 to an estimated January 2023 population of 5,880, a loss of 28

residents. Luling reportedly has an estimated population decrease of 3.7 percent with a loss of 208 residents as of Jan. 1, 2023, going from 5,599 as of the 2020 census to an estimated 5,391.

Hallettsville has an estimated population decrease of 0.5 percent, or 13 individuals, since the 2020 census, which showed the city's population at 2,731. The estimate by the Texas Demographic Center shows a population of 2,718 as of Jan. 1, 2023.

Moulton's population has decreased by an estimated 0.7 percent, or just 6 residents, from 854 in the 2020 census to an estimated 848 people as of Jan. 1, 2023. Flatonia has seen a population increase of 30 people, or 2.3 percent, as the 2020 census showed a population of 1,308, while the estimate for January 2023 is 1,338.

Kingsbury saw its population grow by 12.1 percent, or 16 people, going from a 2020 census amount of 132 to an estimated 148 residents as of January 2023.

Lockhart, the biggest city and county seat in Caldwell County, has seen a population boom of an estimated 4.5 percent, or 642 people. The 2020 census showed a population of 14,379, while the Texas Demographic Center is showing an estimated population of 15,021 as of Jan. 1, 2023.

The largest gain in the area is by Seguin as the county seat for Guadalupe County has grown by 6,833 people, or 23.2 percent, since 2020, according to the Texas Demographic Center. Seguin's 2020 population was 29,433 and it is now estimated to be 36,266.

Gonzales County is considered to be a part of the Golden Crescent Council of Governments, which is comprised of six other counties — Calhoun, DeWitt, Goliad, Jackson, Lavaca and Victoria.

The total population of Golden Crescent has decreased by an estimated 0.2 percent, or 344 people. The 2020 census total shows a population of 193,239 while the Texas Demographic Center has a January 2023 estimate of 192,895.

The Golden Crescent COG is the third-smallest such region in Texas in population, ahead of just Concho Valley (157,983 population as of January 2023) and Middle Rio Grande (162,166 as of January 2023). Every other COG in the state has at least 218,000 residents.

Calhoun County has an estimated population decrease of 401 residents, or 2.0 percent, from the 2020 census amount of 20,106 to an estimated 19,705 as of January 2023. DeWitt County has an estimated population decrease of 1.6 percent, or 318 people, dropping from 19,824 in the 2020 census to an estimated 19,506 as of January 2023.

Goliad County has seen an increase of 0.4 percent, or 30 people, from the 2020 census amount of 7,012 to an estimated January 2023 population of 7,042. Lavaca County has had an estimated population increase of 1.0 percent, going from a 2020 census amount of 20,337 to a Jan. 1, 2023, estimate of 20,532, an increase of 195 people.

Finally, Victoria County has seen an estimated population decrease of 0.1 percent, or 91 people, from a 2020 census amount of 91,319 to a January 2023 estimate of 91,228.



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CONTRIBUTED/GONZALES COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
Hydrochloric acid spilled at Stripe's convenience store by a tanker truck and spread across the roadway led to parts of US 183 and Sarah DeWitt Drive being shut down Monday, Nov. 20, until the spill could be cleaned up. Hydrochloric acid is used to clean and process railroad tank cars.

HAZMAT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"The officer dispatched to the scene said something didn't look right and called out the fire department," Harless said. "Firefighters who made the scene said it smelled acidic, so Chief (Wade) Zella was called out to the scene about 10 p.m. and determined it appeared to be hydrochloric acid."

It was determined that a tanker truck which had been hauling hydrochloric acid used for the processing and cleaning of railroad car tanks was the source of the spill and that the leaking vehicle had taken off down US 183, further spreading the acid on the roadway.

US 183 was shut down from the north intersection with Saint Joseph (near McCoy's) to the south intersection with Saint Joseph, near Independence Park, with Sarah DeWitt shut down from Saint Joseph west for several blocks. Traffic from US 183 was routed down Saint Joseph to bypass the area until cleanup could be completed sometime around 4 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 21.

"We called in the TCEQ (Texas Commission on Environmental

Quality) and Lone Star Environmental out of New Braunfels came and put down ash, which neutralizes the acid," Harless said. "They then scooped it up and put it into hazmat barrels and hauled it off."

The vehicle was eventually determined to be involved with the rail yard in Harwood and Harless said he made contact with the company's safety director and was able to identify the driver, who was working for a third-party contractor. The driver's information was turned in to the TCEQ regional office in Corpus Christi for further investigation.

Harless praised the job done by Gonzales Fire Department in handling the situation until hazmat crews could arrive.

"They did a great job and did everything right and waited for the hazmat crew to deal with cleanup," Harless said. "Hydrochloric acid vapors, per our emergency response manual, can travel about 150 feet and you are not supposed to put water on it. They recognized that and handled it right."

GISD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

used as storage space for GISD and prior to that was the former administration building until admin moved into the former East Avenue campus in 2021.

In September, officials from the Texas DPS and the Division of Highway Patrol toured the building to see if it was suitable for their department, which is being forced to move out of the Gonzales County Annex due to a need to rehabilitate that structure.

After several months of negotiation and coming to an agreement, both parties settled on Texas DPS and the Division of Highway Patrol paying to lease the facility at 75 cents per square foot for 10 years, plus the cost of utilities and services, with an escalation clause for each year after the first.

The Gonzales Central Appraisal District lists the building, which was built in 1986, as having 4,550 square feet. It was formerly owned by American National Bank and has a market taxable value of \$1,108,350 —



CONTRIBUTED/GISD

Gonzales ISD has signed a lease agreement with the Texas Department of Public Safety to lease the former administration building at 1711 Sarah DeWitt Drive. DPS had to move because the Gonzales County Annex needs rehabilitation due to structural concerns.

\$737,260 for the building and \$371,090 for the land.

The lease agreement will not only generate revenue for the GISD, but also provide increased safety and security for the students and staff at Gonzales High School. The presence of the Texas DPS and the Division of Highway Patrol officers near the school will deter potential threats and enhance the response time in case of emergencies.

GISD Superintendent Dr.

Elmer Avellenada expressed his satisfaction with the partnership by saying, "We are very pleased to have the Texas DPS and the Division of Highway Patrol as our neighbors and partners. This is a win-win situation for both the GISD and the state agencies. We are confident that this will improve the safety and security of our school community and foster a positive relationship between the law enforcement and the public."

BEES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

year I got the buyers, I got the vines, I got those, but I did not see bees because it's been too hot."

Last year, Jurek constantly watered his pumpkin patch, but this year, he didn't due to the water bill, he said.

Jurek explained that there weren't enough bees to move pollen around the patch. According to Texas A&M Today, bees are responsible for pollinating 75 percent of the world's flowering plants and 35 percent of the world's crops.

The honeybee's annual contribution to the U.S. economy is at least \$15

billion, according to Texas A&M Today, and more than 90 different crops — about one-third of total crop production in the U.S. — depend on bees for their survival.

"They get the pollen and nectar and they'll go out. I've talked to a beekeeper and a bee will travel up to two miles looking for nectar in water. If they don't find that, they go back to the hive and that hive can die off in six months," Jurek said.

The heat is not only killing bees, but also is impacting the way they are flying.

According to Houston 2, fewer flying days impacts mating season and fewer bees could lead to fewer fruits and vegetables that end up costing more in the stores.

"Even the beekeepers are saying yes, this was a bad year, because if they don't find water nectar, they'll go somewhere else," Jurek said.

For information regarding bees in Texas, go to Texas Beekeepers Association at their website (<https://texas-beekeepers.org/>) and Texas A&M AgriLife (<https://txbeinspection.tamu.edu/public/bee-identification/>).

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