

The Gonzales Inquirer

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Nixon rejects request to rescind brush ordinance

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

Nixon City Council members stood firm and voted to take no action on rescinding a \$10 fee per month brush fee assessed to residents on their utility bills

during their regular monthly meeting on Dec. 17. Resident Virginia Pena asked the council to consider rescinding the brush ordinance which set the fee, claiming many residents had no idea it had even been passed until they received a higher

utility bill. "I recently went around because we ended up with a bill that had things on it and nobody was ever notified," Pena said. "As I talked to people, I found out that other people were just as shocked as me. Some were put into really bad

situations with everything being raised all at once with no notice." Pena said she had a petition with her signed with 250 names and had several more pages at home that she did not

See BRUSH, page 13

Smiley discusses library, animal ordinance

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The Smiley City Council met early in the morning for its regularly scheduled meeting Wednesday, Dec. 20 in the Municipal Building.

The council discussed two major items: a library ordinance and an animal ordinance. Mayor Lisa Benavidez spoke about the Stella Ellis Hart Library briefly and the current state of leadership.

"I spoke to Ann Jackson and found out that she was an elected vice president for the library board. She is more than willing to take over the position as president for the library board, but she asked for us to wait until January, because she had a lot of other events going on at this time," Mayor Lisa Benavidez said.

Librarian Sheri Matz resigned in November and, at the time, the library had to close briefly until someone could be found to help keep it open.

2023 Nixon-Smiley graduate Cecilia Villasana — the granddaughter of Mayor

See SMILEY, page 12

Several new state laws take effect in 2024

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

Our property tax code is undergoing a ton of changes as we head into the new year, thanks to several bills passed by the Texas Legislature last session that officially take effect next week.

A total of 31 new laws will hit the books starting Monday, Jan. 1, 2024.

Another two laws—one that bans employers from forcing

See LAWS, page 12



Contributed Celebrating the beginning of site work at the Gonzales County Veterans Memorial are, from left, GCVMA board member Steve Willman; Albert Rodriguez of American Legion Post 40; Gonzales Mayor Steve Sucher; GCVMA board member Larry Mercer; GCVMA board member Elgin Heinemeyer; Gonzales County Veterans Service Officer David Tucey (also of American Legion Post 40); and Philip Roeber of Roeber Electric.

Gonzales County Veterans Memorial begins site work

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

The Gonzales County Veterans Memorial Association took a giant step forward in the development of

the Gonzales County Veterans Memorial on Tuesday, Dec. 26, as site work began, including measurements and layout before dirt could begin turning. The monument will be lo-

cated on Moore Street, across from the Gonzales Memorial Museum amphitheater and next door to the Thomas Shelton Chapter House of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolu-

tion (DAR). Members of the GCVMA board met Tuesday morning with Bubba Ehrig at the memorial site to discuss the project,

See MEMORIAL, page 14

EDWARDS ASSOCIATION DONATION



Contributed The Edwards Association received a \$1,500 check from McCoy's Building Supply of Gonzales to support the roofing restoration project on the old gym. Joey Moss was on hand at the Edwards Community Center's Christmas party to make the presentation. Pictured from left to right are Quincy Johnson (vice president), Joey Moss (McCoy's Building Supply), David Tucey (president), Tena Roaches (secretary) and Charles Roaches (fun committee chairman).

Main Street launches Gonzales Community Gift Card program

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

This year, the Gonzales Main Street wants to encourage everyone to keep shopping local. Small businesses are the backbone of the community, providing jobs, tax dollars, contributions to local schools and non-profits, as well

as the character that makes Gonzales unique. The Gonzales Community eGift Card Program is a community-based digital gift card that makes it fun and easy to keep local spending local. Purchase a

See COMMUNITY, page 14

Irish castle, Young Program, soprano highlight Crystal Reveal

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The answer to the question of what castle walls in Ireland have to do with the historic colors of the Crystal will be revealed this Saturday, Dec. 30, shortly after the doors open at 7 p.m.!

Those walls are home to one of the fabulous adventures on the fundraising auction block which will open bidding at 8 p.m. — Ireland! Fabulous locations, incredible value, and great reviews from folks who have taken the trips the Crystal has auctioned a few years back will drive the excitement and the bidding! Ireland, Italy and the Greek Isles — with no blackout dates and three years to take the trips — can't be beaten!

The answer the question as to what a soprano from the Eastman School of Music at University of Rochester in upstate New York has to do with the Crystal will be answered that evening as well. Savannah Rose Heximer, who discovered her stage voice in a Crystal Theater Summer Workshop when she was about seven, will join the fun and entertainment that evening.

She will treat attendees to "I Could Have Danced All Night" from the musical "My Fair Lady." Savannah is

See CRYSTAL, page 13





CONTRIBUTED

Members of the Gonzales ISD staff along with students volunteered to help make the Winter Wonderland gift-giving event one to remember.

Gifts of love: Gonzales ISD's Winter Wonderland warms hearts of families

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Amidst the twinkling lights and festive cheer, the Gonzales Independent School District (GISD) hosted an enchanting Winter Wonderland gift-giving event right before the winter break. This heartwarming initiative, thoughtfully crafted by the GISD Communications team, was a celebration of kindness and support for GISD families during this cherished holiday season.

"Our small yet mighty team that included our interns, brainstormed ways we could make an impact in our district," said Veronica Johannsen, Chief of Administration, Safety, and Security.

"With over 71 percent of Gonzales ISD students identified as economically disadvantaged, the Winter Wonderland gift-giving event was an incredible opportunity for GISD to come together with its families to support them in a unique way during this special time of year. Witnessing the joy on the faces of the children and families was truly heartwarming," said Kimberly San Juan, digital specialist. The event immediately garnered the support of Dr. Elmer Avellaneda, GISD's Superintendent of Schools.

"Our Winter Wonderland gift-giving event not only exemplifies our commitment to our students but also perfectly aligns with our five-year strategic plan. At GISD, our mission is to design meaningful learning experiences that inspire students to make an impact beyond themselves, and this event beautifully echoes that statement," said Avellaneda.

The event exceeded expectations by distributing hundreds of toys and articles of clothing to GISD learners.

"We knew that if we could at least help some of our families by reducing the stress and disappointment of not being able to afford a gift this season, we are doing our part in making this world a better place,"



added Veronica Johannsen.

"We had parents crying on the phone when we contacted them and thanking us as they were leaving the event. The stories were truly heartbreaking and humbling, but we were thankful the GISD community allowed us this platform to help make an impact."

The inaugural event was a memorable and festive experience for all attendees as the cafeteria was transformed into a magical winter wonderland with the help of our GISD staff volunteers. As families entered, they were welcomed warmly by members of the GISD police team, offered hot cocoa made by our culinary students and were asked to indulge in ultimate deliciousness with warm crispy churros.

With multiple stations set up, parents selected stocking stuffers for their children and even chose

a beautifully decorated tree from the GISD tree farm. The trees were graciously donated by local businesses, community partners, and Community Health Centers of South Central Texas and decorated by GISD students.

Scanning the room, parents were wowed by the event's main attraction: the stage decorated with toys, bikes, hoverboards, and articles of clothing, to name a few. GISD staff members disguised as elves were dedicated to spreading joy in every corner of the cafeteria.

They helped match each student with a hand-picked gift tailored to their interests. Once thumbs up were given by parents, GISD elves skillfully wrapped each gift, adding a touch of holiday magic to the event.

The success of the Winter Wonderland Gift-Giving event wouldn't have been possible without the incredible generosity of donors who supported the initiative. Their contributions played a pivotal role in making this event a reality and bringing joy to many families in the Gonzales community. The organizations and private donors were thanked on the Gonzales ISD Facebook and Instagram pages.

GISD extends its heartfelt gratitude to all the donors, volunteers, staff, flames, cheer, culinary, and everyone who contributed to making this event a tremendous success.

Five seeking House District 44 seat

FROM STAFF REPORTS

There was one late filing for House District 44 state representative, which serves Gonzales County.

Former Texas House member Alan Schoolcraft filed at the last minute to run in the March 5 Republican primary for the seat. He currently lists his occupation as Txdocs CEO, but he previously served Bexar County as a resident of Universal City in the 68th through 72nd sessions of the Texas Legislature from 1983 to 1993.

Schoolcraft joins incumbent Texas Rep. John Keumpel on the ballot, along with two other Republican challengers — federal procurement employee David Freimarck of Cibolo and retired U.S. Marine Greg Switzer of Seguin. The lone Democrat on the ballot is shoemaker Eric Norman.

No Bull Radio concert features John Schneider, Linda Davis

FROM STAFF REPORTS

John Schneider's just a good old boy, never meaning no harm, and he'll be in concert with several of his friends at JB Wells Expo Center, 2301 County Road 197, Gonzales on Saturday, Dec. 30.

No Bull Radio's 11 Texas stations present the God, Family & Country Legends Concert and Dance, which will start at 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 30. In addition to The Dukes of Hazzard star Schneider, other musical acts expected to take part include Linda Davis, Moe Bandy, Dale Watson, Deborah Allen, Dotsy, Dickey Lee, Sean O' Brien and the Cactus Country Band.

Doors open at 3 p.m. and there will be outside food or drink allowed. Each person will have to pass through a metal detector for admission. All members in good standing from VFW Post 4817 in Gonzales will be seated on the first three rows facing the stage with food comped, according to organizers.

There will be a Daisy Dukes contest and the winner in each class will receive \$100 and be interviewed for No Bull Radio. The concessions sells hot dogs, tamales, sodas and water and there will be beer and setups.

There will also be a photo display honoring more than 50 Medal of Honor recipients with citations of valor recognized from the Civil War to Afghanistan.

Tickets are \$20 per person general admission in advance (\$25 for day of show). VIP tickets, which include meet and greet, VIP seating, soft drinks and fresh tamales are \$45 per person. A reserved VIP table for eight, which includes food, soft drinks and meet and greet, is \$300. Tickets can be bought online at https://outhousetickets.com/Event/22703-NO_BULL_RADIO_Legends_Concert_Dance.

For more information on the concert, email david@nobullradio.com or call 210-744-3797.

CORRECTION

In a story in the Dec. 21 edition, the Gonzales Masonic Lodge No. 30 A.F. & A.M. was left out as one of the parties involved in placing wreaths at the Masonic Cemetery. The Inquirer regrets the error.

FCCLA MISSION: PACK-N-PLAY!



When the CPS Rainbow Room came to high school asking for help, these students answered the call! Ashley Molina, the CPS director, reached out to Mrs. Saralyn Breitschopf, asking for Pack-N-Plays to be donated for the foster families of Gonzales. Lily Avant, Alize Miller and Tacaira Sylvester got to work on this project, setting a goal of 10 pack-n-plays. They were able to collect 13 and delivered them Monday, Dec. 18. Great job, girls! They will be taking their project to the FCCLA Regional Conference in Corpus Christi in February to be judged against other Texas teams. Good luck!

Celebrations

Birthdays

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| December 28th
Mayron Cole
Michelle Decker
Tanner Hardcastle
Pam Linebrink
Janice Menking
Fred Waschichek Jr.
Cristal Zavaleta | Pill Peterson
Carly Russell
Donna Spahn | Debbie Toliver |
| December 29th
Hayleigh Burns
Jarrett DeCola
Pam Melendez
Sherry Mills
Mikayla Wyatt
Jacob Reyes | December 31st
Lisa Gindler
Selena Kidd
Bernice Knesek
Taryn Downey Mertz
Leroy Polasek
Hannah Randazzo | January 2nd
Rodrigo Acevedo
Sandra Benes
Flo Blundell
Laurel Ince
Sherri Miller
Renee Rathmann |
| December 30th
Cullen Eppright | January 1st
Rosie Brown
Willie Mae Brown
Jason Cook
Tommy Lindemann
Jimmy Mills
Sara Schmidt | January 3rd
Amanda Frederick
Kathy Hall
Jo Ann Moses
Bonnie San Miguel
Joey Solis
Mattie Thorpe
Travis Zella |

Anniversary

- January 2nd**
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Gonzales Weather

	December 28 64°/40°	Mostly sunny 0% chance of rain • RealFeel 66
	December 29 67°/44°	Intervals of clouds and sunshine 3% chance of rain • RealFeel 69
	December 30 63°/41°	Intervals of clouds and sunshine 0% chance of rain • RealFeel 65
	December 31 62°/47°	More clouds than sun 0% chance of rain • RealFeel 67
	January 1 71°/50°	Considerable cloudiness 25% chance of rain • RealFeel 69
	January 2 72°/49°	After a cloudy start, sunshine returns 0% chance of rain • RealFeel 73
	January 3 62°/36°	Sunny to partly cloudy 0% chance of rain • RealFeel 64

Upcoming Events at J.B. Wells Park in Gonzales

January 1st, 2024

HAPPY

New Year

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LIVESTOCK WEEKLY REPORTS

HALLETTSVILLE LIVESTOCK COMMISSION CO., INC.	200-300 lbs.: \$255-340
Sale date: December 19TH	300-400 lbs.: \$260-335
Cattle on hand: 1186	400-500 lbs.: \$235-305
Packer Cows:	500-600 lbs.: \$220-270
Canner and Cutter Cows: \$88-100	600-700 lbs.: \$190-235
Utility & Fat Cows: \$65-88	700-800 lbs.: \$180-222.50
Light Weight Canner Cows: \$54-68	Number 1 heifer calves:
Pair/Weak: \$35-58	Under 200 lbs: \$200-255
Packer Bulls:	200-300 lbs.: \$220-280
Heavyweight Bulls: \$113-126	300-400 lbs.: \$220-295
Utility & Cutter Bulls: \$100-112	400-500 lbs.: \$215-275
Lightweight Canner Bulls: \$90-100	500-600 lbs.: \$205-245
Stocker Cows:	600-700 lbs.: \$180-215
Good Stocker/Cows & Heifers: NONE	700-800 lbs.: \$170-195
Medium Stocker Cows & Heifers: \$1050-1550	Replacement Heifers:
Good Cow & Calf Pairs: NONE	350-700 lbs.: \$225-280
Medium Cow & Calf Pairs: \$1125-1325	
Stocker & Feeder Calves & Yearlings:	
Number 1 steer & bull calves: Under 200 lbs.: \$210-280	

The calf market closed the year on a steady/strong day. No. 1 classes sold to good demand in all weight brackets. No. 2 and plainer kinds continue discounted. Packer cows sold strong on a total supply of 200 head. Next sale will be January 9th. Happy New Year! Thanks To All!!

Garden Q&A with CALVIN FINCH



On spinach, cyclamen and controlling blue curl

Q. I took your advice and planted some blue curl a few years ago to provide an early nectar source for pollinators in my shady yard. It worked. In fact the plant has taken over. Is there a reasonable way to reduce the total area that it covers?

A. Sometimes it works just to mow it down before it produces seed in the spring. It would also probably work to apply a pre-emergent herbicide for broadleaf plants in August.

Q. How can you have a drip irrigation system in your raised bed garden and use a tiller as needed without having to rebuild the irrigation system after each bout of tilling?

A. Select an irrigation contractor that knows how to build the system in panels that you can fold back off the garden to complete the tilling. On my system they used sturdy plastic pipe to make 16 foot sections of an 8 feet wide raised bed that easily folded off to one side and then back after the tilling. The beds are bordered by railroad ties.

Q. We love spinach remind us again how to harvest it over a long season. There are four of us in the family.

A. It works to plant 4 spinach plants for every member of the family and harvest one-third of the foliage on each plant every two weeks. Spread the harvest

through the plant. If you fertilized the planted bed with 10 cups of 19-5-9 slow release lawn fertilizer and then side dress each plant every month with a half cup of the same fertilizer, it should produce tasty spinach through May.

Q. Which of the cyclamen colors lasts better in our area gardens?

A. I like the purple the best and think it does especially well in terms of longevity. Other gardeners like the white and red for long term attractiveness. I don't know though, they think the white has a pleasant fragrance which I never can detect so you may not want to trust them!

Hallettsville Livestock Commission Co.

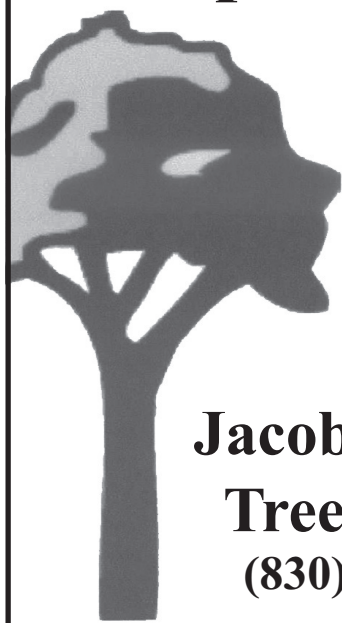
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For the first issue move your living Christmas tree from the house and plant it in its selected spot in the landscape just as soon as you can. It is best if they are not left in the house for more than 2 weeks.

A second issue to consider is to complete your New Year's resolutions. Activities by a gardener can be especially valuable to the gardener and her/his family but also to the community and the environment. Seek out some of my old articles at this time of the year if you want some ideas for resolutions.

In most vegetable gardens it is amazing but the tomatoes and peppers are still producing. It is best to harvest the fruit when it reaches full size and shows any color. The same advice is provided towards your citrus. Tomatoes, peppers, citrus and even vegetables like broccoli and

cauliflower are more susceptible to freeze damage when they have mature fruit on the plant. Have your freeze protection gear ready for action. The tops of root crops may show freeze damage but the roots usually send up new tops.

It is time to plant onion transplants including the well known selections like 1015, Bermuda, Granex, and Red Creole. Spinach and other greens are ready to harvest if they were planted early in the fall but they can also be planted now. Plant potatoes late in the month.

The lemons and limes are most cold sensitive citrus trees, but it is best to have fabric covers structured and secured like a closed tent and a heat source such as a mechanics light with a non-LED light or poultry heat lamp ready to heat up the cold protection tents when the temperature is predicted to fall

below 26 degrees F.

If you are like me and can't resist the beautiful but expensive cyclamen and primulas for winter color in the shade, have a fabric ready to cover them if the low temperature is forecast to fall below 28 degrees. I have never used a heat source for them.

Pansies and violas are the most cold hardy of the winter flowers and seem to manage quite well without protection. The fragrant stocks, alyssum, and sweet peas are in between cyclamen and pansies as far as cold tolerance. Transplants of most cool weather annuals can still be planted this month but I have best luck with growing sweet peas by seed.

Trees and shrubs can be planted in January. Grass seed does not work well but sod from a reliable source and well placed on the lawn usually is successful even if we experience limited freezes.

Beef Cattle CEU program coming to JB Wells

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service of Gonzales County is sponsoring the Beef Cattle CEU Program to be held on Thursday, Jan. 11, 2024, at the JB Wells Expo Center in Gonzales. Five (5) CEUs have been applied for private, commercial, and non-commercial pesticide license holders.

Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m., with the program beginning at 9 a.m. To kick off the program, Melissa Barton, Texas Department of Agriculture will discuss Pesticide Applicator Laws & Regulations.

Following will be Josh McGinty, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Agronomist to address Pasture Weed Management and Herbicide Update. Concluding the morning will be Megan Clayton, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Range Specialist to discuss Successful Brush Management Options.

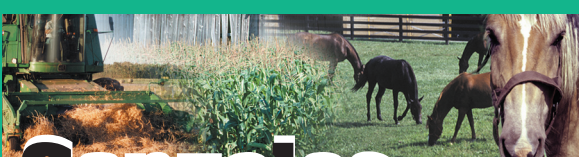
Following the morning programs, a catered meal will be served. Megan Clayton, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Range Specialist will conduct Picolinic Acid Training, followed by David Kerns, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Entomologist will discuss Pasture Insect Pests. The program should conclude at about 3 p.m.

The JB Wells Expo Center is located at 2301 County Road 197,

near the intersection of Highways 183 and 97, south of Gonzales.

There will be a \$40 per person cost, which includes morning refreshments and a catered lunch. You will need to RSVP for the program by calling the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office in Gonzales County at 830-672-8531 or emailing m-perales@ag.tamu.edu by 5 p.m. Monday, Jan. 8.

Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service, or accommodation in order to participate in this program are encouraged to contact the Extension Office by Jan. 2 to determine how reasonable accommodation can be made.



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Cloud introduces PATROL Act

The bill would prevent DOJ from suing states for enforcing border security

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

U.S. Congressman Michael Cloud, R-Victoria, introduced a bill called the “Prevent Aliens Through Rivers or Land Act,” (PATROL Act) which would block the Department of Justice (DOJ) from using the Rivers and Harbors Act to bring a lawsuit against states for enforcing border security.

The bill is in direct response to the DOJ recently filing a lawsuit against the State of Texas, after Governor Abbott refused to remove a set of floating buoys along the Rio Grande near Eagle Pass designed to prevent illegal immigrants from crossing. The DOJ claims that Governor Abbott did not seek (or receive) a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers to construct the buoys.

The need for urgency on border security cannot be understated. Since Joe Biden took office, officials have encountered more than 6.5 million illegal migrants at our southern border, including at least 169 people on the terrorist watch list.

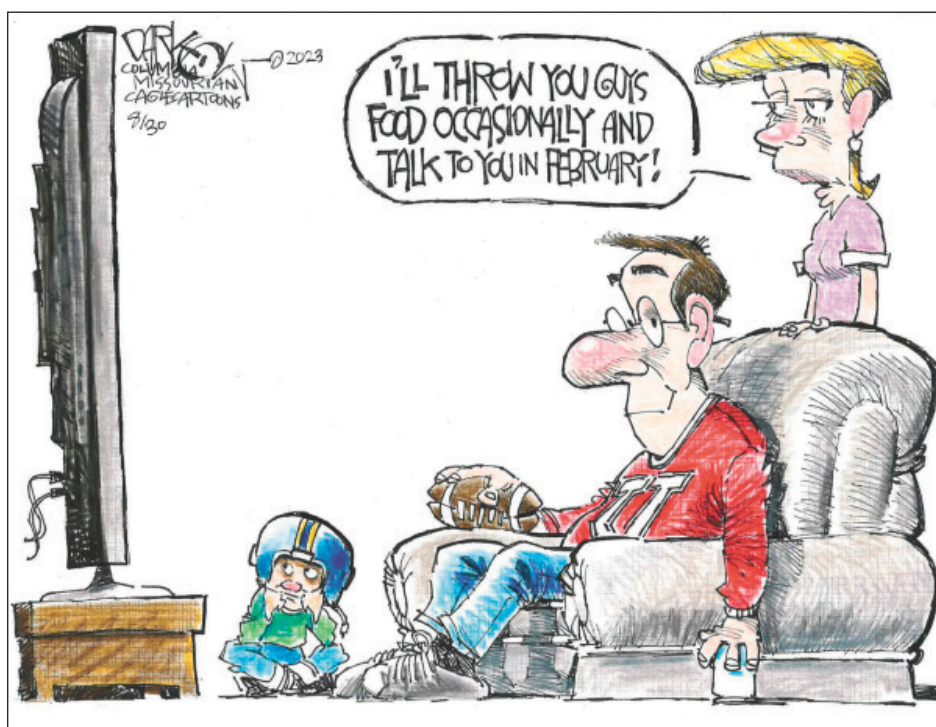
While this administration assumed office with strong border security policies in place, they have clearly pursued an open border agenda with lackluster enforcement regulations — choosing to legally prosecute Governor Abbott for trying to fix the crisis in Texas rather than doing their jobs.

Congressman Cloud’s legislation would prevent this lawsuit and protect states who are trying to enforce our immigration laws. The bill would explicitly prohibit the DOJ from using the Rivers and Harbors Act to sue states for building barriers including any physical structure similar to a wall, fence, or floating buoy to prevent aliens from crossing the border.

“The Biden administration should be applauding states for working to mitigate the border crisis, not suing them,” Congressman Cloud said. “Yet, the Biden administration’s willful disregard of our immigration laws continues to enrich and embolden criminals while harming law-abiding Americans. The PATROL Act allows states to build barriers to secure this nation and have more control in keeping their communities safe. If Joe Biden and his White House won’t do their jobs, Texas will.”

The “Prevent Aliens Through Rivers or Land Act” is currently sponsored by Representatives Rick Allen (R-GA), Brian Babin (R-TX), Josh Brecheen (R-OK), Michael Burgess (R-TX), Mike Collins (R-GA), Dan Crenshaw (R-TX), Scott DesJarlais (R-TN), Jeff Duncan (R-SC), Bob Good (R-VA), Lance Gooden (R-TX), Doug LaMalfa (R-CA), Debbie Lesko (R-AZ), Alex Mooney (R-WV), Ralph Norman (R-SC), Matt Rosendale (R-MT), David Rouzer (R-NC), Chip Roy (R-TX), Beth Van Duyne (R-TX), and Randy Weber (R-TX). The bill is also supported by NumbersUSA and the Heritage Action.

“Every state is now a border state as the southern border crisis continues to get worse, posing an ever-expanding threat to national security and American lives. The Biden administration is willfully keeping the border open and using the Department of Justice to punish states for taking matters into their own hands to secure it. The PATROL Act would allow states to rightfully protect their citizens with border barriers and ensure that the rule of law is being followed,” said Ryan Walker, Executive Vice President, Heritage Action.



DR. DON NEWBURY
The Idle American

A blessing of beds...

We have eyes to see and hearts to serve, yet somehow don’t recognize the importance of both purpose and passion until we see needs up close at life’s intersections.

Thankfully, such consciousness—the kind leaving lumps in our throats and guilt in our minds—results when we hear accounts from folks whose lives have changed direction through the pursuit of serving others.

In this season of commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ, in a straw-

strewn stable with no crib for his head, we are jolted by a jarring fact. In the here and now, some three percent of American children sleep nightly on the floor, on worn out sofas and even on

piles of clothing worn during the day.

Luke Mickelson, living the good life with his family in Twin Falls, ID, built a bed for a girl named Hailey, a bedless six-year-old in his town. Seeing her plight, sharing her tears and determined to do more, he began his fulltime philanthropic pilgrimage almost five years ago. Sole purpose of his non-profit organization, “Sleep in Heavenly Peace,” is to work toward reducing—perhaps even eliminating—what he calls “bedlessness...”

Luke’s calling has helped him sleep better, too, because he has ignited both passion and purpose in the hearts of thousands of others. There’s been a national chorus of “What can we do to help?” Bed-building across the land by volunteers in some 300 chapters abounds. There’s no end in sight.

“No kid sleeps on the floor in our town” is a slogan not only fostered, but deeply heartfelt. Representatives of “Sleep in Heavenly Peace” tell their stories wherever possible, one of their main targets being civic clubs. Thankfully, SHP representative Bruce Crenshaw visited my Bursleson, Texas, Lions Club a few months ago, and the results have been electrifying...

He shared his sense of “passion and purpose” magnificently, and since his visit, 10-12 of our members have built 180 beds for Texas Lions Camp. They’ve also delivered and set up beds in dozens of homes and apartments, their joy matching the delight evident in the eyes of children opening gifts on Christmas morning. One much-talked about recipient kissed her bed.

The impact of SHP is staggering. Magnitude of SHP continues to grow in both the USA and Canada. Want a statistic? Some 57,000 beds have been built and delivered in 2023 ALONE! Volunteers have built, delivered and set up all of the beds. Mickelson walked away from a well-paying job in favor of giving all his energies to the tax-exempt organization—one which has highest standards in the world of non-profits. It passes the test of truth and integrity long admired and envied by the Dr. Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

Mickelson and his followers are sharing with thousands of others the joy of “giving back,” kindling the fires of passion and purpose that may have slowly been reduced to smoldering, now aflame with enthusiasm...

Stories about SHP abound on the Internet, including its website, shpbeds.org. There’s also information on how others can get involved by providing time, energy and support, perhaps all three.

It is noted that the organization has some national sponsors, the kind who contribute at least \$50,000 annually. One such sponsor is Lowe’s. Here’s a grand example of how Lowe’s and SHP faithful can “build something together...” On the SHP website, one may identify children who need beds. There will be a positive response, even if it takes a while.

There are many reasons, of course, why this charity has found its place quickly. Though Jesus never had an earthly place to lay His head, he was able to change the world as he traveled the then-known world on foot.

Crude as the manger was, surely it was immersed in love. He bade little children to come unto Him, and, for all of us, he promised assurance of rest. Most of us have more than we need and recognize the importance of a good night’s sleep. May God bless you, Luke Mickelson, and all the folks he’s inspired.

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Glad for wreaths at Masonic Cemetery

Dear editor,
I was very pleased to read in the Gonzales Inquirer the article: “Pilot Club place wreaths at Masonic cemetery” (Dec. 21 issue). It was a very worthwhile project by the Pilot Club; the VF; and especially the Gonzales Masonic Lodge #30 (one of the oldest in the state) to place wreaths at the cemetery. Additional reminders to mark the graves of veterans was also quite nice. The Masonic Cemetery was estab-

lished to provide a final resting-place for fallen members. I, myself, have been a Mason for 42 years. It is an honorable organization which aids distressed members and widows, educates the orphans and needy students and extends honor cemeteries to deceased members. I encourage any young man aged 18 and above, of good character and who believes in Almighty God to consider joining.

Sincerely,

James A. Marples
Longview

The Gonzales Inquirer

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

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

Mail Subscription Rates

Payable in advance	
In county	
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- In person: The Inquirer, 622 St. Paul Street, Gonzales, Texas, 78629 (Please bring in a digital format, if possible).

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

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The Gonzales Inquirer is published every Thursday by Guadalupe Valley Publishing Co. USPS 221-740 • ISSN 1059-7158 • 622 St. Paul St., P.O. Box 616 • Gonzales, TX 78629

Fox Tech outlasts Lady Apaches, 36-33



Gonzales freshman Reanna Brown (22) battles a Fox Tech defender in the second district match of the season Friday, Dec. 22.

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales Lady Apaches traveled to San Antonio Friday, Dec. 22 for a huge district match against the Fox Tech Lady Buffaloes.

The Lady Apaches entered the match with a two-game winning streak against Fox Tech; Gonzales swept the Lady Buffaloes in two close games last season.

Fox Tech turned the table on the Lady Apaches, beating them, 36-33, and handing them their first district loss early in district play.

Defensively, both teams forced multiple turnovers in keeping the scores in the 30s.

Lady Apaches head basketball coach Mark Belford knew the turnovers would be a key factor at the end of the game.

"Unfortunately for us today, we just turned over the ball a lot. I don't want to take away from their [Fox Tech] defense, but it was more kind of what we were doing. We were pressing a little bit, rushing, you know, just not taking our time and reading stuff, so we just didn't play particularly well today," Belford said.

The Lady Apaches kept fighting to the very end, and Belford was proud of how his team performed in the fourth quarter.

"We kept playing even though we struggled all game long; again, we'll get back into the line and continue to work and figure out exactly what it is that we can do to put our team in a better situation to be successful," Belford said.

Gonzales will be returning home Friday, Dec. 29 with its third district game against Class 4A No. 5 La Vernia.

"They're tough. They've been putting up 90 points on teams and they're ranked fifth in the state for reason. But, again, I think once we get a little mental break here, we'll figure out exactly what we could do to put us in a good situation to be able to pull off the win. And, obviously, we're going to give ourselves a chance to," Belford said.

The La Vernia game tips off at 12:30 p.m. at the Apache gym.



PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Junior Kilee Schwausch (5) at Fox Tech's side of the court for the Lady Apaches' next play.

“ We kept playing even though we struggled all game long; again, we’ll get back into the line and continue to work and figure out exactly what it is that we can do to put our team in a better situation to be successful.”

—Mark Belford, Lady Apaches head coach



Lady Apaches sophomore Isabell Ikard (15) shoots a free throw Friday, Dec. 22 in the district match against the Fox Tech Lady Buffaloes.



Lady Apaches head basketball coach Mark Belford speaks with his team in the huddle during a timeout.



Gonzales junior Bella Agüero (2) shoots a two pointer towards Fox Tech's basket Friday, Dec. 22.

Lady Mustangs fall to George West Lady Longhorns

STAFF REPORT

The Nixon-Smiley Lady Mustangs hosted their last non-district game of the 2023-24 season on Thursday, Dec. 21 against the George West Lady

Longhorns.

The Lady Mustangs fell to George West, 40-32, handing Nixon-Smiley their 15th loss of the season and extending their losing streak to three games.

Nixon-Smiley will close out 2023 with its home tournament Thursday, Dec. 28 through Friday, Dec. 29.

The Lady Mustangs will kick off the new year Friday, Jan. 5 at home for the first district game against the Luling

Lady Eagles.

Luling is 2-10 on the season according to Max Preps, and will face each other again in Luling Tuesday, Jan. 23.

The Luling game tips off at 6:15 p.m.

OBITUARIES

ELIA CARMEN MOLINA



Elia was a Christian. She was baptized at Two Rivers Church where her belief in Jesus Christ was exalted beyond measure. She faithfully read scriptures and learned Psalm 91 by memory and declared the psalmist truly spoke to her. Psalm 91:2 "I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust."

Elia is survived by her adoring family; her daughters Andrea Molina and Angela Molina-Lopez, sons, Daniel Molina, Angel Paul Molina and her adopted grandson Devion Molina. Her sisters Elisa Rodriguez, Estella Molina, broth-

ers Enrique Molina, Jose Molina, Cosme Molina, Jr, Elias Molina and Hector Molina.

Her 12 grandchildren, Krista Marie Lopez, Erick Michael Lopez, Steven Anthony Lopez, Jayla Danielle Garcia, Devion Isaiah Molina, Jay Darius Molina, Oscar Miguel Gonzales, Annaleah Maria Gonzales, Meray Azayla Molina, Dezaray Lynn Molina, Daniel Leonard Molina, Jr. As well as her 4 great grandchildren Analizya Marie Vargas, Jay Vargas, Lizabella Blasa Vargas, La'veah Alizae Hernandez.

She was preceded in death by her parents, sisters Erlinda Molina and Esperanza Garcia, and her brother Esteban Molina.

A memorial service celebrating the life of Elia Carmen Molina is pending with Seydler-Hill Funeral Home. Friends may leave their condolences to the family by visiting www.seydlerhillfuneralhome.com.

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

LINDA MARGARET HAHN FULLILOVE



Linda Margaret Hahn Fullilove was granted her eternal rest on December 24, 2023. She was born in Des Moines, Iowa, March 11, 1942, but she got to Texas as soon as she could. Her mother, Margaret Poirier Hahn, rode the train there from Randolph Field to collect Linda from the adoption agency while her father, Colonel Cecil O. Hahn, stationed in the U.K., would have to wait a few months more to meet her. After the war, the newly formed Hahn family of three moved to San Marcos, Texas, and Linda grew up a proud Rattler, Class of '60.

Upon graduation, Linda spent a year living abroad with her family in Okinawa, Japan, while her father and history professor, Dr. Hahn, taught a series of courses as part of a university exchange program there. Upon their return, Linda enrolled in Southwest Texas State College to study education.

On December 10, 1963, she married Bobby Joe Fullilove of Gonzales, Texas. They honeymooned in San Francisco, and then Bob shipped out to a new post in Honolulu, Hawaii, with the US Army. She joined him in several months' time and worked as a switchboard operator for the very busy island hospital. In 1965, they returned to Texas, so Bob could help his mother with the family cattle operation after the sudden passing of his father. They made their first home in Harwood. Linda got a job working as a teaching assistant at North Avenue Elementary school, and they kept a roadside vegetable stand off of Highway 90 as a side hustle when it was still the main thoroughfare from San Antonio to Houston. She always considered those the happiest years of her life.

In 1967, Linda became Principal LeMont Menking's secretary at North Avenue, when her new

best friend, Evelyn Kridler, currently in the role, gave birth to a daughter who would become both her namesake and goddaughter. In May of 1970, Linda and Bob got the call from their adoption agency that a little girl was waiting for them. Linda left the role of secretary which Evelyn retook as well as becoming godmother to Linda's newly adopted daughter, Lori. The ladies remained life-long friends and enjoyed traveling together as part of the XYZ Group during retirement.

In 1970, Bobby Joe, was elected as the Gonzales County Clerk, and Linda became both a dedicated homemaker and supporter of her husband's many community activities for the next sixteen years. They adopted a second child, Joey, in 1974. During this time, Linda was an active PTO volunteer and officer. She also enjoyed helping her husband set up election polling places and performing her civic duty as an election worker and judge for many years, even after Bob was no longer in office.

In 1981, she joined the staff of the Methodist Happy House Preschool and became "Ms. Linda," teacher of the "older threes," a role she loved immensely for just over a decade. Many of her students and their families remained very special to her. She also began substitute teaching and then in the mid-90s, she joined the team at Gonzales Wal-Mart, working first as a fabric and craft lady, and later as cashier and

greeter. In retirement, she enjoyed traveling with her girlfriends and participating in many social gatherings with her San Marcos Rattler friends.

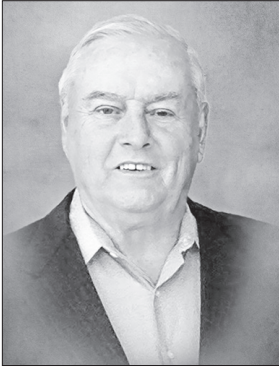
Above all else, Linda loved being a grandmother, teaching them to swim and taking them on special outings. A close second were all things Texas, especially bluebonnets and James Avery. She couldn't wait to drive the country roads during bluebonnet season each year. She was loyal to Lady Bird Johnson and was a fanatic of James Avery from the early days when there was only one store. Her grandchildren recall that they would know she was coming before she entered the room because her jingling JA charm bracelet would give her away.

Linda was preceded in death by her parents, Cecil O. Hahn and Margaret "Mardy" P. Hahn and a beloved great aunt, Ada P. Burke, all of San Marcos, as well as grandson Morgan Zane Marek of Devine.

She is survived by her daughter, Lori Lynn Marek and husband, Clay, of Gonzales, currently residing in Santa Ana, Costa Rica, her son, Joseph Cecil Fullilove and wife, Brenda, of Gonzales. Grandchildren are Emma Kate Marek of Houston; Jonathan Fullilove (Whitley), Hannah Fullilove, and Joseph Vallicillo, all of Gonzales; and five great grandchildren.

A memorial service is planned for Friday, December 29, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. The family asks that anyone who would like to make a memorial donation in Linda's name, please give to the Gonzales Crystal Theatre or Methodist Happy House Preschool. Friends may leave their condolences to the family by visiting www.seydlerhillfuneralhome.com. Services are under the care and direction of Seydler-Hill Funeral Home.

JACK HARTWELL BARNETT



loved Apache athletics and oftentimes offered his two cents to any of the coaches who were willing to lend him their ear. He frequently found his way into the office of the Athletic Directors to offer them "Coach Jack's (unsolicited) Words of Wisdom."

Jack is survived by his sons, Morgan Barnett of Wrightsboro, TX, Mike Barnett (Dusty) of Brock, TX, Mark Barnett of Austin, TX, and David Barnett (Julie) of San Marcos, TX; grandchildren, Brittany Salazar (Kevin) of Goliad, TX, Emily Connor (Eric) of Gonzales, TX, Tarah Parsons of Austin, TX, Jon Barnett (Taylor) of Brock, TX, and Ryan Barnett of San Marcos, TX; great-grandchildren Kennedy Salazar, Mason Connor, Evelyn Connor, Kase Salazar, Morgan Connor, Baker Salazar, Bay Barnett, and Bowen Barnett. Jack is preceded in death by his wife, Peggy Sue Barnett, parents, Hartwell and Cornelia Barnett, sister, Georgia

Sue Parker, beloved aunt and uncle, Morgan and Susie Buchanan, and daughter-in-law, Jill Barnett, all of Wrightsboro, TX.

A visitation will be held on Friday, December 22, 2023 from 5-7 PM at Seydler-Hill Funeral Home. Graveside services will be held on Saturday, December 23, 2023, at 11:00 AM at the Wrightsboro Cemetery in Wrightsboro, TX with Reverend Marvin Miles officiating. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Wrightsboro Cemetery Association.

Pallbearers will include Russell Howell, Blair Howell, Jon Barnett, Ryan Barnett, Kevin Salazar, and Eric Connor.

The family would like to extend their deepest gratitude to Texan Nursing & Rehab and to Ashley Cerda and Josie De La Rosa for taking great care of Jack.

Seydler-Hill Funeral Home is in charge of all arrangements.



BRITNEY JONES CAKA
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December 2023**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1
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Austin MFM Dr. Malik Dr. Desai	Dr. Echols Dr. Quintero	Dr. Quebedeaux Dr. Twitero	Dr. Ryan Dr. Echols	Dr. Bui
Austin MFM	Dr. Echols	Dr. Quebedeaux Dr. Miller	Dr. Ryan Dr. Malik Dr. Echols	
Closed Christmas Day	Dr. Echols	Dr. Quebedeaux	Dr. Ryan Dr. Echols Dr. Kirchner	Closed at Noon

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Vicente Quintero, MD
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- Nephrology**
Azhar M. Malik, MD
361-576-0011
Yong Du, MD
361-576-0011
- Obstetrics**
Alyson Kirchner, MD, OBGYN
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- Pain Management**
Eric Miller, MD
830-272-7746
- Urology**
Robert Ryan, III, MD
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- Ophthalmology**
Joseph Kavanagh, MD
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830-625-0009
- Podiatry**
Terri Quebedeaux, DPM, PA
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Workforce Solutions Golden Crescent earns first-place award

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

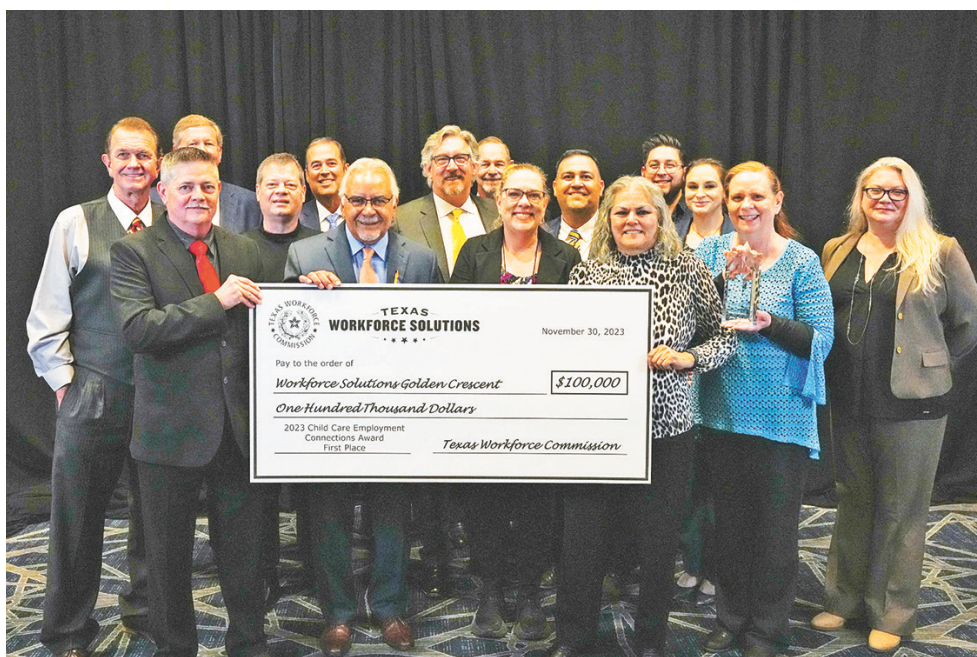
Texas Workforce Commission recently recognized Workforce Solutions Golden Crescent during the 2023 Texas Workforce Conference earning a first-place award for the Child Care Employment and Training Connections Award category.

The award highlights the vital work of community partners integral to providing a skilled workforce. According to Henry Guajardo, executive director of Workforce Solutions Golden Crescent, "The Child Care Employment and Training Connections Award recognizes the work done to assist childcare parents who were placed in initial job search during the eligibility process, were enrolled in training, and remained eligible for childcare after because they obtained employment sufficient to

meet their work requirement."

Workforce Solutions Golden Crescent is among 28 local Texas Workforce Development Boards located throughout the state. The Board serves Calhoun, Dewitt, Goliad, Gonzales, Jackson, Lavaca, and Victoria counties. Through partnerships with TWC and their communities, workforce boards meet the needs of Texas employers and workers through locally designed, market-driven workforce development initiatives and services. All employers and individuals can take advantage of these services.

Officers and staff of the Golden Crescent Workforce Development Board accept the child care award presented by the Texas Workforce Commission Chairman Bryan Daniel and Commissioners Albert Trevino, III, and Joe Esparza.



CONTRIBUTED

Twelve graduates of Victoria College's Law Enforcement Academy Class #103 were honored at a ceremony on Dec. 6 at VC's Emerging Technology Complex. Pictured are, front row from left, instructors Ralph Buentello, Victoria Police Department (VPD) lieutenant; Chris Carter, Victoria County Sheriff's Office (VCSO) sergeant; James Martinez, VC Law Enforcement Academy Director; Herb Tucker, former VCSO captain; and Julian Huerta, former VPD sergeant. Graduates pictured are, second row from left, John Dodds, Jonathan Williams, Melissa Garcia, Nickole Gutierrez, Nathan Oliver, and Jacob Hernandez; and, back row, Heather Green, Oscar Montantes, Joshua Woodman, Alexander Tett, James Chancellor, and Kylie Yanez.

VC honors Law Enforcement Academy grads

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Twelve Law Enforcement Academy cadets who graduated from Victoria College's 103rd Basic Peace Officer Certification class were honored at a graduation ceremony on Dec. 6 at VC's Emerging Technology Complex.

Joshua Woodman of Victoria was named class valedictorian, and Nathan Oliver of Victoria received the John Baylor Award for Outstanding Achievement. The award is named

in honor of the former Victoria Police Department officer and is given to the "most outstanding student" as selected by class instructors.

Other graduates were James Chancellor, John Dodds, Heather Green, Nickole Gutierrez, Jacob Hernandez, Alexander Tett, and Kylie Yanez, all of Victoria; Jonathan Williams and Melissa Garcia of Port Lavaca; and Oscar Montantes of Gonzales.

VC offers two academies a year - one during the fall semester and

another during the spring semester. Both academies are held Monday through Friday with classes meeting eight to ten hours a day.

Applications for the Fall 2024 Academy, which will run from mid-July to mid-December, will be available the first week of March 2024. The application deadline is July 1, 2024.

For more information on VC's Law Enforcement Academy, call (361) 573-3291 or email James.Martinez@VictoriaCollege.edu.

Addicott will present program to Guadalupe County Republican Women

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Guadalupe County Republican Women will feature Retired Lt. Col. Jeffrey Addicott, a recognized authority on national security and terrorism law, at their monthly luncheon on Thursday, Jan. 25.

The luncheon/meeting will be held at the Seguin Silver Center, 510 East Court St., Seguin, at 11:30 a.m.

The program is free, but to enjoy a delicious lunch, the cost is \$15 with reservations to Glenda Layton (call or text to (830) 391-3979). You can pay at the door. Reservations are firm.

Professor of law and director of the Warrior Defense Project at St. Mary's University School of Law in San Antonio, Professor Addicott is an internationally recognized authority on national security and terrorism law. He has served as an active-duty Army officer in the Judge Advocate General's Corps for 20 years and as a senior legal advisor to the U.S. Army's Special Forces.

He pioneered the teaching of law of war and human rights courses, has published over 100 books on legal and policy issues, has served in senior legal positions in Germany, Korea, Panama, throughout the U.S. and is a regular contributor to national and international news outlets including FOX News, MSNBC, CNN, the New York Times, Washington Post and Wall Street Journal.

Please join us for an informative program. More information is available at <https://www.guadalupe-county-rw.com>.



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ACROSS

- 1 "___ 2" (twice the speed of sound)
- 5 Kick ___ Traditional Tribe of Texas
- 6 small channel made by running water
- 7 "___ Bird" Johnson
- 8 retire. acct.
- 9 TXism: "confused ___ on astroturf"
- 16 stock exchange for Texas-based Caterpillar (abbr.)
- 18 newspaper in Houston or Double Mountain
- 21 TXism: "can't hunt with ___ empty gun"
- 22 "the ___ of society" (problems)
- 23 once Egypt and Syria (abbr.)
- 24 "get ___ on reality" (quit fantasizing)
- 30 like 37-across
- 34 TXism: "dance with who bring ___"
- 35 TX rancher Chuck Norris film: "An ___ an Eye"
- 36 subdivision of a military grouping
- 37 "March of ___"
- 39 Border ___
- 43 ___ try to keep illegals out
- 43 ham it up
- 44 you can catch this in the Gulf
- 45 TX-___ Weekend
- 46 extra points (abbr.)
- 47 TXism: "cream ___ the top" (quality)

- 49 Beyonce and Willie are Texas ___
- 52 WFAA-TV commercial
- 53 this Otto directed TX "Fallen Angel" (init.)
- 54 Fort Stockton's county
- 55 TXism: "useless as ___ door on a submarine"
- 58 Gossett Jr. of "Diggstown" with Randall "Tex" Cobb

- ## DOWN
- 1 Falls County seat
 - 2 place for honey bee hives
 - 3 TXism: "___ outhouse seat in January"
 - 4 is Palestine the "___ city" of Texas?
 - 9 Texas summer necessity (abbr.)
 - 10 TXism: "could wear his work ___"
 - 11 PBS "___ Guthrie Show" was filmed in Austin
 - 12 popular Texas pastime
 - 13 type of kickoff
 - 14 smart machines abbr.
 - 15 private univer. in Fort Worth
 - 17 TXism: "looks good ___ give a sermon" (dressed up)
 - 19 onesies, e.g.
 - 20 TXism: "wipes the slate clean"
 - 24 smart enough to be a Texan, Albert (init.)
 - 25 cheat or swindle
 - 26 TX Nimitz became a ___ admiral in 1938

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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SUDOKU

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

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Answers found in next week's Classifieds.

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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.

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VICTORIA COLLEGE Est. 1925
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.

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

VICTORIA COLLEGE Est. 1925
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.
Victoria College is an Equal Opportunity Institution.

Find what you are looking for in the Inquirer!
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950 PUBLIC NOTICES

ADVERTISEMENT AND INVITATION FOR BIDS
The CITY OF SMILEY will receive bids for **REBID WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT - WATER TREATMENT PLANT AND WELL IMPROVEMENTS**, TxCDBG Project No. CDV 21-0415-GPB-01 (SWE Project No. 0028-076-23) until **10:00AM, FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 2024**, at City Hall, located at 207 Steele Street, Smiley, Texas 78159 (or by mail at P.O. 189, Smiley, Texas 78159-0189). Bids must be clearly marked on the outside of the envelope or package with the words "City of Smiley TxCDBG Project". Bids received after the above-stipulated time will be rejected and returned unopened. The bids will be publicly opened and read aloud immediately after above-stipulated time. Bid evaluations will be completed at a later time and date.

Project Description:	The project consists of installation of one Water Plant Cooling Tower System, one Water Plant Chlorination System, Replacement of Well #3 Pump, upgrade Well #2 control system and all associated appurtenances.
-----------------------------	--

Bid/Contract Documents including Drawings and Technical Specifications are on file and available for examination at the **SOUTHWEST ENGINEERS, INC.** office located at 307 St. Lawrence Street, Gonzales, Texas 78629 (Phone: 830-672-7546, Fax: 830-672-2034).

A set of these Documents can be obtained from Southwest Engineers, Inc. in two different formats: **Hard Copy Set: \$80.00 (Non-Refundable)** or **Electronic (PDF Format) Set Downloaded: \$25.00 (Non-Refundable)**.

A bid bond in the amount of 5% of the bid issued by an acceptable surety shall be submitted with each bid. A certified check or bank draft payable to the City of Smiley may be submitted in lieu of the Bid Bond. The City requires Payment and Performance Bonds in 100% of the contract amount.

Attention is called to the fact that not less than the federally determined prevailing (Davis-Bacon and Related Acts) Wage Rate, as issued by the U.S. Department of Labor and contained in the Contract Documents, must be paid on this project. In addition, the successful bidder must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of their race, color, religion, sex, sexual identity, gender identity or national origin.

The City reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding.

Bids may be held by the City for a period not to exceed 30 days from the date of the bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the bidder's qualifications prior to the contract award.

The City is an Equal Opportunity Employer and they strive to attain goals for compliance with Federal Section 3 regulations by increasing opportunities for employment and contracting with Section 3 residents and businesses where feasible.

All contractors/subcontractors that are debarred, suspended or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation on federal assistance programs may not undertake any activity in part or in full under this project.

DECEMBER 22, 2023 **CITY OF SMILEY**
The Honorable Lisa Benavidez
Mayor

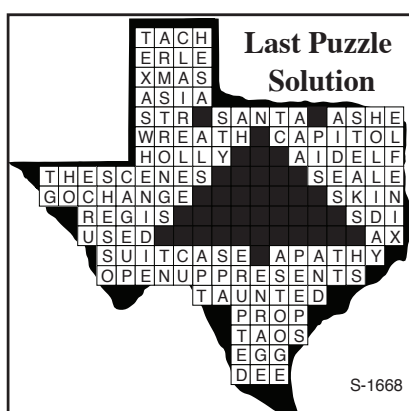
Construction Advertisement and Invitation for Bids
The City of Nixon will receive bids for 2022 TxCDBG Downtown and Lowery Water Plant Improvements, TxCDBG Contract CDV21-0435 until 10:00 AM on Thursday, January 11, 2024 at City Hall, 302 E. Central Ave., Nixon, Texas 78140. The bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at 10:00 AM on Thursday, January 11, 2024 at City Hall, 302 E. Central Ave., Nixon, Texas 78140.
Bids are invited for several items and quantities of work as follows:
1. Downtown Water Plant - Water Plant Piping, 12" Water Lines and Plant Chemical Buildings.
2. Lowery Water Plant - Plant Chemical Building.
Bid/Contract Documents, including Drawings and Technical Specifications are on file at BEFCO Engineering, Inc., 485 N. Jefferson (PO Box 615), La Grange, Texas 78945 (979) 968-6474. Copies of the Bid/Contract Documents may be obtained by depositing \$100.00 with BEFCO Engineering, Inc. for each set of documents obtained. The deposit will not be refunded. Electronic copies may be obtained at no charge by request at (office@befcoengineering.com).
A bid bond in the amount of 5 percent of the bid issued by an acceptable surety shall be submitted with each bid [for those contracts that exceed \$100,000]. A certified check or bank draft payable to the City of Nixon or negotiable U.S. Government Bonds (as par value) may be submitted in lieu of the Bid Bond.
Attention is called to the fact that not less than, the federally determined prevailing (Davis-Bacon and Related Acts) wage rate, as issued by the Texas Department of Agriculture Office of Rural Affairs and contained in the contract documents, must be paid on this project. In addition, the successful bidder must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, sexual identity, gender identity, or national origin. The City is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The City strives to attain goals for compliance with Section 3 residents and businesses where feasible.
The City of Nixon reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any irregularities and informalities in the bidding. Bids may be held by the City of Nixon for a period not to exceed sixty (60) days from the date of the bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the bidder's qualifications prior to the contract award.
City of Nixon Date
All contractors/subcontractors that are debarred, suspended or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation on federal assistance programs may not undertake any activity in part or in full under this project.

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December 21 Puzzle Answers

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



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BOB'S BASEBALL TOURS – August 2-12, 2024. See MLB games in Cincinnati, Detroit, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Toronto, Boston & NY Yankees. Visit Baseball, Hockey, Basketball, Pro Football and Rock & Roll Halls of Fame, guided Tour of Manhattan. \$3,500/person based on double hotel occupancy. Quality motor coach, hotels & game tickets. Call/text 507-217-1326. Also offering Arizona/Grand Canyon Spring Training Tour & New York/New England Fall Foliage Tour in '24!

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950 PUBLIC NOTICES

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Construction Manager-at-Risk

Gonzales Independent School District (GISD) is requesting Proposals for Construction Manager-at-Risk services for the construction of the 2023 Bond Program in Gonzales, Texas, pursuant to Texas Education Code Section 44.038 using a one-step process.

Proposals must be received by: **Tuesday, January 16, 2024, 2:00PM CST.**

The Request for Proposals may be obtained at the Gonzales ISD's Administration Office at 1615 Saint Louis Street, Gonzales, Texas 78629, on the district's website <https://www.gonzalesisd.net/Page/171> or by emailing amanda.smith@gonzalesisd.net.

All submissions are to be sent to Gonzales ISD, Attn: Chief Financial Officer, at the address shown above. No faxed or emailed submissions will be accepted. GISD reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Proposals and to waive any formalities or technical inconsistencies, or delete any item/requirements from this Request for Proposals when deemed to be in GISD's best interest.

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950 PUBLIC NOTICES

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

Janice Sutton
District Clerk, Gonzales County Texas
414 St. Joseph Street, Ste. 300
Gonzales, TX 78629

Andrew M. Abrameit
Abrameit Law Firm, PLLC
P.O. Box 192
Cuero, Texas 77954
Attorney for Plaintiff

THE STATE OF TEXAS

Cause No. 27,851; *Truitt Land Holdings LLC, Plaintiff v. Sustrein Goode, I Kelly Goode, Jr., Kareem Goode, Melvin Goode, Alvin Goode, Gloria Jackson, Jo Nell Miller, Eural Walker, Jr., Larry Goode, Jr., Tyrone Loving, Lionel Loving, Terry Clark, Susan Johnson, Stephanie Goode, Evonn L. Walker, Euralene Walker, Vangie Adams, Frances C. Goode, Carol White, Bambi Alford, Alfred Gene Goode, Jr., Verline Celestine, Anthony Goode, Therris Goode, Reginald Pierce, The Unknown Heirs of Latasha Loving Manuel, and The Unknown Heirs of Janice Johnson, Defendants*; in the 2nd 25th Judicial District Court, Gonzales County, Texas.

TO: The Unknown Heirs of JANICE JOHNSON, Deceased, or the Executor or Administrator of the Estate of JANICE JOHNSON

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

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the PLAINTIFF'S FIRST AMENDED PETITION AND APPLICATION FOR TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER, TEMPORARY INJUNCTION, PERMANENT INJUNCTION, AND FOR IN-KIND PARTITION AND TO HAVE IMPROVEMENTS ISOLATED FOR THE BENEFIT OF PLAINTIFF at or before 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance of this citation, the same being Monday the 15th day of January, 2024 at or before 10:00 a.m., before the Honorable 2nd 25th District Court of Gonzales County, Texas, at the Courthouse in Gonzales County, Texas. Said Plaintiff's First Amended Petition was filed on the 7th day of September 2023 in this case, numbered 27,851 on the docket of said court, and styled: *Truitt Land Holdings LLC, Plaintiff v. Sustrein Goode, I. Kelly Goode, Jr., Kareem Goode, Melvin Goode, Alvin Goode, Gloria Jackson, Jo Nell Miller, Eural Walker, Jr., Larry L. Walker, Euralene Walker, Vangie Adams, Frances C. Goode, Carol White, Bambi Alford, Alfred Gene Goode, Jr., Verline Celestine, Anthony Goode, Therris Goode, Reginald Pierce, The Unknown Heirs of Latasha Loving Manuel, and the Unknown Heirs of Janice Johnson, Defendants*.

A brief statement of the nature of the suit and a description of the real property is as follows, to-wit: Declaratory Relief, Application for Temporary Restraining Order, Temporary Injunction, Permanent Injunction, and for an In-Kind Partition of the surface estate of a tract of land containing 57.33 acres, more or less, located in the Prosper Hope Survey, Abstract 252, Gonzales County, Texas, and being the same land partitioned to Frances Allen in that certain Partition deed dated May 30, 1942, between Susan Allen and Frances Allen, recorded in Volume 198, Page 424 of the Deed Records of Gonzales County, Texas. The nature of the suit is more fully shown in said Plaintiff's First Amended Petition on file in this suit.

ISSUED AND GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at Gonzales, Texas, on this 27th day of November 2023.

JANICE SUTTON,
Clerk of the District Court of
Gonzales County, Texas

By: *K. Alarcon*, Deputy

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

Janice Sutton
District Clerk, Gonzales County Texas
414 St. Joseph Street, Ste. 300
Gonzales, TX 78629

Andrew M. Abrameit
Abrameit Law Firm, PLLC
P.O. Box 192
Cuero, Texas 77954
Attorney for Plaintiff

THE STATE OF TEXAS

Cause No. 27,851; *Truitt Land Holdings LLC, Plaintiff v. Sustrein Goode, I Kelly Goode, Jr., Kareem Goode, Melvin Goode, Alvin Goode, Gloria Jackson, Jo Nell Miller, Eural Walker, Jr., Larry Goode, Jr., Tyrone Loving, Lionel Loving, Terry Clark, Susan Johnson, Stephanie Goode, Evonn L. Walker, Euralene Walker, Vangie Adams, Frances C. Goode, Carol White, Bambi Alford, Alfred Gene Goode, Jr., Verline Celestine, Anthony Goode, Therris Goode, Reginald Pierce, The Unknown Heirs of Latasha Loving Manuel, and The Unknown Heirs of Janice Johnson, Defendants*; in the 2nd 25th Judicial District Court, Gonzales County, Texas.

TO: The Unknown Heirs of LATASHA LOVING MANUEL, Deceased, or the Executor or Administrator of the Estate of LATASHA LOVING MANUEL

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

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the PLAINTIFF'S FIRST AMENDED PETITION AND APPLICATION FOR TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER, TEMPORARY INJUNCTION, PERMANENT INJUNCTION, AND FOR IN-KIND PARTITION AND TO HAVE IMPROVEMENTS ISOLATED FOR THE BENEFIT OF PLAINTIFF at or before 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance of this citation, the same being Monday the 15th day of January, 2024 at or before 10:00 a.m., before the Honorable 2nd 25th District Court of Gonzales County, Texas, at the Courthouse in Gonzales County, Texas. Said Plaintiff's First Amended Petition was filed on the 7th day of September 2023 in this case, numbered 27,851 on the docket of said court, and styled: *Truitt Land Holdings LLC, Plaintiff v. Sustrein Goode, I. Kelly Goode, Jr., Kareem Goode, Melvin Goode, Alvin Goode, Gloria Jackson, Jo Nell Miller, Eural Walker, Jr., Larry L. Walker, Euralene Walker, Vangie Adams, Frances C. Goode, Carol White, Bambi Alford, Alfred Gene Goode, Jr., Verline Celestine, Anthony Goode, Therris Goode, Reginald Pierce, The Unknown Heirs of Latasha Loving Manuel, and The Unknown Heirs of Janice Johnson, Defendants*.

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ISSUED AND GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at Gonzales, Texas, on this 27th day of November 2023.

JANICE SUTTON,
Clerk of the District Court of
Gonzales County, Texas

By: *K. Alarcon*, Deputy

COOKING WITH PARIND

Humble salt cod saved Christendom on meatless Fridays

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

Before we get started, I just wanted to reiterate that Gonzales Bistro will be closed Christmas eve brunch but will be open for New Year's Eve dinner on Dec. 31.

We are just getting full on in to the Christmas season. So, I'll do a traditional Christmas dish with an ingredient that saved Christendom.

The humble cod fish was used to make salt cod or bacalao or bacalhau. Once salted and dried, the cod was preserved and able to be transported without refrigeration deep into landlocked Europe and allowed Christians to have meatless Fridays and observe Christian meal mandates. It's also perfect for this topsy turvy weather.

The recipe I am giving starts with fresh/frozen codfish which we salt, then desalt (mostly) and then cook and finally make our fritters. If you use frozen codfish, simply salt cure for a full 48 hours and the de-salt soak for an additional two days.

Alternately, you can buy salt cod on-line or at the whole paycheck type grocery stores but they will be a touch leathery versus our version here. The commercial salt cod are dried to a point that they do not need refrigeration and will have bones which must be removed prior to use.

Let's get started. I am going to make the Brazilian version of this dish which is a tad rustic and perfect in a soul satisfying way when everything else during the Christmas holidays are hyper-slick and over commercialized. Let us get started. This dish may require multiple days depending on your curing preferences.

Ingredients:

Bolinho de bacalhau or salt cod fritters

- 1-1.5 pound skinless, boneless cod fish filets, trimmed
- 2-3 cups kosher salt
- 1 large onion peeled and cut into dig dice
- 6 bay leaves
- 2 teaspoon whole black peppercorns
- 1 cup heavy cream



- 2 cups cold mashed potatoes using Yukon gold potatoes
- 2 tablespoons scallions, sliced thinly
- 2 large eggs + 1 yolk
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Peanut Oil for deep frying

Salt the fish fillet evenly and liberally, packing every nook and cranny then cover and chill for 24 -72 hours in the refrigerator.

The next day, rinse the fish well under cold water and leave in pot of cold water to soak and desalinate.

I'd advise that you soak the fish for at least one day for each 24 hours of salt cure with 4 water changes per day.

In a medium pot, add the onions, bay leaves, peppercorns and heavy cream. Add the fish and top off with water to cover, if needed. Slowly bring it up to a

simmer, about 10 minutes. Remove from the heat and let the fish cool in the liquid.

Remove the fish from the liquid and, using your fingers, flake the fish up into small pieces. Pat dry with paper towels and combine the cod with the mashed potatoes, scallions and eggs and mix well, adding additional salt only if necessary.

Form fish mixture into 1 to 1 1/2 inch-balls or cake shapes. In a large pot, heat the oil to 375 F. Slowly drop the fritters in and fry until golden brown and crisp, working in batches if necessary. Drain the fritters on a plate lined with paper towels. Serve hot with hot sauce.

I would serve this snack with a nice fat California viognier like Calera or Stag's leap winery or a let's say a bit austere but chubby Spanish cabernet sauvignon from Torres.

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Memorial Hospital Auxiliary learns art of bow making

BY ELIZABETH BRELSFORD BENNETT, REPORTER
Special to the Inquirer

The Gonzales Memorial Hospital Auxiliary met Nov. 28 at 2 p.m. President Betty Neubauer called the meeting to order. First Vice-President Sylvia Mercer introduced ladies from Person's Flower Shop, who demonstrated the making of bows for gifts and flower arrangements. The shop has been open for business for 87 years.

The minutes of October 2023 meeting were read and approved. There was no treasurer's report.

A memorial was given by Mary Gale Caraway in memory of Peggy Barnett.

The Wassail Party is coming up on Dec. 13 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The next meeting will be in January at 2 p.m. at Thrive.

A motion was made by Barbara K. and seconded by Sylvia Mercer. Door prizes were won by Barbara K., Betty Neubauer, Jo Ann H. and Sylvia M.

We hope all have a great 2024. A new year is upon us. May each of us consider it to be a time of renewal & rewards for all the challenges we face. Kindness be our guide and enjoy each day.

Scooching into '24



Happy New Year everyone, I hope you had a great Christmas, and pray that this coming year you'll be shown great favor in all areas of your, and your families lives. I'm looking forward to this coming year myself, as this past year I've embarked on a project that I've been trying to get started on for quite some time. It seemed for many years as though it may never happen, with work and family obligations, and then the overwhelming task of trying to survive the loss of Eloise, taking all of the time, energy and emotion I could muster at the time.

Happy to say that God definitely

had my back through all of it and now, I'm beginning to move forward. However, as life would have it, nothing ever seems to be as easy as we'd like it to be. This project comes with a steep learning curve, a little steeper than I had originally anticipated. Kinda like a math teacher that (with their best intentions) just couldn't seem to get through, then a new teacher walks in and within minutes brings clear revelation to total confusion. So I encourage you, that if you're going through something similar, just hang in there, as the fog may clear at any moment and you'll be on your way!

As we scooch into this new year, if a little better health is on your agenda, I may have some helpful advice. While I'm not a certified expert, with well over six decades of off & on, trial and error, research, and real world experience, with both negative and positive results to show for it, it does count for something. If you are suffering from a medical condition and are under a doctor's care, please consult with them on this subject, as my hope in sharing my experiences are meant for your benefit, not your harm. That being said, lets get started.

As many of you know, I'm a big believer in starting off slow. Babies have to learn to crawl before they can walk, and learn to walk before they can run, and when starting something new, or that hasn't been done for a while, we're no different. I'll be as basic and simple as possible, so if you know these things already, please bear with me, as I don't want to overlook anyone. When it comes to our bodies, especially in



ERIC ESTES
Love, Eric and Eloise

the area of exercise, the saying "use it or lose it" does seem to apply. Case in point: If you or someone you know has ever had their arm or leg in a cast, you were probably surprised at how small the muscles had gotten after a period of nonuse. So, whether coming off of prolonged layoff, recovering from illness or injury, or just want to feel better and have better mobility during our golden years, it's vitally important to start very slow and easy, as our first priority is to not hurt ourselves. Most people hurt themselves doing simple everyday things like walking, picking up groceries or children, sleeping in weird positions, bending over wrong, or warming up for sports or exercise. When something is part of our normal routine, we tend not to think about it too much, taking for granted that everything will be fine ... until it isn't. One thing I've learned along the way that has helped me is to clear my mind, and try to concentrate on what I'm actually doing at the moment. Easier said than done, but with practice goes a long way.

God has designed our muscles as a push/pull system, and when one side (or area) is stronger or more flexible than the other, we tend to experience problems. Next week I'll give a list of partial, easy exercises (pre-physical therapy), that will slowly help to balance things out (comfortably), so stay tuned. Love you guys, Eric.

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Greater Rising Star Baptist Church	CHRISTIAN First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) 712 Crockett, Luling
Harwood Baptist Church North of Post Office, Harwood	CHURCHES OF CHRIST Church of Christ 1323 Seydler St., Gonzales
Iglesia Bautista Macedonia 201 S. Congress, Nixon	Church of Christ (Iglesia de Cristo) 201 E. Second St. Nixon
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First Methodist 426 St. Paul, Gonzales	Thompsonville Community Church CR 423, Thompsonville Between Harwood & Waelder off old Hwy. 90
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SMILEY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Pro Tem Ellis Villasana — is working part-time in the library for now from Wednesdays and Fridays from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon so residents can have access to the library. Meanwhile, Benavidez said the city is accepting applications for a new librarian.

Benavidez asked the council to vote to have Jackson take over as president of the library board in January and also to table the library ordinance until the January 2024 meeting. The council approved both items by a 5-0 vote.

The council talked about the animal ordinance and the changes that were made regarding where the animals

will go.

Smiley Marshal Jason Torres said the new ordinance is written for handling future calls and they will move problem animals to an animal pound or work with an outside agency.

“We’re trying to take care what we have now immediately and it’s trying to find the own-

ers of the dogs,” Torres said, also indicating that if citations need to be issued to owners, he will cite them.

Councilwoman Lori Price brought up concerns about loose dogs that are not leashed and especially around the school and the elderly, she said.

The council approved the

animal ordinance, 5-0.

In the other business, the council approved the following agenda items:

- approved the minutes from the November 2023 meeting
- approved the financial statements and unpaid bills
- approved purchase of qualification ammunition for Marshal’s Department.

LAWS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

COVID vaccines on their workers, and the other which increases penalties for those found guilty of human smuggling—will take effect early the following month on Feb. 6, 2024.

Still another batch of laws—these marking an all-new era for immigration law in Texas—won’t hit the books until March 5, 2024, the same day Texans will be asked to cast ballots in the 2024 Presidential primaries here in Lone Star State.

One of those immigration bills allocates about \$1.5 billion in state dollars to resume border wall construction along the Texas-Mexico border, while the other empowers state officials to deport from Texas anyone found to be here illegally.

That latter bill is already facing legal challenges in the federal court system, and it will likely be the source of heated debate, the closer it gets to its effective launch date.

Opponents have branded the bill a return to racial profiling in the state, while proponents say it’s a last-ditch effort to protect Texas from being overrun by foreign nationals who have been arriving unchecked—and, many have alleged, were assisted by federal agents, whose mission up until January 2021 had been to apprehend and detain those who crossed into our nation illegally—those same individuals are crossing into Texas by the thousands in steady procession, ever since Joe Biden assumed the presidency.

If the federal government had done its job, many South Texas law enforcement officials have said, none of this would have even come up. As it stands, however, Texas could become the first state in modern history with laws on the books permitting it to expel people from its borders, a right that’s typically reserved for federal entities only.

Until then, new laws taking effect come Monday will include:

- HB 260 relates to the calculation of “net to land” in the appraisal of open-space land for ad valorem tax purposes, meaning that effect of diseases, pests, and even management practices (like overgrazing, for instance) which impact the land’s net income must also be considered when the chief appraiser makes calculations on a piece of property’s overall worth.

- HB 456 relates to an exemption from ad valorem taxation of specific interests in a minerals one certain places owned by certain charitable organizations.

- HB 614 relates to property owners’ association fines.

- HB 796 relates to the creation and maintenance of a publicly available database of information regarding all protest hearings set for the appraisal review board. That database will get set up and maintained by each county’s chief appraiser at each respective ap-

praisal district office in Texas.

- HB 1058 relates to a franchise or insurance premium tax credit for certain housing developments.

- HB 1228 relates to the delivery of certain information under the Property Tax Code.

- HB 1285 relates to the training and duties of a local taxpayer liaison officer for the appraisal districts.

- HB 1922 relates to periodic reauthorization of municipal building permit fees.

- HB 2121 relates to the form of a rendition statement or property report used to render property for ad valorem tax purposes.

- HB 2323 relates to the issuance of specialty license plates commemorating the 100th anniversary of the writing of the state song.

- HB 2354 relates to the eligibility of land to continue to be appraised for ad valorem tax purposes as qualified open-space land following a transfer to a surviving spouse.

- HB 3186 relates to youth diversion strategies and procedures for children accused of certain fine-only offenses in municipal and justice courts and other related criminal justice matters, including authoring certain fees associated with those courts.

- HB 3273 relates to public notice of the availability on the internet of property-tax-related information.

- HB 4077 relates to the procedure for qualifying for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of the residence homestead of an elderly person.

- HB 4101 relates to the matters that may be the subject of limited binding arbitration to compel compliance with procedural requirements about protests before appraisal review boards.

- HB 4456 relates to the calculation of specific ad valorem tax rates of a school district.

- HB 4500 relates to electronic verification of health benefits by health benefit plan issuers for certain physicians and

health care providers.

- HB 4645 relates to the exemption from ad valorem taxation of specific property used to provide low-income or moderate-income housing.

- HB 4758 relates to a prohibition on all e-cigarette products that contain any cartoon-like characters or pictures of celebrities on their packaging, making it a criminal offense to both sell them or have them in your possession.

- SB 539 relates to how an individual who has elected to defer collection of a tax, abate a suit to collect a delinquent tax or abate a sale to foreclose a tax lien on the individual’s residence homestead is listed on the outstanding tax roll of a taxing unit.

- SB 719 relates to an exemption from ad valorem taxation of property owned by a charitable organization that provides services related to the placement of a child in a foster or adoptive home.

- SB 1340 relates to the local development agreement database main-

tained by the comptroller of public accounts.

- SB 1381 relates to the eligibility of the surviving spouse of an elderly person who qualified for a local option exemption from ad valorem taxation by a taxing unit of a portion of the appraised value of the deceased person’s residence homestead to continue to receive an exemption for the same property from the same taxing unit in an amount equal to that of the exemption for which the deceased person qualified without having to apply for another exemption.

- SB 1577 relates to the Texas Real Estate Research Center, the Real Estate Research Advisory Committee, the Texas Real Estate Commission, and the Texas Appraiser Licensing and Certification Board increasing their fees and authoring certain payments.

- SB 1780 relates to online notarizations.

- SB 1999 relates to the calculation of the unused increment rate of a taxing

unit.

- SB 2355 relates to the appeal of specific ad valorem tax determinations through binding arbitration.

- SB 2440 relates to a requirement that certain lands approved designated for the subdivision of land include evidence that a groundwater supply exists.

- SB 2603 relates to the creation of the Montgomery County Municipal Utility District No. 216, granting the new entity a limited power of eminent domain, permitting it to issue certain bonds to fund its infrastructure needs, and giving it the authority to impose certain assessments, fees, and taxes.

- SB 3 relates to the amount of the total revenue exemption for the franchise tax and the exclusion of certain taxable entities from the requirement to file a franchise tax report.

- SB 17 effectively bans diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives at public universities and colleges.

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What in the world does this beautiful castle in the Emerald Isle have to do with the Crystal Theater Reveal this Saturday evening, Dec. 30, at the Gonzales Crystal Theatre? It is one of the fabulous trips put together by the American Fundraising Foundation to raise funds for the Crystal Young Programs. Bids will be handled in house and on the phone starting at 8 p.m. Entertainment and fabulous trips to Ireland, Italy, and the Greek Isles, along with a little bubbly and lot of cookies await!

CONTRIBUTED

CRYSTAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

busily preparing for her first Crystal concert on Friday, Jan. 13! Her vocals will lead straight into the Come and Take It Dance sneak peaks of their upcoming production of the Nutcracker on Jan. 6-7!

The entire evening is free, compliments of the Gonzales Crystal Theater, 511 Saint Lawrence St., in the very heart of downtown historic Gonzales. Savannah and the Come & Take It Dance Studio both will be offering tickets to their upcoming performances!

The year-round players of the Young Program troupes have cooked up some fun scenes that will engage the audience in ways they didn't expect, but will forever treasure!

Don't miss the evening. Taste a bit of bubbly ... but only if you are old enough! Performance punch and homemade treats will be available. The Crystal Board of Directors will be on hand to visit about their commitment to the arts, to arts in education and historic preservation. Join the excitement the performance arts create!



Above: Come and Take It Dance will put on scenes from its upcoming "Nutcracker" performances during the Crystal Reveal on Saturday, Dec. 30. Right: Are these the woods from Shakespeare's Midsummer Night's Dream? No is a place in Ireland that is part of a fabulous trip being given away at the Crystal Theater Reveal this Saturday, Dec. 30. Left: Savannah White Heximer



CONTRIBUTED

BRUSH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

bring with her.

"These fees cost a lot of people that are low income, people that they were living on a budget," Pena said. "A lot of them are asking, 'Why are we having all these other things, we're having parades, and then we're getting slammed with things like these fees?'"

Pena said businesses in Nixon are also being hit with the brush fee and most of them have dumpsters already on their property

"It's kind of like, you know, they're paying double, they're paying for a big dumpster and they're gonna pay an extra fee for the city just for an extra 10 bucks," Pena said. "You know, we're all for things happening, but we'd like to be notified and we'd like to know what's going on so we can prepare for these things."

Pena said some people reported seeing utility bills that were \$40 to \$60 per month higher than their previous average and being concerned about how they would afford to keep paying for their utilities with limited income.

"Yes, I know, it's legal (to charge the brush fee)

but is it really right? Can you find another place to take it from?" Pena asked.

Alderman Justin La Fleur said the council cannot just rescind the ordinance legally.

"We cannot reduce or take away that \$10 because it is passed by ordinance in our budget," La Fleur said. "We cannot legally do that. It's not considered an emergency. We cannot restrict or deviate from our revenue that was approved in our ordinance. We can't legally have a reduction in a budget that we approved through ordinance that we levied taxes against."

La Fleur asked City Attorney Eddie Escobar to comment and Escobar said that "in order to amend a budget that was adopted by ordinance, to change it would also have to be by ordinance."

"The problem is the Local Government Code has rules with regards to the reduction of the budget and the reasons that a budget can be reduced," Escobar said. "According to Councilman La Fleur's numbers, the \$10 a month fee for brush would reduce the city's budget by \$114,000. That being said, there can

be an upward adjustment on budgets — that's done all the time and their line item budget changes. But when the revenue has changed and it's decreased, I would recommend that essentially the city would have to have another budget workshop.

"The reason for that is because the money coming out of the city is not going to change — the bills are the bills. This is changing the money coming in to the tune of \$114,000, so because the money going out is not going to change but the money coming in is going to change, I would recommend to see where this money can come from or where cuts can be made.

"As far as my opinion is concerned, I believe that it would be in the best interest for the citizens to look at the numbers as a whole, see what the \$114,000 a year reduction is going to do to the budget, and if necessary, make changes somewhere else in the budget so the money going out isn't affected by the change on the money coming in," Escobar added.

Pompa said community members had the

opportunity to attend council budget workshops in the summer and fall, during which she only remembered seeing residents Adolph Trigo and Donald Hoffman in the audience.

"We advertised it and we put it out there on the internet and it was posted, too, right? 'This is what our budget was going to look like, and we were going to adopt it.' So it was made available to the public to be able to see what we're working on," Pompa said.

"We had three budget workshops that are all public. We had one proposal of the budget that anybody could have come in and raised their concerns with and then we also had a hearing to pass the budget on a different council meeting, so, at least five different instances where people could have voiced their concerns," La Fleur said.

Pena told council members she was upset because there was not a master fee document distributed to citizens or posted online that included the brush fee or street fee that were added by the council to this year's budget.

"I'm just saying —

people didn't know about this," Pena said.

"They're line item by line item in our budget, which is the same thing," La Fleur responded. "If you go online right now you can go look at our budget. And it says bulk brush pickup, \$114,000. That was

all presented to the public to oversee whatever they wanted to do."

Council members made a motion to take no action on the brush ordinance and voted 4-1 with only Patsy Vigil Scherrer voting against the motion.

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An artist's rendering of the Gonzales County Veterans Memorial. The project will cover an area of roughly 120 feet by 100 feet near the historic World War I cannon.

MEMORIAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

project, which will cover an area of roughly 120 feet by 100 feet near the historic World War I cannon.

Among supporters of the project are Gonzales VFW Post 4817, the Gonzales American Legion Post 40, Gonzales Odd Fellows Lodge 38 and the Gonzales Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture as well as a number of private citizens who want to see greater recognition of the county's veterans.

Board member Larry Mercer said the organization is taking orders for engraved brick pavers, with an order form available on the group's Facebook page. Order forms are also available at the Gonzales Chamber of Commerce office at 304 Saint Louis St.; Gonzales Main Street office at 305 Saint Lawrence St.; or from any GCVMA board member. Paver bricks are \$100 for a 4x8

without a logo and \$110 for a 4x8 with a logo. They are available in red or brown and contained space for up to 60 letters, symbols or spaces without a logo or 45 letters, symbols or spaces with a logo.

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For more information, contact Larry J. Mercer at 830-263-0331 or by email at ljmercer@gvec.net.

COMMUNITY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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Participating in this program means supporting the heart of what makes this community unique. The purchase of a Gonzales Community Card creates a pool of cash that local businesses in Gonzales can rely on.

Studies have shown that local independent retailers recirculate 47 percent of their revenue back into the community, while only 14 percent of national chains' revenue stays in the community. More dramatically, restaurants recirculate 73 percent of their revenue back into the community, versus only 30 percent for national chains.

By supporting local businesses, more money continues circulating through the local community — this is achieved through a combination of profits paid to local business owners, wages paid to local workers, goods and services procured locally for internal use or resale, and charitable giving within the community.

If you're looking for a way to do some good or want to know how you can help the community you love, send a Gonzales Community eGift Card! For more information or to participate as a merchant in the program, please contact Gonzales Main Street.

More Than You Expect!



Exceptional Care Close to Home

Did you know? Every member of Gonzales Healthcare Systems' remarkable team — from providers to department managers and every level of support staff — is committed to a single mission: providing high quality comprehensive healthcare to everyone we serve. That's why we treat every patient like family, with a level of compassion and personal care that exceeds expectations. What's more, we're one of the few rural hospitals still delivering babies, and in the coming months we will begin remodeling our patient rooms and break ground on a new surgical wing. It's all part of our commitment to provide every patient with an unexpected level of healthcare excellence.

To learn more of our commitment to exceptional service, visit gonzaleshealthcare.com.



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