

# The Gonzales Inquirer

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## Building approved for Main Street grant

**BY LEW K. COHN**  
Inquirer Publisher

The company which owns a downtown Gonzales building got an early Christmas gift in the form of approval for a Gonzales Main Street Business Incentive Grant of \$52,000 during the December Main Street board meeting.

The next step for St. George Investments LLC will be getting approval from the Gonzales Economic Development Corporation and then entering into a performance agreement under Chapter 501 of the Texas Local Government Code before any funds will be transferred.

St. George Investments LLC, which is owned by Noel Reese,

owns the building at 417 Saint George Street, which was built in 1889 and formerly was the site of the J.C. Penney in Gonzales — remnants of a J.C. Penney sign can still be seen above the canopy. Today, it is home to the Reese & Escobar law firm as well as Brown Hearing Center, All Freedom Bail Bonds, Grackle Psychiatry and

Lexington Real Estate, among others.

Main Street Director Tiffany Hutchison-Padilla said St. George Investments is expected to invest between \$66,000 and \$76,000 on renovations to the building, which “requires extensive maintenance and upkeep to retain its historic qualities and charm.”

“Repairs and renovations on the building will enhance the overall structure and appearance, adding to the appeal to tenants of the building,” said Hutchison-Padilla. “His business plan is to rent it to capacity with tenants. It is office space. It doesn’t bring in any

See **GRANT**, page 5

## Chamber nominations now open for Walshak, service awards

**SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER**

The Gonzales Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture is requesting nominations for the David B. Walshak Lifetime Achievement and Community Service awards.

The David B. Walshak Lifetime Achievement Award is presented to honor a local individual for outstanding lifetime service to the community. The nominee must be a resident of Gonzales County or be a good-standing member of the Gonzales Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture. Any job-related task or duty for which nominees are paid a salary will not be considered.

The Community Service Award is an annual award given to an individual, business or organization for meritorious service for one of the following: historic preservation, promotion of the arts, education, commerce/industry, youth motivation, or volunteer

See **CHAMBER**, page 12



Come and Take It Dance of Gonzales will present their second annual production of “The Nutcracker” at The Crystal Theatre this Saturday, Jan. 6, and Sunday, Jan. 7. The show will feature local dancers as well as guest professionals.

CONTRIBUTED

## The Nutcracker ballet comes to life again in Gonzales

**SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER**

Mark your calendars and prepare for a magical experience as “The Nutcracker” graces The Crystal Theatre stage on Saturday, Jan. 6 at noon and 7 p.m., and on Jan. 7 at 2 p.m., presented by Come and Take It Dance of Gonzales.

This timeless ballet, loosely based on E.T.A. Hoffmann’s fantasy story, “The Nutcracker and the Mouse King,” promises to transport you into a world of enchantment and wonder.

Local dancers taking part in this production include Gary Franco, Jonah Goodwin, Nicky and Jessica McKinney,

Katelyn Evans, Shaila Zuniga, Alexandra Rivas, Leah Tuch, Gabriela Rivas, Lizet Guerra, Rubi De Leon, Jessica Rivas, KayLauni Falks, Hannah Atkinson, Monica Atkinson, Natalia Moncada, and pre-ballet participants: Anna

See **BALLET**, page 5

## Jobless rate falls to 3.1 percent in Gonzales Co.

**BY LEW K. COHN**  
Inquirer Publisher

The unemployment rate in Gonzales County dipped yet again, dropping in November 2023 by 0.2 percent to 3.1 percent, according to state Labor Market Information (LMI) figures released by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC).

Gonzales saw its labor force increase by 122 workers from 9,411 in October 2023 to 9,533 in October; the number of employed

See **JOBS**, page 12



## Tickets on sale now for 2024 GISD Casino Night fundraiser

**FROM STAFF REPORTS**

Tickets are on sale now for the Gonzales Independent School District Education Foundation’s 2024 Casino Night event on Saturday, Feb. 24 at the J.B. Wells Expo Center (1653 CR 197, Gonzales).

The website to purchase tickets to this worthwhile event is <https://gonzalesisdeducationfoundation-bloom.kindful.com/e/2024-casino-night-fundraiser>.

There are many options available to donate to this wonderful cause, while having an amazing time, with High Roller Tables, VIP tables, and General Public Admission tickets available. Don’t wait too long, though, because this is one of those yearly events which sells out quickly.

The GISD Foundation’s 2024 goal is to exceed prior years’ annual

See **FUNDRAISER**, page 12

## Kingdom Rescue now operating Gonzales Pet Adoption Center

**FROM STAFF REPORTS**

Monday, Jan. 1, marked the first day that Kingdom Rescue took over as official operators of the Gonzales cat shelter from the Friends of Gonzales Animal Shelter (FOGAS).

The new Gonzales Pet Adoption

Center (GPAC) is housed in the same building as FOGAS used at 505 Saint Francis Street. Kingdom Rescue and the City of Gonzales reached a late agreement in December after negotiating for more than a month.

Shelter organizers are expecting the full transition to take about two to

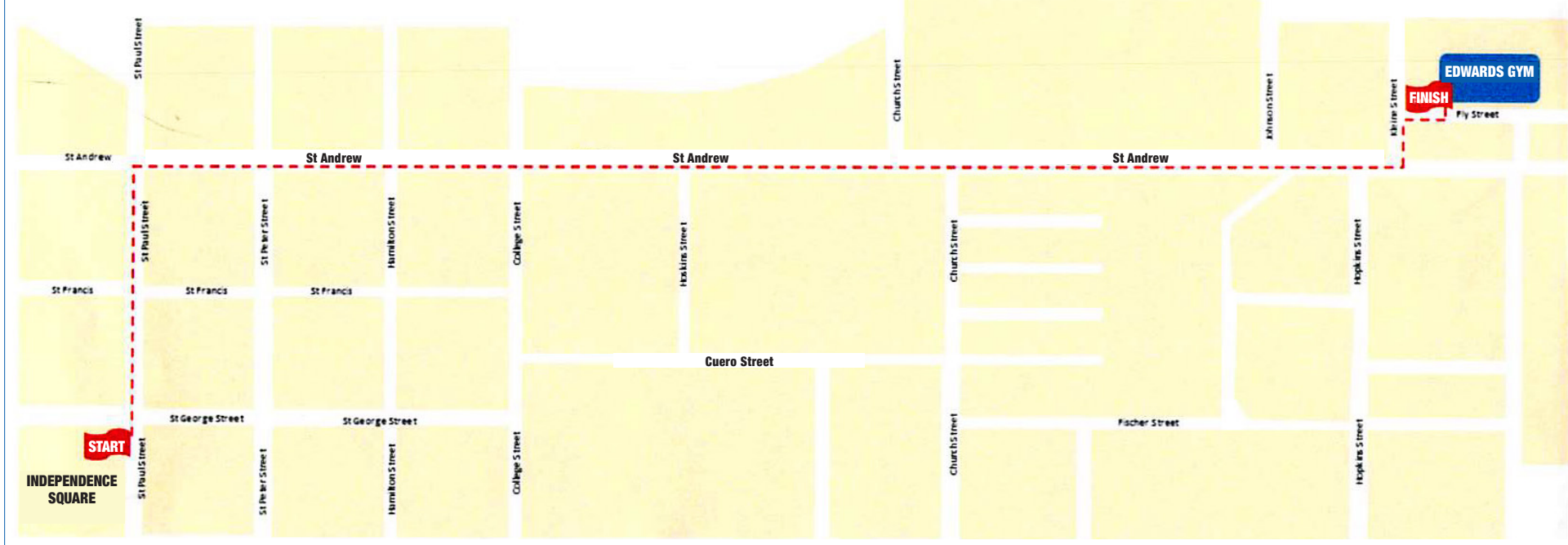
three weeks as they train new staff and volunteers.

New shelter hours are Mondays and Tuesdays by appointment only. The shelter is closed on Wednesdays, but

See **SHELTER**, page 12



### MLK DAY MARCH ROUTE



# MLK celebration events scheduled for January

#### FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Edwards Association will host a pair of events in Gonzales to celebrate the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. for the 21st year. This year's theme is "Living the Dream:

It Starts with Me — Spreading Hope, Courage and Unity."

First, the non-profit organization will host a MLK interfaith musical featuring a number of local gospel talents at 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 7, at the Edwards CommUNITY Center,

located at the intersection of Kleine and Fly streets.

Then, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Monday, Jan. 15 — the date on which MLK Day is celebrated this year — the Edwards Association will host its annual march from Independence

Square up Saint Paul Street to Saint Peter and then to Fly Street, to the former Edwards High School, 1427 Fly St. Gonzales Police Department will provide escort and traffic control for the event.

A program and "Love Unity

Luncheon" will be held at 11 a.m. at the center after the parade. Museum tours will be available after the luncheon.

For more information, contact Mrs. Tena Roaches at 830-822-3248 or Mr. David Tacy at 830-263-1611.



## Heritage Quilters enjoy Christmas party

#### SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Shiner Heritage Quilters Guild enjoyed a festive Christmas party on Tuesday, Dec. 5 at the Shiner Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. A delicious meal was catered by Werner's Restaurant. Members provided an array of desserts.

A highlight of the evening was the drawing to win a packet of Christmas blocks sewn by members using fabrics that were chosen by the committee. A lively game of gift-sharing followed. In the spirit of holiday giving, members contributed monetary gifts to the Shiner Food Pantry at the Method-

ist Church.

The next meeting, on Tuesday, Jan. 9, will feature a program by The Square Quilter owner, Carol Daniel. She will talk about making a three-yard quilt. For information about the guild log onto [www.shinerheritagequilters.org](http://www.shinerheritagequilters.org) and email [info@shinerheritagequilters.org](mailto:info@shinerheritagequilters.org).

## State domino tournament coming to Hallettsville

#### SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The 71st Texas State Championship Domino Tournament will be held Sunday, Jan. 14, 2024 at the Knights of Columbus (K of C) Hall in Hallettsville, Texas. Registration will begin at 7 a.m. and playing will begin at 9 a.m. sharp. Entry fee is \$20 per person in this double-elimination tourney.

A consolation tournament will be held immediately for the first two settings of losers. The top five winners in the championship bracket will receive plaques and cash. Two individuals will also be inducted into the Texas Domino Hall of Fame.

A barbecue chicken dinner will be served in the hall for players and spectators. There will also be plates to go for drive-through customers for \$13 each. Short orders and refreshments will be served during the tournament.

Come join in the official Texas State Domino Championship Tournament play, where there is no better competition and fellowship. You can boast you played in the Texas State Championship Domino Tournament. You and your partner many even have the honor of winning this prestigious title.

Contact Glen Bludau at 361-772-4370 or Joey Henke at 361-798-8490 to get registered or visit [www.kchall.com](http://www.kchall.com) for details!

## First Baptist Church of Gonzales presents 'The Man Event' at Expo Center on Jan. 27

#### SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

First Baptist Church of Gonzales is presenting "The Man Event" to be held at 6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 27 at J.B. Wells Expo Center, 1653 County Road 97, Gonzales.

Guest speaker for the event will be Pastor Brian Johnson, the senior pastor at First Baptist Church of Winnie. Tickets, which include a BBQ meal, are \$10 per person.

Johnson is a native-born son of the Lone Star State, having grown up in the small southeast Texas town of Port Neches, where he learned to fish, hunt and play golf. Through the years, he fell even deeper in love with the outdoors. He ran a successful dog-training business, DuckDogTrain-

er.com, and trained more than 1,000 dogs how to duck hunt.

As much as he loved waterfowl hunting and dogs, it could be said he was equally passionate about bow hunting. His bow hunting adventures took him to several states, including Kansas, where he arrowed a free range nontypical buck on a self-guided hunt that scored 209 inches.

If it wasn't a bow or shotgun in his hand, it was often a fishing rod or a golf club. As a bass fisherman, Brian has caught multiple double digit largemouth bass and taught many others how to enjoy the sport as well. He is a certified golf instructor with the United States Golf Teachers Association and had a handicap index of plus 2.8 once upon a time.

Today, he is passionate about sharing the story of how he found true meaning in life along with his pastoral duties.

There will be a number of door prizes given out. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 830-672-9595.

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## Celebrations

### Birthdays

<b>January 4th</b> Wynoka Chenault Travis Decker	<b>January 8th</b> Christie Beyer Jan Lindemann Mike McCracken Susan McGehee Ava Murphy Maisy Valenta Ken West
<b>January 5th</b> Shirley Breitschopf Alex Casares John DuBose Jr. Murray Montgomery	<b>January 9th</b> Doris Carter Callie Jordyn Cobler Trudy Dierlam
<b>January 6th</b> Adrienne Steen	<b>January 10th</b> David Vinklerek
<b>January 7th</b> Crissy Lampkin Chris Reininger Gary Sutton	

### Anniversary

**January 4th**  
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## Gonzales Weather

	<b>January 4</b> 61°/39°	Mostly cloudy 0% chance of rain • RealFeel 65
	<b>January 5</b> 56°/43°	Sun through high clouds 4% chance of rain • RealFeel 56
	<b>January 6</b> 54°/40°	Rain 76% chance of rain • RealFeel 48
	<b>January 7</b> 59°/44°	Mostly cloudy in the morning followed by sun through high clouds 0% chance of rain • RealFeel 62
	<b>January 8</b> 66°/47°	Partly sunny 1% chance of rain • RealFeel 69
	<b>January 9</b> 56°/46°	Mostly sunny 0% chance of rain • RealFeel 59
	<b>January 10</b> 58°/37°	Plenty of sun 0% chance of rain • RealFeel 62

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

January 5th – 7th  
Region Rodeo

January 5th – 6th  
Dog Show

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## AgrLife sponsoring Beef Cattle CEU program at 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, at the JB Wells Expo Center in Gonzales. Five 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 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 concludes at 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.

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

## Ficken named Texas A&M Regents Fellow Service Award winner

### SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Texas A&M University System named seven faculty and agency service professionals from Texas A&M AgriLife as Regents Professors and Regents Fellows for 2022-2023, including one in Gonzales.

The Board established the Regents Professor Awards program in 1996 and the Regents Fellow Service Awards program in 1998 to recognize employees who have made extraordinary contributions to their university or agency, as well as to the people of Texas.

Martin Ficken, DVM, Ph.D., is the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory resident director at the Sam and Sally Glass



Ficken

Poultry Diagnostic Laboratory in Gonzales. Ficken joined TVMDL in 2009 as a pathologist at the College Station laboratory. For two years, he assisted the laboratory with necropsy and pathology services for a wide range of animals. However, he quickly became a trusted subject matter expert for avian species.

In 2011, Dr. Ficken assumed the role of interim resident director for TVMDL's Sam and Sally Glass Poultry Diagnostic Laboratory in Gonzales. In 2012, his role was made official, and he began his tenure as the lab's resident director.

Ficken leads a four-person staff at TVMDL's Gonzales laboratory. This small team is directly responsible for over one-third of TVMDL's poultry testing. The agency's poultry client roster includes multiple state and national producers in addition to backyard bird owners.

As a board-certified poultry pathologist and veterinarian, Ficken is accustomed to working with all types of clients and providing them with the same level of exceptional service. In addition to his commitment to diagnostics, Ficken also dedicates time to education. He is TVMDL's most frequently requested speaker for poultry topics and regularly contributes to seminars and other educational opportunities at Texas A&M University.

## Bridging the agricultural science communications gap

### Texas A&M AgriLife to create national education network

#### SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

A national network of researchers, educators and undergraduate students will help bridge the communication gap between agriculture scientists and nonscientists.

Forming the network is part of a grant project led by the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communications and funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA-NIFA.

The Education Coordination Network, ECN, will be part of USDA-NIFA's Research and Extension Experiences for Undergraduates, REEU.

#### INFORMING THE PUBLIC

Disseminating evidence-based information is critical to reducing gaps in science communication, said Gary Wingenbach, Ph.D., Texas A&M AgriLife Research senior scientist and professor in the Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communications, Bryan-College Station.

"Our goal is to reduce some science communication gaps and science understanding gaps between food scientists, researchers and the public," he said. "We want to reduce existing gaps between food science

research and public understanding of such research. The more informed our public, the more likely policies will be formulated that are conducive to and positive for producers and consumers alike. Our goal is to develop a national network linking scientists, researchers, students and the public."

Wingenbach and Holli Leggette, Ph.D., director of the Science Communications Lab and associate professor in the Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communications, Bryan-College Station, will develop a comprehensive project database system using Texas A&M AgriLife Research cloud services.

The ECN will host REEU projects from across the country or wherever the REEU project is located, Wingenbach said, with outcomes to help develop the new system.

#### EXPOSURE TO SCIENCE THROUGH OUTREACH

Educational outreach will include social media channels with weekly promotions, student videos, blogs and a program website.

"We are also planning science forums twice a year as well as having a national meeting for all REEU project directors and participating students, including a student poster competition," Wingenbach said. "We want to create national exposure for the REEU program, build science communication skills for all involved and publicize the REEU program to others."

## Frederick hired as Harris County extension agent

### SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service has announced the hiring of new county agents across the state, as well as transfers within the agency, including one in Harris County with ties to Gonzales.

AgriLife Extension employs county agents to serve every Texas

county. These county agents are the agency's connection with the people in communities. They are instrumental in providing hands-on education and programming based on scientific research.

A complete county agent list can be found at <https://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/counties/>.

Steven Frederick is the new agriculture and natural resources extension agent in Harris County. Frederick, of Gonzales, earned his associate's from Blinn College and his bachelor's in agricultural science with a teaching option from Texas A&M. He spent the past three years teaching agricultural science at Seguin Independent School District and then at Yantis ISD before joining AgriLife Extension.

Frederick grew up in a small rural town with beef cattle and poultry production. He was involved in FFA, showing pigs. He also participated in livestock judging and served as a local and district officer. He said he is passionate about his work and serving the youth and adults of Harris County to grow the next leaders in agriculture.

"I joined AgriLife Extension to better serve the people of Texas," Frederick said. "I hope I can help them gain more knowledge on the importance of agriculture."



Frederick

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## GONZALES CO. HISTORY

- 1879 — January & February, the river banks at the upper and lower “wash” places graded down to permit easier access to the river. (These were at the west end of St. Louis and St. Lawrence Streets on Water Street in inner town.)
- 1902 — January, ordinance passed: no leaving wagons, buggies, boxes, shelves, or obstructions on any sidewalks on streets or squares of Gonzales  
January 4, quote from Inquirer: “The best way to advertise a town is to beautify it.” This will draw residents and new businesses according to the article.  
January 10, F.D. Glover will have a 200 acre rice plantation about two and a half miles above the city on the west side of the San Marcos River
- 1904 — January 7, the fire house horses have been placed in their stalls at the new fire station and appear to be very much at home.
- 1917 — January 4, Sanitary Bottling Works is now open under M.H. Forgetston, owner
- 1920 — population of county, 28,438  
population of town, 3,128  
January 29, building between Gonzales Drug Store and Fitzgerald Drug Store is undergoing a renovation on interior preparatory to opening H & M Toggery (St. Joseph Street)
- 1925 — population of town 5,200
- 1926 — Edward Sweeney House completed, 1109 St. Lawrence Street. Three-story Alcalde Hotel built by Aref and Helen Satel Droupy at 614 St. Paul Street (Block 34)
- 1928 — January 5, forty carloads of feathers sold to a Chicago firm by Stahl Brothers.  
-S.F. Halamicek and his son, Roy, opened Halamicek Auto Supply east side of St. Joseph Street (Block 23) Possibly renting from C.E. Dilworth.
- 1930 — population of county, 28,337  
-Four-legged metal water tower erected on northern boundary of city  
-January, Joe Peterek built new brick store  
-January 18, coldest weather in twenty-five years, with temperature dropping to zero.

## Letters to the Editor

It is the policy of The Inquirer to encourage reader participation on its Opinion page. Diverse and varied opinions are welcomed. Because of space limitations, we must limit all contributors to one letter per person per month. Letters of 400 words or less will be published unless they contain language or content that the editors feel is inappropriate. Letters must either be about Gonzales County, from a resident of Gonzales County, or in response to a story that appears in print or online in The Inquirer. Examples of content that will cause letters to be rejected include the following:

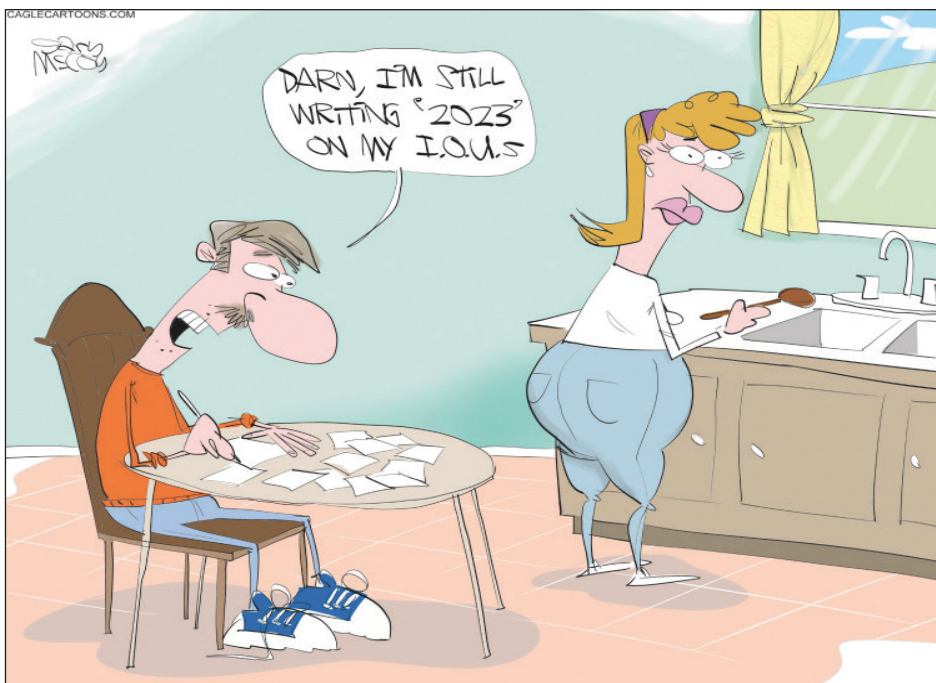
- Confusing or unclear points.
- Crude language.
- Poor taste.
- Disrespectful comments regarding a group's or individual's ethnicity, gender, religion, culture, sexual orientation or race.
- Other incendiary language or remarks.
- Endorsements for or complaints about individually named commercial products or services.
- Poetry.
- Personal attacks.
- “Thank You” letters that go beyond general thanks to the community; attempt to serve as an advertisement for a company, individual or political party; or is submitted in lieu of a paid “Thank You” advertisement.

During periods ahead of an election, The Inquirer does not accept letters to the editor urging voters to vote for or against candidates in local elections. Endorsements should be displayed in political advertising. In light of this policy, we reserve the right to reject or edit letters for references to candidates and whether or not they should be elected. The Inquirer will accept letters expressing views on bond measures, constitutional amendments and other such issues. Letters will not be accepted once early voting has begun. The Inquirer will not knowingly publish factually incorrect information. Only letters written exclusively to the newspaper will be published. Letters to a third party or those written to more than one newspaper are not accepted. “Wallpaper” – submissions that are in large part copied-and-pasted from another author or organization – will not be published. Letters written in response to other letter writers should address the issue at hand. Discourse should be civil and people should be referred to in a respectful manner. Letters referring to news stories should also mention the headline and date of publication. All letters must be signed and include the writer's street address or route address telephone number, which will be used for verification purposes only.

**Please send Letters to the Editor:**

- Email: [publisher@gonzalesinquirer.com](mailto:publisher@gonzalesinquirer.com)
- U.S. Mail: The Inquirer, P.O. Box 616, Gonzales, Texas, 78629
- 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.



**DR. DON NEWBURY**  
The Idle American

## A lad gone too soon...

At commencement exercises several decades ago, the speaker droned on about the attributes of a graduate whose mark on the school was incomparable. The crowd hung on his words, uncaring that his extended commentary would throw the ceremony off schedule. So what?

A mother--unknowingly standing next to the esteemed graduate's mom--whispered, "I'd give 20 years of my life to have a son like that."

"You didn't miss it far," responded the proud woman, whose only son was at her primary focus since his birth....

This memory jarred like bold-face type early on the chilly morning of Tuesday, December 19, 2023, when a phone call from a distraught mother struck a mighty blow. She shrieked, "Bryson is gone."

His life ended unexpectedly and way too soon--hours before his 20th birthday--when his potential to serve humankind seemed endless.



**Bryson**

Immediately, I joined her in the dark of misunderstanding that only parents can begin to fathom. (My wife and I, too, had been jolted by the loss of a child in 2020. Our late daughter, Julie

Choate, was struck down at age 50 by a pulmonary embolism, hours before the beginning of her 29th year in education.)....

Within minutes-- when top-sided again with a modicum of composure--the lyrics of a century-old Christian hymn, Farther Along, offered comfort. Seven words in the lyrics help Christ-centered mourners forge on.

The words? "We'll understand it, all by and by."

For the next few hours, my memory in overdrive, I reflected on a friendship with Bryson and his mom Chris that began 17 months ago. We met at a baseball game where Bryson's team was competing against one whose line-up included our grandson, Jonah McDaniel. Jonah's dad, Ryan, overheard Chris mention how she and Bryson prayed for next steps to his pre-law study at a Christian university....

We visited briefly after the game. I had never met a young man with more poise, respect and determination. At a strapping 6-2, his sea-blue eyes and piercing smile invited friendship. He immediately seemed interested in investigating Howard Payne University, where I graduated in 1961 and served as president for a dozen years late in the last century.

A few days later, I received the nicest letter--ever. He was grateful for our visit and was eager to visit the campus where he'd enroll a year later.

Since that time, I have learned about some of the mountains he and his mom have climbed. Their commitment, to Jesus Christ and each other, no doubt sustained....

They're from Tupelo, MS, where Bryson will be buried alongside his dad, Brett, who lost a three-year battle with kidney disease a decade ago. During the 10 years with his dad, Bryson idolized him.

Even then, Bryson was ravaged by unannounced seizures. He survived the attack of a vicious dog, undergoing facial plastic surgeries, seizures and body weight that ballooned to almost twice normal size. His mom trudged on, with full attention on him. She was determined to overcome whatever got in the way, including a fire that consumed their only car.

Ever sports-minded, they sought a coach who would understand his situation....

They found one in Memphis, TN, nearly 100 miles away. Chris signed him up, and they didn't miss a practice or a game all season long, despite her driving some 200 miles each trip!

Later, a coach suggested that they get a "fresh start" in Texas. About four and a half years ago, they headed to Keller, TX, where Chris would work for an air-conditioning company and Bryson would set Keller Central High School back on its heels.

Always goal-oriented, Bryson needed only a part of COVID's first year to lose 100 pounds. He went out for both football and baseball, organized a student Bible study and

## The Gonzales Inquirer

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# NEWBURY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

initiated a debate team that qualified for state competition, even without a sponsor! With sports came injuries, however, but he was regarded as the team leader, even if on the bench in slings or casts....

\*\*\*\*\*

We were in his hospital room one year ago, where he was recuperating from shoulder surgery, when Chris mentioned, "He's spent more birthdays in the hospital than out."

Determined to play college sports, he was eager for August workouts to begin. Guess what? In the first practice, he injured a little finger and ankle, admitting to neither injury until work-out's end.

Soon, he'd undergo ankle surgery back in Keller, with rehab to extend into December. No matter. He forged on, completing part of his courses remotely, with junior status nailed down by semester's end....

\*\*\*\*\*

Just weeks ago, HPU President Dr. Cory Hines invited me to speak at semester-ending chapel. Brenda and I invited Bryson to drive us to Brownwood. There, he'd get to see college "buds," sleep overnight in his dormant dorm room and visit professors.

Did I mention that it mattered not that he had no wheels, and only weeks earlier got a restricted driver's license? Did I say that he organized a foundation called "Kidney Head" to help youngsters with kidney disease? Did I mention that he championed Tupelo--his hometown--melting my wife's heart with the declaration that Elvis Presley hailed from there, too?

Oh, there are countless multiple superlatives about this life. It is noted that his efforts in the fading hours of election day helped a Keller city councilman win his race, and how his resolve helped so many people. Hey, maybe Bob Anderson, a family friend and Federalist author, might consider writing a "Bryson book." (I met Anderson at a vigil held at Keller Central ISD baseball field on December 22, when throngs gathered to remember Bryson....)

His impact at HPU is immeasurable. He was involved in student government, as well as the university's recognized moot court team.

Bryson was a team leader with a capital "L," whether on football fields or baseball diamonds.

He could have been a "poster guy" for D-III athletics, playing sports for the right reasons, chuckling at the thought of ever signing an N-I-L corporate contract or playing sports professionally....

\*\*\*\*\*

A "Go Fund Me" account has been set up for Bryson. Within hours, more than 300 had contributed. Further, the Bryson Burks Endowed Scholarship has been established at HPU. Persons who wish to participate may send checks to HPU, PO Box 2369, Brownwood, TX, 76804, or online at [www.hputx.edu/give](http://www.hputx.edu/give).

We feel privileged to have Bryson and Chris in our circle of friends.

We are promised to understand tragedies such as his in the "sweet by and by." In the meantime, we'll promote friendship and understanding, urging everyone to keep--and share with others--the importance of keeping phone numbers to the suicide prevention hotline close at hand....

Dr. Newbury, longtime university president, continues his regimen of writing and speaking. Contact: 817-447-3872. Email: [newbury@speakerdoc.com](mailto:newbury@speakerdoc.com).

# BALLET

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Hardcastle, Esther SHcolic, Emerie Maldonada, Sofhia Pechina, Liberty Gallegos, Averleigh Leonard, Delilah DeBerry.

Guest artists performing will include Melanie Axe, Ariana Dewing, Brandon Forrest and Devin Ellis.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to "Benefactors" donors: Monica Atkinson, HEB, Grackle Psychiatry, Jessica Nicky McKinney, Cate Caplin, Dr. Humberto and Jessica Mowbray, Dr. Arturo Southam and Dr. Beezee Daly and Amanda Hammond.

"Friend of the Ballet" donors are Celia Weiss, Dee Dee Sengelmann, Blair Taylor, Jorge Vazquez, First National Bank of Shiner and Maggy Malkhasyan. Their generosity makes this magical production possible.



# NUTCRACKER SYNOPSIS

The story begins on Christmas Eve at the Stahlbaum house, a grand residence adorned with the most beautiful tree imaginable. The Stahlbaums host their annual Christmas party, welcoming family and friends. The evening takes a magical turn with the arrival of godfather Drosselmeyer, a skilled clock and toy maker, known for his surprises. The party becomes festive with music and dance, as Drosselmeyer presents two life-size dolls. Clara receives a beautiful Nutcracker from him, becoming the party's highlight. However, a jealous Fritz breaks the Nutcracker, only to have Drosselmeyer magically repair it. As the night grows late, the guests depart, and the Stahlbaum family retires for the evening. Clara, worried about her Nutcracker, sneaks back to the tree, falling asleep with him in her arms.

At the stroke of midnight, the magical transformation begins. Clara shrinks, the Christmas tree grows, and toys come to life. An army of mice, led by the fierce Mouse queen, fills the room. The Nutcracker awakens, leading his toy soldiers into battle. However, the Mouse queen corners the Nutcracker, and a one-on-one battle ensues. The Nutcracker and his army face capture until Clara, in a final daring charge, throws her slipper at the Mouse queen, saving the day.

The Nutcracker transforms into a Prince, taking Clara on a journey to the Land of Snow, where dancing snowflakes welcome them. The adventure continues to the Land of Sweets, where the Sugar Plum Fairy, rewards them with dazzling dances, including the Spanish Dance, Arabian Dance, Russian Dance, Chinese Dance, Mirliton Dance, Mother Ginger and the Waltz of Flowers. The grand finale features a beautiful Pas De Deux by the Sugar Plum Fairy and the Cavalier.

As Clara awakens from her dream, surrounded by her Christmas tree and beloved Nutcracker, the enchanting performance concludes.

Secure your tickets now for this extraordinary journey into the world of "The Nutcracker" at [www.comeandtakeitdance.com](http://www.comeandtakeitdance.com). You are guaranteed an unforgettable performance at the Crystal Theatre on Jan. 6-7.

# GRANT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

sales tax, but this building needs some love."

The plan includes cleaning the brick exterior, tuckpointing on the masonry to make the brick more stable and more weatherproof, powerwashing, and then replacing not only the second story windows and first floor doors, but also putting in new prism-glass transom windows above the metal canopy to restore how the building formerly looked.

Hutchison-Padilla said the company submitted a letter of intent and a full application, which included a report from the Texas Historical Commission from 2012 advising what can and cannot be done to retain the building's historic integrity.

"They purchased this property and they inquired with the Texas Historical Commission as to whether or not they could put a balcony on it," Hutchison-Padilla said. "The THC was pretty clear that would detract from the historic nature of this particular building. They found historic photos and they cited those photos."

The recommendation also included, if possible, to recreate the roofline that existed previously because "you can see that at some point that roofline was filled in because of drainage," Hutchison-Padilla said.

"They would have liked to see that roofline come back, but that's not

**“Repairs and renovations on the building will enhance the overall structure and appearance, adding to the appeal to tenants of the building. His business plan is to rent it to capacity with tenants. It is office space. It doesn't bring in any sales tax, but this building needs some love.”**

—Tiffany Hutchison-Padilla, Main Street director

possible, so the owner of the building is willing to paint it so that it is more in line with the way the brick looks."

The Gonzales Main Street Revitalization Incentive Program's mission is "to improve the image, inspire lifelong preservation and revitalization of our historic community, and enhance the economic sustainability of the Gonzales Main Street District." The program is governed by economic development law and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

To be eligible for a Main Street grant, a business must be located within the Gonzales Main Street boundaries and must be a project which will "stimulate Historic Preservation, Business Retention and Expansion, and the Revitalization of our Historic Community."

The grant is set up to reimburse property owners after work is completed. Categories include business

retention and enhancement incentive, which could include bringing a property up to code or performing significant interior or exterior capital improvements, including ADA compliance, asbestos removal, fire suppression, HVAC, electrical, plumbing and other repairs.

Facade and exterior improvements are aimed towards historic preservation and can include signage, paint, lighting, masonry, awnings, restoring transom windows, landscaping and other improvements.

The maximum grant award is \$52,000 reimbursement per building property address and projects will not receive funding greater than 90/10 reimbursement. There is a maximum of one award per property and it cannot be combined with any other grants and/or incentives (Main Street and Economic Development Corporation) or within 36 months of any prior GEDC-related funding.



## Your Real Estate Resource for Life Serving Gonzales County and Central Texas

Rafe Jackson 512-217-3171 • Brie Schauer Irons 830-203-8759

### ACROSS

- 1 this Meharg was first female Texas Secretary of State
- 5 Mineola's county
- 6 Jackson County seat
- 7 TX Charley Pride tune: "\_\_\_ Just Me"
- 8 money machine
- 9 TXism: "exciting as a fire at \_\_\_"
- 15 TXism: "phoo-\_\_\_ water" (perfume)
- 16 TXism: "hot enough \_\_\_ a \_\_\_ a horny toad"
- 19 a blimp, e.g.
- 21 TX Jimmy Webb wrote "By the \_\_\_ Get to Phoenix"
- 22 in Anderson County on U.S. 287
- 27 \_\_\_ weevil came to U.S. thru Texas
- 28 TXism: "cut \_\_\_ slack"
- 29 married woman in Mexico
- 30 1960's protests
- 32 this Palmer won the Texas Open three times (init.)
- 33 TXism: "he \_\_\_ with the facts" (liar)
- 36 Gulf shrimp catchers this conven. was in Houston in 1928
- 38 a \_\_\_ pizza is a small one
- 39 Fair Park is on the \_\_\_ of Dallas

- 41 "let the \_\_\_ settle"
- 42 Odessa's county
- 45 king toppers in cards
- 46 Cowboy Jake Ferguson position (abbr.)
- 47 needed in a drought
- 48 TXism: "just a \_\_\_ (small amount)"
- 49 more intelligent
- 52 Cheryl of film "Wilson" with TX Harrelson office"
- 53 comfy room at home

### DOWN

- 1 female sheep
- 2 a car modification, e.g. (abbr.)
- 3 Wood County newspaper
- 4 TX Robert \_\_\_ was U.S. Secretary of Commerce (1989-92)
- 8 Corey Seager got this to end a no-hitter in game 5 of the 2023 World Series (2 wds.)
- 9 TXism: "plain as the \_\_\_ \_\_\_ chart"

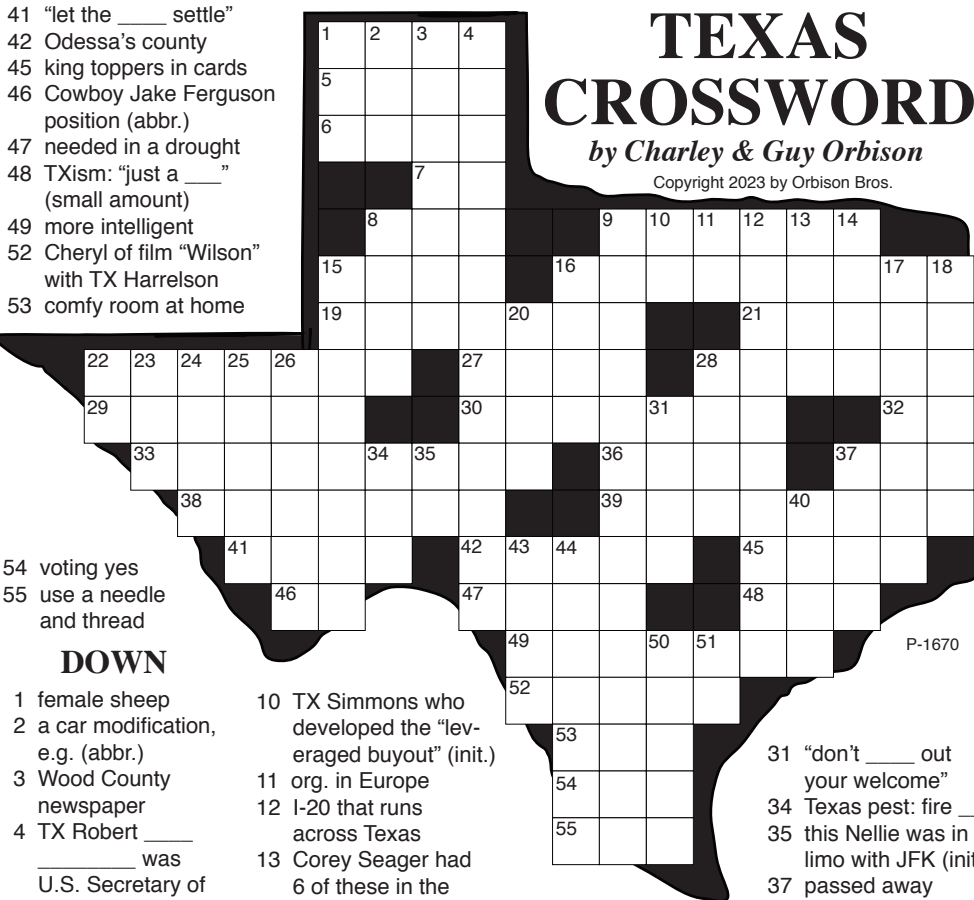
- 10 TX Simmons who developed the "leveraged buyout" (init.)
- 11 org. in Europe
- 12 I-20 that runs across Texas
- 13 Corey Seager had 6 of these in the 2023 World Series
- 14 Japanese wrestling
- 15 heaven
- 16 \_\_\_-A-Whirl rides are built in Plainview
- 17 returns a case to a lower court
- 18 UT has 1st photo ever taken, by this French inventor
- 20 sharpen, like skills
- 22 former Cowboy star, Emmitt (init.)
- 23 modern lights
- 24 "half hitch," e.g.
- 25 did 20-down
- 26 avid paintings collector? (2 wds.)
- 28 welcome rugs

- 31 "don't \_\_\_ out your welcome"
- 34 Texas pest: fire \_\_\_
- 35 this Nellie was in limo with JFK (init.)
- 37 passed away
- 40 wound reminder
- 43 TXism: "\_\_\_ on the barrel head"
- 44 TXism: "\_\_\_ a whipped pup"
- 50 Texans have to \_\_\_ car registration annually
- 51 TXism: "dot the i's and cross the \_\_\_"

## TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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## SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

### Fun By The Numbers

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

### Here's How It Works:

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

Answers found in next week's Classifieds.

# CLASSIFIEDS

## HOW TO PLACE AN AD

You can place ads online at [www.gonzalesinquirer.com](http://www.gonzalesinquirer.com) or call

**(830) 672-2861**

and/or email [ads@gonzalesinquirer.com](mailto:ads@gonzalesinquirer.com)

All rates are net cash with order until credit is approved. We accept Mastercard, VISA, American Express and Discover or payment can be made in person with cash or check.

622 St. Paul or PO Box 616, Gonzales, TX 78629  
(830)672-2861 • (800)210-5909 • Fax (830)217-8924

[www.gonzalesinquirer.com](http://www.gonzalesinquirer.com)

## CLASSIFIED WORD AD RATES

**\$10 PER RUN UP TO 20 WORDS**

Pre-paid, private party ads.  
40¢ for each additional word.

**4 runs for \$30**

**DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE FOR CONSECUTIVE RUNS**

**\$15.00 Garage Sale Packages**

## CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

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

### ERRORS

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

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

### 110 APPLIANCE REPAIR

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

### 190 LAWN, GARDEN

**MARIO BERMEA TREE SERVICE**  
Home-830-587-6235 or Cell 512-923-4650. INSURED. Over 30 years experience. Specializing in: Residential, Ranch and Riverfront.

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

### 210 MISC. SERVICES

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

### 670 APARTMENTS FOR RENT OR LEASE

**LOW INCOME APARTMENTS** for rent. 1, 2, 3, 4 bedrooms. No electric deposit required. Apply at 410 Village Drive. Gonzales 830-672-3419.

### 670 APARTMENTS FOR RENT OR LEASE

**PARKWOOD APARTMENTS**  
114 West 10th  
Nixon, TX 78140  
**OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays - 9:00am to 3:00pm  
**PHONE: 830-582-1343**  
**3BR Apartments Available**  
Rates Based on Income  
**Rental Assistance For Qualified Families of very-low, low, and moderate income applicants.**  
**CENTRAL HEAT & AIR**  
**ENERGY EFFICIENT**  
**LAUNDRY ROOM**  
**WATER, SEWER & GARBAGE PAID**  
**HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE UNITS**  
Individuals with a disability wishing to request a reasonable accommodation to complete the application process should contact the apartment manager at 830-582-1343.  
Para solicitar un apartamento favor llamar a manager al siguiente numero 830-582-1343. Para solicitar una adaptacion o modificacion razonable, favor llamar manager al siguiente numero 830-582-1343.  
Personas que hablan espanol y requieren un interprete, favor llamar a manager al siguiente numero 830-582-1343.  
"This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

### Apartment For Elderly, Low Income

Rent based on Income  
Water, Sewer, and Trash Paid  
Country Village Square  
1800 Waelder Rd.  
Gonzales, TX 78629  
830.672.2877  
[countryvillagesquare@voatz.org](http://countryvillagesquare@voatz.org)  
[www.voatz.org](http://www.voatz.org)

All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination.  
We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.



### 850 HELP WANTED

**VICTORIA COLLEGE**  
Est. 1925  
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](http://www.VictoriaCollege.edu) and click on Jobs@VC. EEOE

### 850 HELP WANTED

**VICTORIA COLLEGE**  
Est. 1925  
Victoria College's Workforce & Continuing Education Department is hiring for the following part-time positions:  
**Electrical Instructor**  
**Welding Instructor**  
For more information go to [www.victoriacollege.edu](http://www.victoriacollege.edu) and click on Jobs@VC. Equal-Opportunity Institution

### 850 HELP WANTED

**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](http://www.victoriacollege.edu) and click on Jobs@VC.  
Victoria College is an Equal Opportunity Institution.

**ADVERTISE! 830-672-2861**

### 850 HELP WANTED

**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](http://www.victoriacollege.edu) and click on Jobs@VC. Victoria College is an Equal Opportunity Institution.

### 950 PUBLIC NOTICES

**PLACE YOUR AD ONLINE**

Click on the Classifieds tab at [www.gonzalesinquirer.com](http://www.gonzalesinquirer.com)

**THEN CLICK**

+ Place your ad

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**THEN CLICK**

+ Place your ad

### 950 PUBLIC NOTICES

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Malt Beverage Retailer Permit and Brewpub License, by NightOwlBrewhouse LLC, to be located at 327 Saint George St., Gonzales, TX 78629, Gonzales County. Owner of said limited liability company is Pollyanna Wyckoff.

**SUBSCRIBE!**  
**830-672-2861**

## 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](mailto: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.

## 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.

<b>Project Description:</b>	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

### 950 PUBLIC NOTICES

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Vincent James DeCola were issued on the 22nd day of August, 2023, under Cause No. PW23-0252, pending in the Constitutional County Court, Sitting in Matters Probate of Gonzales County, Texas, to:

**Brandon Ray DeCola and Jarrett Matthew DeCola**

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Estate as follows:

KRISTEN QUINNEY PORTER, LLC  
KRISTEN QUINNEY PORTER  
State Bar No. 00795601  
755 Loop 337, Suite A  
New Braunfels, Texas 78130  
Post Office Box 312643  
New Braunfels, Texas 78131-2643  
Telephone: 830-358-7632

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

DATED the 28th day of December, 2023.

**Brandon Ray DeCola and Jarrett Matthew DeCola**  
KRISTEN QUINNEY PORTER, LLC  
By: /s/ Kristen Quinney Porter  
**Kristen Quinney Porter**  
Attorney for the Estate



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# CLASSIFIEDS

December 28

## Puzzle Answers

**Last Puzzle Solution**

S-1669

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

**LOOK!**  
SEE, ADVERTISING WORKS.  
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**Gonzales Inquirer**  
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### BOB'S BASEBALL TOURS

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.

August 2-12, 2024 \$3,500/person based on double hotel occupancy  
Quality motor coach, hotels & game tickets.

Also offering Arizona/Grand Canyon Spring Training Tour & New York/New England Fall Foliage Tour in '24!

Free Brochure: Call or Text 507-217-1326

**NEED EXTRA CASH !!! ???**

## I BUY RVs & MOBILE HOMES

Travel Trailers • 5th Wheels  
Goosenecks • Bumper Pulls

In Any Area!!! Any Condition!!!  
Old/New !!! Dirty or Clean !!!

**I PAY CASH 956-466-7001**  
No Title – No Problem – We Can Apply For One  
ANR Enterprises

**WE BUY OIL, GAS, & MINERAL RIGHTS**

Both non-producing and producing including Non-Participating Royalty Interest (NPRI)  
Provide us your desired price for an offer evaluation.

CALL TODAY: 806.620.1422

**LOBO MINERALS, LLC**  
PO Box 1800 • Lubbock, TX 79408-1800  
LoboMineralsLLC@gmail.com

## TEXAS STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING NETWORK

# TexSCAN

TexSCAN Week of Dec. 31, 2023-Jan. 6, 2024

**ACREAGE**

**LAND FOR SALE.** Hunting, recreational, retirement. Hill Country, Trans Pecos Region, South Texas. 30-year fixed rate, owner financing. 5% down. www.ranchenterprisesltd.com. 800-876-9720.

**ALMANAC**

The gift that keeps you learning – the *Texas Almanac 2024-2025* is the premier reference for everything Texas. The entire book is revised with the latest information, including the 254 county maps and population estimates for every Texas town. https://www.legacyoftexas.com/product/texas-almanac-2024-2025.

**BASEBALL**

**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!

**ENERGY**

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 7-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-855-704-8579 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Applying for Social Security Disability or Appealing a Denied Claim? Call Bill Gordon & Assoc. Our case managers simplify the process & work hard to help with your case. Call 1-844-494-0689 FREE Consultation. Local Attorneys Nationwide Mail: 2420 N St NW, Washington DC. Office: Broward Co. FL (TX/NM Bar).

**OIL & GAS RIGHTS**

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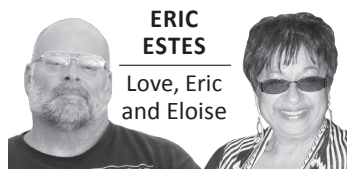
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# Let's Get Started



**ERIC ESTES**

Love, Eric and Eloise

you do when you're young (in any area of life), definitely has repercussions as we grow older, so do yourself a favor and set yourself up for success instead of failure.

Here's an easy and comfortable exercise to help you get started. This will cover multiple muscles, helping you to slowly start building back up. Some light easy stretching and any movement (walking, etc.) that will help you to warm up is recommended. This series of exercises can be done together or separately, in any order, and when ever convenient. For reference, a movement done ten times before stopping is considered: one "set" of ten "repetitions". For those who are just getting started, recovering from injury or are up in age, slow, partial movements are recom-

mended, building slowly as you get stronger, safety being the first priority.

The first exercise we'll cover is the pushup, with several easier variations. This will help strengthen your pushing muscles; The chest (pecs), front shoulders (deltoids), and back of arms (triceps). The standard basic pushup is performed while on the floor with your body supported off the floor by your toes and arms (at about shoulder width apart), slowly lowering your body to just above the floor, then pushing back up. To make them easier they can be done with knees on floor instead of feet, or while standing and leaning against table (at slight angle), or even a wall. This will give you much less resistance, and still allow you to strengthen up. Partial, slow movements are a great way to start, and can be done anywhere, any time. One or more sets, a couple of times per week, or day is a good start. You'll figure out which comfort level and pace is best for you, but please ease into it as this is an ongoing process. More next week, stay tuned...

Love you guys, Eric.



## Heritage Quilters Guild to meet Jan. 9

**SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER**

Shiner Heritage Quilters Guild will meet on Tuesday, Jan. 9, at the Shiner Methodist Church Fellowship Hall.

Members gather around 5 p.m. for socializing and begin the meeting at 5:30 p.m. Carol Danial, owner of The Square Quilter, will show quilts using only three yards of different fabrics from a variety of patterns. This is a fun and easy project.

A work session for making boutique items for the "Spring into Quilting" show is scheduled for the afternoon of the meeting from noon until meeting time.

Members are from Shiner and the surrounding towns and are always eager to welcome visitors and new members. For more information log onto [www.shinerheritagequilters.org](http://www.shinerheritagequilters.org) or email at [info@shiner-heritagequilters.org](mailto:info@shiner-heritagequilters.org).

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PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS

Nixon-Smile junior Tristan Mikesh (1) stares down a Navarro player in the opening tournament match at Nixon-Smile high school Thursday, Dec. 28.

## Lady Mustangs compete in home tourney

BY VANDY VAN EPPS  
Gonzales Inquirer

The Nixon-Smile Lady Mustangs played their final non-district games at their annual Holiday Invitational Thursday, Dec. 28 through Friday, Dec. 29.

The Lady Mustangs started off their home tournament rough with a loss to the San Antonio Christian Lady Lions, 55-33.

Nixon-Smile would fall to Hondo and Blanco on the second day of the tournament.

Entering the home tournament, head coach Trevor Johnson knew his team would be facing a lot of tough opponents, especially as they get ready for district play against Luling.

"It's going to be a battle for us, but it's good going into district so we can go ahead and get some more tough opponents to kind of get us ready and going for this," Johnson said.

"We're kind of looking for a breath of fresh air. We haven't had the best start of the season so far,

See **MUSTANGS**, page 11

## Mustangs finish second in home tournament

BY VANDY VAN EPPS  
Gonzales Inquirer

The Nixon-Smile Mustangs hosted their final non-district games with their annual holiday invitational Thursday, Dec. 28 through Friday, Dec. 29.

The Mustangs kicked off the tournament strong, beating the Navarro Panthers, 55-36, in the first game.

Nixon-Smile head basketball coach Carlton McKinney said his team played fairly well against Navarro after being on a break for six days.

"I thought they struggled early and then they kind of found a rhythm and played really well, so I'm pleased with the end result, but more importantly, the progression that we started with about a month ago, we're still working on it and I thought we took some major strides forward," McKinney said.

The Mustangs took on Hondo, Jouranton, and Lytle, and McKinney knows his team will take the opportunity facing these tough opponents before their first district game against Marion Friday, Jan. 12 at home.

"We set this tournament primarily for that, to where we had some really good teams coming in that would prepare us for district and that to me is the biggest part and today was the first step but we have three other steps that we have to take throughout the rest of the day and tomorrow," McKinney said.

"We're going to try to get better each and every day and kind of clean up some things that we are not very good at right now and prepare for the district which is going to be a tough district schedule for us," McKinney added.

Nixon-Smile finished second in District 26-3A last season and McKinney and his team are looking forward to district.

"I'm actually excited about the opportunity that we are basically a new team. We got three of our top players are graduating, so I'm excited about the roles that our



Nixon-Smile sophomore guard Omar Abundis (10) shoots a layup towards Navarro's basket while battling a defender.



Nixon-Smile head basketball coach Carlton McKinney in the huddle with his players in the tournament match against Navarro Thursday, Dec. 28.

players have now even though returning players have different roles. So it's just a maturation process that we're looking at and we're hoping that it works out the way we would want it to,"

McKinney said. Seniors Kade Dixon and Carl White were named all-tournament.

The Marion game tips off at 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 12.



PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS

Junior Ashly Garcia (13) passes the ball to her teammate Kaylie Morin (15) in the opening match against San Antonio Christian.



Lady Mustangs' junior Juliana Kendrick (21) jumps in the air against a San Antonio Christian player for the tip off of the Holiday Invitational tournament at Nixon-Smile High School.

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Mustangs senior guard Luke Moses (2) shoots two free throws against the Navarro Panthers in a tournament match Thursday, Dec. 28.

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# Apaches fall to La Vernia in district opener

Apaches senior point guard Carlos Martinez (3) defends La Vernia's senior point guard Kel Cardenas (3) in the first district game of the season.



**BY VANDY VAN EPPS**  
Gonzales Inquirer

District basketball has arrived for 4A division class, including district 29 between the Gonzales Apaches and La Vernia Bears Friday, Dec. 29.

The Apaches started off strong against La Vernia ending the first quarter trailing, 16-10, but entering the second quarter the Bears took advantage of Gonzales' turnovers and held them to two points at half.

Gonzales quickly turned things around in the second half defensively holding the Bears to six points at the end of third quarter.

Apaches head basketball coach Steven Pinchback knew entering the third quarter has not been their best quarter this season, but he saw much improvement this time.

"I've been telling them all year. Third quarter is one of the most important quarters. They're starting to believe and they're starting to buy in. And when you do those things, that's the results you get holding these guys at home to six in the third. That was huge," Pinchback said,

Gonzales fell to La Vernia, 67-48, but Pinchback said he was proud of his team's performance against La Vernia and added it'll be a lot different at home.

"We can play with these guys. And that's just show them that we can play with anybody because I know their state ranked, they are 18 19 whatever, but it didn't matter. We got to work on us and get better every day. And I believe we took a big step in that direction today," Pinchback said.

The Apaches will take on San Antonio JFK in the first home district game of the season Wednesday, Jan. 3.

"They're a good team. We've seen them. They have some really good guards. We just got to right now its Gonzalez versus Gonzales. So it doesn't matter the name on the opposing jersey. We got to work on us. As long as we keep doing that. We don't care what the name is on the front. We're worried about us and if we play us, we'll be fine," Pinchback said.

The Apaches will another home game Tuesday, Jan. 9 against San Antonio Memorial. Tip off is set for 6:30 p.m.

**RIGHT:** Gonzales junior Jermane Upshaw (10) defends La Vernia's Logan Maytum (20) in the district opener Friday, Dec. 29. **FAR RIGHT:** Apaches junior shooting guard Gavin Lekgega (1) shoots two free throws against the La Vernia Bears in the district opener Thursday, Dec. 29. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Gonzales freshman point guard Damion Hunt (11) in La Vernia's end of the court for the Apaches possession Friday, Dec. 29 in a district match.

PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS



Apaches head basketball coach Steven Pinchback breaks his team out of the huddle in the district opener against La Vernia Friday, Dec. 29.



## MUSTANGS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

but we're looking to get things going right before district time," Johnson added. "So a lot of these young inexperienced players we have, we're just trying to get a lot of reps and build some competence up, so our team looks pretty deep going into the district."

The Lady Mustangs finished fourth in District 26-3A last season and finished the season as a bi-district finalist.

Johnson is looking forward to beginning district play and the competition it will hold.

"Our district's pretty competitive, but I actually like our chances for the playoffs this year. We come out and we play the way we've been playing, I think that having the tough schedule that we have is going to pay off, and come district time, we'll be ready to get some wins and hopefully make a little bit of a playoff run this year," Johnson said.

Seniors Kendall Amaya and Emmersyn Stone were named to the all-tournament team.

The Lady Mustangs kick off district play Friday, Jan. 5 at home against Luling.

Game tips off at 6:15 p.m.



PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS

Left: Nixon-Smiley junior Ashly Garcia (13) dribbles the ball in San Antonio Christian's side of the court in the tournament match. Above: Lady Mustangs senior Kendall Amaya (12) shoots two free throw shots against San Antonio Christian Thursday, Dec. 28.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

workers rose by 141 from 9,100 to 9,241 and the number filing jobless claims dropped from 311 to 292, a difference of 19.

Earlier this month, the U.S. Department of Labor reported there were 199,000 non-farm jobs added nationally in November. The national unemployment rate edged down to 3.7 percent.

For the state of Texas, unemployment fell from 3.8 percent in October 2023 to 3.5 percent in November 2023, as the number of unemployed people seeking benefits dropped from 578,221 to 535,371. The number of employed Texans increased from 14,605,438 to 14,741,751.

Gonzales County did not have either the lowest or highest jobless rate of the seven counties which comprise the Golden Crescent Workforce Development Area.

For the entire Golden Crescent Workforce Development Area, the unemployment rate for November 2023 was 3.2 percent, a drop of 0.3 percent from the 3.5 percent recorded in October 2023. This represented a total of 2,991 residents in Gonzales, Calhoun, DeWitt, Goliad, Jackson, Lavaca and Victoria counties seeking employment out of a total workforce of 92,984 people. There were 820 more people in the workforce and a total of 248 fewer people filed jobless claims in the Golden Crescent area while 1,068 jobs were added.

The counties in the Golden Crescent with the lowest unemployment rate were Lavaca County at 2.8 percent, followed by Calhoun County at 2.9 percent, Jackson County and DeWitt Counties at 3.0 percent, Gonzales and Goliad counties at 3.1 percent and Victoria County bringing up the rear at 3.5 percent.

Unemployment rates since November 2021 for Gonzales County are:

- Nov. 2021, 3.5 percent
- Dec. 2021, 3.2 percent
- Jan. 2022, 3.6 percent
- Feb. 2022, 3.4 percent
- March 2022, 2.7 percent.

- April 2022, 2.6 percent.
- May 2022, 2.9 percent.
- June 2022, 3.5 percent.
- July 2022, 3.2 percent.
- Aug. 2022, 3.2 percent.
- Sept. 2022, 3.1 percent.
- Oct. 2022, 3.1 percent.
- Nov. 2022, 3.1 percent
- Dec. 2022, 2.7 percent.
- Jan. 2023, 3.7 percent.
- Feb. 2023, 4.0 percent.
- March 2023, 3.5 percent.

- April 2023, 3.2 percent.
- May 2023, 3.5 percent.
- June 2023, 3.7 percent.
- July 2023, 4.0 percent.
- Aug. 2023, 4.0 percent.
- Sept. 2023, 3.5 percent.
- Oct. 2023, 3.3 percent.
- Nov. 2023, 3.1 percent

## SHELTER

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is open from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Thursdays and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

For information about the shelter, email info@kingdomrescue.org. For adoptions, email adoptions@kingdomrescue.org. The new shelter phone number is 830-333-9006 (extension 2 for GPAC; extension 3 for Kingdom Rescue) while the website is kingdomrescue.org. Their new Facebook page is Gonzales Pet Adoption Center - GPAC.



## FUNDRAISER

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campaigns by raising more than \$30,000 through this event. The majority of these funds are awarded to GISD classrooms and campuses through the Foundation's Innovative Teaching grant program for learning and curriculum enhancement.

"We are glad to be able to bring this enjoyable event back, providing a night of excitement and fun for our generous donors while helping to advance the Foundation's mission. All tickets are available pre-sale only," the Foundation stated on

**“ We are glad to be able to bring this enjoyable event back, providing a night of excitement and fun for our generous donors while helping to advance the Foundation’s mission. All tickets are available pre-sale only.”**

—Gonzales Independent School District Education Foundation

its website.

Doors will open at 5 p.m. with a cocktail hour and mingling until dinner is served at 6 p.m. Gaming tables open at

7 p.m., and a cash bar will be open throughout the evening.

High Roller Table (\$3,000 donation) includes a reserved sponsor table, 10 entry tickets,

10 drink tokens, table charcuterie, meal for each table guest, recognition signage, a gift, and \$20,000 in chips for use at all gaming tables.

VIP table (\$1,000 donation) includes admission for 10, a reserved table, meal for each table guest, recognition signage, and \$10,000 in chips for use at all gaming tables. There are a limited number of VIP tables.

General admission tickets (\$75 donation per person) also include meal, cash bar, and \$1,000 in chips for use at all gaming tables.

## CHAMBER

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work. Nominees must live in the Gonzales Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture area.

The award can be considered posthumous provided his/her death occurred within the last three years for which the award is being presented. Previous recipients of the David B. Walshak Lifetime Achievement Award or the Community Service Award shall be ineligible for nomination.

Award nominations can be made by emailing admin@gonzalestexas.com or filling out a form at the Chamber of Commerce office at 304 Saint Louis St., Gonzales, prior to 4 p.m. Jan. 30.

Recipients of the awards will be announced at the Gonzales Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture Excellence Gala & Awards Ceremony 2024, to be held the evening of Thursday, Feb. 22 at JB Wells Expo. The event will start at 5:30 p.m. and will feature an array of silent and live auction items, dinner service, live music, and an opportunity to socialize with others in attendance. Stay tuned for ticket and sponsorship table

information.

New board members will be announced and retiring board members and officers will be recognized.

### THE DAVID B. WALSHAK AWARD

The David B. Walshak Lifetime Achievement Award is presented to a person who has proved worthy of distinction in the Community. This Lifetime Achievement Award is appropriately named after a man who gave of himself unselfishly to his family, friends, church and community.

A banker by profession, David B. Walshak was a two-time recipient of the Gonzales Chamber of Commerce "Citizen of the Year Award," once in 1961, the other in 1972. He served as Director and President of the Gonzales Chamber of Commerce and in 1974 was a Charter Member of the Minutemen, ambassadors of our Chamber of Commerce. He served as Chairman of the Gonzales Sesquicentennial Committee from 1973-1975, President of the Gonzales Area

Development Corporation and Director of the Texas Allied Poultry Association from 1975-1976.

He served as Past President of many organizations, such as the Gonzales Noon Lions Club, the Gonzales Apache Quarterback Club, the Gonzales Baseball Association, the Gonzales Warm Springs Foundation/Texas Rehabilitation Hospital and the Board of the Gonzales Independent School District. He was a member of the Gonzales Apache Band Boosters, the Parish Council of the Saint James Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus, where he served as Grand Knight of Council #5090 in Gonzales. He was a member of the Texas National Guard, where he was given the opportunity to aid the victims of Hurricane Carla; he was instrumental in organizing a United Fund Community project and was the Chairman of the United Fund Drive for four separate years and chaired the Cancer Drive on two separate occasions.

David's love for sports carried him from a professional

baseball team shortly after graduation in high school to 26 years of play by play announcing of Gonzales Apache football games for the local radio station. In those 26 years he only missed three games. He managed Little League teams from 1955-1960, then again from 1967-1974, and he also managed Youth League Baseball.

David B. Walshak earned recognition from many sources such as: Outstanding Young Men of America in 1965; Personalities of the South in 1973, 1974 and the Bicentennial Edition in 1976; Notable Americans of the Bicentennial Era; Presidential Commendation "in recognition of exceptional service to others, in the finest American tradition; from President Richard M. Nixon in 1973; Honorary Membership into the Texas 4-H Clubs in 1975; Honorary Chapter Farmer in the FFA; Honorary Membership in the Young Farmers in 1976; South Central Texas Semi-Pro Baseball Hall of Fame in 1973; Lions Club "Citizen of the Year" Award in 1975 and "Who's Who Among Texas Bankers" in 1975.

**Register December 4th, 2023 - January 5th, 2024 \*space is limited\***



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