

The Gonzales Inquirer

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Noon Lions Club announces next phase of East Avenue Lions Park renovations

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Gonzales Noon Lions Club has only just begun when it comes to renovations and expansion at East Avenue Lions Park playground. Phase One of the project, which

includes installing a sunshade over the seating area of the splash pad, has been completed, but now attention has shifted to the second phase, which includes removing the 25 year-old playscape and replacing it with an all-inclusive, ADA safety compliant playscape and addi-

tional park seating that can be used by all members of the community, according to club members.

“We have worked alongside community leaders to design a playground that will welcome all kids and families of all abilities to learn, play, and grow to-

gether,” said Gonzales Noon Lions Club Foundation President Cindy Rodriguez, Gonzales Noon Lions Club President Cynthia Green and Park Improvement Chairperson Garen Reese in a press

See **PARK**, page 14



Pictured with Juan and Amelia Martinez are Dr. Commie Hisey and the Gonzales Healthcare Systems OB nursing staff.

GONZALES COUNTY

Election judges, clerks will receive pay bump

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

Gonzales County’s presiding election judges and election clerks will get a small bump in pay beginning in February after action taken

Monday, Jan. 8, by the Gonzales County Commissioners Court.

Commissioners agreed to raise the salary of election judges from \$12 per hour to

See **ELECTION**, page 14

Almaguer sentenced to 10 years probation, must pay \$65K in restitution

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Jennifer Lynn Almaguer will have to pay back \$65,000 in restitution to the Gonzales Little League and serve 10 years probation after plead-

ing guilty to theft of property charges Tuesday, Jan. 9, in a Gonzales County courtroom. Almaguer appeared before 2nd 25th Judicial District

See **SENTENCE**, page 14

Welcome to the world!

Gonzales Healthcare Systems welcomes first baby of 2024

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Well, that didn’t take too long! Gonzales Healthcare Systems’ first baby of the new

year has arrived! The 2024 New Year’s baby was born on Jan. 1, 2024.

Juan and Amelia Martinez are the proud parents of baby J.J. Martinez, who was born at 8:16 p.m. Jan. 1, making him the first baby born at GHS this year. He weighed in at a healthy seven pounds, four ounces and was 21 inches long.

The New Year’s baby re-

ceived a big bag full of baby goodies, pacifiers, diapers and more from Gonzales Healthcare Systems. A beautiful La-Z-Boy rocker/recliner was also donated to the Martinez family by Edwards Furniture.

Gonzales Healthcare Systems wishes the New Year’s baby and family a healthy and happy new year!

Former GVEC general manager Hines remembered

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Members of the Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative (GVEC) are mourning the loss of former general manager Milton Doyle Hines, who passed away Jan. 6, 2024, at the age of 92.



Hines

See **HINES**, page 13

Exercise your freedom of choice for Reader’s Choice

FROM STAFF REPORTS

It’s that time of year — time to vote for the Gonzales Inquirer Readers Choice awards.

Readers are asked to vote using the ballot on page 7 in this edition of the newspaper to determine who will be the

See **CHOICE**, page 14

Police investigating shooting incident that led to injury

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Gonzales police are looking for the person who fired gunshots that injured a female victim Monday, Jan. 8.

Lt. Jason Montoya with the Gonzales Police Department said GPD received a call at about 4:30 a.m. Monday from a female individual advising that she had been shot. The incident took place in the 1100 block of St. Andrew Street.

When officers arrived at the residence, they discovered the female victim with a gunshot wound to her leg and provided first aid. Gonzales County Emergency Services District No. 1 EMS was called out and responded to the residence, transporting the victim to Gonzales Memorial Hospital to be treated.

Gonzales Police Department is

See **SHOOTING**, page 13

GISD approves TASB updates, election contract with county

BY VANDY VAN EPPS

Gonzales Inquirer

Gonzales ISD returned from the its holiday break and kicked off the new year with its regularly scheduled meeting Monday, Jan. 8.

One of the main agenda items that were discussed was two updates to the Texas

See **GISD**, page 13

Council discusses transparency of board appointment process

BY VANDY VAN EPPS

Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales City Council met for their regular monthly

meeting Monday, Jan. 8 at city hall.

One of the big agenda items that was brought up in last month’s meeting was the

voting process regarding the city’s boards, commission or committees.

Councilwoman Ronda Miller brought this item to the

council after hearing concerns from citizens about how the voting process is done.

See **COUNCIL**, page 14



RWOYA announces candidate forums in Yoakum

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

In keeping with the mission of educating the voting public, the Republican Women of the Yoakum Area are providing two opportunities for Republican candidates to meet and speak to the voters.

Forums are scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 13, and Saturday, Feb. 7, at the Yoakum Commu-

nity Center, 105 Huck St., Yoakum. Local candidates will be invited to participate in “meet and greets” at both forums.

JAN. 13 FORUM

Candidates will set up tables at 4 p.m. and doors open to the public at 5 p.m. There will be a meet and greet the candidates with light refreshments available from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The forum with questions begins at 6 p.m. for state and federal candidates, while local candidates will be recognized.

Invitations for participation in the forum have been sent to contested candidates for state and federal offices. Regional, district and local candidates have been invited to participate in the meet and greet.

State and federal candidates

for U.S. District House 27 and State Representatives District 30 and other state candidates have confirmed. They will speak and be asked questions by a moderator.

Campaign, materials and signs will be available at federal, state and local candidates’ tables.

FEB. 7 FORUM

Local candidates from

DeWitt, Lavaca, and Gonzales counties will have a second opportunity to meet and greet the voters. They will also be given an opportunity to make opening and closing statements and receive a limited number of questions from a moderator at the forum program, scheduled for Feb. 7. Time schedule will be the same as the Jan. 13 forum.



Savannah White Heximer

CONTRIBUTED

Sassy soprano returns to Gonzales for one-night only show at the Crystal

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

She came into this world singing and has never stopped. Savannah White Heximer has wowed family, friends, and the community of Gonzales with her singing and will do so again this weekend on the Crystal Theatre stage.

As an infant, a ride in the car was not enough; there had to be music for her to sleep. “Deep in the Heart of Texas” and “Old MacDonald” floated up from her car seat. After watching “Phantom of the Opera,” she learned every song and sang them nearly pitch perfect ... at five. She stepped out on the stage at the Crystal Theatre’s youth program with two older and bigger children, but only her voice could be heard.

A woman in attendance — we’ll call her Willa — informed Savannah’s mom about a youth choir at Texas Lutheran University in Seguin. The choir director listened to her sing and allowed her to participate. Savannah was seven and a half; youth were supposed to be nine to join.

Her parents supported and encouraged, but never forced, her to sing. Knowing this was her passion and a gift to be opened, her family decided that Savannah’s desire to sing warranted an education that nurtured her talent. After searching nationwide and internationally, her family opted for a public school

in Houston. Savannah auditioned for and was accepted to HSPVA (High School for Performing and Visual Arts, now called Kinder HSPVA). She graduated in 2021.

Savannah was accepted to and is in her third year of studies at the prestigious Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York. The school was inspired and funded by George Eastman, the founder of Eastman Kodak. She will graduate with a bachelor’s degree in music and aspires to sing opera around the world.

She has returned to her hometown of Gonzales for the winter break and wants to share her gift of song with those who have encouraged her. She will be performing at the Crystal Theatre this Saturday night, Jan. 13. Her concert will include opera, classical and contemporary music. Come and Take It Dance school will showcase its talented dancers who study under the ever-smiling and professional dancer Gary Franco. In addition to entertainment, light refreshments and a raffle will take place at intermission. Doors will open at 6 p.m.

Savannah is using all proceeds for tuition and educational expenses. Tickets can be purchased online (www.savannah-heximersoprano.com) or purchased at the Crystal Theatre box office on the evening of the concert. Come and hear her!

Precinct 1 Constable Hall seeks re-election

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

I’m Johnnie Hall and I’m asking for your support in my re-election campaign as Precinct 1 Constable in Gonzales County.

I was born and raised here and am a member of the graduating class of 1990 at Gonzales High School. After four years in the US Army I returned to Gonzales County where I met and married my wife, Missy. We are a Christian family and currently worship at Two Rivers Bible Church.

As an active member of the community, I proudly belong to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #4817 and the Gonzales Elks Lodge #2413. I volunteered with Gonzales County EMS & Rescue beginning in 1994 and continued to serve when it transitioned to Gonzales County Emergency Services District 1. Throughout my years as a volunteer, I have held



positions of Rescue Technician, President of the Board of Directors and Commissioner/Assistant Treasurer for Gonzales County Emergency Services District 1. Previously, I was commissioned with Gonzales County Sheriff’s Office as a Reserve Deputy and have also worked with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice for two years at a maximum-security prison. In addition, I am a licensed Paramedic and retired as a Commander with Austin-Travis County EMS after twenty-one

years of service.

My tenure as Constable has been demonstrated by three years of diligent service, along with recognition as a Master Peace Officer by the State of Texas. As a man of my word, I keep my promises to the citizens of Gonzales County and vow to continue to improve the Office I now hold. My goal is and always has been to be available, active and visible in the community I serve. I would appreciate your vote as I seek to continue my work as Precinct 1 Constable in Gonzales County.

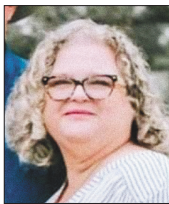
Thank you, Constable Johnnie Hall
Editor’s Note: The Inquirer will run one political announcement per candidate at no charge when the candidate makes his or her initial announcement. All other announcements by political candidates must be in the form of paid political advertising.

Teacher Tanya Lloyd announces run for District 27 seat

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Seventeen-year public school teacher, Tanya Lloyd of Lockhart, announces she is running for the 27th Congressional District versus incumbent U.S. Rep. Michael Cloud, R-Victoria.

“I am not a politician, I’m a first grade public school teacher. As a life-long Republican voter, I am running as a Democrat for Congress because I am deeply concerned about the future of this country: the extreme attacks on our public education system, on women’s healthcare, and the political division threatening our



Lloyd

democracy,” said Tanya Lloyd.

“Unfortunately, our country is in a tough place and our district needs strong, mature representation in Washington

that our current representative is not providing.”

Tanya Lloyd is a first grade public school teacher, a wife, and a mother. She is running to address the economic challenges of TX-27, including the pressing challenges of rural healthcare,

to stand-up for her students and their families and make sure our community has a constructive voice in Washington.

Tanya’s campaign website is www.TanyaForTX27.com or follow the campaign on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram— @TanyaForTX27.

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GEDC to co-host South Texas Job Fair

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Gonzales Economic Development Corporation — along with their counterparts from Yoakum, Cuero and Hallettsville — will host a South Texas Regional Job Fair this Thursday, Jan. 11, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Cuero Municipal Park Clubhouse, 201 Leonard Roy Harmon Drive, Cuero.

The South Texas Job Fair is a unique opportunity for job seekers to find their next career move and for businesses to recruit the region’s top talent. Job seekers can meet face-to-face with local employers, explore a wide range of job opportunities and enhance their network and make valuable connections — all for free.

For more information, visit stxjobfair.com.

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Celebrations

Birthdays

January 11th Marsha Decker Andy Hohensell Terry Pierpont	January 15th Gary Heximer Sheri Shelton
January 12th Josh Daniel Ashley Guerra Courtney Williams Janice Wyatt	January 16th Joey Moss Lupe Saldana
January 13th Diane Cook Kathy Lacina Keith Schmidt	January 17th Lance Cox Andrea De Los Santos Peyton Harkey Leah Richter Kelley Spahn Greg Webb

Anniversary

January 14th
Jesse & Mary Jane Cardenas








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Gonzales Weather

	January 11 73°/53°	Rather cloudy and mild 25% chance of rain • RealFeel 70
	January 12 66°/44°	Abundant sunshine 0% chance of rain • RealFeel 68
	January 13 58°/37°	Cooler with increasing cloudiness 5% chance of rain • RealFeel 55
	January 14 58°/31°	Mostly sunny 0% chance of rain • RealFeel 55
	January 15 63°/37°	Sun and clouds 0% chance of rain • RealFeel 62
	January 16 51°/33°	Sun through high clouds and cooler 0% chance of rain • RealFeel 46
	January 17 49°/38°	Cloudy 1% chance of rain • RealFeel 45

Upcoming Events at J.B. Wells Park in Gonzales

January 12th – 14th
3 Amigos Cutting

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Annual Knights of Columbus Wild Game Supper set for Jan. 27

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The annual Knights of Columbus Wild Game Supper will be held at the K of C Hall in Hallettsville from 5:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 27.

This is a fun night everyone waits for all year and it could be your lucky night to win a new Kawasaki Mule with 12-foot trailer or one of 75 new guns in the annual gun drawing. More than \$50,000 in prizes are up for grabs in the drawings.

Tickets for the drawings are available at Hoffers Drive-in Grocery, Rainosek's True Value and at the K of C Hall. There will be a \$12 hall admission and supper is free. Doors open at 5 p.m.

There will be an abundance of expertly prepared crawfish, deer, hog, dove, duck, wild rice, duck gumbo, Lavaca County sausage and wild pinto beans — all marinated and prepared by head cook Brother Richard Henke and Lavaca County's prestigious wild game chefs.

See the results of this year's Big Buck Contest or get into a game of dominoes or just visit with folks. There will be commercial display booths and vendors as well.

There are plenty of full camper hook ups available. Just call 361-798-2311.

Garden Q&A with CALVIN FINCH



Seeds not sprouting? Age may be the issue

Q. I like to grow as many vegetables from seed as I can but this year I have not had good luck getting leaf lettuce and English peas to germinate. The English pea seed was 4 years old and that may be the problem. Would the leaf lettuce fail to germinate because of the cold weather?

A. I agree that the English peas may not be germinating because of their age. Buy some new seed, soak it in water overnight, and then plant it ¼ inch deep. The most common problem with leaf lettuce is the problem of covering the seed. Rework the row and then lay the seed on the soil surface. Do not cover it with any soil or mulch. It should germinate.

Q. If we plant pepper flavored suet what species of birds should be attracted to the feeder?

A. In my San Antonio neighborhood we attract chickadees, titmice, kinglets, cardinals, orange-crowned warblers, myrtle warblers, mockingbirds, English sparrows, ladder-backed woodpeckers, golden fronted woodpeckers, and downy woodpeckers to the feeders. The pepper flavored suet is not eaten by the squirrels.

Q. What is the sticky material that is seeping out of some of the branches on our peach trees? It looks like the branches are dying. Is it borers?

A. The sticky sap is bacterial secretion. Peach trees in our area are not usually bothered by borers but they are especially susceptible to the disease bacterial canker. It kills the branches and eventually the tree. Prune off the infected branches

beyond the point of infection.

Q. When will the grassy weed rescue grass begin to set seed? What is the complicated shaped broadleaf weed that is growing among the rescue grass? We have been mowing it. Will that prevent it from growing next winter?

A. Mowing the weeds to prevent seeding will reduce some of the seed supply but the best treatment is to apply a premergent herbicide such as Dimension or Crew at the end of August. Follow label instructions.

Q. What is the deal with dianthus? I purchased some transplants last fall because they were attracting so many butterflies at the nursery. Now they have reduced their bloom, and I am attempting to remove them from their containers. The problem is that the roots are so tight and compact the root ball hangs together like it is glued! Is that normal? How do I deal with it?

A. Yes, it is normal! I usually just keep them in place until they quit blooming and recycle the plant, roots and all in the compost pile. Sometimes you can cut the root ball into quarters or halves and add new soil to one or more of the pieces. If you are patient the soil will fall apart and can be collected in the compost pile.

Q. We harvested some of our kale from our vegetable garden to make a salad last week. It was okay but not as good as some dishes we have had at restaurants like Luby's. It needed some vinegar and maybe some cranberries. Have you any more suggestions to improve the taste?

A. Look for a recipe on the computer or take another trip to Luby's and note the ingredients in the salad you like. I like to mix kale with Swiss Chard, beet greens or even collards and cook them together with some bacon grease. Try the mild greens listed along with your vinegar and cranberries in the salad.

Q. I have a beautiful patch of primula growing in a series of containers. As an emergency I got some slug and snail bait when the slugs moved in. I would rather use an organic control. Are the beer traps that you have described over the years considered an organic control?

A. Yes, the beer traps are considered an organic control. Place a plastic glass half filled with beer sunk in the ground at the soil surface level in every container and have some outside the containers. If the containers are tall enough you may get by just using the containers in the bed around the containers. You know there are organic slug and snail baits that work well and are easier to use than beer traps.

Q. How do we get a sunflower patch to grow so we can attract the butterflies and lesser goldfinches?

A. If you have a neighbor with a sunflower patch see if you can have some of his/her extra seed and lay it out on the soil where you want it to grow. You can also get the seed for annual sunflowers from your nurseries seed rack or suppliers such as Native American Seed in Junction or Douglas Seed Company in San Antonio. The patch requires full sun.

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LIVESTOCK WEEKLY REPORTS

GONZALES LIVESTOCK MARKET

January 6th
Cattle - 660
Compared to our last sale:
Number 1 choice calves and yearlings sold steady to 3.00-4.00 higher. Less quality calves and yearlings sold steady.
Packer cows sold steady & bulls sold steady.
Stocker-feeder Steers: Medium and large-frame No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 285-335; 300-400 lbs., 295-335; 400-500 lbs., 260-325; 500-600 lbs., 230-290; 600-700 lbs., 200-240; 700-800 lbs., 195-215.
Bull Yearlings: 700-900 lbs., 90-155.
Stocker-feeder heifers: Medium and large-frame No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 285-330; 300-400 lbs., 235-310; 400-500 lbs., 231-259; 500-600 lbs., 210-241; 600-700 lbs., 185-225.
Packer Cows: Good lean utility and commercial, 72-86; Cutters, 89-94; Canners, 52-78; High yielding fat cows, 74-89.
Packer Bulls: Yield grade 1 & 2, good heavy bulls, 112-117; Light weights and medium quality bulls, 100-110.
Stocker Cows: \$750 to \$1,500. Pairs: \$1,100 to \$1,600.

NIXON LIVESTOCK
January 8th
Cattle - 1458

Steers:
200-300 lbs - \$270-280-375
300-400 lbs - \$268-278-361
400-500 lbs - \$241-251-345
500-600 lbs - \$219-229-285
600-700 lbs - \$207-217-255
700-800 lbs - \$191-201-225
Heifers:
200-300 lbs - \$236-246-325
300-400 lbs - \$247-257-335
400-500 lbs - \$217-227-305
500-600 lbs - \$202-212-329
600-700 lbs - \$188-198-227
700-800 lbs - \$176-186-205
Slaughter Cows - \$65-88
Slaughter Bulls - \$96-108
Stocker Cows - \$900-1100
Pairs: \$700-1350

SEGUIN CATTLE CO.
January 3rd
Quality not very deep. Overall a good start to 2024.
Cattle - 284
Sheep & goats - 383
Medium & large frame #1 Steers:
200-300 lb. .80-1.65-3.35
300-400 lb. .85-2.09-2.85
400-500 lb. .60- 2.15-2.90
500-600 lb. .90-1.99-2.75
600-700 lb. .20-1.35-2.18
700-850 lb. 1.10-1.40-1.88
Medium & large frame #1 Heifers:
200-300 lb. .50-1.82-2.70
300-400 lb. .95-1.83-2.93
400-500 lb. .85-1.81-2.35
500-600 lb. .75-1.71-2.44
600-750 lb. .86-1.48-2.05

Cows:
Utility & commercial - .50-.85-.99
Cutters - .67-.77-.86
Cannors - .57-.69-.78
Palpated cows - 1050-1200
Cow/Calf Pairs - 1650-2100
Bulls:
Heavy High Yielding - 1.00-1.15
Light & Low Yielding -.85-.99
Sheep & Goats:
Nannies - 50-160
Kid Goats (Fat) - 2.20-3.15
Wethers - 1.50-3.10
Billies - 1.60-2.45
Dorp. Ewes - 70-160
Dorp. Lambs (Fat) - 2.20-3.15
Woolled Ewes - NONE
Woolled Bucks - 1.20-1.95
Lambs - 2.00-2.10
Barb. Bucks - 240-350

CUERO LIVESTOCK MARKET
January 5, 2024
Number of head 1,111
There were 169 cows and 26 bulls. Top packer bull was up to \$122/cwt while tops on packer cows was up to \$105/cwt. A good supply sold well. Demand is very strong to begin this year on an upbeat. The calf market was much higher across the board. New year is off to a great start as calves averaged over \$123 higher than last sale as a result of almost \$14/cwt higher price and 25 more pounds of weight.
Packer bulls: 94.00-122.00

Packer cows:
cannors & cutters 78.00-105.00
poor & weak 30.00-57.00
Palpated: 30 BRED 92.00-143.00
13 by the head \$1,050-\$1,675
PAIRS: 3 \$1,075-\$1,600
Steer Calves:
250-299 lbs. 296.00-315.00
300-350 lbs. 304.00-332.00
350-400 lbs. 285.00-321.00
400-450 lbs. 254.00-314.00
450-500 lbs. 264.00-310.00
500-550 lbs. 255.00-286.00
550-600 lbs. 235.00-256.00
600-700 lbs. 226.00-242.00
700-800 lbs. 202.00-224.00
Bull Calves: (AVG-HIGH)
Under 250lbs 261.00-344.00
250-300 lbs. 283.00-348.00
300-350 lbs. 279.00-335.00
350-400 lbs. 279.00-322.00
400-450 lbs. 263.00-308.00
450-500 lbs. 257.00-305.00
500-550 lbs. 242.00-276.00
550-600 lbs. 229.00-250.00
600-700 lbs. 212.00-244.00
Over 700 lbs. 179.00-212.00
Heifer Calves: (AVG-HIGH)
under 200 lbs. 253.00-315.00
200-250 lbs. 262.00-326.00
250-300 lbs. 246.00-320.00
300-350 lbs. 243.00-318.00
350-400 lbs. 243.00-312.00
400-450 lbs. 237.00-292.00
450-500 lbs. 234.00-282.00
500-550 lbs. 223.00-271.00
550-600 lbs. 222.00-254.00
600-700 lbs. 205.00-224.00
Over 700 lbs 173.00-200.00

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GVEC Standard & Poor's financial rating increased

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

GVEC, a cooperative that provides reliable and affordable electricity, internet, HVAC, solar and battery storage, and electrician services, is proud to announce that it has received a one-notch upgrade to its rating from Standard & Poor's (S&P).

This upgraded rating reflects GVEC's strengthened financial position, its robust energy hedging strategy and underscores its commitment to providing cost-effective solutions to its valued customers while supporting grid stability.

In a recent press release, S&P Global Ratings stated it raised its issuer credit rating to "A" from "A-" on GVEC and its underlying rating (SPUR) to "A-1" from "A-2" on GVEC's commercial paper notes citing "the outlook, where applicable, is stable."

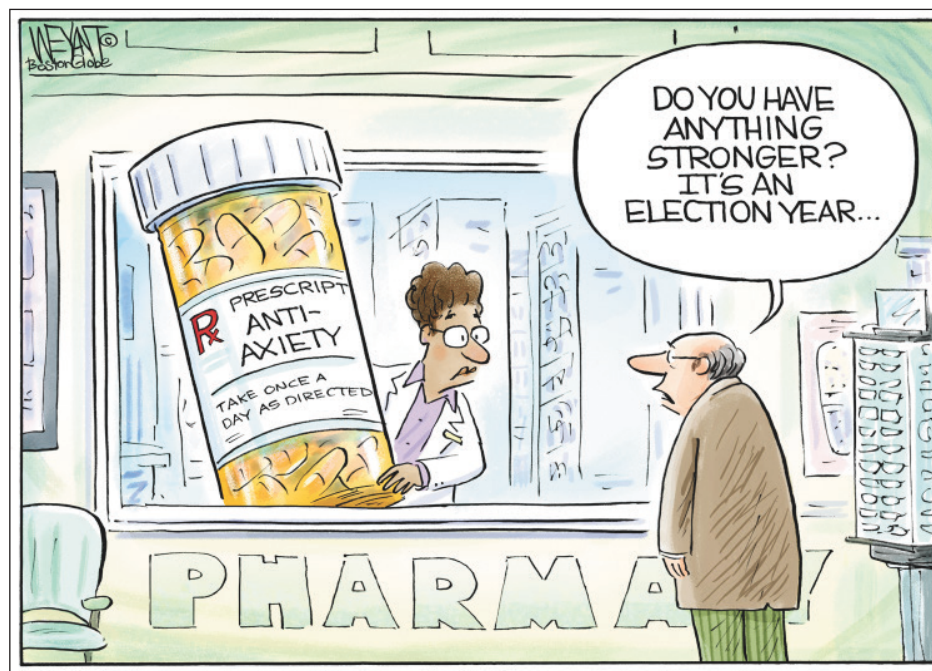
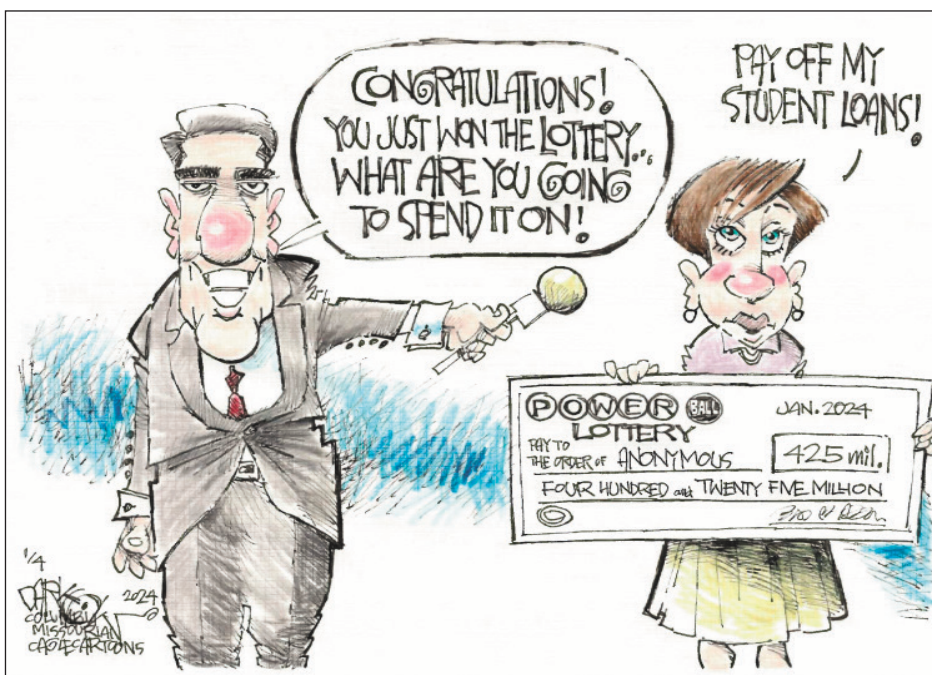
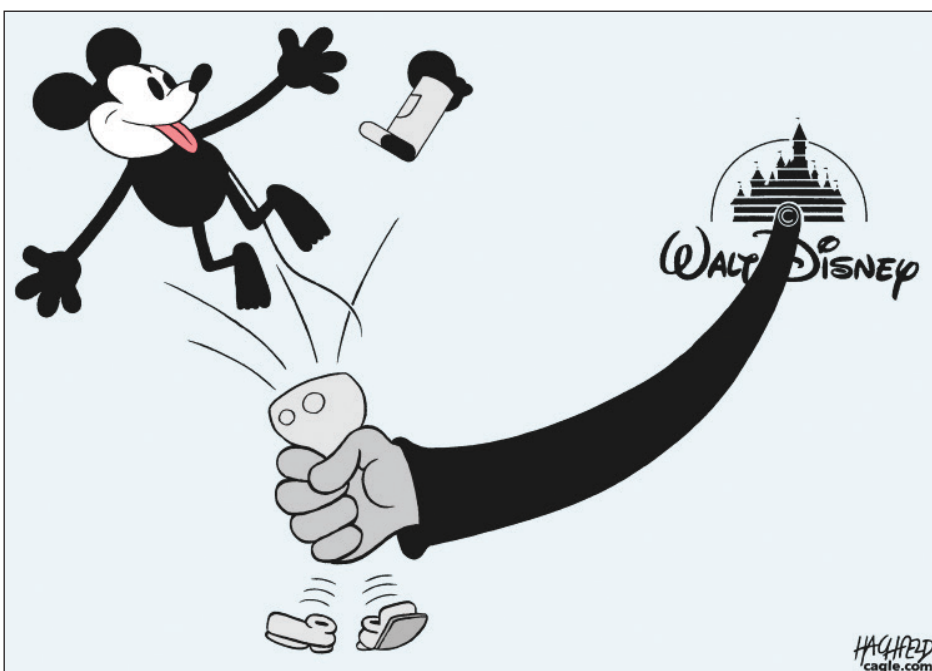
"The raised ratings reflect our opinion of GVEC's commitment to maintaining a high level of liquidity through its lines of credit, implementation of rate increases to maintain sound financial performance, and more robust procurement strategy that shielded the utility's operational and financial performance during peak winter and summer demand in 2022 and 2023," said S&P Global Ratings credit analyst Alexandra Rozgonyi.

The upgraded financial rating from S&P further positions GVEC as a strong financial counterparty as it accesses the capital and power supply markets. This strengthened rating helps to ensure lower costs borrowing and more attractive power supply transactions.

By leveraging its improved creditworthiness, GVEC can invest in infrastructure upgrades, and innovative technologies that enhance the reliability and efficiency of the electrical grid and expand its services. These investments not only ensure a more resilient and sustainable energy future but also result in significant cost savings for its cooperative members over time.

Overall, high credit ratings from reputable ratings agencies like S&P open doors that expand opportunities to access the short and long-term financial markets and encourage lenders to compete for the Cooperative's business. Utilizing these markets as part of a long-term debt strategy ultimately helps keep GVEC's rates lower and contributes to their goal of maintaining affordable service for its membership.

"GVEC is pleased to receive this recognition from S&P, which reflects our ongoing commitment to financial stability, grid reliability, and customer-centric operations," said GVEC General Manager and CEO Darren Schauer. "This improved rating not only validates our efforts but also confirms GVEC remains a solid, financially strong cooperative."



Little engines that can...

Compared to the glamour and glitz of Broadway's "Great White Way" in New York City, two Texas venues fall a bit short. Yet, by many standards, they stand equally tall.

I'm referencing Waxahachie, TX, and Brownwood, TX, where the Texas and Lyric Theaters, respectively, have been successfully resurrected. Each has scheduled plays early this year that are "must see" for my wife, Brenda, and me. In a world where headlines scream of violence, starvation, fractured budgets, wars and threats of immigration overrun, we visit community theaters for the same reasons folks attended movies during World War II.

At least we can retreat from reality for a couple of hours....

First up is the Texas Theater offers Amon: The Ultimate Texan, with 8 p.m. productions scheduled January 19-20 and February 23-24. Tickets are now on sale for the grand one-man show that is reflective of the keen insight, meticulous research and humorous persona of Dave Lieber. He is an author and certified public speaker who is best known for his twice-weekly "Watchdog" columns in the Dallas Morning News. The play's first major run was at the Scott Theater in Fort Worth, where most performances were sold out.

It has played in several West Texas cities and has been a smash hit for all 52 performances. The life of the late Amon Carter--longtime publisher of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram and owner of Texas' first TV station and Radio Station WBAP--is brilliantly portrayed by Kelvin Dilks. He was formerly a Birdville ISD trustee and is a retired teacher.

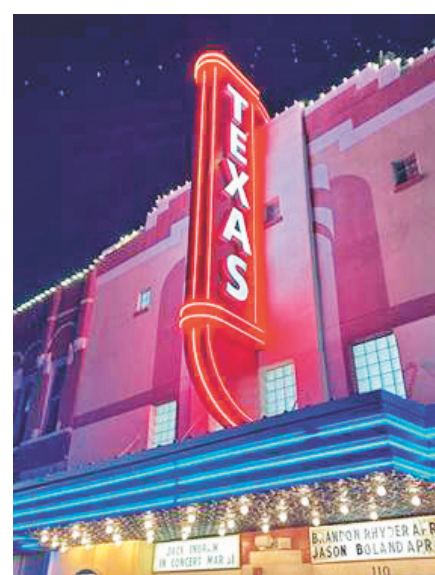
It is directed by Connie Sanchez, also a retired teacher. She maintains a sparkling narrative that is caring, accurate and "gollie funny," continually emphasizing Amon's love of his hometown and disdain for Dallas. When "Big D" was chosen for the 1936 Texas Centennial, Amon was furious as he staged a competing extravaganza in Cowtown, hoping that visitors would "choose Dallas for culture and Fort Worth for fun." We've ordered 40 tickets for senior adults at our church, anticipating "sold out" status for all performances. Word has gotten around that this is a "must see" play about a man well known throughout Texas and the Southwest, and perhaps the late Will Rogers' best friend....

Like the Lyric, the Texas opened over a century ago as a vaudeville venue. It was darkened several times by fires and the impact of TV. Its current vitality is largely attributed to Jon and Alyssa Garrett of Waxahachie.

Early in the 2000s, three Brownwood citizens began a campaign to restore the Lyric to its original opulence. Mostly through modest donations, they've raised more than \$4,000,000, an unprecedented Texas response. The 367-seat house is beyond regal, probably more so than when it opened in 1920. Managing Director Eric Evans confirms that more than 30,000 persons attended 2023 productions, with even more expected in 2024.

Brenda and I--along with a small army of senior adults from our church--will be on hand for the matinee performance of All Shook Up on April 13....

See NEWBURY, page 12



Texas Theater

Letters to the Editor Policy

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.

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.

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 • 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.

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Apaches fall to Rockets at home, 59-44



BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales Apaches hosted the San Antonio JFK Rockets in the second district game of the season Wednesday, Jan. 3.

The Apaches and the Rockets exchanged points and ended the half tied at 27-27, but Gonzales' third-quarter problems plagued them in the second half.

Gonzales fell to JFK, 59-44.

Apaches head basketball coach Steven Pinchback said JFK hit shots that they didn't make in the first half and added that he told his players that the third quarter is the most important.

See **BASKETBALL**, page 6



PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS

Above: Junior Gavin Lekegega (1) shoots a free throw against San Antonio JFK in the second district match of the season. Left: Senior Weston Ruddock (2) dribbles the ball down court with a JFK defender following in the second district game of the season.



VANDY VAN EPPS

Junior Scarlett Cerda (3) steals the ball from a San Antonio Memorial player in the, 52-35, win Tuesday, Jan. 9.

Lady Apaches stall Rockets' offense in blowout win

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales Lady Apaches got back on the winning track with a 51-24 blowout road win over the JFK Lady Rockets on Wednesday, Jan. 3.

The Lady Apaches' defense came to play against the Lady Rockets, holding them to only three points total in the first half.

Lady Apaches head basketball coach Mark Belford said his team pressed more on JFK's offense throughout the game and sped up the game while doing so.

"It was a whole team effort. And I'm just glad to say



VANDY VAN EPPS

Junior point guard Bella Aguero (2) dribbles the ball down court in a road district match against San Antonio JFK Wednesday, Jan. 3.

that these people were part of my team and we just all work together and things that we've been working on these past few days of prac-

tice just came into play, and we were in this press that worked really well today,"

See **APACHES**, page 6

Lady Apaches roll past Memorial on the road

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales Lady Apaches continued to put a defensive performance in their 52-35 win over the San Antonio Memorial Minutewomen Tuesday, Jan. 9.

Gonzales started the game slow, but quickly turned it around on defense, forcing multiple turnovers and scoring on key defensive rebounds.

Lady Apaches assistant Jessie Behal helped orchestrate the defensive game plan against Memorial, and was proud of how her team performed.

"Well, as a defensive coach, I'd say I'm pretty proud of our defense. We're at the point where we can make small changes to make big differences and they're really reflecting on that and it's showing in our game, so I'm really proud of it," Behal said.

Junior point guard Bella Aguero helped contributed to the defensive turnovers in the win and gave a lot of credit to her coach.

"Coach Behal does a great job of coaching and stuff on defense and just being able to be aggressive. Coach Behal does a great job of working out in practice and going hard every day," Aguero said.

The Lady Apaches and Memorial were close in the first half,



VANDY VAN EPPS

Junior shooting guard Kilee Schwausch (5) moves the ball down to Memorial's side of the court Tuesday, Jan. 9.

but they quickly took advantage on Memorial's mistakes and outscored them, 20-4, in the third quarter.

"Defensively we had to gamble more and then execute on the offensive end when we got the fast break layups," Aguero said.

"I think at halftime we kind of remembered who we were, we were playing their game in the

See **MEMORIAL**, page 6



VANDY VAN EPPS

Lady Apaches senior shooting guard Haley Cantu (4) forces a turnover on a San Antonio JFK player Wednesday, Jan. 9.

Apaches earn first district win against Memorial

STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Apaches snapped a three-game losing streak with a 64-42 win over the San Antonio Memorial Minutemen Tuesday, Jan. 9.

The Apaches and the

Minutemen battled in first quarter, but Gonzales immediately took control of the next two quarters, outscoring Memorial, 35-17.

Gonzales earned its first district win of the season, moving to 1-2 in

district play.

The Apaches will hit the road against the Cuero Gobblers Friday, Jan. 12 and will return home Tuesday, Jan. 16 to host the YMLA Lions.

The Cuero and YMLA games tip off at 7 p.m.

BOYS SOCCER

Apaches FC blows out Tigers

STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Apaches FC returned home from tournament play Tuesday, Jan. 9 to host the Smithville Tigers in a non-district contest. The Apaches FC snapped a four-game losing streak in the 9-1 win over the Tigers. Gonzales will head back on the road again Friday, Jan. 12 for a tournament in Pleasanton; they'll take on Floresville and Santa Maria in the first two games of the tournament. The Apaches FC will return home host back-to-back home games against Lockhart Tuesday, Jan. 16 and Waelder Friday, Jan. 19.

Apaches FC compete in Manor New Tech Tournament

STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Apaches FC soccer team traveled to Manor, Texas Thursday, Jan. 4 for their first tournament of the 2024 Texas high school soccer season. The Apaches FC competed in three matches in the Manor New Tech tournament and they lost all three matches. Gonzales fell to Needville (7-1), Klein Collins (8-0) and Elgin (3-0) in the tournament. The Apaches FC returned home for a non-district match against Smithville Tuesday, Jan. 9, and headed back on the road Friday, Jan. 12 for the Pleasanton tournament. Gonzales will host Lockhart Tuesday, Jan. 16. Lockhart game kickoff at 7 p.m.

Lady Apaches FC compete in Canyon Lake/Wimberley Tournament

STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Lady Apaches FC traveled to Canyon Lake and Wimberley over the weekend for their first tournament of the season Thursday, Jan. 4 through Friday, Jan. 5. The Lady Apaches FC competed in three matches in the tournament; they played against Aubrey, West Plains and Davenport. Gonzales fell to West Plain (6-1) and Davenport (7-0); the score from the Aubrey game was not recorded on MaxPreps. The Lady Apaches played Hallettsville Tuesday, Jan. 9; and will travel to Bastrop Friday, Jan. 12 for a non-district match. Gonzales will host Giddings Monday, Jan. 15. The Bastrop and Giddings games kickoff at 5 p.m.



Lady Apaches junior Scarlett Cerda (3) shoots two free throws in the win over the San Antonio JFK Lady Rockets Wednesday, Jan. 3. VANDY VAN EPPS

APACHES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

junior shooting guard Kilee Schwausch said. The Lady Apaches snapped a two-game losing streak and moved to 2-2 in district play and Belford is glad his team ended the streak. "We'd love to be 3-1 kind of at this point, but, you know, we are what we are and we're gonna continue to battle and look forward to next Tuesday when we play Memorial," Belford said. Gonzales hit the road against San Antonio Memorial Tuesday, Jan. 9, and hoped the motivation from JFK sparks a winning streak. "It's just gonna be a lot of motivation and just moving up and just pushing us forward," Schwausch said. The Lady Apaches will take on the Cuero Lady Gobblers at home Friday, Jan. 12 and will travel to San Antonio Tuesday, Jan. 16 against YWLA. Both Cuero and YWLA games tip off at 6:30 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Lady Mustangs win district opener over Luling, snap losing streak

STAFF REPORT

The Nixon-Smilely Lady Mustangs snapped a seven-game losing streak with a district-opening win over the Luling Lady Eagles, 51-21, Friday, Jan. 5. The Lady Mustangs' losing

streak dates back to Dec. 15, 2023; and their last win was against the Poteet Lady Aggies Friday, Dec. 8. Nixon-Smilely kicked off the game strong on defense, holding the Lady Eagles to only four points in the first half.

The Lady Mustangs hit the road Tuesday, Jan. 9 against the Randolph Lady Ro-Hawks in San Antonio. Nixon-Smilely will return home on Friday, Jan. 12 for a district match against the Marion Lady Bulldogs.



Lady Apaches junior point guard Bella (2) shoots the ball towards San Antonio Memorial's basket in the fifth district match of the season. VANDY VAN EPPS

MEMORIAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

first half and then the second half, we came out we played our game and that's the difference. That's the difference in our second half," Behal said. The Lady Apaches extended their win streak to two games in a

row and moved to 3-2 in district, and look forward to adding more when they host Cuero at home Friday, Jan. 12. "I think this game really gets us over the hump. We can come out of scrappy play and then just

come back and be able to secure the dub," Aguero said. The Cuero game tips off at 6:30 p.m. at home and the Lady Apaches will hit the road again Tuesday, Jan. 16 against the YWLA Cardinals.



Apache senior Weston Ruddock (2) shoots two free throws in the district match against the San Antonio JFK Rockets Wednesday, Jan. 3. VANDY VAN EPPS

BASKETBALL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

"Once again, they played well. We're putting it together, the process of learning how to win is a super tough process. But once they understand and figure it out, these young kids are really going to be something special for a few years to come because we're very young," Pinchback said.

The Apaches hosted San Antonio Memorial Tuesday, Jan. 9 and the main focus all season, Pinchback has told his players, is they have to compete with themselves. "We've got to compete against Gonzales, so once we finish figuring out how to beat Gonzales, we'll be fine because it's really us that's causing some of these things, so we'll be fine. We just got to keep working and keep playing and getting better," Pinchback said. The Apaches will travel to Cuero for their third district game of the season Friday, Jan. 12 and will host the YMLA Lions Tuesday, Jan 16. Cuero game tips off at 7 p.m. YMLA game tips off at 6:30 p.m.

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Gonzales County

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2023 Gonzales Inquirer Readers Choice

Greater Gonzales County Area



Cast your votes today!

- Winners will be announced in a special edition on February 22, 2024.
- Nomination ballots will be accepted until February 1, 2024.

The Gonzales Inquirer bears sole responsibility for the contest.

Here it is!

The official ballot of the Inquirer's annual readership survey!

Attention Inquirer readers: Here is your chance to vote for your favorite Readers' Choice! Vote for your favorite in more than 100 categories. Choices for all categories must be in the greater Gonzales County area which includes: Gonzales, Harwood, Waelder, Nixon, Smiley, Moulton, Ottine, Cost, Belmont, Flatonia, Shiner, Yoakum, Cuero, Hochheim, Leesville, Westhoff and Luling.

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- Best Appliance Store _____
- Best Architect _____
- Best New Auto Dealership _____
- Best Pre-Owned Auto Dealership _____
- Best Auto Parts _____
- Best Auto Repair _____
- Best Backhoe/Tractor Service _____
- Best Bank/Financial Institution _____
- Best Beauty Shop _____
- Best Bed and Breakfast _____
- Best Body Shop _____
- Best Boutique _____
- Best Building Supplies _____
- Best Car Wash _____
- Best Caterer _____
- Best Cattle Company _____
- Best Child Care _____
- Best Children's Wear _____
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- Best Craft Store _____
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- Best Computer Service _____
- Best Contractor (Building/Remodeling) _____
- Best Convenience Store/Gas _____
- Best Cosmetics _____
- Best Dance Studio _____
- Best Deli _____
- Best Detail Shop _____
- Best Dollar/Discount Store _____
- Best Drilling Company/Where _____
- Best Dry Cleaners _____
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- Best Farm Supply Store _____
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- Best Appetizers _____
- Best BBQ _____
- Best Breakfast _____
- Best Breakfast Tacos _____
- Best Buffet _____
- Best Chicken Fried Steak _____
- Best Chili _____
- Best Coffee _____
- Best Doughnuts _____
- Best Drive Thru _____
- Best Fine Dining _____
- Best French Fries _____
- Best Fried Chicken _____
- Best Hamburgers _____
- Best Hot Sauce _____
- Best Ice Cream/Yogurt _____
- Best Iced Tea _____
- Best Italian Food _____
- Best Kids Meal _____
- Best Lunch Specials _____
- Best Margarita _____
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- Best Mixed Drink _____
- Best Pizza _____
- Best Salad Bar _____
- Best Sandwiches _____
- Best Soup _____
- Best Steak _____

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In occupations that Texas law requires a license or certification to practice, only those who meet the requirements will be recognized. For example, only licensed physicians are eligible for Best Doctor. Primary care providers who are credentialed as physician's assistant or nurse practitioner can be nominated in the PA/Nurse Practitioner category. Nurses who do not work as a primary care provider can be nominated under the Best Nurse Category. You must name the facility where your nominated health care provider works. Only ballots taken from The Gonzales Inquirer will be counted. NO COPIES WILL BE ACCEPTED. Businesses nominated have to be in Gonzales County area and individuals nominated must live or work in Gonzales County. Ballots may be dropped off at the newspaper at 622 St. Paul Street or mailed to Readers Choice 2023, Box 616, Gonzales, TX 78629. Nomination ballots will be accepted until February 1, 2024. Winners will be announced on February 22, 2024.

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850 HELP WANTED

SHOP/SETTING HELP WANTED. Duties include sandblasting granite, painting/cleaning granite, installing monuments at cemeteries, concrete work, and landscaping. Requirements: Know how to take and read measurements, be able to lift at least 50 pounds, and have a valid driver's license. Concrete knowledge a plus. Need a responsible/dependable person. Training on site. Apply in person. Capitol Monument Company, 5233 N US Hwy 183, Gonzales, TX 78629.

850 HELP WANTED

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

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

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

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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 and click on Jobs@VC. EEOE

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 and click on Jobs@VC. Equal-Opportunity Institution

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

Request for Proposals
The Golden Crescent Workforce Development Board (GCWDB) is seeking office space to house its Gonzales Workforce Center. The leased space needs to be between 1,500 - 2,000 square feet, have ample parking, and meet ADA requirements. Proposals will be accepted until 10:00 AM, February 20, 2024. For more information, call (361)576-5872 or visit our website at wwwgcworkforce.org.
GCWDB Equal Opportunity Employer/Program

NOTICE OF DEADLINE TO FILE AN APPLICATION FOR PLACE ON THE BALLOT CITIES, SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND OTHER POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS
AVISO DE FECHA LÍMITE PARA PRESENTAR UNA SOLICITUD PARA UN LUGAR EN LA BOLETA PARA CIUDADES, DISTRITOS ESCOLARES Y OTRAS SUBDIVISIONES POLÍTICAS
Notice is hereby given that an application for a place on the Waelder Independent School District General/Special Election ballot may be filed as indicated below: (Se da aviso por la presente que una solicitud para un lugar en la boleta de Elección General/Especial de Waelder Independent School District puede ser presentada como se Indica a continuación:)
Filing Dates and Times:
(Fechas y Horario para Entregar Solicitudes)
Start Date: 01/17/2024 End Date: 02/16/2024
(Fecha Inicio) (Fecha Limite)
Office Hours: Mon-Fri, 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
(Horario de la Oficina)
Physical address for filing an application in person for place on the ballot: (Dirección física para presentar una solicitud on persona para un lugar en la boleta) 201 US Hwy 90 W, Waelder, TX 78959
Address to mail an application for place on the ballot (if filing by mail): (Dirección a donde enviar una solicitud para un lugar en la boleta (en caso de presentar por correo):
P.O. Box 247, Waelder, TX 78959 RECEIVED at Central Office on 2/16/2024 by 4 pm. NOT POSTMARKED.
Email or Fax Number to send an application for place on the ballot: If a filing fee is submitted, the application may not be faxes or emailed. (Dirección de correo electrónico o número de fax para enviar una solicitud para un lugar en la boleta: Si el pago de inscripción es presentada, la solicitud no puede ser enviada por correo electrónico o fax.)
erinsuhr@waelderisd.org Fax: 830-239-5603
Erin Suhr
Printed Name of Filing Officer or Designee (Nombre en letra de molde Oficial de Archivos o Persona Designada)
12/15/2023
Date Posted (Fecha archivada)

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erinsuhr@waelderisd.org Fax: 830-239-5603
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Printed Name of Filing Officer or Designee (Nombre en letra de molde Oficial de Archivos o Persona Designada)
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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.

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.

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.

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Signature of Filing Officer or Designee (Firma del Oficial de Archivos o Persona Designado)

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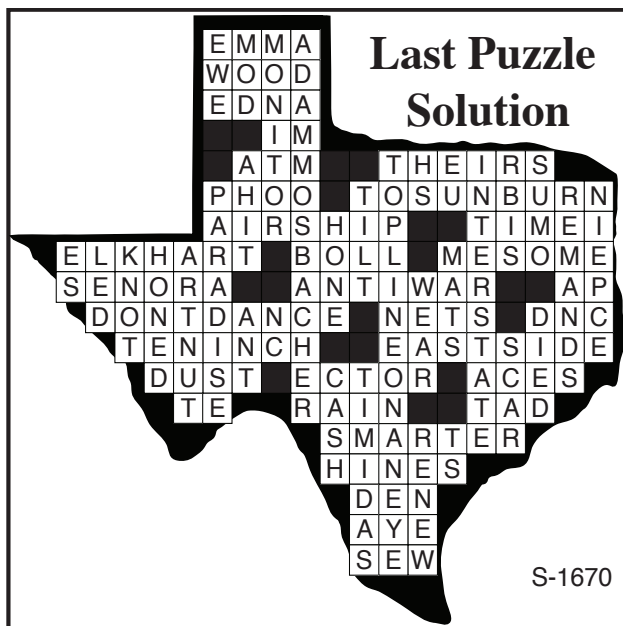
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January 4 Puzzle Answers

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



Last Puzzle Solution

EMMA WOOD EDNA IM ATM THEIRS PHOO TOSUNBURN AIRSHIP TIMEI ELKHART BOLL MESOME SENORA ANTIWAR AP DONTDANCE NETS DNC TENINCH EASTSIDE DUST ECTOR ACES TE RAIN TAD SMARTER HINES DEN AYE SEW

S-1670

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

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NOTICE OF PERMIT APPLICATION FOR WATER WELL

Filed By
J-B Water Supply

J-B Water Supply (J-B) has submitted a Drilling and Production permit application to the Gonzales County Underground Water Conservation District (GCUWCD) for an industrial supply well. The proposed industrial supply well will be located in the 100 Block of NE First Street in the City of Waelder. J-B proposes to produce approximately 277 acre feet of groundwater per year at an maximum rate of 200 gallons per minute. The well is completed in the Queens City Aquifer.

The GCUWCD Rules in effect at the time of this permit application submittal are the April 14, 2020 Rules. Permit notice and hearing procedures are included in Rule 24. Copies of the GCUWCD's April 14, 2020 rules are available at the GCUWCD office located at 522 Saint Matthew Street, Gonzales, Texas 78629 or online at the GCUWCD website www.gcuwcd.org The GCUWCD phone number is 830-672-1047.

Interested persons may provide written comments to the GCUWCD on the proposed public supply well permit application. Written comments must be filed within thirty (30) days of the date of publication of this notice and in accordance with Rule 24 of the rules of the GCUWCD. Comments should be submitted to the GCUWCD's General Manager at 522 Saint Matthew, P.O. Box 1919, Gonzales, Texas 78629.

If no comments are received by the end of the 30-day comment period, a public hearing may not be required and the Board may act on the permit application.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS WAELDER ISD's Texas Academic Performance Reports (TAPR)

Waelder ISD will hold a PUBLIC HEARING - T.A.P.R. Report - at 6:00 p.m. on January 22, 2024, in the Cafeteria, 109 N. Ave. C., Waelder, TX.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Betty Pettus were issued on 12/21/2023, in docket number PW23-0307, pending in the County Court of Gonzales County, Texas, to Kathleen Clayton Floyd. All persons having claims against the estate, which is presently being administered, are required to submit them, within the time and manner prescribed by law, and before the estate is closed, addressed as follows:

c/o Noel Henry Reese
417 St. George Street, 2nd Floor
P.O. Box 887
GONZALES, TX 78629

Dated 01/08/2024

Noel Henry Reese
Attorney for Executor of the Estate of Betty Pettus

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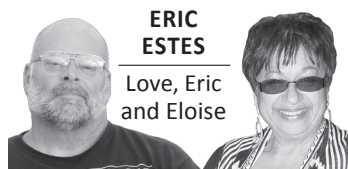
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Couches are for potatoes

Hey there y'all, hope 2024's treating you well so far. Now that the holidays are behind us, the tree is down (or about to be), the empty fireworks containers



ERIC ESTES
Love, Eric and Eloise

me think that maybe I didn't need a refund after all!

Depending on your overall fitness level and any extenuating circumstances such as

have found their new home at the city dump, and families are getting back to their everyday activities, I guess it's time to keep on working towards accomplishing those pesky, but rewarding, New Year's resolutions. So, as we continue on with our beginners guide to feeling better through slight changes in diet and exercise, let's get started with some heavy squats and a brisk ten mile run. Yeah, don't think so. After eating my share of junk food over the holidays, I'm feeling kinda flabby myself, so let's show ourselves some love by getting back to the baby-steppin' light weight shuffle.

This easy, and beginner friendly set of exercises are considered compound exercises, which involve groups of muscles instead of targeting individual muscles (isolation exercises). The body will be divided into four main categories; upper body pushing, upper body pulling, core (stabilizers), and legs, which really come in handy when you want to get anywhere (in my experience). Our first exercise was the basic push-up, and targets our upper body pushing muscles, the chest (pecs), front deltoids (shoulders), and triceps (back of upper arms). These allow us to push things upward and forward, as Eloise often demonstrated when not in the mood for my suave affectionate advances, yep, still waiting for my charm school refund. However, when the mood struck, she would flex those pulling muscles, making

long periods of inactivity, recovering from illness or injury, or getting up in age, all exercises can be modified to fit the particular individual. With the goal being to make things better for ourselves, safety and avoiding injury or strain should always be our first priority. I've found that starting too slow is way more productive than starting too fast. We tend to want things to happen as quickly as possible, but starting too fast can often backfire and actually slow your progress down. This is why I explained that pushups could even be done while standing and slightly leaning against a table or wall. When muscles are weak (for whatever reason), starting with the least resistance possible will help them strengthen gradually, avoiding future problems. I've had to start this way myself, gradually adding resistance as needed, eventually getting back up to full speed without incident, and is highly recommended when needed.

Our basic upper body pulling exercise is the row. This exercise is appropriately named as it mimics the same motion as rowing a boat. Generally performed bent over with body not quite parallel to the floor with knees slightly bent to avoid lower back strain, it can also be done using anything to support yourself, such as the back of a chair, a bench, or even leaning over the back of a couch, as long as your arms can hang (at least



partially) down from your body. With arms extended, raise the weights (bottles, milkjugs, dumbbells etc.) towards your chest area (think reverse pushups). This will target your biceps (front upper arms), rear deltoids (back of shoulders), and upper back muscles. Water bottles or milk jugs can be used as added resistance, adding or subtracting water as needed. It can even be done standing or seated if necessary, flexing the muscles as if using resistance (isometric). One or more sets of 10 or more repetitions can be done weekly or daily, dependent on how you feel you're progressing. Slow, mindful movements are always best, and are safer. Try adding these, along with continuing a variation of push ups this week, and you'll be on your way. More next week...

Until next time, love you guys, Eric.

PoetKen Jones play to debut at 2024 Frontera Fest

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Local author PoetKen Jones' new play, "REAGAN YOUTH: MY STRUGGLE" has been selected to debut at the 2024 Frontera Fest at Hyde Park Theatre, 511 W. 43rd St., Austin, on Tuesday night, Jan. 23.

A Bildungsroman concerning the character's conflict between his punk rock passion and his support for President Ronald Reagan, the conclusion coincides with Election Night 1984, when he was front and center at the riot that broke out at the University of Texas Student Union.

This appearance represents Jones' third selection for a Texas-based play festival in the past 10 years. His 2014 play "LIVE ATE" won the Critic's Choice Award at the Houston Fringe Festival that year while his play "14 Si!" premiered at Frontera Fest in Austin in 2020.

Jones is also a prolific poet and songwriter with over a dozen published collections.

For more information, see www.poetken.com.

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Elm Grove Baptist Church 4337 FM 1115 Waelder, TX, 78959	Union Valley Baptist Church FM 1681, NW of Nixon	METHODIST Belmont Methodist Highway 90A, Belmont	River of Life Christian Fellowship 207 Steele St., Smiley
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First Baptist Church Highway 108 N., Smiley	St. Joseph Catholic Church 207 S. Washington, Nixon	First United Methodist 410 N. Franklin, Nixon	INTER-DENOMINATIONAL Faith Family Church 1812 Cartwheel Dr., Gonzales
First Baptist Church 406 N. Avenue E, Waelder	St. Patrick Catholic Church Waelder	Flatonia United Methodist Harris Chapel United Methodist S. Liberty St., Nixon	Living Waters Fellowship 306 St. Paul, Gonzales
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Greater Rising Star Baptist Church	CHRISTIAN First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) 712 Crockett, Luling	Henson Chapel United Methodist 1113 St. Andrew, Gonzales	Holy Temple of Jesus Christ No. 2 1515 Dallas, Gonzales
Harwood Baptist Church North of Post Office, Harwood	CHURCHES OF CHRIST Church of Christ 1323 Seydler St., Gonzales	Monthalia Methodist CR 112 off Highway 97	Iglesia Pentecostes Filadelfia 893 S. Magnolia Ave., Luling
Iglesia Bautista Macedonia 201 S. Congress, Nixon	Church of Christ (Iglesia de Cristo) 201 E. Second St. Nixon	Smiley Methodist Church 1 blk. S. of Hwy. 87, Smiley	Temple Bethel Pentecostal 1104 S. Paul, Gonzales
Iglesia Bautista Memorial Highway 97, Waelder	Church of Christ E. 3rd & Texas, Nixon	Webster Chapel A.M.E. 1027 Church St., Gonzales	Life Changing Church of Gonzales 3.3 miles north on Hwy 183, right on CR 235, then right on CR 236
Leesville Baptist Church E. of Highway 80 on CR 121	Church of Christ, Belmont	NON-DENOMINATIONAL Agape Ministries 512 St. James, Gonzales Bread of Life Ministries 613 St. Joseph, Gonzales	PRESBYTERIAN Pilgrim Presbyterian Church CR 210 off FM 1116
Memorial Heights Baptist Church 1330 N. College, Gonzales	CHURCHES OF GOD Community Church of God 1020 St. Louis, Gonzales	Christ the King Church 1262 U.S. Highway 77 South Hallettsville	Presbyterian Church of Gonzales 414 St. Louis, Gonzales
Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church 100 Capes, Gonzales	Gonzales Memorial Church of God in Christ 1113 Hastings, Gonzales	Episcopal Episcopal Church of the Messiah 721 S. Louis, Gonzales	Cheapside Presbyterian Church, Cuero
Oak Valley Baptist Church Highway 97, Bebe	Church of God in Christ 1113 Hastings, Gonzales	TO UPDATE OR CHANGE A CHURCH LISTING, CALL THE GONZALES INQUIRER AT 830-672-2861	

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OBITUARIES

JOHNNY MALIK



Johnny Malik, 89, of Shiner, passed away Tuesday, January 2, 2024. Johnny was born in Lavaca County on July 30, 1934 to Johnny Joe Malik, Sr., and Mary Cerny Malik. He married Patsy Ann Gibson on March 1, 1963 in St. James Catholic Church in Gonzales.

Johnny was raised in the rural area of Shiner, Texas. He moved to Gonzales in 1947 and at the age of 16 went to work for the Cotton Gin in Gonzales. At age 18 he went to work for Western Hatcheries which later became the Boothe Hatcheries where he worked for the next 34 years as a dedicated and loyal employee. Johnny was a hard-working man and worked long hours at the hatchery and tending to his own cattle and keeping the land productive. In the early years he kept his own garden which provided some of the best produce in the area. He faithfully cared for the family cemetery plots and headstones in Gonzales, Shiner and Wied honoring the lives of family that came before him. On occasion he would take time for deer hunting, something he

truly enjoyed.

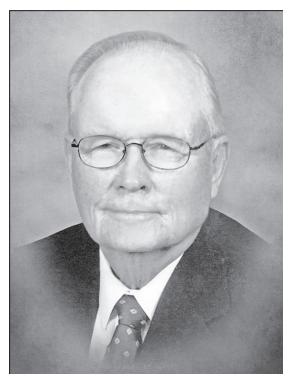
Johnny met Patsy at a skating rink in 1960. He asked everyone he could about this pretty young lady that had him so quickly smitten and in good time they were dating and married 3 years later. They were a lovely couple who enjoyed the love of marriage for nearly 61 years. He was Patsy's "Farmer Malik", like a Knight in shining armor only with boots, cap, blue jeans, and work shirt, (the apple of her eye). They were loving, faithful companions to each other and as Patsy always declared "I love you" to Johnny, his simple response to Patsy was "Me Too". Clearly not immediately demonstrative with his affections through the years but in

the twilight of his time here he was clear as he told "Pat", "I love you" and though an amusing response from "Pat" she held nothing back proclaiming "I love you too". Love never ends.

Johnny Malik is survived by his wife, Patsy Ann Malik of Shiner, sister, Lillie Frances Krueger of Shiner and numerous loving nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, sisters, Dorothy Broz and Matha Kresta, and brothers, Joe John Malik, Jr and August F Malik.

Funeral services were held at 10 am Friday, January 5, 2024 in Seydler-Hill Funeral Home with Rev. Clint Lowery officiating. Interment followed in Gonzales Memorial Park. Pallbearers: Carl Ray Gibson, Brian Gibson, Joey Dzienowski, Curtis Gibson, Marvin Gibson, and Rickey Gibson. Memorials may be made to Memorials Heights Baptist Church or St. Jude's Cancer Research for Children. Services were under the care and direction of Seydler-Hill Funeral Home.

MILTON DOYLE HINES



Milton Doyle Hines, 92, passed from this earth on January 6, 2024. He was born on November 24, 1931 at home in rural Madison County, Texas to John Edward Hines and Midget Mae (McMahan) Hines. He married the love of his life, Reta Pearl Peck on December 30, 1950 in Katy, Texas.

After completing his Bachelor and Master's degrees at Sam Houston State, Doyle took a job with San Bernard Electric Cooperative in charge of its member relations. Doyle quickly realized that the more kilowatt-hours the Cooperative sold, the less they could charge per kWh; so, under his initiative the Cooperative formed a relationship with Electro-Lux heaters and Doyle sold the Dickens out of them, gaining himself a state-wide reputation. This led to a job offer by O.W. Davis, General Manager of the Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative (GVEC) in Gonzales, Texas; and so, Doyle and Reta packed-up and moved.

At GVEC, Doyle was quickly recognized as a leader and upon the retirement of Mr. Davis, Doyle was appointed GVEC General Manager on January 1, 1972. As at San Bernard, Doyle went about promoting all-electric homes and in short order GVEC lead the state in consumption

per household; and with this level of consumption GVEC was able to lower its electric rates to one of the lowest in the State. Doyle's success at GVEC lead to numerous state-wide and national appointments to Cooperative related organizations.

Doyle's no-nonsense manner did not always make him the most popular individual, as was the case with his most memorable move at GVEC. In the late 1980's, Doyle negotiated an extremely favorable buy-out of GVEC's Rural Electrification Administration (REA) debt. GVEC was the first electric cooperative in the nation to make this move (many others have since followed), and Doyle was heavily criticized by his peers that this move would "ruin the program." As history proved, it was the right thing to do, and throughout his entire life Doyle was a "do the right thing" kind of man.

In service to the Gonzales community, Doyle was involved with the Chamber of Commerce, Noon Lion's Club, Odd Fellows Cemetery, as well as others, however, he took a particular interest in health care. It was primarily through his efforts (and his partner in crime Dr. Bryan Denman) that the Gonzales Healthcare District was chartered, and Gonzales Memorial Hospital was constructed.

Doyle is survived by his wife of 72 years, Reta; his son Craig (Lee), his grandsons Clayton (Dawna) and Lucas (Haylee); his great-grandsons Colton, Dawson, and Mason; as well as all those in the community and at GVEC who are grateful for having known him.

The family will receive friends from 4 pm to 6 pm Wednesday, January 10, 2024 in Seydler-Hill Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 2 pm Thursday, January 11, 2024 in Seydler-Hill Funeral Home with Rev. Todd Craven officiating. Interment will follow in the Gonzales Odd Fellows Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the Gonzales Odd Fellows Cemetery Association. 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.

IVA JANE KOSUB



Iva Jane Kosub was born on November 3, 1945 to Ansel and Elvis Gordon. The angels carried her home to our Heavenly Father on January 4, 2024.

Iva is survived by her husband, Glenn Kosub, Sr. Sisters, Marilyn McDaniels and Vera Ramzinski. Children, Randy (Kathy) Lamza of Nixon, Kenny (Michelle) Lamza of Gillett, Teresa (Kurt) Basse of Fredericksburg, Cindy Kosub of Boerne, and Glenn (Shannon) Kosub, Jr. of LaVernia. Grandchildren, Randi Lamza (Jesse Hoover), Chase (Gabby) Lamza, Keith (Nikki) Lamza, Skylar (Kody) Stevens, Trevor (Emily) Kosub, Peyton (Kailey) Kosub, Matthew Basse (Allyson Beckmann), Emily Basse, Joshua (Erin)

Kosub, Allison Ratley, and Carter Ratley, and 13 1/2 great-grandchildren.

Iva was preceded in death by her parents and brother Henry Gordon.

Iva completed the School of Vocational nursing in 1978, practicing as an LVN for many years. After retirement, she enjoyed the busy, but peaceful, farm life with Glenn,

her loving husband of 40 years.

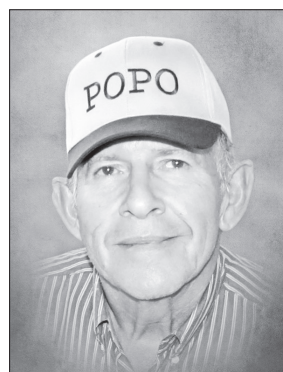
She worked to keep her yard beautiful, loved family gatherings, and simply watching her cows stroll by in the mornings. She was also very active in her Church. The highlight of her life were her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. She was 'Nannie' to so many and welcomed everyone into her home.

She will be carried to her final resting place by her grandsons, Chase, Keith, Trevor, Joshua, Matthew, and Peyton.

A celebration of Iva's life will be held on January 7, 2024 at Finch Funeral Home in Nixon, Texas.

Visitation 2pm-3pm, followed by services at 3pm. Burial immediately following at Union Valley.

ROBERT LEE MATIAS



Robert Lee Matias, 72, of Shiner, passed on to his heavenly Lord Sunday, January 7, 2024. Robert was born July 13, 1951, in Shiner to the late Louis and Irene Targac Matias. Robert was married to his loving wife of 50 years, Marie Simper Matias. They had three sons, Jeff (Lesley) of Shiner, James (Melissa) of Georgetown, and Justin (Patience) of Victoria. Robert was the oldest sibling to three brothers: Stanley (Katy), Louis, and Ronald (Janella). He was also raised with his aunt/sister, Margaret Barton (Leon). Robert was known as "PoPo" to his 14 grandchildren: Ava, Addison, Brayden, Jace, Creighton, Colton, Emory, Bryce, Hallie, Gavin, Cora, Dylan, Ruby, and Micah

Matias. Robert is preceded in death by his parents, and granddaughter, Autumn Matias.

Robert graduated from St. Paul High School in 1969. After graduation, he went on to work for Purina Mills where he worked for 25 years. He continued his career with Lavaca County for an additional 12 years. After retiring from the county, Robert managed EJ's Meat Company. He operated EJ's for 10 years, before retiring to spend time with family.

Robert was a devout Catholic and a proud volunteer at SS. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church and Shiner Catholic School participating in various roles. He was a member of the Knights of

Columbus, KJT, American Legion, and a Veteran of the Army Reserves. Robert embraced his Czech heritage through polka, food, farming, and he even spoke Czech. In his spare time, Robert enjoyed attending his grandchildren's various events, spending time with his brothers, gardening, tinkering with little projects, and working on the farm. Throughout his life, Robert was a dedicated sports fan, He enjoyed cheering on his children and grandchildren in whatever sport they played or watching a Dallas Cowboy or Houston Astros game.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Wednesday, January 10, 2024, in SS. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church. Interment will follow in the Shiner Catholic Cemetery. Memorials may be made to SS Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church, Shiner Catholic School, or Our Lady of Victory Catholic School in Victoria. Friends may leave their condolences to the family by visiting www.shinerfuneralhome.com. Services are under the care and direction of Shiner Funeral Home.

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Additional obituaries can be found on page 12.

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Gonzales Healthcare Systems
January 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 <i>Holiday</i>	2 Dr. Echols	3 Dr. Quebedeaux Dr. Miller	4 Dr. Ryan Dr. Echols	5
8 Austin MFM Dr. Malik Dr. Desai	9 Dr. Echols Dr. Quintero	10 Dr. Quebedeaux Dr. Twitero	11 Dr. Ryan Dr. Echols	12 Amy Trost Dr. Miller
15 Austin MFM	16 Dr. Echols	17 Dr. Quebedeaux Dr. Miller	18 Dr. Ryan Dr. Echols Dr. Malik	19 Dr. Bui
22 Austin MFM	23 Dr. Echols	24 Dr. Quebedeaux	25 Dr. Ryan Dr. Kirchner Dr. Echols	26
29 Austin MFM	30 Dr. Echols	31 Dr. Quebedeaux		

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Dermatology Vicente Quintero, MD 830-626-5551	Ophthalmology Joseph Kavanagh, MD 830-379-3937
Nephrology Azhar M. Malik, MD 361-576-0011 Yong Du, MD 361-576-0011	Orthopedics Trent Twitero, MD 830-625-0009
Obstetrics Alyson Kirchner, MD, OBGYN 830-379-1500	Podiatry Terri Quebedeaux, DPM, PA 830-303-0005 Charles White, DPM 830-303-0005
	Austin Maternal Fetal Medicine 512-821-2540

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GVEC scholarships available for high school seniors

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative (GVEC) is pleased to once again offer scholarships to high school seniors graduating in Spring 2024.

For eligibility information and the online application, please visit www.gvec.org/community/scholarships.

All applications must be submitted online prior to midnight on Feb. 1.



NSHS' Rodriguez named to ATSSB All-State Band

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Nixon-Smiley High School student Camarion Rodriguez travelled to and competed at the Association of Texas Secondary School Bands (ATSSB) Area South auditions in Alice on Saturday,

Jan. 6. Rodriguez placed first out of 12 alto saxophonists in competing in the area and was selected as a member of the ATSSB All-State Band.

To put this into perspective, only about 100 3A band students from the

entire state of Texas are selected yearly to a spot in the All-State Band. Camarion joins only two other students in Nixon-Smiley history that have achieved this honor!

"Camarion's hard work and dedication to musical excellence has paid

off, and we are incredibly proud of his accomplishments!," the district announced.

The ATSSB All-State Band will be performing at the Texas Music Educators Association Convention in San Antonio on Feb. 10 at 8:30 a.m.

OBITUARY

MINERVA L. PEELER



Minerva L. Peeler, 90, of Gonzales, passed away Friday, January 5, 2024 surrounded by family. Minerva was born October 14, 1933 in Gonzales to Ford L. Ferrell and Lena Christian Gescheidle. She was baptized at an early age and faithfully served her Lord throughout her life. Minerva was a member of First Baptist Church of Gonzales, where she served in numerous capacities.

Minerva attended Gonzales schools graduating high school in 1952. September 5, 1953 she married William M. Peeler while he was stationed at Ft. Bliss in El Paso. She started her career with the State of Texas in 1957 and retired after 36 years of service in 1993. Once she retired she spent time traveling the country with her beloved XYZ's. She also enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren to whom she was lovingly known as Dee Daw. She especially enjoyed cooking and baking for them and anyone else. During her retirement, she began to explore her hidden talent of painting. She's probably best known for her extensive collection of Precious Moments.

Minerva is survived by her son and daughter-in-law William Ray Peeler and Beverley of Kyle; daughter and son-in-law Amy Denise Peeler Manning and Bobby of Gonzales; grandchildren Kelsey Giltner (Daniel), Joshua Serrato (Lindsey), Caitlin Bales (Andrew) and Molly Manning; great-grandchildren Aislyn Shumate, Liam Giltner, Max Giltner, Everley Bales and Cam Giltner. Also surviving are numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her infant son Allen Scott Peeler, her adoring husband of 66 years Bill, her parents and 8 siblings Charles Ferrell, Harry Ferrell, Emma (Sister) Logan, Florence Knippa, Virgie Rutledge, Henry (Bubba) Ferrell, Lena Mae Adams, Johnny Ferrell and sister-in-law

Bobbie Sue Hahn. Visitation will be held Tuesday, January 9, 2024 from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. at Seydler-Hill Funeral Home. Funeral services will be 2 p.m. Wednesday, January 10, 2024 at the First Baptist Church of Gonzales with Reverend Seth Pitman and Reverend Josh Breslaw officiating. Interment will follow at the Gonzales Memorial Park Cemetery.

Serving as pallbearers are Tony Ferrell, Jimmy Ferrell, Randy Adams, Daniel Giltner, Andrew Bales, Dusty Patek, Greg Garcia and Stephen Ferrell. Honorary pallbearers include Russ Hahn, Sam Turk, Dr. Terry Eska, Terry Clay, Sonny Weathers, Henry Padgett and Lynn Cochran.

The family of Minerva would like to give a special thanks to Heart to Heart Hospice and the Staff of Gonzales Memorial Hospital for their wonderful care.

Friends may sign the guestbook and leave condolences by visiting www.seydlerhillfuneralhome.com

Arrangements are under the care and direction of Seydler-Hill Funeral Home, 906 St. Paul, Gonzales, TX



Texas State Championship Domino Tournament to be held Sunday in Hallettsville

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The 72nd Texas State Championship Domino Tournament will be held Sunday, Jan. 14 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Hallettsville. Registration will begin at 7 a.m. and playing will begin at 9 a.m. sharp.

A consolation tournament will be held immediately for the first two setting of losers with two plaques given to the winners of the consolation tournament, plus cash.

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. 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.

This year's Texas Domino Hall of Fame inductees will be John Munson and Kenneth Curtis

There are plenty of full camper hook ups available. Just call 361-798-2311.

Shiner Heritage Quilters Guild invites entries for 2024 spring quilt show

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Shiner Heritage Quilters Guild invites all quilters to enter your beautiful quilts in their 2024 show, "Spring into Quilting," to be held on Friday, March 8 and Saturday, March 9 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church Activity Center, 102 West Church St. (off Hwy 90A) in Shiner.

Log onto www.shinerheritagequilters.org. Click on "Our Show" in the menu to access important detailed instructions and entry forms or pick this up at The Square Quilter; 807 N. Ave. D, Shiner, 361-594-8022.

Entry forms will be accepted that are postmarked on or before Friday, Feb. 9. This gives time to make special labels for all entries and to list the entries in keepsake show programs. An entry form must be submitted for each item you display.

Entry forms will be accepted that are postmarked on or before Friday, Feb. 9. This gives time to make special labels for all entries and to list the entries in keepsake show programs. An entry form must be submitted for each item you display.

NEWBURY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Labeled a "juke box musical" of favorite Elvis Presley hits, the play will be directed by Dr. Nancy Jo Humfeld, veteran educator who served 34 years at Howard Payne University before retiring there in 2020. I hired her in 1986, and naturally believe that she's the best. (Thousands of others likewise agree, thankful that she continues to pour herself into the local theater scene.)

We saw Elvis during a Fort Worth concert in the early 1970s.

Sitting near the stage,



Lyric Theater

Brenda caught a few drops of sweat, and didn't bathe for a week!....

Other theater efforts, such as those in Granbury and Cleburne, are likewise successful,

thanks to continued commitment and hard work.

I salute everyone involved in community theater throughout Texas. They are genuine heroes in this "labor of love."

We who attend are beneficiaries of productions that are often comparable to Broadway, and at prices little more than the tax on Big Apple tickets....

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



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ACROSS

- 1 TXism: "___ as a two-day-old kitten"
- 5 TXism: "sounds like a dry ___"
- 6 hot tubs
- 7 meaning of Spanish word, "Brazos"
- 8 Texas "High Fidelity" plays the music of "___ Speedwagon"
- 9 Guadalupe is a spring-___ river
- 12 TXism: "can't ___ silk purse out of a sow's ear"
- 17 TX Matt who was a pro wrestler
- 19 easternmost city in Texas
- 21 national citizen (2 wds.)
- 22 shaped clay
- 23 Texas-based Mary Kay is present in this Chinese country
- 28 "Bear" or "Berra"
- 29 TX Janis died of a drug over___
- 30 "Anytime" country singer, Eddy
- 31 Texas film "Lone Wolf Mc ___"
- 35 some confuse ___ with a raven
- 36 place with coin-operated washers and dryers (2 wds.)
- 42 TXism: "plain ___ on your face"
- 44 TX George Foreman was one

DOWN

- 1 TXism: "___ the Dead Sea was only sick" (old)
- 2 newspaper in Pleasanton, Texas
- 3 Texas-based 1985 drama film with Ed Harris (2 ws.)
- 4 Fort Worth Spanish FM radio
- 9 TXism: "big ___ in the pond" (VIP)
- 10 noncombatant Alamo survivor, son of Gregorio and Ana (2 wds.)
- 11 comfy room
- 46 attached wood slantwise
- 48 mountie "Do-Right"
- 49 opposite of 21-across (abbr.)
- 50 space agcy. in Houston
- 51 on the side of a ship sheltered from the wind
- 52 "Deaf" Smith in the Texas Revolution
- 53 "___ of society"
- 54 fruit pastries
- 56 Calhoun, who was the "Domino Kid"
- 57 TXism: "critter corral"
- 58 actress Madigan of 3-down

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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DOWN

- 1 TXism: "___ the Dead Sea was only sick" (old)
- 2 newspaper in Pleasanton, Texas
- 3 Texas-based 1985 drama film with Ed Harris (2 ws.)
- 4 Fort Worth Spanish FM radio
- 9 TXism: "big ___ in the pond" (VIP)
- 10 noncombatant Alamo survivor, son of Gregorio and Ana (2 wds.)
- 11 comfy room
- 12 female parent, informally
- 13 TXism: "mean as ___"
- 14 before KDEI, in Port Arthur
- 15 TXism: "tie up the loose ___"
- 16 this RB Tommie was on 2 Cowboy Super Bowl teams
- 18 "for sale" abbr.
- 20 this Ames was "Mingo" when TX Fess was "Daniel"
- 23 16-down init.
- 24 noted Notre Dame coach, Parseghian

ACROSS

- 25 Peru native people
- 26 "do your ___"
- 27 TXism: "got ___ arrows in his quiver" (capable)
- 32 int'l security org.
- 33 commercial
- 34 ___ Pepper
- 36 "Santa ___ National Wildlife Refuge"

DOWN

- 37 pork ___ (meat)
- 38 TXism: "dull ___ week's news"
- 39 TX Lois Chiles, before acting
- 40 car's wheel shafts
- 41 golf ball support
- 43 Ranger announcer, Eric (init.)
- 45 TX Yarborough, a U.S. senator (init.)
- 47 communal location in a nursing home
- 48 Donald Duck's girlfriend
- 55 Cowboy Hall-of-Famer, Aikman

SUDOKU

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

Level: intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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

Answers found in next week's Classifieds.

SEVERE STORMS BRING HAIL, DAMAGING WINDS



CONTRIBUTED
Above: Hail fell in parts of Gonzales County on Monday, Jan. 8 that was as big as a light bulb, as shown in this contributed photo from a reader of the Gonzales Inquirer. A severe thunderstorm warning was issued with damaging wind advisory and predictions of up to quarter-size hail.

Left: A severe thunderstorm hit Gonzales County on Monday, Jan. 8, bringing damaging winds that knocked down trees and brought down the traffic light at the intersection of Saint Joseph and Saint Lawrence streets in downtown Gonzales. Crews got the light reinstalled later that afternoon.

PHOTO BY VANDY VAN EPPS

COME & TAKE IT DANCE PERFORMS THE NUTCRACKER



CONTRIBUTED

Crystal Theatre artistic director Barbara Crozier was a great surprise in the role of Mother Ginger in The Nutcracker, performed by Come and Take It Dance on the Crystal Theatre stage on Jan. 6-7. The show combined local and professional talent.

HINES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Hines served as GVEC's third general manager, succeeding O.W. Davis upon his retirement. He held the position from 1972 until 1993, when he was succeeded by Marcus Pridgeon. He served as a mentor to both Pridgeon and to current general manager Darren Schauer, who succeeded Pridgeon in 2003.

As a leader in the electric cooperative field, Hines was known for being a trailblazer and pioneer, making moves that others questioned but later

copied. During his stint at GVEC, Hines was able to help GVEC offer one of the lowest electric rates in the state by promoting all-electric homes, increasing the consumption rate, which allowed the cooperative to lower its Kwh rate.

Hines also was known for negotiating a favorable buyout of the cooperative's Rural Electrification Administration (REA) debt in the late 1980s, making GVEC the first to achieve this step that others would soon follow. He was criticized for the move at the

time, but it was later proven to have been the correct thing to do.

A member of the Gonzales Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture, Noon Lions Club and other community service organizations, Hines also had a great interest in the state of healthcare for the community. Working with Dr. Bryan Denman and others, he helped charter the Gonzales Healthcare District, which led to the construction of the current Gonzales Memorial Hospital, which opened in 1978.

SHOOTING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

working on this active investigation, noting several gun shots were fired, striking the front of the home and one of the bullets striking the female victim on the leg. Anyone with information is

urged to contact Greater Gonzales County Crime Stoppers at (830) 672-8477 (TIPS). You can also contact Investigator James Holt at (830) 672-8686 if you prefer.

“Some of the advantages of contracting with the county would be eliminating of staffing shortages, nepotism to candidates, finding and maintaining workers, backup clerks training, and most of all, the integrity of the elections. The county has the up to date equipment and statewide reporting procedures.”

—Elmer Avellaneda, GISD Superintendent

GISD

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Association of School Boards (TASB) Board Policy.

GISD Superintendent Elmer Avellaneda went over the changes on Policy 121 and 122 to the board at Monday's meeting.

“Update 121 is heavy locally on several bidding items with construction safety program risk competitive bidding competitive sale proposals. And that's going to say something about that,” Avellaneda said.

Avellaneda added the district has been in contact with Sledge Engineering regarding the updated policies from TASB.

“With all the changes coming or that have come in Update 121, just know that all those new updates and rules and regulations are being followed to a tee. We meet every week with Sledge Engineering and we met today. We'll meet next week, and we will meet the following week to make sure that we're following all these local policies that have been enacted in Policy Update

121,” Avellaneda said.

The board approved both the updates to TASB Board Policy 121 and 122 unanimously, 7-0.

In other business the board approved a contract with Gonzales County Election Administrator Gwen Schaefer for the Saturday, May 4, election.

“We'll have two seats that will be running during this year's elections, Districts 4 and 7. Some of the advantages of contracting with the county would be eliminating of staffing shortages, nepotism to candidates, finding and maintaining workers, backup clerks training, and most of all, the integrity of the elections. The county has the up to date equipment and statewide reporting procedures,” Avellaneda said.

The board approved the following agenda items:

- approved and Accept the GISD Education Foundation Grant Funding to be used for Future Grant Disbursements and Associated Budget Amendment.

GVEC's Schauer receives NRECA J.C. Brown Leadership Award



CONTRIBUTED

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Darren Schauer, General Manager and CEO of GVEC, was honored with the 2024 National Rural Electric Cooperative Assn. (NRECA) J.C. Brown CEO Communication Leadership Award during the NRECA's CEO Close-Up event held in Phoenix, Arizona, on January 9, 2024.

First presented in 2004, the NRECA J.C. Brown award recognizes a co-op CEO or general manager who is committed to advancing communication at the cooperative and in the overall electric industry. It is named in honor of the late editor and publisher of RE Magazine, J.C. Brown, who led the publication from 1973 to 1993.

NRECA represents the interests of nearly 900 distribution, generation, and transmission cooperatives serving 42 million people per year in 48 states. GVEC is a member of NRECA and benefits from the membership through

political and public policy advocacy, outreach and employee benefits. NRECA is a national voice for GVEC and other cooperatives on issues important to local-level communities across rural America.

Since becoming GVEC General Manager and CEO in 2003, Schauer has been a driving force behind the cooperative's commitment to effective communication and collaboration across all sectors. Under Schauer's leadership, GVEC has embraced a dynamic 5-year business plan that transcends departmental silos and aligns goals with purpose at all levels within the organization. This style of plan promotes accountability, transparency, consistent communication and regular performance tracking. Numerous metrics, benchmarks and guardrails ensure GVEC is routinely measuring up to the needs of the membership now and in the foreseeable future.

In addition to his internal com-

munications leadership, Schauer currently is a Board Member of the National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC), Texas Broadband Now, Board Chairman of the Gonzales Housing Authority and Board Treasurer of the Gonzales County Health Foundation. He is also a past recipient of a Glassdoor Employees' Choice Award, ranking among the nation's top 50 CEOs in the small and medium business category with an impressive 97% approval rating.

“I am honored to receive this award and appreciate the NRECA Council of Rural Electric Communicators for this recognition. I share this milestone with the good people I've had the opportunity to learn from, work with, and represent in my 30 years in the industry. Great achievements are only possible when you have a solid team around you. I am blessed to have one of the best supporting me and the members of GVEC.”

ELECTION

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\$15 per hour and for election clerks from \$12 to \$14 per hour, starting Feb. 1.

Gonzales County Elections Administrator Gwen Schaefer and Gonzales County Republican Party Chair Liz Hernandez spoke to commissioners at Monday's regular meeting about the difficulty that exists in finding election workers and the need to pay more to those who have more responsibility.

"Right now, all the way across the board, everybody gets paid \$12 (per hour),

whether you're a presiding judge or a clerk," Schaefer said. "Both chairs asked me if we could move it up because they do a lot of work. In my opinion, the judges need to be at least \$1 more (per hour) than the clerks because they do more."

Schaefer said the estimated cost for the 2024 election, including both the primary and general elections, was expected to be \$18,000, not including any overtime expenses. Increasing the pay for election workers as requested would increase

the cost by about \$3,000 to \$21,000, she said.

"We always have trouble, no matter what, getting people to work the election," Schaefer said. "I think even if we paid \$20 per hour, we'd still have trouble because nobody wants to be responsible for working an election."

"I'm talking to the teacher at the high school with the civics and government class and they want to get the high school kids involved in the process of the elections and kids are driven by money," Hernandez said. "If

we could give them just a little bit more money, it could be an incentive. And I know that now we have longer hours, including from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on some weekends, and we're already having trouble securing those positions, so this would be somewhat of an incentive to get them out."

Gonzales County Judge Pat Davis noted the state mandates the county must pay \$12 per hour for election workers and pays the county back that amount for its expenses. However, if the county does

decide to pay workers more than that amount, that cost difference is borne by the county.

"In other elections, (cities and school boards) would be responsible for their part," Davis added.

Commissioners also approved a contract between Gonzales County and the Republican and Democratic parties for a joint March 5 primary election. If a runoff election is necessary, it would be held May 28.



CONTRIBUTED

PARK

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release.

"For the last 25 years, the existing playground has been loved by the community of Gonzales, as well as surrounding communities. However, it is no longer ADA compliant nor friendly for children with special needs. By replacing the existing playground structures with one large playground, we are equipping children of all abilities with an inclusive environment and the skills to play together independently, creating a sense of community among children."

The Gonzales Noon Lions Club Foundation (GNLCF), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, is seeking tax-deductible donations to help offset the cost of the project, which is expected to cost about \$275,000. The city of Gonzales and the Pilot Club of Gonzales have committed to helping fund the project, but it will take additional funds from the community to make it a reality.

The Gonzales Noon Lions Club has been a vital part of Gonzales for more than 83 years, impacting countless lives with their motto of "We Serve."

SENTENCE

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Judge Jessica Crawford at the Gonzales County Courthouse for her sentencing hearing. Crawford had ordered a presentence investigation (PSI) for Almaguer in November on charges of embezzlement and misuse of Gonzales Little League organizational funds.

A PSI is ordered in a felony case in Texas when a judge is expected to impose sentence and often happens when a defendant wishes to plead guilty and then seeks leniency or mercy from the court in assessing

punishment.

Almaguer was indicted for theft of more than \$30,000 but less than \$150,000, a third-degree felony. On May 6, 2021, Little League officers made a report to the Gonzales Police Department regarding theft from their organization and alleged to have a signed confession regarding the missing money.

This is a developing story and the Inquirer hopes to have more information available in the Jan. 18 edition.

CHOICE

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winners. Ballots will run in the Jan. 11, Jan. 18 and Jan. 25 editions of the Inquirer.

Fill in the name of your favorites in more than 100 categories from the greater Gonzales County area including Gonzales, Harwood, Waelder, Nixon, Smiley, Moulton, Ottine, Cost, Belmont, Flatonia, Shiner, Yoakum, Cuero, Hochheim, Leakeville, Westhoff and Luling.

No copies of ballots will be counted and you must have the physical page for votes to count. Ballots may be dropped off at the newspaper at 622 St. Paul Street or mailed to Readers Choice 2023, Box 616, Gonzales, TX 78629. Balloting must be turned in or post-marked no later than Feb. 1, 2024.

Winners will be announced on Feb. 22 in a special Readers Choice edition!

COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"It just had come to my attention that there were people concerned that, you know, we weren't transparent and that we can't vote in closed session or we're not putting ballots out there," Miller said.

Gonzales Mayor Steve Sucher said the principle of the agenda item was whether or not the council has been doing the process legally.

Sucher asked City Attorney Megan Santee to clarify the process to the council.

"I'm looking over with the process that has been put in place, you're providing your preliminary vote on a tally sheet, and then that is being processed by the secretary, it's being provided to the mayor, I believe it's a presiding officer or announcement, and then a consideration and a vote. So to me, that is all that business is all being transacted in this open session," Santee said.

Santee added there is not a requirement to discuss every candidate or the comments that have been received on every candidate.

"It could be something as simple as a list of candidates and counsel just starts with a motion with no discussion. And so it can go any number of ways. So at this point, now, your process to me is legal," Santee said.

No action was taken on this agenda item, but the council will discuss it more when City Manager Tim Crow returns to the next meeting after having been absent Monday.

"I have a feeling that Tim [Crow] has some suggestions for us on this matter and I'm open to tweaking it, but I do honestly do like having the anonymity and the sake and the privacy of it. Some people might say secret, I say private. And I do think that the end result is public. And I don't think that this new method of voting has changed any outcome on any of the boards and commissions that we have voted on," Sucher said.

"I think it would be damaging if we did have a four to one vote and somebody got elected that they were able to find out who voted against them. I just

think that creates a little tension that's not even necessary or needed. They're in and we all will be working with them and supporting them and hoping for the best," Sucher added.

In other business, the council approved the following agenda items: --approved Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Purchase Agreement for ERP Pro 10: Financial Management Suite, Customer Relationship Management Suite, Community Development Suite, and Municipal Justice 10 Suite, All

Powered by Incode, in the Amount of \$68,400.

--approved the disposition and potential sale of surplus real property --approved the Budget Amendments to the Operating Budget for the Fiscal Year Oct. 1, 2023, and Ending Sept. 30, 2024.

--approved Updating and Amending the City of Gonzales Code of Ordinances Article 3.600 Flood Damage Prevention.

With Hunting Season coming to a close, it's never too early to start thinking about next time.

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 Fehner Firearms is closed on Mondays

THE RIGHT CARE, RIGHT HERE.

Providing the right care for this community means understanding the many health and wellness needs of the people who live here. Gonzales Healthcare Systems meets those needs with *THRIVE* Healthplex, a world-class fitness, therapy and total-body wellness facility offering exercise programs, state-of-the-art equipment, personal trainers and an indoor pool, all in a family-centered atmosphere that includes a lounge, conference room and supervised children's area. In addition, *THRIVE* is home to our hospital's therapy department, making it one of the most complete life-enhancing health and wellness centers in the area, all right here, close to home.

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