

The Gonzales Inquirer

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Schulenburg man dies from accidental gunshot wound following traffic stop

FROM STAFF REPORTS

A 20-year-old Schulenburg man died Sunday, Jan. 14, after what appeared to be an accidental shooting preceding a traffic stop in Gonzales, according to a press release by the Gonzales Police Department.

At about 8:25 p.m. Sunday, GPD Sgt. Leopoldo Mendez observed a traffic violation and conducted a traffic stop on US Highway 183.

Upon making contact with the driver and the passengers in the vehicle, it was discovered that one of the rear seat passengers — later identified

as 20-year-old Alejandro Rangel of Schulenburg — had sustained a gunshot wound to his arm.

Additional officers were called to the scene and a tourniquet was placed on the victim's arm. Gonzales EMS was dispatched to the scene and Rangel was transported by ambulance to Seton

Hospital in Kyle, where he was pronounced dead from his injury. It was determined the preliminary cause of the shooting was an accidental weapon discharge.

The incident turned into an active

See GUNSHOT, page 18



PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE HANSON

Temperatures in Gonzales dropped to a low of 14 degrees early Wednesday, Jan. 17, after an arctic blast chilled the area over the course of several days. The water fountain outside Gonzales City Hall froze over due to the extreme cold.

Cold weather materializes, but no return of 'Snowmageddon'

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

Cold temperatures blasted Gonzales County with a wind chill and hard freeze warning in effect from Sunday, Jan. 14 through Wednesday, Jan. 17.

While arctic temps created fears of a return of the type of unforgiving weather last seen during Winter Storm Uri in February 2021, the area was spared the high volume of freeze-

See COLD, page 18

Nixon council agrees to lower industrial water rate after executive session

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

After a lengthy executive session Tuesday, Jan. 16, the Nixon City Council voted unanimously to lower the industrial water rate from \$4.65 per 1,000 gallons to \$4.18 per 1,000 gallons, contingent upon a budget amendment ordinance being passed after a scheduled budget workshop.

The move came after representatives from Holmes Foods voiced their concerns last month to the council about rapidly increasing utility fees the company has had to pay during the past four years.

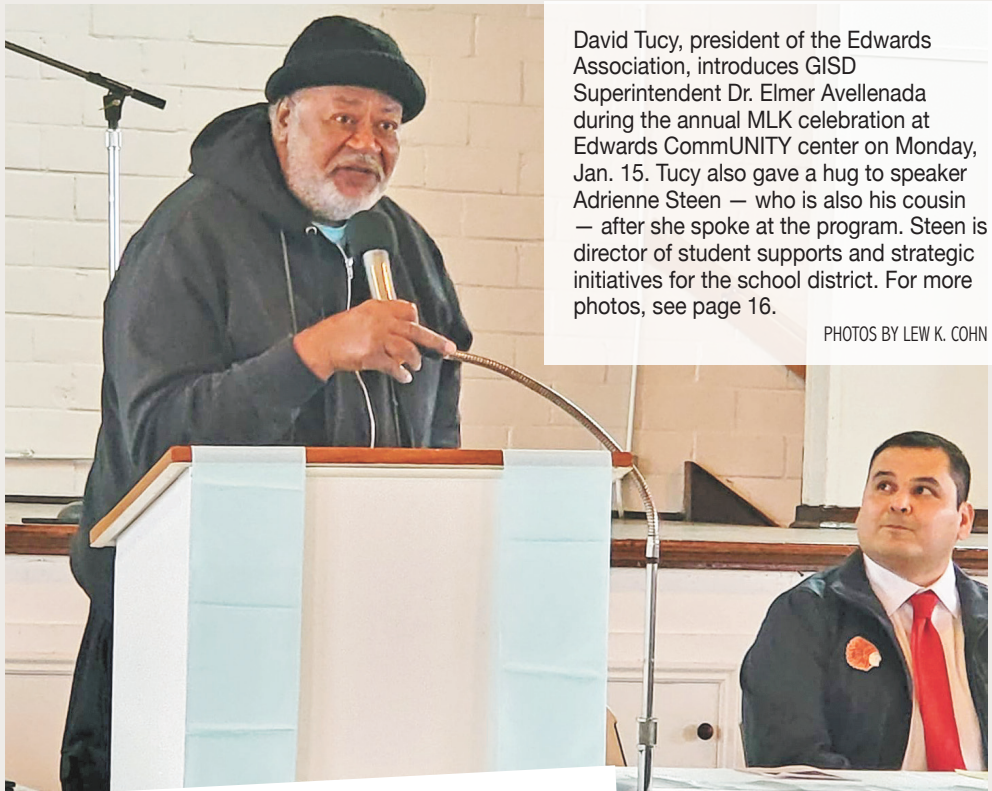
CEO Phil Hartung had hinted to the council that if water rates remain exorbitantly high for them, as the city's largest commercial customer, they may be forced to relocate the plant because of escalating costs.

"The owners and managers of Holmes Foods would like to keep this processing plant here for years to come and we want to work with the city to do that, but we can't do that (under the new water rates)," Hartung said last month.

According to Hartung, the company had seen its utility

See NIXON, page 18

Edwards Association leads Gonzales with MLK parade and celebration



David Tacy, president of the Edwards Association, introduces GISD Superintendent Dr. Elmer Avellenada during the annual MLK celebration at Edwards CommUNITY center on Monday, Jan. 15. Tacy also gave a hug to speaker Adrienne Steen — who is also his cousin — after she spoke at the program. Steen is director of student supports and strategic initiatives for the school district. For more photos, see page 16.

PHOTOS BY LEW K. COHN



The theme was "Living the Dream: It Starts with Me — Spreading Hope, Courage and Unity"

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

On one of the coldest days of the year, the Edwards Association in Gonzales on Monday, Jan. 15, embraced the warm teachings of love, freedom and peace handed down by the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on the 95th anniversary of his birth.

See MLK, page 17

NIXON

Voigt appointed interim municipal judge

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

Gonzales County Precinct 1 Justice of the Peace Deidra Voigt was appointed the interim municipal judge for

the City of Nixon until the next mayoral election at a salary of \$500 per month by the Nixon City Council on Tuesday, Jan. 16.

Voigt also serves as the municipal judge for Gon-

zales and will serve out the remaining term of former Nixon Municipal Judge Darryl Becker, who was appointed the interim city manager

See JUDGE, page 18

County municipalities start 2024 with higher sales tax allocations

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

The year 2024 began on a positive note for all four

Gonzales County municipalities as they all saw increases in local sales tax allocations over what they received in January 2023, according to information

released by Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar.

January 2024 sales tax allocations were up \$10,215.67 above those received in Janu-

ary 2023 and \$16,223.40 above what those cities received in December 2023, ending a

See TAX, page 5



Pam's Kitchen to feed 100 senior citizens, disabled

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Pam's Kitchen Serving the Community will be feeding 100 senior citizens and disabled individuals on Saturday, Jan. 20, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Providence Missionary Baptist Church, 1020 Saint Andrew St., Gonzales. The meal will

include hot baked chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans and a slice of cake.

For more information, call 512-954-1756 or email pam-skitchen53@gmail.com. If you or someone you know is a senior citizen or disabled individual in need of a free meal, please contact them today.

Pam's Kitchen Serving The Community is a non-profit organization that has been providing hot meals and other services to the homeless, senior citizens, and low-income families in Texas for more than eight years. Founded by Pamela Smith, a former cosmetologist, former owner of a daycare and

a passionate cook, Pam's Kitchen aims to feed the hungry, nourish the soul, and spread the love of God through its food and outreach programs.

Pam's Kitchen operates with the help of volunteers, donors, and sponsors who share its vision of serving the community with compassion and generos-

ity. Because the organization understands that many seniors and disabled individuals are on a fixed income, that is why their program is completely free of charge. They believe that everyone should have access to healthy and nutritious food, regardless of their financial situation.

GVEC named Best Place to Work by Glassdoor

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 been named a winner of the Glassdoor Employees' Choice Award - Best Places to Work 2024 - ranking #10 out of 50 chosen for this award in the Small to Medium U.S. Business category! Glassdoor is one of the largest job recruiting sites with thousands of small- to medium-sized companies utilizing their site. This award is based on the reviews made by GVEC employees about their job, work environment and GVEC over the past year.

"Worklife is rapidly changing, and professionals are turning to Glassdoor to share their experiences about working for some of the most competitive employers in the world," said Christian Sutherland-Wong, Glassdoor Chief Executive Officer.

"The Best Places to Work award is a stark reminder of the power of Glassdoor, from arming professionals with career insights and real-time conversations about all things work and life, to providing employers with feedback to improve. Glassdoor has evolved to make sure that transparency isn't a fad, but rather, a foundational component in the future of work."

When employees submit reviews

about their employer on Glassdoor, they are asked to share their opinions on some of the best reasons to work for their employer (pros), any downsides (cons) and are encouraged to provide advice to management.

In addition, employees are asked to rate how satisfied they are with their employer overall, rate their CEO and key workplace attributes including career opportunities, compensation and benefits, culture and values, diversity and inclusion, senior management and work-life balance. Employees are also asked whether they would recommend their employer to a friend and whether they believe their employer's six-month business outlook is positive, negative or if they have no opinion.

Being honored as one of the Best Places to Work 2024 organizations reflects the employees of GVEC's strong dedication to serving the members, communities and the cooperative.

"I am so proud of this team of professionals who stay true to exceeding expectations and holding each other accountable to deliver more for our membership, our customers and to each other as fellow team members," GVEC General Manager and CEO Darren Schauer said of receiving the award.

With a rich heritage and a focus on the future, GVEC considers the impact its work has on others and

remains steadfast in its mission of empowering the people and communities they serve. Compensation, benefits, employee development, equipment and hospitable working conditions are some of the factors that drive GVEC to be a fair and attractive employer in the area.

"Our staff and directors invest significant time and resources into understanding the needs and wants of a progressive workforce. Ultimately, our goal is to recruit and retain people with the right mindset - these folks are engaged, highly skilled and motivated to do the right thing," said Schauer.

"On behalf of the employees, I am pleased to receive this recognition from Glassdoor, which reflects our ongoing commitment to open communication with each other and the community."

GVEC is a progressive cooperative focused on delivering products and services that empower the people and communities in South Central Texas. A trusted, local partner since 1938, today GVEC provides dependable electricity, high-speed internet, and beyond the meter services like AC/heating, solar and battery storage solutions, and electrician services.

The Cooperative proudly serves over 120,000 consumers in surrounding areas through five customer service locations in Cuero, Gonzales, La Vernia, Schertz and Seguin.

Schoolcraft launches campaign for Texas House District 44

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Business owner, attorney and former Texas legislator Alan Schoolcraft announced he will run for Texas House District 44 against John Kuempel. Schoolcraft comes into the race with \$100,000 in the bank.



Schoolcraft

Schoolcraft has a long history of service to Texas including six terms in the Texas State House during a time when Democrats held the majority with 75 percent. He was on the ground floor of the fight to shift Texas toward becoming the conservative state it is today.

Considering the current state of chaos and lack of conservative leadership in the Texas House that has killed many conservative bills including legislation to establish school choice and education freedom, Schoolcraft is ready to take the fight to Austin once again.

"I never expected to resume my post as a Texas State Representative, but it is clear that Texas needs leaders who won't bend under pressure, and who won't quit until the job is done. I was a Republican during a time when we had no choice but to relentlessly fight for the conservative values we believed in. It's been a while, but I haven't lost my appetite for the fight, and I will deliver on border security, protecting family values, and school choice," said Schoolcraft.

Before he was a legislator, Schoolcraft was an attorney, but he has spent most of his career as a computer software engineer and business owner. He received his law degree from St. Mary's University in San Antonio, and in the early years of his practice, saw a need for some software that did not exist. He built a software program and began selling it, building a successful multi-state company. He sold that company and currently runs a software company called TXdocs. He now resides in McQueeney, Texas.

This district includes Guadalupe and Gonzales counties.

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.

Candelaria to hold book signing at Brothers Library

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Hear ye! Hear ye! Doth thou enjoy elves, dragons, magic and all things fantasy?

The Robert Lee Brothers Jr. Memorial Library, 301 Saint Joseph, Gonzales, is excited to announce that Paul A. Candelaria, author of "Legacy of the Kings," will be here for a reading and signing on Saturday, Jan. 27, at 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The books will be available for purchase in library during the event.

"Legacy of the Kings" is fun for all ages. Set in a medieval-type period, "Legacy of the Kings" is a collection of six novels. This young adult Christian fantasy series has enough action to keep you at the edge of your seat. There's also a complicated love triangle that would make any romance fan swoon. Oh, and don't forget the suspense, horror, and drama twined within comedic antics!

To find out more information visit Legacyofthekings.com. You can also follow the author on Facebook at Paul A. Candelaria: Legacy of the Kings.

Pilot Club to hold Bunco Fiesta fundraiser

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Don't take a siesta on a Bunco Fiesta, sponsored by the Pilot Club of Gonzales next month.

The event, scheduled for 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 4, at the Gonzales Elks Lodge #2413, 1222 E Sarah DeWitt Dr, Gonzales, will raise money to support an adaptive playground in Gonzales as well as other projects.

For information about tickets, check out their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/events/697995039142779>.

PAM Health to sponsor Chamber social Feb. 8

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

PAM Health and Specialty Rehabilitation of Luling will sponsor a social from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 8, at the Gonzales Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture, 304 Saint Louis St., Gonzales.

Refreshments and snacks will be served.

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CASA volunteer training set

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Golden Crescent CASA will hold a new volunteer training at The Crossing at First United Methodist Church of Victoria, 404 N. Bridge St., Victoria, on Jan. 23, Jan. 25, Jan. 30 and Feb. 1, 2024, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

CASA volunteers are community members working collaboratively to support children and families involved in the foster care system.

Apply at goldencrescentcasa.org or by calling 361-573-3734.



FIND US ON FACEBOOK

Celebrations

Birthdays

January 18th Juan Gaytan Barry Harkey Sr. Morgan McLain Roy Pfuhl Kathy Koch Pustka Joey West	Norma Ehrig Layne Harkey Roxann Laredo
January 19th Riley Brown Kelley Decker Robin Guerra Katherine Miller Kathy Lamprecht Sam Turk	January 22nd Ella Mae Finch
January 20th Jonathon Harkey Diane Hurley Virginia Pirkle	January 23rd Mitchell Friedrich Kristin Matias Leslie Petrek Sherri Schellenberg
January 21st Susan Wilkerson Clark	January 24th Shiann Bowers Amber Cowan Chris Espinosa Patricia Govett Ian McLain Mary Miller Brandi Vinklerek Devin Vinklerek

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Gonzales Weather

	January 18 59°/34°	Warmer with a blend of sun and clouds 15% chance of rain • RealFeel 56
	January 19 52°/32°	Sunny 0% chance of rain • RealFeel 53
	January 20 47°/34°	Cold with sun followed by clouds 5% chance of rain • RealFeel 45
	January 21 53°/44°	Considerable cloudiness; areas of drizzle in the morning followed by a little rain in the afternoon. 55% chance of rain • RealFeel 49
	January 22 57°/49°	Cloudy with a bit of rain 57% chance of rain • RealFeel 55
	January 23 63°/52°	Rain 75% chance of rain • RealFeel 58
	January 24 68°/46°	Periods of rain 60% chance of rain • RealFeel 64

Upcoming Events at J.B. Wells Park in Gonzales

January 20th
J and K Productions
January 21st
40 Plus Team Roping

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Buckingham announces Veterans Land Board home loan increase

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Texas Land Commissioner and Veterans Land Board (VLB) Chairwoman Dawn Buckingham, M.D. announced that the VLB has approved an increase for the VLB home loan amount from \$726,200 to \$766,550.

“Working to expand opportunities and support for Texans Veterans is one of my top priorities as VLB Chairwoman,” said Commissioner Buckingham. “The VLB’s most recent home loan limit increase goes further than ever before to help our Veterans fulfill their dreams of homeownership, building strong families and reinforcing bonds with the communities they have so courageously served. The VLB is honored to continue assisting Veterans through their entire home-buying journey, from qualifying to closing.”

All qualifying Veterans will continue to receive a competitive

interest rate and Veterans with a Veterans Affairs (VA) service-connected disability rating of 30% or greater still qualify for a discounted interest rate. Eligible Texas Veterans and Military Members can now apply for VA, Federal Housing Administration (FHA) or conventional financing using the Veterans Housing Assistance Program (VHAP) and a VLB participating lender.

Veterans who utilize VA-backed home-buying benefits along with a VLB home loan may be eligible for a home loan with no down-payment and no private mortgage insurance (PMI). VHAP can be used to purchase a single-family attached or detached home, townhome, or condominium. Veterans can also use VHAP more than once.

For more information about the home loan program and a list of VLB lenders, visit the VLB website.

For more information call the VLB at: 1-800-252-8387.

Garden Q&A with CALVIN FINCH



Q. When will retail nurseries have tomato transplants available for the spring? Can we plant them as soon as they are available?

A. Some retailers already have transplants for sale even though the soil and air temperatures are generally too cold to plant tomatoes in the garden before Mar 15 and have them prosper. If you are in a hurry and want to start the tomatoes, “pot them up” in a 1 gallon

container and place them in a sunny location out of the wind until after March 15. If temperatures below 40 degrees are forecast, move the potted up tomatoes into a shelter where the temps are warmer until the cold temps move on.

Q. How long will the pansies keep blooming? Can they survive the 15 degree temps that are forecast?

A. Most years they seem to keep blooming until the end of May. If the 15 degree temps don’t last for more than a few hours the pansies should survive. You will need to cover cyclamen, stocks, primula, and snapdragons to preserve their blooms.

Q. Does watering plants just before the freeze starts protect them from the cold?

A. No, but running a sprinkler on a cold sensitive tree or orchard during the whole period of freezing temperatures will protect them from the freeze because the water stays above 32 degrees as long as it is not frozen. As long as it is flowing it is a heat source but when it stops flowing and freezes, it stops providing enough heat to keep the plants from freezing.

Q. Why do birds eat pepper flavored suet and seed but squirrels don’t?

A. The birds do not have taste buds that are sensitive to hot pepper and the squirrels and other mammals do.



METRO CREATIVE GRAPHICS

LIVESTOCK WEEKLY REPORTS

GONZALES LIVESTOCK MARKET

January 13th

Cattle - 1180

Compared to our last sale:

Number 1 choice calves and yearlings sold steady. Less quality calves and yearlings sold steady. Packer cows sold steady & bulls sold 2.00-3.00 higher.

Stocker-feeder Steers: Medium and large-frame No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 285-335; 300-400 lbs., 295-335; 400-500 lbs., 245-335; 500-600 lbs., 230-260; 600-700 lbs., 200-245; 700-800 lbs., 195-217. Bull Yearlings: 700-900 lbs., 90-155.

Stocker-feeder heifers: Medium and large-frame No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 285-330; 300-400 lbs., 235-290; 400-500 lbs., 220-265; 500-600 lbs., 210-223; 600-700 lbs., 185-212.

Packer Cows: Good lean utility and commercial, 75-86; Cutters, 89-101; Canners, 52-78; High yielding fat cows, 87-95.

Packer Bulls: Yield grade 1 & 2, good heavy bulls, 115-121; Light weights and medium quality bulls, 105-110.

Stocker Cows: \$750 to \$1,500. Pairs: \$1,100 to \$1,600.

HALLETTSVILLE LIVESTOCK COMMISSION CO., INC.

Sale date: January 9th

Cattle on hand: 1291

Packer Cows:

High Dressing: \$88-100

Medium Dressing: \$67-87

Low Dressing: \$52-68

Poor/Weak Cows: \$45-58

Packer Bulls:

High Dressing Bulls: \$113-124

Medium Dressing Bulls: \$100-112

Low Dressing Bulls: \$90-100

Stocker Cows:

Good Stocker/Cows & Heifers: NONE

Medium Stocker Cows & Heifers: \$1075-1450

Good Cow & Calf Pairs: NONE

Medium Cow & Calf Pairs: 4 Pair - \$1425

Stocker & Feeder Calves & Yearlings:

Number 1 steer & bull calves: Under 200 lbs.: \$240-340

200-300 lbs.: \$270-335

300-400 lbs.: \$270-350

400-500 lbs.: \$245-320

500-600 lbs.: \$225-285

600-700 lbs.: \$205-250

700-800 lbs.: \$185-222

Number 1 heifer calves:

Under 200 lbs.: \$235-295

200-300 lbs.: \$235-315

300-400 lbs.: \$240-310

400-500 lbs.: \$220-295

500-600 lbs.: \$215-272

600-700 lbs.: \$190-226

700-800 lbs.: \$175-205

Replacement Heifers:

350-700 lbs.: \$230-285

The calf market opened the new year very strong. Most No. 1

classes sold \$6 to \$12 higher with some light weights - \$20

higher. Demand extremely good. Area received much needed

rainfall. Packer cows sold fully steady and strong on 200 total head.

SEGUIN CATTLE CO.

January 10th

Quality very deep on all classes.

Stocker cattle 5-7 better with packer cows & bulls 5 better

Cattle - 905

Sheep & goats - 1049

Medium & large frame #1 Steers:

200-300 lb. .50-2.38-3.37

300-400 lb. .50-2.72-3.42

400-500 lb. .45-2.25-3.18

500-600 lb. .53-2.00-2.73

600-700 lb. .75-1.71-2.42

700-850 lb. .88-1.74-2.16

Medium & large frame #1 Heifers:

200-300 lb. .50-2.46-3.25

300-400 lb. .75-2.54-3.25

400-500 lb. .90-2.20-2.70

500-600 lb. .45-1.80-2.56

600-750 lb. .80-1.52-2.05

Cows:

Utility & commercial - .75-90-1.05

Cutters - .46-.65-.80

Canners - .20-.49-.84

Palpated cows - 600-1000

Cow/Calf Pairs - NONE

Bulls:

Heavy High Yielding - 1.00-1.10

Light & Low Yielding - .88-.99

Sheep & Goats:

Nannies - 35-270

Kid Goats (Fat) - 2.80-3.40

Wethers - 1.25-2.77

Billies - 1.50-2.50

Dorp. Ewes - 35-170

Dorp. Lambs (Fat) - 2.80-3.60

Wooled Ewes - NONE

Wooled Bucks - 1.45-1.95

Lambs - 2.35-2.80

Barb. Bucks - 430

CUERO LIVESTOCK MARKET

January 12, 2024

Number of head 2,074

There were 311 cows and 28 bulls. Top packer bull was up to \$123/cwt while tops on packer

cows was \$96/cwt. A good supply sold well. Demand continues

to be very strong.

The calf market was strong with weights under 500 pounds higher while over 500 pounds was steady. A strong market despite weather concerns on shipping. Overall it was a surprisingly good day.

Packer bulls: 94.00-123.00

Packer cows: 78.00-96.00

poor & weak 30.00-57.00

Palpated: 13 BRED 92.00-136.00

PAIRS: 2 \$1,410 & \$1,450

Steer Calves:

250-299 lbs. 296.00-336.00

300-350 lbs. 305.00-337.50

350-400 lbs. 286.00-334.00

400-450 lbs. 269.00-328.00

450-500 lbs. 257.00-311.00

500-550 lbs. 237.00-270.00

550-600 lbs. 224.00-259.00

600-700 lbs. 217.00-256.00

700-800 lbs. 207.00-220.00

Bull Calves: (AVG-HIGH)

Under 250lbs 268.00-345.00

250-300 lbs. 296.00-352.00

300-350 lbs. 291.00-337.50

350-400 lbs. 281.00-333.00

400-450 lbs. 261.00-322.00

450-500 lbs. 252.00-300.00

500-550 lbs. 234.00-273.00

550-600 lbs. 220.00-246.00

600-700 lbs. 201.00-235.00

Over 700 lbs. 189.00-216.00

Heifer Calves: (AVG-HIGH)

under 200 lbs. 279.00-310.00

200-250 lbs. 281.00-342.00

250-300 lbs. 259.00-330.00

300-350 lbs. 252.00-334.00

350-400 lbs. 249.00-336.00

400-450 lbs. 235.00-326.00

450-500 lbs. 220.00-264.00

500-550 lbs. 214.00-262.00

550-600 lbs. 203.00-246.00

600-700 lbs. 197.00-238.00

Over 700 lbs. 171.00-204.00

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear editor,

On Wednesday, Jan. 10, we returned to Gonzales from picking up a pick-up bed of lumber in Austin. As we arrived at the intersection of Highway 90A and US 183, north of Gonzales, when we drove through the intersection we heard a loud noise! The strap we had used to tie down the load broke and about 20 sheets of plywood lay on the pavement!

We turned around, called one of our crew members who was working on a project in town, and went back to see the damage. When we got back to the intersection, two men driving a City of Gonzales pickup were already moving the plywood from the pavement to the grass median. By the time we parked our truck, they had already moved all the wood to the median! We thanked them, but did not get their names.

Before we could position our truck to reload the plywood, two other young men stopped to help load the wood into our truck. Dale, Patricio and the two men who stopped to help load the wood did so in short order and we were on our way!

These two young men asked nothing in return for their kindness and all we could offer was a handshake and a hug!

We would like to express our sincere thanks to all! Living in Gonzales has its rewards! God saw what they did and their kindness will be rewarded!

Sincerely,

Dale & Shirley Carleton
Dale's Cabinets
Gonzales, Texas

Dear editor,

Here we go again, with another election cycle and people want to keep calling C-SPAN and argue about whether or not we are a Democratic Republic. Maybe they should talk with George Washington about the Declaration of Independence about that.

The Republican party voted this current congressional session to eliminate the penalty for not signing up for the Affordable Care Act (which they describe as Obamacare), but still let the lifetime penalty for seniors — that was negotiated by the insurance industry, George Bush Jr., and Ted Kennedy — stay in place.

This has been talked about before, but the three branches of our government do not seem to think voting seniors are worth their attention. I hope all seniors will shout out to their government that this is just not fair.

Kenneth Mosher Sr.
Gonzales

TxDOT observes National Human Trafficking Prevention Month

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

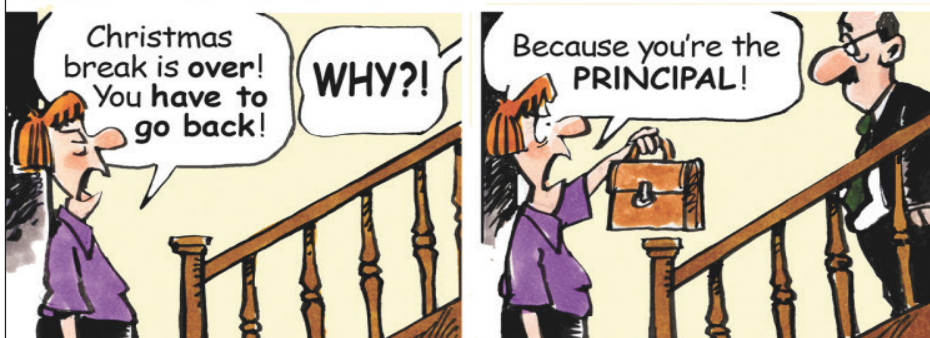
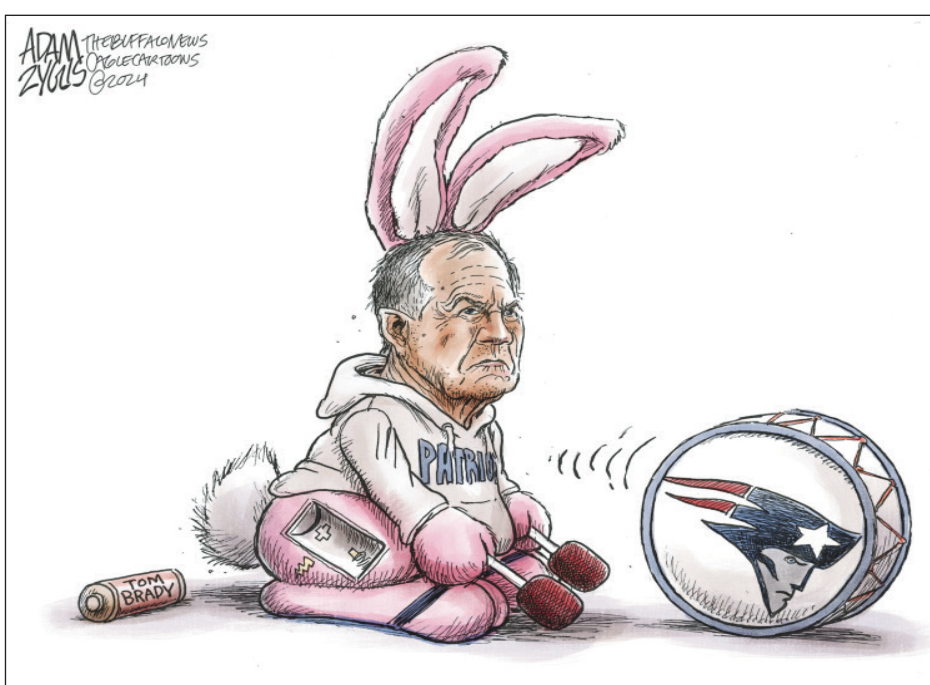
TxDOT is raising awareness about the dangers of human trafficking and working with other state agencies to help stop this horrific crime.

During National Human Trafficking Prevention Month in January, TxDOT is continuing its "On the Road to End Human Trafficking" campaign and working with other state agencies through the Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Coordinating Council and the Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force. The Texas Legislature passed SB1527 in 2023, which added TxDOT to both groups.

"In the fight against human trafficking, it takes all of us working together," TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams said. "We're empowering our people to be on the lookout to spot the signs of human trafficking and with more than 13,000 employees across the state, we can make a difference."

TxDOT recently updated its Human Trafficking Awareness employee training video to include information on the various types of trafficking, red flags commonly associated, how transportation is used to aid traffickers and ways individuals can safely report suspicious activity.

See **TRAFFICKING**, page 5



DR. DON NEWBURY
The Idle American

Long ago promises...

When this weekly piece first saw the light of day in February, 2003, I promised to share stories worthy of belly laughs—or at least chuckles. I also vowed to offer occasional gems of wisdom. I wanted these “gems” to be worthy of comparison to the precious pearls of Majorca. Sadly, most more nearly resemble costume jewelry from the Dollar Store....

Here they come—in random order—to usher in a new year:

1) We are barraged by bank ads, each claiming to provide down home comforts for bosom-buddy customers, all of whom will be defended to the death. In my view, there's not a dime's worth of difference in most banks. I'll settle for the one whose checks can be easily torn from checkbooks without mangling. Another observation: The folks making the loans are NOT the same ones featured in TV bank ads.

2) My friend Judge Stephen Rogers offers a marriage tip that husbands should take to heart: "If your wife wants farm animals for Christmas, you want farm animals for Christmas."

3) Like many thousands of other Sunday School classes, our bunch gathers for a Christmas dinner in early December, with each couple or individual bringing a \$15 gift. The presents are stacked prominently, then lifted, shaken and/or carefully examined by potential "giftees."

Last month, Ray and Mickey West of the hostess group brought several dozen puzzles to be handed out to all guests. (They'd collected them during COVID'S worst times, completing each of them at least once. They figured it was time for others to enjoy the puzzles.)

Not knowing the party would be awash in puzzles, Lee Anne Goddard brought a two-puzzle gift for some "lucky" class member. After all the, uh, "relocation" of gifts ended, Edith Minor wound up with the puzzles Lee Anne brought. Forcing a smile, Edith admitted that she doesn't have the patience to work puzzles, considering it a victory when she finds the four corner pieces....

4) My Uncle Mort keenly remembers when strong campaigns for women's rights began back in the 1960s. (I do, too, entitling one of my speeches, "From Adam's Rib to Web Pages and Fibs," explaining that with this sweeping historical reference, there's no way I could get off the subject.) Anyways, Mort says he's kept a sharp eye out to see if media advertising continues to give equal time to the fairer sex. Whatever, he says he still hasn't seen or heard any commercials about cutting out the "middle woman"....

5) Having spouted speeches from behind lecterns for more than 60 years, I have sometimes enjoyed—but more often endured—all kinds of introductions. Some have been so generous, it has occurred—albeit briefly—that I might consider running for "sainthood," or at least for public office.

One night at a long-ago banquet, the introducer—a man I'd never met—had no bio sheet. "All I need is your date of birth," he said. I complied.

Here's how I was introduced, almost verbatim: "Our speaker was born in Brown County on September 7, 1937. This means that he's had 45 years, three months and four days to prepare his remarks, so they darned sure ought to be good." After this single statement, he sat down....

6) About 60 years ago, one of my early bosses was the late Dr. Bryan Wildenthal, for a dozen years president of Sul Ross State University. He shocked me one day with this observation: "Don, wouldn't it be wonderful if somehow, home teams could somehow always win?"

I immediately thought him to be way off base, but the longer I live and the more times I've seen cash, compromises and "convictionless" decisions carry too many days, I'm ready to reconsider. Exhibit A is a recent announcement that ESPN will pay \$920 million for exclusive television rights to 40 NCAA championships over the next eight years. Forget NCAA setting policy; TV pulls the strings. Maybe pickleball is the only sport left standing without a huge price tag....

Dr. Newbury, longtime university president, continues writing and speaking. Contact: newbury@speakerdoc.com. 817-447-3872.

The Gonzales Inquirer

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SALES TAX ALLOCATIONS

County	City	Rate	Net Payment This Period	Comparable Payment Prior Year	% Change	Payment YTD	Prior Year Payment YTD	% Change
Gonzales	Gonzales	1.500%	\$271,332.15	\$264,442.35	2.60%	\$271,332.15	\$264,442.35	2.60%
Gonzales	Nixon	1.500%	\$31,190.75	\$31,187.56	0.01%	\$31,190.75	\$31,187.56	0.01%
Gonzales	Smiley	1.000%	\$4,728.83	\$2,453.88	92.70%	\$4,728.83	\$2,453.88	92.70%
Gonzales	Waelder	1.500%	\$10,912.17	\$9,864.44	10.62%	\$10,912.17	\$9,864.44	10.62%

TAX

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

string of four straight months of sales tax receipt decreases when compared to the same period in the previous year.

Hegar announced he sent cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose districts \$1.1 billion in local sales tax allocations for January, 3.3 percent more than in January 2023. These allocations are based on sales made in November by businesses that report tax monthly.

For the month of December 2023, Gonzales County municipalities received a combined \$318,163.90 in sales tax allocations, up nearly 3.32 percent above the \$307,948.23 received during January 2023. It was also more than

the \$301,940.50 in sales tax allocations received in December 2023.

Sales tax allocations for Gonzales, the largest city in the county which generates the lion's share of sales tax revenue, were \$271,332.15, up 2.60 percent or \$6,889.80, above the \$264,442.35 the city received in January 2023. It was also \$12,237.39 more than the \$259,094.76 received in December 2023. It is the 12th highest monthly total ever for the city of Gonzales and the most money Gonzales has ever seen in a January sales tax allocation, eclipsing the previous best set in 2023.

Waelder received a total of \$10,912.17, up 10.62 percent, or \$1,047.73, over

the \$9,864.44 received in January 2023. This is the city's ninth-best month of all time and a new record for the month of January, marking the first time sales tax allocations for that month have ever exceeded \$10,000. The previous record was set last January. It is worth noting the amount received by Waelder was lower than the \$11,658.65 received in December 2023.

Sales tax receipts for Nixon were \$31,190.75, up just 0.01 percent, or \$3.19, above the \$31,187.56 received in January 2023. However, the amount is \$2,343.10 better than the \$28,847.65 the city received for December 2023.

Finally, Smiley's sales tax receipts

were \$4,728.83, up 92.70 percent, or \$2,274.95, above the \$2,453.88 the city received in January 2023 and up \$2,489.39 above the \$2,239.44 received in December 2023. It is the second-best January ever for Smiley and best since January 2019.

Three cities in Gonzales County — Gonzales, Nixon and Waelder — collect a 1.5 percent sales tax rate, while Smiley collects a 1 percent sales tax.

Gonzales County itself also receives a 0.5 percent sales and use tax and for the month of January 2024, the county received \$210,053.34, up 6.89 percent, or \$13,556.16, above the \$196,497.18 received by the county in January 2023.

TRAFFICKING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

On Thursday, Jan. 11, TxDOT joined other agencies around the state to recognize Human Trafficking Awareness Day by wearing blue as part of the Department of Homeland Security's Blue Campaign to raise awareness about human trafficking.

Texas consistently has the second highest number of calls to the National Human Trafficking Hotline. It is important for all of us to be aware, stay vigilant, and report signs of human trafficking. There are several ways to report human trafficking situations:

- Call 911 for emergencies.
- Call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 888-373-7888 or text 233733.
- Call iWatchTexas at 844-643-2251 or submit a report through their website or through the iWatch app. on your mobile device.

By being alert and "trusting your gut," you can help play a role in preventing the tragedy of human trafficking.



STELLA'S REFUGE HOSTS CONFERENCE TO RAISE AWARENESS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Lisa Michelle, right, was the keynote speaker at a conference on human trafficking on Tuesday, Jan. 16, hosted by Stella's Refuge at the Stockton Building of First United Methodist Church of Gonzales. Fifty-five people attended, including representatives from Norma's House and COPE as well as several local churches. Lisa Michelle is the CEO of Lily & Co., whose curated gifts are handcrafted by survivors of abuse and trafficking and which provides funding for safe homes. She is also the CEO/Founder of Untethered Ministries, a non-profit guiding women and children into inner-healing from being sexually exploited or trafficked. NSAGirls is an intervention and advocacy program within Untethered Ministries providing aftercare for the exploited.

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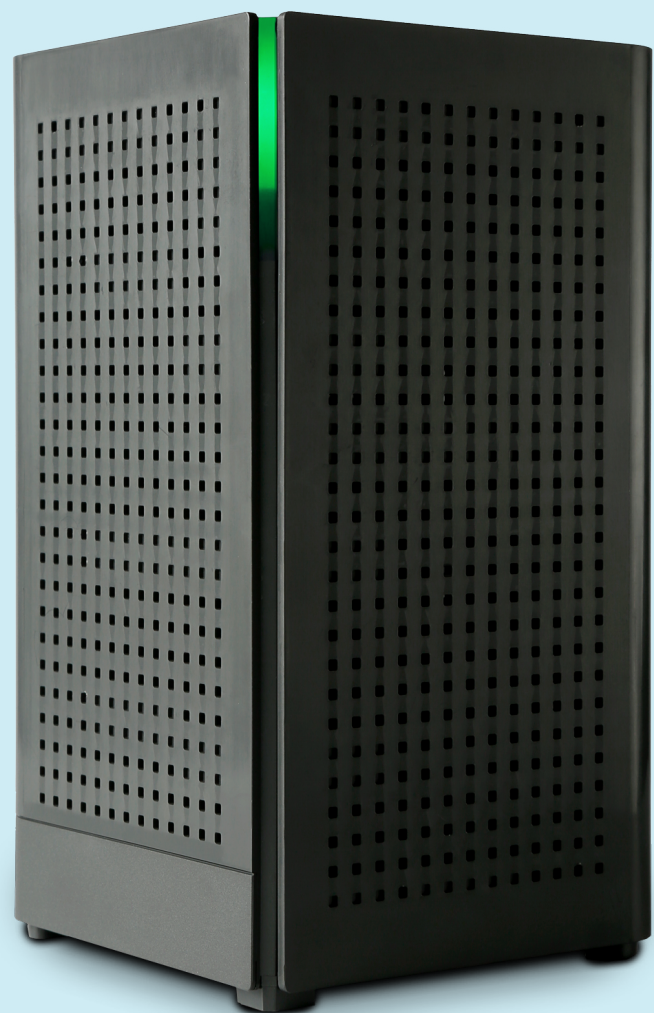
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Gonzales Inquirer



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Come and Take It Dance establishes non-profit Gonzales Youth Ballet to support aspiring dancers

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

In the aftermath of their triumphant second annual Nutcracker, Come and Take It Dance is delighted to introduce a compelling initiative that invites local residents to shape the future of aspiring dancers in our community. The overwhelming response from arts patrons expressing a desire to sponsor a dancer has led to the creation of "Gonzales Youth Ballet" - a 501c3 nonprofit organization.

"At Gonzales Youth Ballet, we firmly believe that financial barriers should never impede the pursuit of passion and talent. Your tax-deductible donation holds the power to grant a dancer a year-long scholarship, enabling them to immerse themselves in the world of dance," the company said in a press release.

To ensure a commitment to excellence, scholarship recipients must meet specific criteria. They are required to participate in a minimum of three group classes per week



and one private lesson, fostering a structured environment for continuous growth. Additionally, applicants must have a dance background of at least three months before applying for the scholarship, ensuring a foundation for progress. Community members are

asked to consider the following levels of sponsorship:

- Full year of scholarship + performance fee = \$3,500.
- 6 months scholarship + performance fee = \$1,750.

Payments can be made on a quarterly basis, offering flexibility and convenience for our

generous sponsors. As a token of gratitude, donors will be recognized on the Gonzales Youth Ballet Facebook page and featured in marketing materials for their next performance, celebrating your invaluable contribution to the local arts scene. "This scholarship program

not only supports individual dancers but also contributes to the cultural richness of our community. It's an opportunity to invest in the arts and empower talented individuals to pursue their passion," the company said in its press release.

"If you feel a connection to this cause and are interested in making a lasting impact, we invite you to sponsor a dancer. Your support can make dreams come true, allowing these dedicated individuals to thrive in their artistic journey. Let's unite as a community to nurture the next generation of dancers. Your generosity can spark a lifelong love for the arts and pave the way for future performances that captivate hearts and minds."

To contribute to this transformative initiative, please visit the Come and Take It Dance website: www.comeandtakeitdance.com. Alternatively, you can reach out to Come and Take It Dance directly at 310.592.1067 for more information or to express your interest in providing a scholarship.



Graduates of Victoria College's Vocational Nursing Program in Gonzales.



Graduates of Victoria College's Vocational Nursing Program in Victoria.

VC honors 51 Vocational Nursing Program graduates

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Fifty-one graduates of Victoria College's 2023 Vocational Nursing Program were honored with a Pinning Ceremony on Dec. 14 at VC's Leo J. Welder Center for the Performing Arts.

Ashley Adami, of Yoakum, was named valedictorian of the 2023 class. Alexis

Camarillo, of Gonzales, was named salutatorian.

The 2023 class included 24 graduates from the Victoria program, 14 from the Hallettsville program, and 13 from the Gonzales program.

Following is a list of 2023 graduates of Victoria College's Vocational Nursing Program listed by their cities of residence.

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| BAY CITY:
Kateisha Williams | GONZALES:
Alexis Camarillo
Marissa Flores
Jeniffer Gallardo
Lauren Parks
Sydney Perez-Clack
Stephanie Perez
Camisha Smith | PORT LAVACA:
Armandina Lopez
Eduardo Torres | Jennifer Gonzales
Kayla Johnson
Kawther Kadhim
Shacola Stinson
Haley Toney
Gloria Tonsul
Jennifer Valdez
Gabrielle Wickliffe
Tyler Yaws |
| BLOOMINGTON:
Cassandra Llamas | HALLETTSVILLE:
Paola Campos
Emilie Mudd
Anna Oranday | ROSENBERG:
Haregu Shama | WEIMAR:
Samantha Henderson
Brandon Ramirez
Valerie Ramirez |
| COST:
Jessica Castillo | KATY:
Shereasa Hights | SEGUIN:
Nicole Ramirez | YOAKUM:
Ashley Adami
Cheyenne Hardin
Tiffany Moore
Maribel Rocha |
| CUERO:
Victoria Colston
Roberto Hinojosa
Lauren Ross | LEESVILLE:
Hailey Boatwright | SHERIDAN:
Devyn Shorter | |
| EAGLE LAKE:
Sabrina Pena | MARTINDALE:
Jennifer Perez | VICTORIA:
Yesenia Aguayo
Ana Amaro
Trevor Benavides
Angela Benitez
Tanya Chicas
Fermina Garcia
Rachel Garis
Victoria Garza | |
| EDNA:
Kevinisha Young | | | |
| GOLIAD:
Kaelynn Fox | | | |



Graduates of Victoria College's Vocational Nursing Program in Hallettsville.

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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.

Feel the Difference

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.

Feel the Difference

For more about classes or membership, visit gonzaleshealthcare.com or call (830) 672-4986.

Who will be Readers' Choice this year?

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.

Business

- Best Antique Store _____
- 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 _____
- Best Chiropractor _____
- Best Craft Store _____
- Best Costume Jewelry _____
- 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 _____
- Best Electricians _____
- Best Farm Equipment _____
- Best Farm Supply Store _____
- Best Feed Store _____
- Best Fertilizer _____
- Best Fine Jewelry _____
- Best Firearms _____
- Best Florist _____
- Best Funeral Services _____
- Best Furniture _____
- Best Gift Shop _____
- Best Grocery Store _____
- Best Hardware _____
- Best Health/Fitness Business _____
- Best Heating/AC _____
- Best Hotel/Motel _____
- Best Hospital _____
- Best Insurance Company _____
- Best Internet Provider _____
- Best Investment Firm _____
- Best Landscaping/Ground Main _____
- Best Law Firm _____
- Best Liquor Store _____
- Best Lawn and Garden Products _____
- Best Loan Company _____
- Best Marketing/Design _____
- Best Men's Wear _____
- Best Monument Co. _____
- Best Newspaper _____

- Best Nursing Home/Assisted Living _____
- Best Oil Change _____
- Best Pet Grooming _____
- Best Pest Control _____
- Best Pharmacy _____
- Best Phone Service _____
- Best Physical/Occ. Therapy _____
- Best Pro. Photography _____
- Best Plant Nursery _____
- Best Plumbing Business _____
- Best Poultry Supply _____
- Best Printing _____
- Best Real Estate Firm _____
- Best Rental Center _____
- Best Restaurant _____
- Best Restroom - Men _____
- Best Restroom - Women _____
- Best Storage Units _____
- Best Tax Preparer _____
- Best Tanning Salon _____
- Best Thrift Store _____
- Best Tires _____
- Best Title Company _____
- Best Trucking Company/Where _____
- Best Veterinarian _____
- Best Western Wear _____
- Best Window Tinting _____
- Best Women's Wear _____

- Best Dentist/Where _____
- Best Doctor/Where _____
- Best Elected Official _____
- Best EMS Worker _____
- Best Financial Advisor/Where _____
- Best Firefighter _____
- Best Government Employee _____
- Best Insurance Agent/Where _____
- Best Lawyer/Where _____
- Best Local Band or Musician _____
- Best Manicurist/Where _____
- Best Massage Therapist _____
- Best Mechanic/Where _____
- Best Nurse/Where _____
- Best Nurse Practitioner; Phys. Asstant./Where _____
- Best Peace Officer _____
- Best Pharmacist _____
- Best Pharmacy Technician _____
- Best Postal Carrier _____
- Best Real Estate Agent/Where _____
- Best Receptionist _____
- Best Salesperson/Where _____
- Best School Principal/Where _____
- Best Teacher/Where _____
- Best Truck Driver/Where _____
- Best Wait Person/Where _____
- Best Welder/Where _____

Fun Stuff

- Best Campground/RV Park _____
- Best Civic Club _____
- Best Comm. Festival/Event _____
- Best Family Entertainment _____
- Best Fishing Hole _____
- Best Hiking Trail _____
- Best Live Play Performance _____
- Best Music Venue _____
- Best Night Club/Bar _____
- Best Park _____
- Best Place to Swim _____
- Best Place to Work _____
- Best Public Boat Ramp _____
- Best School _____
- Best Wedding Venue _____

Food and Drink

- 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 _____
- Best Mexican Food _____
- Best Mixed Drink _____
- Best Pizza _____
- Best Salad Bar _____
- Best Sandwiches _____
- Best Soup _____
- Best Steak _____

People

- Mr. Gonzales County _____
- Ms. Gonzales County _____
- Best Accountant _____
- Best Bank Teller/Where _____
- Best Barber/Where _____
- Best Bartender/Where _____
- Best Beautician/Where _____
- Best Carpenter _____
- Best Car Salesperson/Where _____
- Best Cashier/Where _____
- Best CNA/Where _____
- Best Coach/Where _____
- Best Comm. Icon _____
- Best Comm. Volunteer _____
- Best Delivery Driver _____

Contest Rules

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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HOW TO PLACE AN AD

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

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

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010 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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Personas que hablan español y requieren un interprete, favor llamar a manager al siguiente numero 830-582-1343.
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850 HELP WANTED

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

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

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

Justice of the Peace Pct. #3 Civil/Criminal Court Clerk

Position Location: 1812 E US 90, Waelder, TX 78959

Gonzales County Justice of the Peace #3 is now accepting applications for a full time civil/criminal clerk. Graduation from high school or equivalent plus two (2) years clerical, secretarial, administrative or automated accounting support or related experience is required. Position requires strong data entry and filing skills. Prepare criminal/civil cases for trial, from taking a plea to dispositions. Knowledge of basic mathematical principal, 10 key by touch, notary procedures and prepare bank deposits electronically on a regular basis. This position requires the candidate to work closely with others and maintain confidentiality in the performance of duties. College education in business administration areas or technical training in office administration, clerical, secretarial or related areas may be substituted for experience on a year per year basis.

Applications may be obtained at the Gonzales County Human Resource Office, located at 427 Saint George, Suite #304, Gonzales between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., on the web site at www.co.gonzales.tx.us or at the Justice of the Peace Office, 1812 E US 90, Waelder, TX 78959.

Only completed applications will be considered. Applications must be received by February 16, 2024. A drug and alcohol screen test and physical will be required. Gonzales County does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age and handicap status in employment or the provision of services. EOE.

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

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Victoria College 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

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.

January 11 Puzzle Answers

Last Puzzle Solution

S-1671

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

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CLASSIFIEDS

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CITATION BY PUBLICATION
 CLERK OF THE COURT
 Janice Sutton
 414 St. Joseph Street #300
 Gonzales, TX 78629

PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY
 Judi C. Wells
 Skelton Slusher Barnhill Watkins Wells PLLC
 302 North University Drive
 Nacogdoches, Texas 75961

THE STATE OF TEXAS
 NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the Clerk who issued this Citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of forty-two (42) days after the date of issuance of this Citation and Petition, a default judgment may be taken against you."

TO: EDWARD ALBERT HOMANN AND HIS HEIRS, KNOWN OR UNKNOWN, IF SAID PERSON IS DECEASED, Defendants in the cause herein described.


You and each of you are hereby commanded to appear and answer before the Gonzales County Judicial District Court in the Gonzales County Courthouse in Gonzales, Gonzales County, Texas, on or before 10:00 a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of forty-two (42) days from the date of issuance hereof, being at or before 10:00 a.m. on Monday, the 26th day of February, 2024, then and there to answer the Petition of Baytex Energy USA, Inc., in Cause No. 28,722, styled **Baytex Energy USA, Inc. vs. Edward Albert Homann and/or His Heirs, Known or Unknown**, wherein SHELDON RESOURCES, LP is Plaintiff, and the said EDWARD ALBERT HOMANN AND/OR HIS HEIRS, KNOWN OR UNKNOWN, IF SAID PERSON IS DECEASED, are Defendants in the cause herein described. The Petition, filed on the 20th day of December, 2023, discloses that the nature of said suit is as follows:

This suit is brought to have a receiver appointed under the provisions of Section 64.091 of the TEXAS CIVIL PRACTICE AND REMEDIES CODE for undivided mineral interests owned by the Defendants in the following described lands in Gonzales County, Texas, to-wit:

Being 8.00 acres of land, more or less, located in the Turner Barnes Survey, A-112, Gonzales County, Texas and being the same land described in the Deed from S.B. Moore and W.J. Moore to Aug. Krauze, dated April 27, 1895, recorded in Volume Z-2, Page 295, of the Deed Records of Gonzales County, Texas.
 and to execute Oil, Gas and Mineral Leases thereof to the Plaintiff, and take such other action deemed necessary under the provisions of said statute.

If this Citation is not served within ninety (90) days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

ISSUED AND GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT on this the 9th day of January 2024, at Gonzales, Gonzales County, Texas.


 Janice Sutton, Clerk of the District Court of Gonzales County, Texas
 By: K. Alarcon, Deputy

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 www.gcwdb.org.

GCWDB Equal Opportunity Employer/Program



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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.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

CITY OF GONZALES
 PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION
 & CITY COUNCIL

The Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on February 5, 2024 at the Gonzales City Hall, 820 St. Joseph St. at 5:15 p.m., to allow for public comment on amendments to Chapters 4, 6, and 14 of the City of Gonzales Code of Ordinances listed below. After consideration and recommendation by the Planning & Zoning Commission and a Public Hearing, the amendments will be presented to City Council for a Public Hearing and possible approval on February 8, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the Gonzales City Hall, 820 St. Joseph St. on the following amendments to the City's Code of Ordinances:

Amendments to Sections 14.201, 14.403, and 14.404 regarding multifamily housing in the Downtown Mixed Use district.

Amendments to Section 14.406 regarding nonconforming uses and structures.

Amendments to Sections 4.401, 14.201, 14.403, 14.404, 14.604, and Sections 6.701 through 6.710 regarding mobile food vending and mobile food vending courts.

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

Gonzales County Emergency Services District #2 (ESD#2) Applications for Commissioners

Emergency Services Districts (ESDs) are political subdivisions of Texas that fund fire protection, emergency medical services or both. Created by voters in an area, funded by tax dollars, and governed by the Texas Health and Safety Code Chapter 775 each district has five (5) Commissioners to serve as the governing body. Services may be provided through contracts with other entities or directly by the ESD.

Gonzales County Emergency Services District #2 was created in 1963 to fund fire prevention and suppression services for the citizens of Gonzales County. It was called the Gonzales County Rural Fire Prevention District No. 1. The Texas Legislature converted all Rural Fire Prevention Districts to ESDs about 2003, so it became known as Gonzales County Emergency Services District No. 2.

Commissioners serve two-year staggered terms. The Board meets the fourth Wednesday of the month, at 6:00 pm. Additional meetings, whenever needed, may be scheduled on other days and times, including weekends.


The ESD seeks to maintain a board with diverse skills such as firefighting expertise, law enforcement skills, or business knowledge, and a geographic representation. ESD Commissioners are appointed by the Gonzales County Commissioners Court. Two ESD Commissioners need to be appointed now. If interested in serving, please pick up an application packet from the Gonzales County Judge's Office, 414 St. Joseph St., Suite 200, Gonzales, Texas 78629, or request one via e-mail at countyjudge089@co.gonzales.tx.us

Applications must be submitted to the office of the Gonzales County Judge, 414 St. Joseph St., Suite 200, Gonzales, TX. 78629, no later than January 19, 2024 at 5:00 PM.

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- RELIED UPON:** Newspaper advertising is a valuable commodity to consumers. Newspapers outdistanced other media in terms of: shopping plans, comparing prices.
- RESULTS:** Consistent newspaper campaigns have been very effective in building Brand recognition, delivering Merchandising messages and motivating customers with attractive "Call-to-Action" limited opportunities.

VC to offer four Microsoft Excel courses this spring

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Victoria College is offering four Microsoft Excel courses this spring, giving students of all levels an opportunity to gain proficiency in the popular spreadsheet software through hands-on instruction.

In the four-week Microsoft Excel course, students will learn spreadsheet functions; create formulas, charts, and graphs; and generate reports. The class will meet March 26-April 16 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays at VC's Emerging Technology Complex. The cost for the class is \$200 and includes all course materials. The deadline to register is March 4 at noon.

The Microsoft Excel Level 1 course will cover Excel basics, including creating formulas, charts and reports. The class will be offered on Saturday, Feb. 17 from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at VC's Emerging Technology Complex. The deadline to register is Feb. 5 at noon. The course will also be offered from 8 a.m.-noon on Saturdays, Feb. 3 & 10, at the VC Gonzales



Center. The deadline to register is Jan. 22 at noon. The cost for either course is \$95 and includes all course materials.

This Microsoft Excel Level 2 course will allow students to expand their knowledge of Excel with advanced tools for data analysis, presentation and collaboration. The class will be held Saturday, March 23 from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at VC's Emerging Technology Complex. The cost for this course is \$95 and includes all course materials. The deadline to register is March 4 at noon.

For more information or to register for one of these courses or others offered by VC's Workforce & Continuing Education Department, call (361) 582-2528 or visit VictoriaCollege.edu/WCE.



Public Libraries encouraged to apply for TSLAC Texas Reads grants

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) has announced that it is accepting applications for its state fiscal year 2025 Texas Reads competitive grant program.

The Texas Reads grant funds public library programs that promote reading and literacy within local communities. Programs may include—but are not limited to—book talks; English literacy classes; author visits; book clubs or discussion groups; Lone Star Día; Born-to-Read or Every Child Ready to Read programs; One Book, One Community programs; or programs to enhance summer reading club activities.

Approximately \$100,000 is expected to be available, with a maximum possible grant award per library of \$10,000. Libraries may only be awarded one Texas Reads grant per grant cycle. Funding will

support programming taking place during state fiscal year 2025 (September 1, 2024–August 31, 2025).

Public libraries and local public library systems, through their governing authority (city, county, nonprofit or district) are eligible to apply. To receive a grant, applicants must be members of the Texas Library System for the fiscal year the grant contracts are issued. Full eligibility and application information, including the notice of funding opportunity, are available on the TSLAC Library Development and Networking Grant Programs website at www.tsl.texas.gov/ldn/grants/programs. The deadline to apply is March 4, 2024.

An informational webinar will be held on Jan. 24 at 10:30 a.m. (CST). Registration information for this webinar is available at www.tsl.texas.gov/ldn/grants/programs.

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Larry Delawder family to minister at Emmanuel Fellowship

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Emmanuel Fellowship is honored to announce that the Larry Delawder family will be conducting the Sunday morning service on Sunday, Jan. 21.

Larry has been performing publicly since he was five years old, when he sang with his family's music ministry. His ministry has taken him all across America, Canada and El Salvador, and he performed on the 'Singing At Sea' gospel cruise for four consecutive years.

Larry has also traveled and performed with several well-known artists. He sang and played harmonica with the Dixie Melody Boys, has traveled with Gary McSpadden and performed on Gary McSpadden's Gospel Jubilee television show and "Swan's Place," hosted by Dennis Swanburg. He contributed to two Gaither Videos and performed with Gary McSpadden, Clay Crosse and Bob Carlisle for a New Year's Eve Concert in 1999.

In 2000, he moved to Branson, Missouri, and performed on the Barbara Fairchild Show with Betty Lynn and Maggie Peterson. (Betty Lynn was Thelma Lou and Maggie Peterson was Charlene Darling on the Andy Griffith Show.) In 2006, Larry began a ministry with his wife, Sara, and his daughters, Hannah and Faith.

Hannah left the family ministry two years ago when she married, but the family still travels and performs all over America. The morning service begins at 10:30 a.m. There will be a nursery for children below the age of 6 years. A love offering will be taken for the Delawder family. Emmanuel Fellowship is located at 1817 Saint Lawrence Street, in Gonzales.

Core of the Matter

How's it going everyone? I'm praying that '24 is seeing you well, prosperous, and off to a great start. As for me, while missing all of the family members that I was fortunate enough to spend weeks with over the holidays, it does feel nice to be getting back to my routine. It's always a bitter-sweet experience, sad to see them go, but eager to get on with "the plan", whatever that may be. That being said, I may have to install the kids playing App on my phone (with extended volume control), and throw a bowl of spaghetti on the floor to help make the transition a little easier!

Continuing on with our easy does it - better health - New Years resolution series, I want to encourage you to at least give these gentle exercises a try for a couple of months, as you will begin to notice a difference in not only strength, but a reduction of the everyday aches and pains we're all too familiar with. It's an all too common misconception that if something is weak or hurting us (outside of trauma, injury, or physical disability) we shouldn't use it too much. However, most of the time it's weak and hurting us because we haven't

used it enough. I've personally found that by the time I've finished justifying (or making excuses) why I can't, or just don't feel like exercising today, I could've done a quick-easy set of something, adding to my overall well being, instead of the opposite. Suffering from an industrial fall in my early 20's, I've dealt with lower back issues for decades. When it's tight and painful, some gentle stretching and a few warm up exercises diminishes the pain, allowing me to exercise in relative comfort, even using some fairly heavy weights (back in the day).

You put a puzzle together one piece at time, and our health is no different. What you do (or don't do) today, will definitely affect how you'll feel down the road. We've been led to believe that we have to have an abundance of energy, schedule chunks of time, exhibit the will power of a super hero, or have expensive, specialized equipment to see results...not so. Think about people who go through basic training for the military. Push ups, pull ups, sit ups, calisthenics, and running, are the core of their training, and they get into great shape using their own body weight. While a gym membership is nice, it's not always necessary, depending on your goals. So, the next time you see aunt Edna hammering out pull ups at the playground, encourage her, as she'll probably encourage

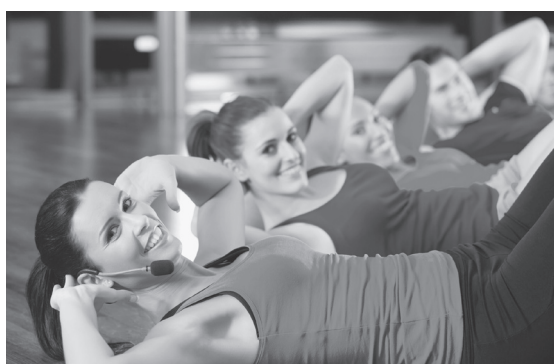


ERIC ESTES
Love, Eric and Eloise

you as well.

Over the last couple of weeks we've started with different variations (easy to difficult) of push ups for upper body pushing muscles, and bent over rows for upper body pulling muscles. Today we'll focus on our core muscles, the ones that connect our upper and lower body, and protect our organs as well. The first exercise is called a crunch, and will gently strengthen your abdominal muscles. Lying on your back (floor, couch, bed etc.), with hands behind head, slowly lift your shoulders slightly off floor, flexing your abdominals, then back down. The next exercise (dead lift) is done (with or without resistance) standing with knees slightly bent, bending over at waist and back up. Be gentle when first starting out, using support if necessary, as safety always comes first. One or more sets of whatever repetitions you feel comfortable with can be done weekly or daily, depending on your progress, and as with all exercises, can slowly be increased over time. These will strengthen both your abs and lower back, helping you to be more flexible and reducing that pesky lower back pain most folks suffer with from time to time. Just remember, it's a process and will take some time.

Love you guys, Eric.



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First Assembly of God 509 E. 3rd St., Nixon	Stratton Primitive Baptist FM 1447, 9 miles east of Cuero	FULL GOSPEL Camp Valley Full Gospel Hwy 80, 7 mi. north of Nixon	El Centro Cristiano "Agua Viva" 403 Highway 90 W, Waelder
BAPTIST Clark Baptist Church FM 794, Gonzales	St. James Baptist Church Hwy 80, north of Belmont.	Full Gospel Church 1426 Fisher, Gonzales	Emmanuel Fellowship 1817 St. Lawrence, Gonzales
Country Baptist Church Highway 87, Smiley	St. Paul Baptist Church SE 2nd Street, Waelder	JEWISH Adat Haderech, a Messianic shul HashemYeshua1@yahoo.com	Encouraging Word Christian Fellowship Highway 80, Leesville
Eastside Baptist Church Seydler Street, Gonzales	Shiner Baptist Church	LUTHERAN First Evangelical Lutheran 1206 St. Joseph, Gonzales	Lighthouse Church of Our Lord 1805 Weimar, Gonzales
Efeso Iglesia Bautista Highway 87, Smiley	Union Lea Baptist Church St. Andrew St., Gonzales	Abiding Word Lutheran Church LCMS 1020 St. Louis St., Gonzales	New Life Temple for Jesus Christ 16214 US 90 W, Harwood
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
First Baptist Church 422 St. Paul, Gonzales	CATHOLIC St. James Catholic Church 417 N. College, Gonzales	Dewville United Methodist West of FM 1117 on CR 121	Thompsonville Community Church CR 423, Thompsonville Between Harwood & Waelder off old Hwy. 90
First Baptist Church 403 N. Texas, Nixon	Sacred Heart Catholic Church St. John St., Gonzales	First Methodist 426 St. Paul, Gonzales	Two Rivers Bible Church 1600 Sarah DeWitt Dr., Suite 210, Gonzales
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
Greater Palestine Baptist Church S. of 90A (sign on Hwy 80)	St. Phillip Catholic Church Highway 87, Smiley	Harwood Methodist Church Harwood	Holy Temple of Jesus Christ No. 2 1515 Dallas, Gonzales
Greater Rising Star Baptist Church	CHRISTIAN First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) 712 Crockett, Luling	Henson Chapel United Methodist 1113 St. Andrew, Gonzales	Iglesia Pentecostes Filadelfia 893 S. Magnolia Ave., Luling
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	Temple Bethel Pentecostal 1104 S. Paul, Gonzales
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	Life Changing Church of Gonzales 3.3 miles north on Hwy 183, right on CR 235, then right on CR 236
Iglesia Bautista Memorial Highway 97, Waelder	Church of Christ E. 3rd & Texas, Nixon	Webster Chapel A.M.E. 1027 Church St., Gonzales	PRESBYTERIAN Pilgrim Presbyterian Church CR 210 off FM 1116
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 Church of Gonzales 414 St. Louis, Gonzales
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	Cheapside Presbyterian Church, Cuero
Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church 100 Capes, Gonzales	Gonzales Memorial Church of God in Christ 1113 Hastings, Gonzales		
Oak Valley Baptist Church Highway 97, Bebe	Church of God in Christ 1113 Hastings, Gonzales		
Old Moulton Baptist Church 1121 N. College, Gonzales	New Beginnings 1020 St. Louis, Gonzales		
	Episcopal Episcopal Church of the Messiah 721 S. Louis, Gonzales		

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OBITUARY



PEGGY JEAN MALOCH

Peggy Jean Maloch, passed away on Thursday, January 11, 2024. She was born on December 16, 1933, to Benjamin Franklin Kelso and Mattie Blundell Kelso in Caldwell County. She grew up on the family farm and graduated from Waelder High School in 1952. She was married that same year to her husband who passed away in 1959. She lived in Goliad for a while where she had one son, Jerry Krueger. Peggy returned to her childhood home in Gonzales County where she began working for a local CPA. She then started working at Birdie's Café in Gonzales for many years until she purchased the café from Birdie and became the new official owner from 1962 to 1975. She eventually sold the café to work as a dispatcher where she worked for 18 years. Then she went to work in Lavaca County for two years. She came back to Gonzales in 1992, during this time, Peggy was a dispatcher, records clerk, and a supervising officer at the Gonzales Police Department. She Retired after 40 years on March 31, 2021.

Peggy enjoyed spending time with family, especially her weekend trips with her son Jerry when he was younger, barbecuing, cooking, baking pies, traveling, and spending time with her Chihuahua Peewee. She also loved the holidays and attending family reunions.

Peggy was strong in her faith with the Lord. She loved going to Church and singing.

She was a motherly presence to many in the police force. Momma Peggy will always be remembered by the love and affection she showed to her family, friends, and her extended police family.

Peggy is survived by her son, Jerry, and wife Christie Krueger of Gonzales. Her brother Jim Kelso, wife Loretta and sister, Erna Grantham. Her grandchildren, Brooke of San Marcos, Jeremy, and Morgan of Brock, great-grandchildren, Madilyn, Maddox, Joslyn, and Jett, extended family, and numerous friends.

She is preceded in death by her parents Benjamin and Mattie Kelso. Her brothers David Kelso and Edgar Lee Kelso. Her sisters, Edella McCarty, Mildred Phelps, Lola Raye Martin, Marie White, and Pauline Craven.

The family will receive friends from 9 am to 10 am Thursday, January 18, 2024 in Seydler-Hill Funeral Home. Funeral services will follow at 10 am in Seydler-Hill Funeral Home with Rev. Todd Craven officiating. Interment will follow in Thompsonville Cemetery.

Pallbearers: Jeremy Krueger, Scotty Martin, Randy Martin, Tim Crow, Kevin Kelso, and Jim Pearce. Honorary pallbearers: Curtis Parsley, Howard Brothers, Harry White, Jim Kelso, and the City of Gonzales Police Department. In lieu of flowers remembrance memorials can be made to the Harwood Baptist Church or the Thompsonville Cemetery. Friends may leave their condolences to the family by visiting www.seydler-hillfuneralhome.com.

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

VC Academy of Lifelong Learning Spring Open House scheduled for Jan. 18

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Victoria College's Academy of Lifelong Learning will hold its Spring 2024 Open House on Thursday, Jan. 18 from 1:30-4 p.m. in the Conference & Education Center at VC's Emerging

Technology Complex located at 7403 Lone Tree Road in Victoria.

The Academy of Lifelong Learning provides members the opportunity to participate in classes and social activities for continued intellectual and personal growth. The Spring

2024 schedule will include over 65 classes including a Corpus Christi daytrip, weekly Pickleball and Mah Jongg open play, history classes, book clubs, several craft opportunities, monthly lunch meet ups, and more. Guests who attend the Open

House can view the Spring 2024 schedule, visit with members and instructors, and pay membership dues.

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

LAW ENFORCEMENT WEEKLY REPORTS

Gonzales County Sheriff's Office
12/31/23 – 01/06/24

01/01/24

• Blundell, Allison Lyndi, 09/2001, Luling: Local Warrant – Poss Marij >2oz <=4oz, Released \$20,000 Bon, Warrantless-On-View – Poss Marij <2oz, Released \$2,000 Bond

• Mendiola, Gabriel, Jr, 04/1999, Nixon: Warrantless/On-View – Poss Marij<2oz, Released \$1,000 Bond

01/03/24

• Molina, Caleb Rene, 03/1991 Leesville: Commitment/Sentence – Burglary Habitation Intend Other Felony, Commitment/Sentence – Agg Assault w/ Deadly Weapon, Commitment/Sentence – Agg Assault w/ Deadly Weapon, Remains in Custody

• Rhoades, Calvin Leroy, 02/1999, Gonzales: Commitment/Sentence – Online Solicitation of a minor under 14, Commitment/Sentence – Online Solicitation of a minor under 14, Remains in

Custody

• Eseberre Alaniz, Josefina Maria, 07/2001, El Paso: Local Warrant – Hinder Apprehension/ Prosecution, Requires \$1,500 Bond, Remains in Custody

• Flores, Matthew, 07/1999, Gonzales: Local Warrant – Poss CS PF 1/1-B<1G, Local Warrant – Evading Arrest Det w/Prev Conviction, Released \$50,000 Bond

01/05/24

• Fields, Zyshawn, 02/2000, Victoria: Commitment/Sentence – Burglary of Habitation, Released – Weekender

• San Miguel, Michael Ray, 11/1985, Gonzales: Commitment Sentence – Injury Child/Elderly/ Disable w/Int Bodily Inj, Released – Weekender

• Smith, Tevin Vashaun, 08/1996, Gonzales: Commitment/Sentence – Assault Fam/House Mem Impede Breath/Circulat, Remains in Custody

• Reyes, Priscilla, 9/1978, Luling: Local Warrant – Poss CS PG 1<1G, Requires \$25,000 Bond; Local Warrant – Poss Marij <2oz, Requires \$1,500 Bond

01/06/24

• Beene, Vlegg Tobert, 02/1991, Gonzales: Local Warrant- Continuous Violence Against Family, Requires \$50,000 Bond; Warrantless/On-View – Resist Arrest Search or Transport, Requires \$10,000 Bond

• Moran, Brittany Lauren, 10/1987, Gonzales: Other Agency – Theft Prop >=\$100<\$750, Released \$1,000 BOND

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

GCSO	12
DPS	02
GPD	03
WPD	00
NPD	02
GISD	00
SMO	00
Constable 1	00
Constable 3	00
Constable 4	00
DWCSO	00
DEA	00
TPW	00
GCAI	00
Rangers	00
Other	00
Total	19

Free homeowner certification course for aerobic septic system maintenance offered

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed Partnership, along with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, will offer a free homeowner certification course for aerobic septic system maintenance on Jan. 25 in Seguin.

Homeowners will learn the basics of properly maintaining their aerobic septic systems at a workshop held on Jan. 25 in Seguin.

This program will be from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at the AgriLife Extension office in Guadalupe County, 210 E. Live Oak St. Registration and a light breakfast will

be available starting at 8:15 a.m.

Seating is limited and pre-registration is required at <https://tx.ag/GeronimoCreek-CertCourse> or by calling 979-321-5921.

This course will cover how waste is treated in aerobic systems, health and safety considerations, and instruction on how to inspect

and maintain these systems. Common questions about septic system function and maintenance will also be addressed, including when to pump a septic tank and what can be flushed.

Completion of this course will certify homeowners to maintain their own aerobic septic systems

in Guadalupe County, but it is also a great opportunity for anyone who owns one of these systems to gain a better understanding of how they work, said event organizers.



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'Spectacular Stitches' still on display at museum in Cuero

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

There's still time to see "Spectacular Stitches," works by master textile artists from the Frank Klein Collection at the Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum, 302 N. Esplanade, Cuero.

CMTH is honored to showcase the textile collection of patron and fine arts photographer Frank Kleim, featuring the well-known quilted masterwork "New Dawn" by Caryl Bryer Fallert-Gentry — one of the top 100 quilts worldwide.

The exhibit is a rare opportunity to see these very special pieces up close. The exhibit is free with museum admission. For more information, call 361-277-2866 or go to chisholmtrailmuseum.org.

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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
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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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Yong Du, MD
361-576-0011

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Orthopedics
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830-625-0009

Podiatry
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830-303-0005
Charles White, DPM
830-303-0005

Austin Maternal Fetal Medicine
512-821-2540



GONZALES HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS
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Texas A&M Health launches program to expand health care for rural Texans

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Texas A&M University Health Science Center (Texas A&M Health) is stepping up its support for rural health care in Texas by launching the Rural Engagement Program. This new initiative combines efforts from the Texas A&M schools of medicine and nursing and the Rural and Community Health Institute to expand the health care workforce and bolster the viability of health care organizations to better serve rural Texans.

Declining access to health care has become a crisis for many rural communities, and Texas A&M Health has long been committed to addressing this challenge. Now, thanks to funding from the 88th Texas Legislature, the Texas A&M Health Rural Engagement Program is consolidating and amplifying these efforts to expand support for rural health care organizations and professionals throughout the state.

The new program brings together resources from the Rural and Community Health Institute (RCHI)—which has 20 years of experience supporting rural communities—with the School of Medicine and School of Nursing to provide a coordinated, interdisciplinary and innovative response to rural health care challenges.

“Although there are common challenges facing rural health care, each rural community in Texas is unique, with specific needs. By integrating the resources of the Texas A&M School of Medicine, School of Nursing and

RCHI, the Rural Engagement Program can provide a robust menu of support capabilities and assistance that best fits the needs of each community,” said Kia Parsi, MD, executive director of the Rural and Community Health Institute.

The Rural Engagement Program plans to provide support to help rural health care organizations keep their doors open and strengthen their services. Participating organizations will be supported by a dedicated one-on-one regional technical assistance coordinator along with virtual and on-site facilitation. Through a comprehensive needs analysis, the Rural Engagement Program will work alongside health care organizations in the program to formulate and implement sustainable action plans to improve their financial performance, increase operational efficiencies, improve quality of care, expand workforce capabilities, provide leadership support and staff training opportunities, and assist with transition to newer, value-based care payment models that incentivize higher quality of care.

The program is also aimed at addressing the critical shortage of health care professionals in underserved areas. With additional funding and improved coordination, the Texas A&M medical and nursing schools are committed to providing more than just clinical experiences for students. Through innovative partnerships with local rural communities, health care facilities, physicians, advanced practice providers and school districts, the program offers

a unique and immersive approach to rural clinical experiences.

The program will also engage K-12 student through initiatives like the School of Medicine's Mini Med Camp, Youth Adventure Program (YAP), and a spectrum of new and existing health care career exploration activities designed to inspire the next generation of health care professionals and bridge the gap between rural students and health care career opportunities.

The program's inaugural Rural Practitioners of Texas Conference, hosted by the School of Medicine in Fredericksburg on March 22-23, 2024, will provide a platform for health care professionals serving rural areas to share insights, explore strategies, and foster collaboration in addressing the unique health care needs of rural communities across Texas.

To support growth of the nursing workforce, the School of Nursing will annually award \$350,000 in scholarships for registered nurses working in rural areas to obtain their Bachelor of Science in Nursing or an advanced nursing degree or certificate. The School of Nursing also plans to integrate rural-specific curriculum into its degree and certificate programs and develop a rural fellowship for nurse practitioners. Its nurse-led clinics will also seek certification as Rural Health Clinics.

In coordination with the Texas A&M Health Telehealth Institute, the Rural Engagement Program is also working on expanding health care organizations' telehealth capabilities.

Angelo State University announces Fall 2023 Dean's List

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Angelo State University in San Angelo, Texas, has announced the students achieving the Dean's List for the 2023 fall semester.

To be eligible for the ASU Dean's List, full-time undergraduate students must maintain a 3.25 or better grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

The complete fall 2023 Dean's List is available at angelo.edu/commencement.

Students from the area making the Dean's List include:

- Presley Belsher of Gonzales - Interdisciplinary Studies
- Kabel Faltisek of Gonzales - Studio Art
- Kaitlyn Taylor of Gonzales - Social Work

Angelo State University announces fall graduates

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Angelo State University in San Angelo, Texas, conferred 625 undergraduate and graduate degrees on 620 graduates during the 2023 fall commencement exercises on Dec. 16 at the ASU Junell Center/Stephens Arena.

Graduates included Kabel Faltisek of Gonzales, TX, with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Studio Art.

A full list of the graduates is available on the ASU website at angelo.edu/commencement.



SHINER CATHOLIC SCHOOL HONOR ROLL - SECOND QUARTER

(High Honors-All grades 94 and above; Honors-All grades 85 and above)

ST PAUL HIGH SCHOOL HONOR ROLL Q2

SENIORS

High Honors: Tate Anders, Julia Barecky, Nate Boedeker, Brooke Cerny, Maurin Knesek, Faith Machart

Honors: Zane Barta, Alex Brown, Joseph Davis, Gracie Machart, Charlie Pilat, Stefany Pokluda, Gabrielle Rodriguez, Emi Stampport, Nathan Timmons, Tori Walker

JUNIORS

High Honors: Jessica Fikac, Erica Hunke, Holden Jacobs, Emersen Linn, Dalyn Pesek

Honors: Gage Anders, Gus Collins, Kennedy Dodson, Alyssa Jasek, Cody Malinovsky, Emily Moeller, Avery Pesek, Hunter Zella

SOPHOMORES

High Honors: Karis Barta, Kristin Cerny, Hailey Radicke, Jenna Stock, Adalyn Stoll, Audrey Thibodeaux, Presley Tuch

Honors: Annsie Callais, Nora Koch, Sally Machacek, Riley Mozisek, Reese Seibert

FRESHMEN

High Honors: Faith Brown, Gabe Darilek, Michael DeSarro, Jack Ehrig, Frances Filip, Addison Matias, Gabriela Rivas, Tatum Walker

Honors: Jacob Arriola, Carter Chilek, Rylan Jalufka, Donnie Jones, Kylie Kelso, Clara Kinney, Sloane Kocian, Jack Leonard, Skylar Mozisek, Eden Rodriguez, Evan Rother

ST LUDMILA ELEMENTARY HONOR ROLL Q2

EIGHTH GRADE

High Honors: Noah Bonorden, Reese Chilek, Lana Lucas, Honors: Rebecca Brown, Jace Matias, Levi Morkovsky, Lexie Ulcak

SEVENTH GRADE

High Honors: Ashlin DeSarro, Reese Patek

Honors: Eli Barton, McKinley Jacobs, Ian Kennedy, Grayson Kisamore, Levi Leonard, Emori Rodriguez, Hayden Rother, Presley Rother

SIXTH GRADE

High Honors: Evangeline Chilek,

Hannah Machacek

Honors: Arley Applegate, Jude Boedeker, Jacey Picha

FIFTH GRADE

High Honors: Ryan Bays, Anna Boedeker, Matthew DeSarro, Paul Filip, Harper Patek

Honors: Luke Barton, Reese Blaschke, Wren Chilek, Jake Good, Cash Kennedy, Lexi Lamson, Alaina Luedke, Ayden McCord, Ace Radicke, Tenley Wagner, Kolton Wilgus

FOURTH GRADE

High Honors: Elena Basquez, Alexis Dodson, Jesslyn Garrett, Brooke Hermann, Ricardo Gonzales Moncada, Hudson Parker

Honors: Emma Bargmann, Bowen Davis, Wyatt Decker, Fallon Foxell, Kace Kocian, Wyatt Lake, Remi Radicke, Caleb Werner

THIRD GRADE

High Honors: Eli Bays, Brody Blaschke, Adella Davis, Gage Janak, Tate Kutzer, Andrew Machacek, Evelyn Picha, Alexandra Rivas, Sonney Tuch

Honors: Grady Hurt, Phinn Ince, Dario Lekgegaj, Ainsley McCord, Hazel Meischen, Ezra Rodriguez, Clay Wyant



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ACROSS

- hangs down
- in Concho County on U.S. 83 & 87
- TXism: “ ___ _ lick” (none)
- TXism: “tame as ___ dog”
- TX Kenny Rogers sang “ ___ I Can Make It on My Own”
- J.R. was shot in the final ___ of “Dallas” season 3
- “those” in Mexico
- TXism: “still wet ___ ears” (inexperienced)
- TX Nolan pitched seven ___-hitters
- rattling sound heard by a stethoscope
- Clyde High class fill ‘er up (2 wds)
- Highlands Mansion in Marlin has a stained-___ in the great hall
- TX Tom Kite won ___ Open in 1992
- this David was leader of Waco’s Branch Davidians
- Humble Oil once had Esso and this brand name
- rep for TX Matthew McConaughy
- county west of Sabine (2 wds.)
- Nacogdoches old road: “La Calle del ___”
- boycott, e.g.

- TXism: “hard ___ nails”
- wedding cake layer
- Eagles & Giants to the Cowboys
- sought to influence Texan in 1-down
- dir. to New Boston from Mount Pleasant
- Texas cosmetics queen, Mary Kay
- Texas pecan desserts
- “ ___ jungle” (city)

- on old XIT Ranch: “El Canyon ___ Casas Amarillas”
- holiday egg drink
- a Denton univ.
- Biblical donkey

DOWN

- where TX Ted Cruz serves
- this Rangers’ Garcia hit 5 home runs against Astros in 2023 ALCS
- “Whoopie ti yi yo, ___ little doggies”
- TXism: “ ___ beans” (in a pod)
- TX Banks who was “Mr. Cub” (init.)
- TX A.C. Greene book: “A ___ Country”

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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SUDOKU

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

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.

Apaches lose tough battle to Lions at home



Gonzales junior shooting guard Gavin Lekgega (1) dribbles the ball towards YMLA's side of the court in a huge district match.

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The battle for fourth place in District 28-4A has begun as the Gonzales Apaches squared off against the YMLA Lions on Tuesday, Jan. 16.

The Apaches started off rough against the Lions as they struggled with rebounds and trailed most of the game.

Gonzales fell to the Lions, 59-55, while trying for a late rally towards the end of the game.

"It was a good game. We had an opportunity, you know, we make that layup towards the end of two-point game, so those are all just growing pains where you have to learn how to finish. I told the guys about finishing that's just part of the growth process," Gonzales head basketball coach Steven Pinchback said.

Pinchback added he knows his team can play with everyone in the district and will continue to work on that.

"We're just going to keep working, keep working. And eventually the ball



PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS

Apaches' senior shooting guard Weston Ruddock (2) defends Lions' senior forward Jeremiah Conaway (1) Tuesday, Jan. 16.

is going to drop in our favor." Pinchback said.

The Apaches will take on the Fox Tech Buffaloes on the road in San Antonio

See **APACHES**, page 15

SOCCER

Apaches FC finishes third in Pleasanton tourney

STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Apaches FC traveled to Pleasanton High School for their second tournament of the season Friday, Jan. 12.

The Apaches FC finished third in the tournament with a 3-1 record; they beat Floresville, 4-3, Santa Maria, 2-1, and Wimberley, 5-4 (overtime).

Gonzales' only loss was against the La Vernia Bears, 2-1.

The Apaches FC will square off against the Waelder Wildcats Friday, Jan. 19 in a non-district match and will have a bye Tuesday, Jan. 23.

Gonzales will hit back to Pleasanton Friday, Jan. 26 for a non-district match against the Eagles and will open district play against the San Antonio JFK Rockets at home Friday, Feb. 2.

The both games kick off at 7 p.m.

BASKETBALL

Apaches stun Cuero in overtime

STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Apaches improved to 2-2 in district play with a 62-60 road overtime win over their rival the Cuero Gobblers Friday, Jan. 12.

The Apaches earned their first win against Cuero since the 2019-2020 season, when they beat Cuero, 63-58.

The Apaches put on a strong first half, leading 33-25 against the Gobblers, but Cuero took command in the second half to send the game into overtime, tied at 49-49. Gonzales then outscored Cuero, 13-11, in the extra frame.

The Apaches host the YMLA Lions Tuesday, Jan. 16 for their fifth district game of the season.

Gonzales will hit the road to San Antonio Friday, Jan. 19 to square off against the Fox Tech Buffaloes and later return home to host the La Vernia Bears Tuesday, Jan. 23.

The Fox Tech game tips off at 7 p.m. and the La Vernia game tips off at 6:30 p.m.



PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS

Nixon-Smiley senior forward Kade Dixon (5) stares down a Marion defender in the district opener at home Friday, Jan. 12.

Mustangs fall to Bulldogs in district opener

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The Nixon-Smiley Mustangs returned home for a big district opener against the Marion Bulldogs Friday, Jan. 12.

The Mustangs and the Bulldogs kept the game close in the first half, but Nixon-Smiley struggled defensively in the second half.

"We struggled defensively; it really forced some shots offensively. They are really solid; they're going to do what they do and when you miss shots and you can't defend and second half," Nixon-Smiley head basketball coach Carlton McKinney said.

"Eight to 10 point lead blows up to a 20 point lead and that time, what happened to us we stopped putting the ball in the basket and then we didn't do a good job of eliminating or limiting their baskets, so it really put us in a tough spot."

Nixon-Smiley fell to Marion, 66-46, in the first district game of the season; the Mustangs have set their eyes on state-ranked Cole Tuesday, Jan. 16 at home.

Last year, the Mustangs stunned the Cougars with a rare early loss in district, but this year McKinney knows they'll not make the same mistake again.

"I don't know how to prepare for them, they are one of the best teams in the state. We were fortunate to get them one-time last year and so you're



Nixon-Smiley senior forward Carl White and a Marion player jump in the air for the basketball tip off of the district opener Friday, Jan. 12.

not going to be able to sneak up on them," McKinney said.

After the Cole game the Mustangs will head out on the road to back-to-back games Friday, Jan. 19 to take on

the Great Heart Northern Oaks Griffins and in Luling to take on the Eagles Tuesday, Jan. 23.

The Northern Oaks and Luling games tip off at 8 p.m.

Mustangs drop second game in row, fall to Cole

STAFF REPORT

The Nixon-Smiley Mustangs hosted the state-ranked Cole Cougars for their second district game of the season Tuesday, Jan. 16.

The Mustangs fell to the Cougars, 89-58, and were outscored 30-9 in the first quarter.

Nixon-Smiley will regroup for its third district game against the Great Hearts Northern Oaks Griffins on the

road in San Antonio Friday, Jan. 19.

The Mustangs will head back on the road Tuesday, Jan. 23 for a district match against the Luling Eagles.

The Northern Oaks and the Luling matches tip off at 8 p.m.

Lady Mustangs' late rally falls short against Marion

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The Nixon-Smiley Lady Mustangs almost overcame a 16-point deficit in their 45-43 loss to the Marion Lady Bulldogs Friday, Jan. 12 at home.

The Lady Mustangs got off to a slow start against Marion, a pattern that head girls basketball coach Trevor Johnson knows very well this season.

"That's the story with our team this year. We showed great fight, but the start of the game is really hurting us this season and we have great fire, we never quit, we can come back from any deficit. We've done it two weeks in a row. We just come up short both times," Johnson said.

Nixon-Smiley struggled in the first quarter, allowing Marion to score on defensive rebounds and shutting down the Lady Mustangs' offense to only two points at the end of the quarter.

"The other team shot very well in the first quarter. Their shots were going in and they were forcing a lot of turnovers on us. And we just weren't focused mentally. We had a game plan. We knew what they were going to do and we just weren't in sync in the first quarter," Johnson said.

In the second half, the Lady Mustangs stepped it up on defense and took advantage



PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS

Above: Nixon-Smiley junior Madisen Yanes (0) points to her teammates in their offensive possession in the district match against Marion Friday, Jan. 12. Below: Lady Mustangs senior Kendall Amaya (12) shoots two free throws against Marion Friday, Jan. 12.

of the mistakes Marion was making.

"We had our original game plan, man defense on them and we just weren't executing it. So we switched to our zone, which honestly we were probably a little more comfortable in but

we kind of save it for the late part of the game to kind of give them a change up and pull away from teams," Johnson said.

"We had to come out in it earlier than expected because of the deficit, so it really helps. It stinks because we have to do it so early and they kind of get to figure it out towards the end of the game but I think they did a really good job of staying with it and just it was well that the last three quarters," Johnson added.

Nixon-Smiley will have a challenge in their next game against state-ranked Cole Tuesday, Jan. 16.

"We know it's going to be tough. I mean, they're ranked in the state for a reason. They're a really good basketball team and they've pretty much blown out all district opponents so far," Johnson said.

"So it's going to be a tough game. But we can go back and look at film and the fight that



The Nixon-Smiley Lady Mustangs' bench cheers on for their teammates in the final minutes of the fourth quarter against Marion.

our girls show. They know that if they can do that from start to finish, they can always give themselves a chance and it's just about us putting four quarters together," Johnson added. The Lady Mustangs will

hit the road for back-to-back games Friday, Jan. 19 against Great Hearts Northern Oaks and Luling Tuesday, Jan. 23 against the Lady Eagles. The Northern Oaks and Luling games tip off at 6:15 p.m.



PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS

Gonzales junior Jermane Upshaw (5) jumps in the air with YMLA senior Jeremiah Conaway (1) to tip off the district match Tuesday, Jan. 16.

APACHES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

Friday, Jan. 19, and Fox Tech is sitting in second place in district behind La Vernia.

Pinchback knows his team cannot start slow against a team like Fox Tech.

"We just can't start slow. You've got to play from the opening jump — you've got to play. That's a part of growth. We're still young so

they're figuring that out. I told him everything that we do is a lesson learned from it and keep building," Pinchback said.

The Apaches will kick off the second half of district, hosting state-ranked La Vernia Tuesday, Jan. 23.

The Fox Tech and La Vernia game tip off at 7 p.m.



Gonzales small forward David Clack III defends YMLA's senior guard Tavion Steen (25) in the fifth district match of the season.

to 1-3 in district play and 6-22 overall.

Nixon-Smiley will close out the first half of district play on the road against the Great Hearts Northern Oaks Lady Griffins Friday, Jan. 19.

The Lady Mustangs will kick off the second half of district games with three of four of them on the road and will face Luling first Tuesday, Jan. 23.

The Luling and Northern Oaks game tip off at 6:15 p.m.

Lady Mustangs fall to Cole Lady Cougars, 47-31

STAFF REPORT

The Nixon-Smiley Lady Mustangs lost their third straight game, 47-31, to the Cole Lady Cougars Tuesday, Jan. 16.

The Lady Mustangs dropped

Lady Apaches beat Cardinals on the road

STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Lady Apaches got back on the winning track with 55-43 road win over the YWLA Lady Cardinals Tuesday, Jan. 16.

Junior Bella Aguero scored 31 points in the win over the Cardinals and made nine of 15 free throws.

Lady Apaches junior Kilee Schwausch led the team with 15 rebounds in Tuesday's win.

Gonzales will host the Fox Tech Lady Buffaloes Friday, Jan. 19 in a rematch from the Dec. 22, 2023 meeting.

The Lady Apaches fell to Fox Tech by three points, 36-33, in the first meeting.

Gonzales will hit the road against La Vernia Tuesday, Jan. 23.

The Fox Tech and La Vernia games tip off at 7 p.m.

Cuero blows out Lady Apaches in district game

STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Lady Apaches dropped to 2-3 in district with a 70-28 loss to the Cuero Lady Gobblers at home Friday, Jan. 12.

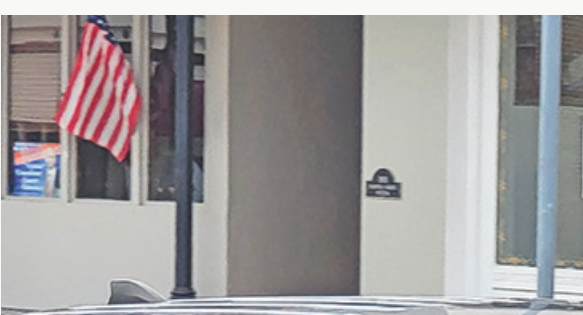
Cuero shut down the Lady Apaches' offense, keeping them in the single digits in points in all four quarters.

The Lady Apaches defense' allowed 38 points in the first half of the game.

Gonzales kicks off the second half of district play against the YWLA Lady Cardinals on the road in San Antonio Tuesday, Jan. 16 and will host the Fox Tech Lady Buffaloes Friday, Jan. 19.

The YWLA game tips off at 6:30 p.m. and the Fox Tech game tips off at 7 p.m.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. MARCH...



...AND PROGRAM

The Edwards Association held their 21st annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration on Monday, Jan. 15. Sub-freezing temperatures didn't chill spirits as the annual march was turned into a slow-moving parade from Independence Square to the Edwards Community Center at the intersection of Kleine and Fry streets. Speakers Sherri Tumlinson Koepp, Dr. Elmer Avellenada and Adrienne Steen gave remarks, while the event was emceed by David Tacy and Dr. Tena Roaches. A barbecue brisket meal was served afterwards.

PHOTOS BY LEW K. COHN



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Ad deadline: Friday, Feb. 9
Publishes: Thursday, Feb. 29

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MLK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Sub-freezing temperatures led the Edwards Association to turn its annual MLK March into a slow parade of cars from Independence Square up Saint Paul Street and onto Saint Andrew to the Edwards CommUNITY Center at the intersection of Fry and Kleine streets. About 20 cars took part.

The camaraderie continued at the center with a program honoring the civil rights leader which featured guest remarks from Gonzales City Councilmember Sherri Tumlinson Koepp, Gonzales ISD Superintendent Dr. Elmer Avellenada and Adrienne Steen, GISD Director of Student Supports & Strategic Initiatives.

The theme of the day was “Living the Dream: It Starts with Me — Spreading Hope, Courage and Unity” and the event was emceed by Edwards Association president David Tucey and MLK Activities Chair Dr. Tena Roaches.

Koepp, stating she was participating in a MLK March and program for the first time, reminded those present that “the echoes of Dr. King’s dream still resonate in our society today.”

“His dream was not just a fleeting vision, but a call to action, a summons to each and every one of us to stand up against injustice, discrimination and inequality,” Koepp said. “Dr. King’s words remind us that darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do it. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. In the face of adversity, he advocated for a revolution of values, a transformation of our hearts and minds towards a collective commitment to justice and brotherhood.

“Today, we find ourselves at a pivotal moment in history, where the struggles for justice and equality still persist. Dr. King’s dream was not fulfilled in his lifetime, and the torch has been passed to us. It is our responsibility to carry it forward and ensure that the flame of justice burns brightly in the hearts of our children, and generations to come.”

Koepp reminded those present that King’s dream was “not just about racial equality.”

“It encompassed a broader vision of a society where everyone, regardless of race, color, creed, could live together in harmony and mutual respect,” Koepp said. “Let us use this as an opportunity to bridge the divides that still exist in our community. Let us commit ourselves to fostering understanding, compassion, and empathy. Through open hearts and open minds, we can



Gonzales Police Chief Gayle Autry waves during the Gonzales MLK Day March, which turned into a slow-moving vehicle parade on Monday, Jan. 15, due to cold temperatures. The march was sponsored by the Edwards Association.

LEW K. COHN

“There’s got to be unity in greatness. Nobody ever achieves greatness, whether it’s an organization, a group, a community, a city, an association, unless there’s unity, hope and courage.”

—Dr. Elmer Avellenada, Gonzales ISD Superintendent

build unity, and dismantle the practice of prejudice and discrimination that threatens to divide us.”

Avellenada said his first experience with Martin Luther King Jr. was during elementary school in Crawford while serving a three-day placement in detention in the library after getting into a fight.

“The librarian turned out to be a great friend of mine,” Avellenada said. “She didn’t expose me to Junie B Jones or Hank the Cowdog. She exposed me to Martin Luther King. I took a liking to him because he looked a little bit like me. I read about him those three days and I learned a lot of valuable information that has served me well throughout my life and career as an educator and as an individual in the community as well.

“One of the things that I learned was that education is the key. During

my detention, I learned that if I got as educated as possible, I will be able to make a difference, not only financially for me, but also for my family. So that’s what I did. I chose to get as educated as possible.”

Ten years later, as a high school senior, Avellenada was at the top of his class, but was dismayed to hear from his guidance counselor she didn’t think he would be able to go to college because he was “undocumented” as his family immigrated to the United States illegally when he was nine.

His mother wouldn’t let him give up hope and he eventually not only got into college on foreign scholarships, but would graduate, get his permanent resident card and would get to work his way up from being a teacher to being superintendent of Gonzales ISD. He said it wouldn’t have been possible,

however, without help along the way.

“Anybody that’s told you they’ve achieved greatness by themselves is lying to you,” Avellenada said. “There’s got to be unity in greatness. Nobody ever achieves greatness, whether it’s an organization, a group, a community, a city, an association, unless there’s unity, hope and courage.”

He urged those present not to let others dictate their narrative and reminded them they had to have faith.

“You have to have faith in everything you do — every single day, every second of your life, every minute of your life,” Avellenada said. “You have to have faith and you have to serve others in order to achieve greatness.”

Steen, who is descended from alumni of the old Edwards High School, said she was pleased to hear the theme of the day because “hope, courage and unity are at the forefront of my purpose as an educator.”

“The joy that I have experienced watching my students and former athletes accomplish goals that they had no idea they were capable of in the first place is one of the best feelings in the world,” Steen said. “I always want students to have the courage to hope. You see hope doesn’t come naturally to everyone because of what they may have experienced in our lives. But courage is something that we can give each other. The courage to face adversity when you realize that you are not alone, and that you are supported, can make a huge difference in the decisions that you make.”

Steen said she is “thankful each day that I can live the dream,” noting it wouldn’t be possible “without the hard work in sacrifices of those who came before me.” She also spoke about how “gaining knowledge is the power to provide our youth with the best learning opportunities that are out there, not only making them productive citizens, but also providing them with the necessary tools to be competitive in today’s society.”

“If we unite to build a culture and understanding that education is something that no one can ever take for you, the opportunities are endless for our youth,” Steen said.

Quoting Gandhi, she said “you must be the change you wish to see in the world.”

“So in order to be the change that I wish to see, I had to realize and fully embrace that it starts with me,” Steen said.



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Brian Johnson is a native-born son of the Lone Star state. He grew up in the small southeast Texas town of Port Neches, where he learned to fish, hunt, and play golf. Through the years he fell even deeper in love with the outdoors. He ran a successful dog training business, DuckDogTrainer.com, and trained well over a thousand dogs how to duck hunt. Today, he is the Senior Pastor at FBC Winnie, TX and is passionate about sharing the story of how he found true meaning in life.

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SINGLE-VEHICLE CRASH INJURES ONE



LEW K. COHN

A car hit a telephone pole at the intersection of Saint Louis and Patrick streets Friday night, Jan. 12, severing an electrical wire and causing some residents to lose power briefly. One person was transported to the hospital with unspecified injuries.

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JUDGE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

last month. City Attorney Eddie Escobar told council members they would be able to make the appointment official on Tuesday night. "The code doesn't prevent the temporary appointment of a municipal court judge, but we would have to do a resolution for the permanent appointment," Escobar said. "The two-year terms follow the mayoral elections, under the code. At some point in the future, we will have to do a resolution pursuant to our ordinance that essentially adopts state law." Mayor Dorothy Riojas' current term ends in May as her position will be on the 2024 municipal election ballot. Voigt's term as municipal judge,

which is tied into the term for the mayor, will end when the new council is seated on the dais. She could be appointed to a full, permanent term at that time. In other action, council members voted unanimously to adopt a resolution that gives Nixon-Smilely CISD control of Rancho Road between Franklin Avenue and North Roosevelt Avenue during the school year. The district will be building its new CTE center along that stretch of roadway and expressed concerns about the safety of students crossing the street while changing classes during the school day. Access to the road will be blocked off during school hours to the general public, though first responders and

city employees will still have access as needed. Traffic will be diverted around the intersection and gates will be put up to prevent unauthorized access. Council members also voted unanimously to accept a base bid from J&K Utility Services LLC for \$466,706, to be offset by a change order reduction of 25 percent, for improvements to the downtown and Lowery water plants. With some bid addenda the council opted for, the final total cost of construction will be \$357,167, with the city's total match being roughly \$84,000, including engineering and administration services of \$35,000. The city had originally budgeted \$308,000 for construction.



Deidra Voigt is sworn in as the new interim Nixon municipal judge while Mayor Dorothy Riojas and City Attorney Eddie Escobar watch on Tuesday, Jan. 16. Voigt is also the Gonzales municipal judge and Gonzales County Precinct 1 Justice of the Peace. LEW K. COHN



LEW K. COHN

At left, Nixon Police Chief Mike Cantu and City Manager Darryl Becker thank Officer Nicky Gaytan, the department's K-9 handler, who will deploy for a nine-month period with the United States Army later this month. Gaytan is the son of Councilmember Maggie Gaytan. At right, Cantu and Becker recognized Nixon Police Officer Charles Schnitz, who on Dec. 14 assisted a stranded driver, who turned out to be an employee of the Texas Attorney General's Office, which also sent a certificate of appreciation to Officer Schnitz for his selflessness in helping a random motorist in need.

NIXON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

payments to the city of Nixon increase from \$528,394.95 in 2019 to \$762,877.59 this year, an increase of 44.4 percent in five years. Prior to October 2023, Holmes Foods was charged \$3.25 per 1,000 gallons of water in addition to the monthly meter charge. In October, however, water rates were split into residential, commercial and industrial categories, with industrial rates raised to \$4.65 per 1,000 gallons.

The projection for Holmes Foods is to process nearly 39.97 million chickens and to use about 199.85 million gallons of water, which Hartung is indicating will cost \$1,005,256.44 in money paid to the city for utilities. In 2019, Holmes Foods processed more than 39.8 million chickens at their Nixon facility. While COVID-19 caused that number to dip slightly to just under 38 million chickens in 2020,

production went back up to more than 39.5 million in 2021, nearly 40.9 million in 2022 and just under 40 million in 2023 with one month left to go. Meanwhile, the plant has been more efficient in its usage of water, going from more than 210.7 million gallons used in 2019 to 199 million in the 2020 COVID year to 201 million in 2021 to just under 208.2 million in 2022 to only 196.5 million used in 2023, Hartung said.

COLD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ing precipitation that sat on Texas during the so-called "Snowmageddon" and took down the state's power grid three years ago. As a result, very few outages were reported during the cold spell, with the majority of those that happened in eastern Gonzales County and western Lavaca County attributed to a motor vehicle accident caused disruption in service to about 1,000 customers early Monday, Jan. 15. The area did record its lowest temperatures since February 2021 as the mercury dipped to a low of 14 degrees Fahrenheit early Wednesday morning, but, as of press time, temperatures were expected to climb back above freezing and remain there until the next cold front moves into the area early Saturday, Jan. 20.

GUNSHOT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

investigation being conducted by Sgt. Investigator Victor Izaguirre. As Izaguirre and other officers were conducting their investigation, they recovered two firearms from the vehicle along with an undisclosed amount of narcotics. Two adult males were arrested and transported to the Gonzales County Jail. One was charged with unlawful carrying of a firearm and the other for unlawful carrying of a firearm, possession of a controlled substance and possession of marijuana. Three male juveniles were also detained and transported to a Juvenile Detention Center for unlawful carrying of a firearm, possession of a controlled substance and possession of marijuana.

Feeling down? Let it out.

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