

# The Gonzales Inquirer

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## Amber Alert issued for missing Gonzales teen

### FROM STAFF REPORTS

Gonzales County Sheriff's deputies put out an Amber Alert on Tuesday, Jan. 30 for a Gonzales teen they believe left home with a 22-year-old man Monday, Jan. 29.

Deputies said they believed Scarlett Smith, 14, to be in danger after she went missing. She was last seen at 11 p.m. Monday in the 15700 block of West US 90-A in Gonzales. Smith is a white female, 5-foot-4, 187 pounds, with red or auburn hair

and hazel eyes and she was last seen wearing a red Nike hoodie.

Deputies believe she may be with Barry Van Mersbergen, who also may go by the name of Ben. He is a 22-year-old white male and is 6-foot-2, 160 pounds, with brown hair and eyes.

Van Mersbergen was last seen driving a tan 2012 GMC Terrain with TX license plate 3RVWG and was last seen in Gonzales.

Deputies are now saying it ap-

See **MISSING**, page 16



Members of the Gonzales, Nixon and Smiley Fire Departments worked together to gain access to a victim whose 18-wheeler had been swept off of the roadway due to the flood waters on Wednesday, Jan. 24. Gonzales Fire and Rescue deployed their water rescue boat to that location and gained access to the victim and returned him to safe ground.

CONTRIBUTED/GONZALES FIRE AND RESCUE

## TDEM reminding Texans to report recent storm damage

### SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) reminded Texans to report property damage sustained during recent rain and flooding by submitting an online damage assessment survey.

"As impacted communities begin to recover from the effects of recent rain and flooding, Texans who have experienced property damage are encouraged to share damage information through TDEM's self-reported damage surveys," said Texas Emergency Man-

agement Chief Nim Kidd. "This information will help officials identify community needs."

Texans can report storm damage to homes and businesses using the Individual State of Texas Assessment

See **DAMAGE**, page 15

## Almaguer repaid \$14,000, has conditions to probation in Little League theft case

### BY LEW K. COHN Inquirer Publisher

Jennifer Lynn Almaguer had to pay \$14,000 in restitution up front on Jan. 9 when she was sentenced to 10

years probation after pleading guilty to embezzlement and misuse of Gonzales Little League organizational funds.

Almaguer also had a number of conditions placed on

her probation by 2nd 25th District Jessica Crawford — terms that, if violated, could see her sent to prison for up to 10 years, Gonzales County

See **ALMAGUER**, page 16

## Unemployment rate dropped to 3.0 percent in Gonzales Co.

### BY BETTY COHN Gonzales Inquirer

Unemployment in Gonzales County decreased slightly to 3.0 percent in December 2023, placing it at the second-highest rate for all seven counties which comprise the Golden Crescent Workforce Development Area. This represented a drop for the county for the fourth straight month, according to state Labor Market Information (LMI) figures released by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC).

For the entire Golden

See **JOBS**, page 7



WANDY VAN EPPS

David Tacy and Tena Roaches, of the Edwards Association, presents the essay winners Amiyay Ibarra, Emilio Amador and Joelee Lester certificates.

## Students recognized for MLK essays

### BY VANDY VAN EPPS Gonzales Inquirer

The Edwards Association made a visit to Gonzales High School Tuesday, Jan. 30 to recognize four GHS students who

entered the Martin Luther King Jr. essay contest.

Amiyay Ibarra, Emilio Amador, Joelee Lester and Mia Guerra (who was not present

See **ESSAYS**, page 16

## Concerned neighbor helps police apprehend burglary suspects

### SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Thanks to a concerned neighbor, Gonzales County deputies were able to arrest two of three people who attempted to burglarize a residence on

Texas 80 last week. Gonzales County Sheriff's Office Telecommunications received a 911 call at about 5:45 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 23, from a concerned neighbor on

See **BURGLARY**, page 16

## Mistrial declared for man accused of multiple crimes against children

### FROM STAFF REPORTS

A Gonzales County man accused of multiple sexual crimes involving

children will be retried after jurors failed to reach a unanimous

See **MISTRIAL**, page 15

## Trial set for July for man charged with hitting GPD officer with vehicle

### FROM STAFF REPORTS

The man accused of striking Gonzales Police Officer Mari-sol Sanchez with his vehicle

will have a jury trial this July.

During a Jan. 23 pretrial hearing, 2nd 25th District Judge Jessica R. Crawford agreed to reset pretrial mo-

tions and pleas for Pavel Antonio Ramirez to July 23, 2024, and set the jury trial for July 29, 2024.

Ramirez is charged with

aggravated assault on a public servant and intoxication assault with a vehicle causing

See **TRIAL**, page 15







# Gonzales Junior High Band members take part in music clinic

## SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Gonzales Junior High band took 13 students to the Region 18/26 ATSSB Clinic and Concert on Jan. 19-20. The students rehearsed with guest clinicians and with students from other districts in Region 18/26.

The students auditioned for the opportunity to be in a band this past December.

The Junior High Band has made tremendous growth from one stu-

dent making it in the 22-23 school year to having 13 students making the All-Region Band for the 23-24 school year. The students had an outstanding performance, with a standing applause at the end of both bands.

## CONCERT BAND

Clarinet: Jesus Gonzales Mares  
Tenor Saxophone: Kamrynn Zuniga  
Trumpets: Maritza Perez, Pedro

Cardenas  
Trombone: Kyle Perry  
Tuba: Giovanni Rodriguez  
Percussion: Alonso Monjaras Castillo

## SYMPHONIC BAND

Flute: Hayley Gonzalez, Angelica Eureste,  
Bass Clarinets: Nathan Pennington, Tristen Buchans  
Alto Saxophone: William Fitch  
Percussion: Conrad Canales

# GCRW's candidate forum set for Feb. 22

## SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

On Thursday, Feb. 22, the Guadalupe County Republican Women will be hosting a forum for candidates at their February meeting. Each candidate will be given two minutes to speak to the membership and present their platform and goals as an elected official.

The luncheon/meeting will be held at the Seguin Silver Center, 510 E. Court St., Seguin, beginning at 11:30 a.m. Lunch is available by making reservations with Glenda Partain by calling or texting 830.391.3979 or silvercenter@sbcglobal.net. The program is free but if you plan on enjoying a delicious lunch, the cost is \$15.

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



Gonzales County Sheriff's deputies recovered a truck stolen out of Austin on I-10 on Tuesday, Jan. 23. The suspect escaped apprehension in the heavy rain after fleeing on foot.

# GCSO recovers stolen truck

## SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Gonzales County deputies recovered a stolen truck last week during a routine patrol.

A Gonzales County Sheriff's patrol corporal was patrolling Interstate 10 at about 11 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 23, when he observed a Dodge Ram TRX traveling westbound. A quick registration check on the truck revealed it was reported stolen out of Austin.

The corporal initiated a traffic stop on the stolen truck in an attempt to stop it. The driver continued driving at a slow speed, due to the heavy rain, and ultimately stopped after a short distance. Once

stopped, the driver fled from the vehicle on foot into heavy brush.

Due to the heavy rain and extremely thick brush, deputies were unable to apprehend the suspect. However, the corporal was ultimately able to recover the stolen vehicle for the victim, who was happy to have his vehicle back.

"This is a prime example of the caliber of deputies we have serving our citizens of this great county," the department said in a release. "Rain or shine, our deputies are out there working for you, the great citizens of our county, in an attempt to make this a better county to live in."

# RWOYA announces local candidate forum in Yoakum

## SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

A local candidate forum, hosted by the Republican Women of the Yoakum Area for candidates in Lavaca, Gonzales, and DeWitt Counties, is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 7, at the Yoakum Community Center, 105 Huck St., Yoakum.

Forum time schedule:  
• Candidate's Table Setup

at 4 p.m.  
• Doors open to the public at 5 p.m.  
• Meet and Greet the Candidates with light refreshments from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.  
• Program Forum with questions begins at 6 p.m. for local contested candidates. Unopposed candidates and officials will be recognized. Invitations for participation in the forum have been sent

to local contested candidates. Candidates for Sheriff, County Attorney, Commissioners, Constables and District Judges have confirmed attendance.

Opposed candidates will speak and be asked questions by a moderator.

Campaign materials and signs will be available at local candidate's tables.

Republican Women of

the Yoakum Area has both women and men members from Lavaca, Gonzales, and DeWitt counties.

Meetings are the second Wednesday of the month at 11:30 a.m. at the Yoakum Community Center. Informative speakers provide the program. Light lunches are provided with free will donation appreciated. Visitors are welcome.

# YMCA expands afterschool programs in Bay City, Gonzales

## SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The YMCA of the Golden Crescent proudly announces the expansion of its afterschool programs to new locations in Bay City, already in operation, and Gonzales, launching soon. This initiative demonstrates the YMCA's dedication to providing quality, accessible child care and enrichment opportunities across the region.

"We are delighted to extend our afterschool programs to more communities," states Bud Oliver, CEO of the YMCA of the Golden Crescent. "Offering a safe, educational, and fun environment for children after school hours is at the heart of our mission."

The expansion will

offer a diverse array of activities, including homework help, STEM, arts, and physical fitness programs, all conducted in a state-licensed, secure setting. The YMCA staff, known for their qualifications and caring approach, will lead these programs, ensuring a balanced development for each child.

Childcare director of the Brigg's Branch, Michelle Falcon, remarks, "Our goal is to foster environments where children can not only learn but also discover and grow in their interests and talents. I am so excited to see our programs expand into the surrounding communities so we can continue to meet that goal."

The programs are conveniently located on school campuses, making

it easily accessible for families. Financial aid is also available, ensuring that the programs are inclusive and available to all.

"We are still looking for community support and involvement," says Bud Oliver. "Whether it's volunteering, donations, or

spreading the word, every bit helps us make a difference in these children's lives."

For more information about the afterschool programs, enrollment details, or ways to support, please visit the YMCA's website at [www.ymcagoldencrescent.org](http://www.ymcagoldencrescent.org).

## Seeking Election Clerks to work Early Voting and/or Election Day for the upcoming Elections.

\*Training will be provided

\*Pay was set by Commissioner's Court at \$14/hr

For more details and qualifications please contact  
Gonzales County Elections Administrator, Gwen Schaefer  
830-519-4054  
[ea@co.gonzales.tx.us](mailto:ea@co.gonzales.tx.us)

## Celebrations Birthdays

<b>February 1st</b> Darla Machacek Elisa Molina Bryan Pruett Mikey Solis Raymie Zella	Tony Matias Cynthia Mayberry Gary Quinton
<b>February 2nd</b> Sylvia Schwausch	Mike Darilek David Floyd
<b>February 3rd</b> Elizabeth Rivera	John Klapuch Mary Jane Leal Mary Sampleton
<b>February 4th</b> Jennifer Stewart	
<b>February 5th</b> Gary Combs	<b>February 7th</b> Kinsley Aldaco Wendy Logan Hileman

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The YMCA of the Golden Crescent has expanded its afterschool programs to new locations in Bay City, already in operation, and Gonzales, launching soon.

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## Gonzales Weather

	<b>February 1</b> 63°/48°	Mostly sunny 8% chance of rain • RealFeel 67
	<b>February 2</b> 61°/52°	Times of clouds and sun with a shower in places 40% chance of rain • RealFeel 60
	<b>February 3</b> 67°/47°	Strong morning thunderstorms; variably cloudy with a strong t-storm in spots in the afternoon 75% chance of rain • RealFeel 66
	<b>February 4</b> 65°/45°	Mostly sunny 0% chance of rain • RealFeel 67
	<b>February 5</b> 67°/50°	Sunny 0% chance of rain • RealFeel 68
	<b>February 6</b> 65°/51°	Sun through high clouds 0% chance of rain • RealFeel 68
	<b>February 7</b> 67°/50°	Partly Sunny 9% chance of rain • RealFeel 73

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Gonzales Inquirer



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

February 1st – South Texas Tour

February 2nd - Motoxtreme Circus

February 3rd-4th – Childrens Hospital

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## FEBRUARY GARDENING CALENDAR

February 1 is a good date to plant potatoes in the vegetable garden. Dig a trench a foot wide and 8ft long to handle 3 plants in the row. If you cannot dig the trench one-foot-deep plan on hilling soil from an adjacent area over the top of the trench.

Obtain seed potatoes from a nursery or feed store. You may have to call around, they are getting harder and harder to find. My favorite seed potatoes are red Pontiacs or Lasoda. Gardeners that plant white potatoes do best with Kennebec. Purchase potatoes designated as seed potatoes and with obvious eyes. I cut my seed potatoes to about golf ball size so that each piece includes at least one eye.

Space the 3 pieces in the trench and cover them with 3 inches of soil. Add more soil on the seeds as they sprout out of the soil cover. The first potatoes can be harvested when the plants bloom. Harvest the remainder when the potato tops brown. Texas potatoes do best when they are eaten as new potatoes rather than stored over long season.

At the same time as you plant the potatoes is the time to plant the last of the broccoli and other cool weather plants. Keep harvesting the green onions, spinach, kale, beets, chard and rutabagas that survived the freeze until into early summer.

The snapdragons and most of the other winter annuals experienced a bloom pause with the mid-January cold spell but they should start blooming again at the end of February. If you covered the primula and cyclamen the blooms probably survived. Most pansies and violas survived the cold and continue to bloom.

The Whopper Begonias and their smaller cousins (begonias) probably froze back even if you covered them, but the covered plants may resprout from the roots in the spring.

February is a good time to prune fruit trees and to plant shrubs and shade trees.

The rescue grass and other weeds that survived the January freeze will not produce seed until May so keep mowing them. Use a grassy weed contact herbicide such as Grass-be-Gone, Poast or Ornamec to kill grassy weeds in flower gardens or shrub borders. The second team of winter weeds, including the bedstraw, will move fast to fill any gaps in weed coverage. Bedstraw in the lawn can be controlled by a broadleaf contact herbicide.

Wait until May to fertilize the lawn grasses, it is also the time to plant Bermuda grass seed. Bermuda grass seed planted in February won't be successful.

I am delivering a series of Gardening Programs in February and March. The Programs are free but donations are accepted to help cover the costs of the distributed milkweed and tomatoes. Attendance is limited. call the attached number to reserve a seat. To sign up for the Butterfly/ Milkweed Program at Milberger's on Feb 3 at 10 am call 210-497-3760. The same Program will also be offered at the 'Dreamhill Estates Education Resource Center at 9:30 am on Mar2 ( call 210 382 4455) ,If you want to Pot- Up and discuss growing Rodeo Tomatoes reserve yourself a spot at the Education Center on Feb 17 at 9:30 am ( call 210 382 4455) or at Milberger's on Feb 24 at 10 am ( call 210 497 3760) Attendees must register and they will receive seeded milkweed and a potted tomato.

## Garden Q&A

with CALVIN FINCH



**Q Tomato plants are available in area nurseries, is it an appropriate time to plant them?**

A. No, the soil and air temperatures are too cold. What you can do is purchase transplants of your favorite tomato varieties including any hard-to-find Rodeo varieties and plant them in a one-gallon container until about March 15 when the weather warms up. In the meantime, place the "Potted up" plant in the sun sheltered from the wind and move it inside if temperatures are predicted to fall below 40 degrees' It is a long drive for a Saturday morning but to attend a "Potting Up" class on Feb. 24 at 10 a.m. at Milberger's Nursery call 210 307 4670. To reserve a spot for a class at the Medical Center Area in San Antonio on Feb 17 at 9:30 a.m. Call 210 382 4455. The classes are free, and every registered attendee will receive a "Potted up" tomato.

**Q. My cyclamen, pansies and primula made it through the freeze in pretty good shape but now it looks like something is eating the foliage and flowers. Should we spray them with an insecticide?**

A. I suspect the damage is being caused by slugs and snails. They

are especially fond of primula. Apply a slug and snail bait to the area in and around the bed and containers.

**Q. We want to grow some peaches in our backyard. What are the recommended varieties to use? The nursery has too many choices.**

A. I have had the best luck with Florida King. It is a low-chill early producing variety that produces large fruit. Other good choices include Junegold and La Feliciana.

**Q. What are some shrubs I can plant that the deer won't eat? What are some trees that they won't rub on with their antlers?**

A. Deer generally don't eat Texas mountain laurel, any of the viburnums, esperanza, Mexican honeysuckle, yucca, poinciana, yaupon hollies, Mexican plum. Texas persimmon, salvias, and jasmine. To keep bucks from rubbing on the bark of young trees you usually have to put a fence barrier around them. In the absence of young trees, they will even rub on shrubs such as the Texas mountain laurel. Seek out internet or other deer proofing sources for instructions to construct reasonable fence around trees.

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## Forest service awards prescribed fire grants

### SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Texas A&M Forest Service awarded 126 recipients grants to conduct prescribed burns this year. For the 2024 fiscal year, the agency has approved more than \$705,000 in grant funds to private landowners in Texas with a goal to treat 25,104 acres.

With Texas lands being 95% privately owned, the responsibility of conservation lies with thousands

across the state. Through prescribed fire grant programs, Texas A&M Forest Service strengthens the conservation network by providing resources and funding assistance to landowners and land managers to conduct prescribed fires.

Prescribed fire is a strategic land management tool that uses low-intensity fire on a specific area of land to achieve set goals. Prescribed fire is proven to be the most effective and efficient land

management tool for decreasing the risk of catastrophic wildfires by reducing hazardous fuels.

"If forests and land are left unmanaged, the buildup of leaves, twigs and underbrush significantly increases the chances of larger, more uncontrollable wildfires in that area," said Andy McCrady, Texas A&M Forest Service Program Coordinator. "That is why it is a top

See BURN, page 7

## LIVESTOCK WEEKLY REPORTS

### GONZALES LIVESTOCK MARKET

January 26th  
Cattle - 400

Compared to our last sale: Number 1 choice calves and yearlings sold steady to very active. Less quality calves and yearlings sold steady. Packer cows sold steady & bulls sold 5.00-8.00 higher.

Stocker-feeder Steers: Medium and large-frame No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 295-335; 300-400 lbs., 295-355; 400-500 lbs., 275-345; 500-600 lbs., 235-295; 600-700 lbs., 210-250; 700-800 lbs., 195-233. Bull Yearlings: 700-900 lbs., 90-155.

Stocker-feeder heifers: Medium and large-frame No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 285-330; 300-400 lbs., 280-317; 400-500 lbs., 227-955; 500-600 lbs., 210-247; 600-700 lbs., 185-212.

Packer Cows: Good lean utility and commercial, 85-96; Cutters, 101-122; Canners, 52-82; High yielding fat cows, 97-102. Packer Bulls: Yield grade 1 & 2, good heavy bulls, 122-132; Light weights and medium quality bulls, 105-118. Stocker Cows: \$750 to \$1,500. Pairs: \$1,100 to \$1,900.

### HALLETTVILLE LIVESTOCK COMMISSION CO., INC.

Sale date: January 23rd  
Cattle on hand: 1029  
Packer Cows: High Dressing: \$90-118 Medium Dressing: \$78-100 Low Dressing: \$58-78 Poor/Weak Cows: \$50-64 Packer Bulls: High Dressing Bulls: \$115-129 Medium Dressing Bulls: \$102-116 Low Dressing Bulls: \$95-102

Stocker Cows: Good Stocker/Cows & Heifers: NONE Medium Stocker Cows & Heifers: \$1025-1500 Good Cow & Calf Pairs: NONE Medium Cow & Calf Pairs: \$1150-1825 Stocker & Feeder Calves & Yearlings: Number 1 steer & bull calves: Under 200 lbs.: \$260-360 200-300 lbs.: \$280-370 300-400 lbs.: \$275-350 400-500 lbs.: \$255-310 500-600 lbs.: \$240-300 600-700 lbs.: \$220-235 700-800 lbs.: \$205-230

Number 1 heifer calves: Under 200 lbs.: \$240-340 200-300 lbs.: \$240-315 300-400 lbs.: \$245-320 400-500 lbs.: \$230-295 500-600 lbs.: \$216-265 600-700 lbs.: \$205-230 700-800 lbs.: \$180-215 Replacement Heifers: 350-700 lbs.: \$130-185 The calf market was HIGHER AGAIN THIS WEEK. No. 1 kinds in all weight brackets sold \$3 to \$8 higher. Grazing demand continues very strong. Wonderful rains in our area. Packer cows and bulls sold \$8 to \$12 higher on a total supply of 180 head.

SEGUIN CATTLE CO. January 24th Run was light due to recent rains. No test of market. Cattle - 193 Sheep & goats - 870 Medium & large frame #1 Steers: 200-300 lb. 2.05-2.38-3.10 300-400 lb. .60-2.20-3.55 400-500 lb. .55-2.10-3.10 500-600 lb. .65-2.01-2.48 600-700 lb. .90-1.75-2.20 700-850 lb. .86-1.60-2.01 Medium & large frame #1 Heifers: 200-300 lb. 1.60-1.92-2.50 300-400 lb. .60-2.10-3.40 400-500 lb. .53-2.00-2.54 500-600 lb. .70-1.90-2.38 600-750 lb. .50-1.80-2.22 Cows: Utility & commercial - .88-.98-1.02 Cutters - .67-.72-.80 Canners. NONE Palpated cows - NONE Cow/Calf Pairs - NONE Bulls: Heavy High Yielding - 1.27

Light & Low Yielding - NONE Sheep & Goats: Nannies - 85-260 Kid Goats (Fat) - 2.70-3.20 Wethers -1.70-3.12 Billies - 1.70-3.00 Dorp. Ewes - 45-170 Dorp. Lambs (Fat) - 2.70-3.20 Woolled Ewes - NONE Woolled Bucks - 1.20-1.40 Lambs - 1.80-2.30 Barb. Bucks - 125-400

### CUERO LIVESTOCK MARKET

January 26, 2024  
Number of head 341  
There were only 43 cows and 5 bulls. Top packer bull was \$128/cwt while tops on packer cows was \$115/cwt. Prices continue to be high as demand continues to be very strong. The calf market was once again very strong with very limited supply. Beneficial rains this week has put a lot of optimism in the market.

Packer bulls: 94.00-128.00  
Packer cows: canners & cutters 85.00-115.00 poor & weak 30.00-57.00 Palpated: 2 BRED \$1,050 & \$1,200 PAIRS: NONE  
Steer Calves: 250-299 lbs. N O N E 300-350 lbs. N O N E 350-400 lbs. 295.00-342.00 400-450 lbs. 286.00-340.00 450-500 lbs. 260.00-320.00 500-550 lbs. 233.00-280.00 550-600 lbs. 252.00-268.00 600-700 lbs. 244.00-259.00 700-800 lbs. 222.00-241.00 Bull Calves: (AVG-HIGH) Under 250lbs NONE 250-300 lbs. 266.00-362.00 300-350 lbs. 300.00-320.00 350-400 lbs. 311.00-342.00 400-450 lbs. 291.00-338.00 450-500 lbs. 271.00-318.00 500-550 lbs. 239.00-262.00 550-600 lbs. 246.00-256.00 600-700 lbs. 225.00-248.00 Over 700 lbs. NONE Heifer Calves: (AVG-HIGH) under 200 lbs. NONE 200-250 lbs. 190.00-242.00 250-300 lbs. 183.00-250.00 300-350 lbs. 244.00-280.00 350-400 lbs. 253.00-350.00 400-450 lbs. 247.00-266.00 450-500 lbs. 250.00-328.00 500-550 lbs. 235.00-278.00 550-600 lbs. 221.00-260.00 600-700 lbs. 212.00-260.00 Over 700 lbs 200.00-220.00

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## Persistent cuts in budget create inadequate funding for Texas schools

BY ROZ BROWN  
Texas News Service

A new report shows persistent state budget cuts in 80% of U.S. states — including Texas — deprive public schools of the funding they experienced before the Great Recession.

The report measures statewide funding adequacy based on how many students attend schools in districts with funding below estimated adequate levels.

Mary Cathryn Ricker, executive director of the Albert Shanker Institute, said four out of five states devote a smaller share of their state economy with public schools than they did 15 years ago.

“This is something that has happened over time,” said Ricker, “as state legislatures have either divested from either funding their public schools or have chosen more investments in their public schools.

The report finds African American students are twice as likely as white students to be in districts with funding below estimated adequate levels, and 3.5 times more likely to be in “chronically underfunded” districts.

Critics of public education charge it wastes money and is too beholden to teachers’ unions.

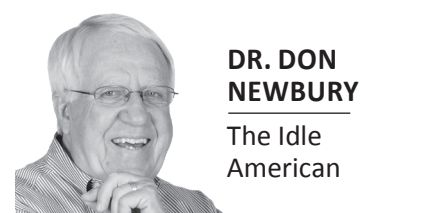
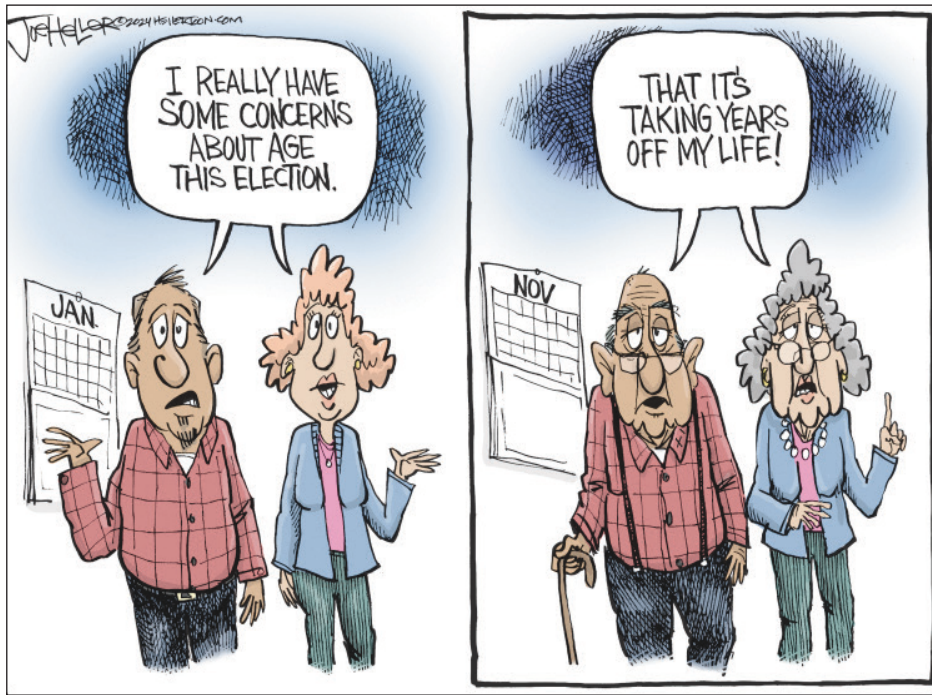
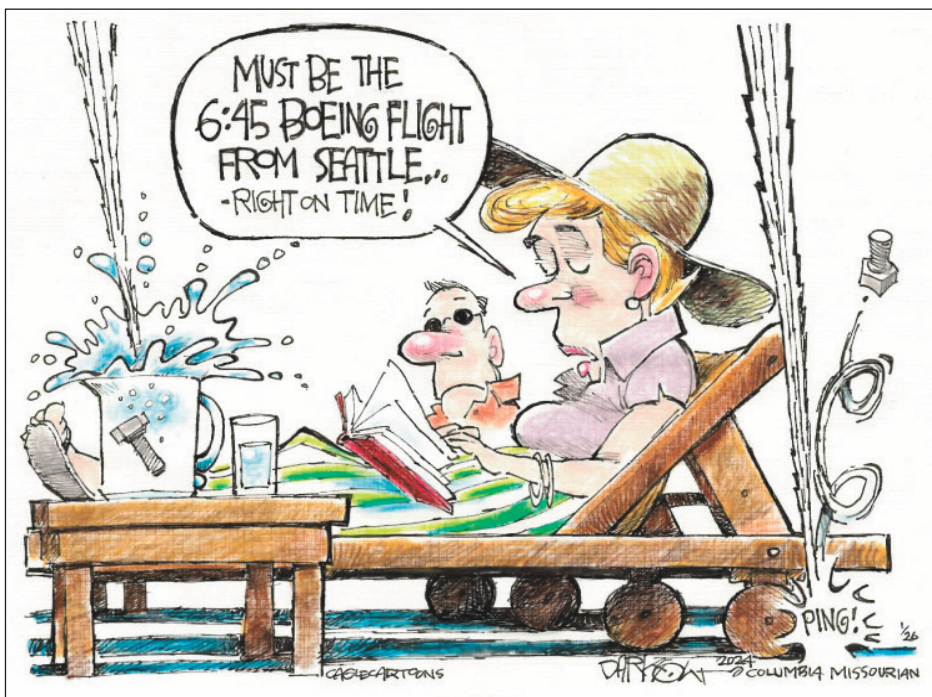
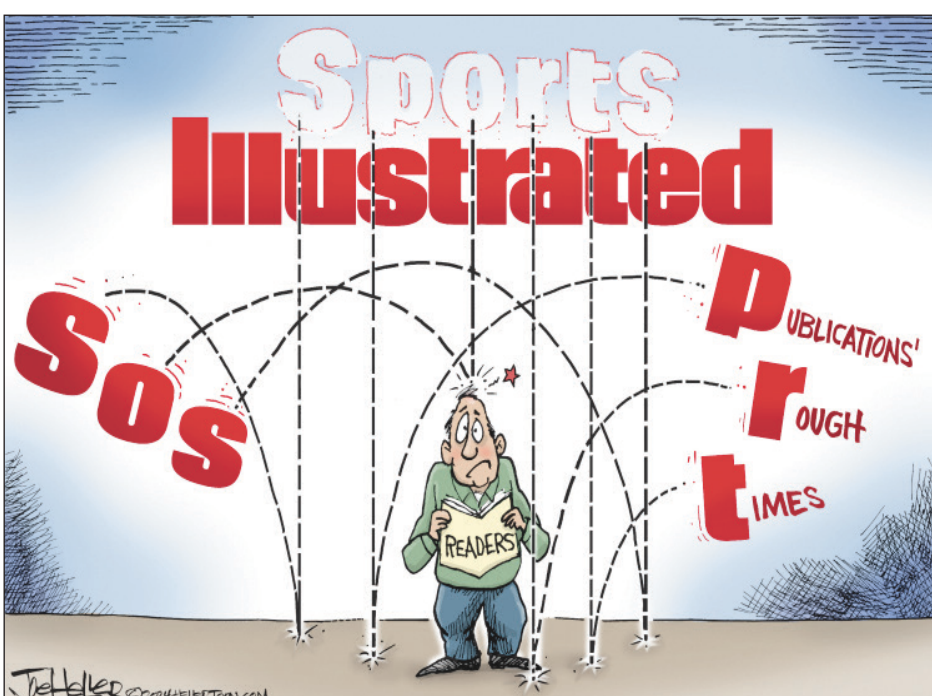
Study Co-author and University of Miami Professor Bruce Baker said Texas funding was around the national average before 2007, then climbed upward before a downward slide began two decades ago.

“Even though Texas is putting up roughly average effort,” said Baker, “91.6% of kids in Texas attend districts that don’t spend enough to achieve national average outcomes.”

Ricker said the public believes in public schools and they deserve more support.

“We can have high expectations for our public schools,” said Ricker. “We should have high expectations for them. And, we should be funding what it takes to meet those expectations at the same time.”

Ricker said this is the sixth year the “Adequacy and Fairness of State School Finance Systems” report has recommended that every state audit its funding levels and make it a shared priority with residents.



DR. DON NEWBURY  
The Idle American

## Hot air or dead air?

My friend Rex Tackett, as community-minded as anyone I’ve ever known, is admired for always taking the high road, and—when necessary—the high wire as well.

He takes life on with cheer, always confident of sunrise tomorrow, no matter how many clouds—dark as they may be—fluff up the sky today.

He and his wife, Mariann, are stalwarts in their hometown(s) of Brownwood and Coleman, where they own and operate radio stations.

Easy-going and armed with funny stories for all occasions,

he is collared to speak at various functions in both communities, sometimes venturing into adjoining counties. He’s an easy mark for civic meetings, particularly if it involves Kiwanis International, where he has been a kingpin for years. Rarely would casual observance suggest that he’s a no-nonsense kind of guy, but frigid weather—rare as it is in central/west Texas—can peel back several layers of concern....

\*\*\*\*\*  
The weather challenged a few days ago when thermometers flirted with negative figures. At the Tackett household, priorities changed quickly to red alert.

He rushed through Brownwood stores hours before temperatures tumbled, eager to stock up on critical provisions. At the top of his list was cat food, since he and Mariann are—without intent—cat “harborers,” often with a dozen or so meowing at their door. They are compassionate people, far more generous to neighborhood cats than their dog—a red healer named Maybelline—thinks is necessary.

Before exiting one store, he checked to see if money could be saved when hair dryers are purchased by the case. Huh?...

\*\*\*\*\*  
This drew smiles from store personnel who asked why he’d ever need so many hair dryers.

He patiently explained that a transmitting tower for one of the Tacketts’ radio stations rises from the peak of Santa Anna Mountain.

Some 460 feet tall, it reaches skyward above one of the highest points in the area. Emitting therefrom—he carefully explained—are signals that fly through the air into home receivers, replacing radio silence with radio sound. (This is helpful information for the likes of us who barely know how to turn a radio on.) Such high-flying technology works, however, when towers don’t freeze over. When they do, Tackett added, one might think that friends could be called on. But, he hasn’t even tried, despite toying with the idea of running extension cords to the mountain top for hair dryers to plug in. In a perfect world, friends might rally there, pointing hair dryers skyward, thus keeping radio signals moving right along. (There he was, dreaming again.)...

\*\*\*\*\*  
Well, the situation ended well. The tower continued to do what towers do, and they didn’t miss a lick at the radio stations located a few miles to the east and west.

The public continued to be served, a nameless cat population remained well fed and Maybelline shook his head about his masters—unashamedly “dog people”—befriending felines in all kinds of weather.

Coming out of the 90-hour freeze unscathed, Rex recalled an old sign that used to hang in one of the Tacketts’ radio stations. Faded and dim, it spoke volumes: “God Save Us From Dead Air...”

\*\*\*\*\*  
Actually, not much happens in radio that Tackett hasn’t seen before. He has reaped numerous honors, including induction into the Texas Radio Hall of Fame in 2012. This Cross Plains native has logged 55 years in sales, general management and ownership of radio stations formatted for all types of programming.

He has managed leading radio stations in four major cities while em-

### GONZALES CO. HISTORY

- 1836 — February 23, siege of the Alamo began
- 1851 — February, Thomas Pilgrim was ordered by the commissioners to procure benches and tables for the courthouse which had been built in 1849. He was also to provide “full windows with glass”.
- 1852 — February 29, Presbyterian Church of Gonzales formed.
- 1857 — February, contract let for third courthouse built, Courthouse Square; (Block 25). Charles Payne of Travis County was the architect and Benton and Bledsoe of Guadalupe County were the contractors.
- 1878 — February 9, a fossil, found on McCoy’s place twenty miles below Gonzales, was brought in to show the folks at The Inquirer. It was a front molar measuring eight inches long and nineteen inches in circumference.
- 1883 — February 17, the Inquirer staff was invited down to a sumptuous oyster supper at the restaurant of Barnes & Son who “know so well how to do the handsome thing. A new feature was the introduction of lemonade.”
- 1956 — February 16, Major Audie Murphy came to Gonzales as a stop on his National Guard Inspection Tour

### Letters to the Editor

Please send Letters to the Editor:

- Email: publisher@gonzalesinquirer.com
- U.S. Mail: The Inquirer, P.O. Box 616, Gonzales, Texas, 78629
- In person: The Inquirer, 622 St. Paul Street, Gonzales, Texas, 78629 (Please bring in a digital format, if possible).

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

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Gonzales' Brandon Duenez kicks the ball towards Pleasanton's net Friday, Jan. 26.

VANDY VAN EPPS

## Gonzales ISD's powerlifting teams finish strong in Navarro meet

### STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Apaches and Lady Apaches powerlifting teams traveled to Navarro for a meet Saturday, Jan. 27.

### LADY APACHES

The Lady Apaches competed in their second meet of the season and finished second overall in the Navarro meet.

Denisse Navarro, Madi Sampleton, and Serenity Perez finished first in their respective weight classes.

Final Results:  
Aubrey Hernandez-Third Place  
D. Navarro-First Place

M. Sampleton-First Place  
Alize Miller-Third Place  
Midaya Cantu-Fifth Place  
Shelby Borjon-Second Place  
S. Perez-First Place  
Jazlin Juarez-Fourth Place



CONTRIBUTED

Lady Apaches' Denisse Navarro and Serenity Perez hold the runner-up plaque from the Navarro meet Saturday, Jan. 27.

### APACHES

The Apaches competed in their first powerlifting meet of the 2024 season and took home third place in the Navarro meet behind Nixon-Smiley, who finished second.

Omar Borjon, Landon Holub, Jessiah Barr, and Kaden DeLeon medaled in first place in the Navarro meet.

Final Results:  
Omar Borjon-First Place  
Landon Holub-First Place  
Daylan Vigil-Fifth Place  
Kevin Garcia-Sixth Place  
Jessiah Barr-First Place  
Pedro Borjon-Ninth Place  
Kaden DeLeon-First Place  
Gary Lewis-Fourth Place  
Isaiah Balderas-Seventh Place  
Gustavo Rodriguez-Third Place

The Apaches and Lady Apaches will travel to Kenedy for their next powerlifting meet Thursday, Feb. 1 and the teams are coached by Saul Hinojosa and Keith Cubit.



CONTRIBUTED

Apaches' Omar Borjon and Landon Holub hold the third place plaque from the Navarro meet.

## Eagles beat Apaches FC, 3-1

BY VANDY VAN EPPS  
Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales Apaches FC traveled to Pleasanton for their final non-district match against the Eagles Friday, Jan. 26 at Eagle Stadium.

Pleasanton scored the game's first goal in the first half and the Apaches defense quickly adjusted

and didn't allow another goal in the half.

The Apaches quickly tied the game seven minutes into the second half, but Pleasanton quickly answered back with their second goal of the game and added one for insurance.

Apaches head coach Shea Seip talked about his team's performance against Pleasanton and the

missed shots in the second half.

"It's just about effort and put it in, like you can't come to a game, show up and just walk on the field. It's not ever going to be in your favor that way. You also do maximum effort every time, no matter the circumstance. We only have one week or one day of practice

See **SOCCER**, page 6



CONTRIBUTED

The Gonzales Lady Apaches FC at the Pleasanton Tournament. The Lady Apaches took home first place in the silver bracket.

## Lady Apaches FC finishes first in silver bracket at Pleasanton Tournament

### STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Lady Apaches FC traveled to Pleasanton Thursday, Jan. 18 for their final tournament of the season.

The Lady Apaches took on Ban-

dera, Young Women's Leadership Academy (YWLA) and McCollum in the tournament and competed in the silver bracket.

The Lady Apaches took home first place in the tournament silver bracket and concluded tournament

play of season.

The Lady Apaches will kick off district play against San Antonio JFK Saturday, Feb. 3. on the road and will host Yoakum Tuesday, Feb. 6.

The JFK game tips off at 10 a.m. and the Yoakum game starts at 5 p.m.



CONTRIBUTED

The Gonzales Apaches and Lady Apaches powerlifting teams at the Navarro meet Saturday, Jan. 27.

## Apaches beat JFK on the road

### STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Apaches hit the road Friday, Jan. 26 for a rematch against the San Antonio JFK Rockets

The Apaches lost the first meeting early in district play, but got their revenge in a 46-41 win over the Rockets.

The Apaches trailed in the first half, 21-18, but quickly controlled the second half holding the Rockets to four points in the third quarter.

Gonzales improved to 3-5 in district play and sit in fifth place in District 28-4A.

The Apaches have four games left in the season and will hit the road to San Antonio Friday, Feb. 2 against the San Antonio Memorial Minutemen and will host the Cuero Gobblers at home Tuesday, Feb. 6.

The Memorial game tips off at 7 p.m. and the Cuero game tips off at 6:30 p.m.

### GIRLS BASKETBALL

## Lady Apaches playoff bound in win against JFK

### STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Lady Apaches are back in the playoffs for the first time since the 2019-20 season after their 66-22 win over the JFK Lady Rockets Friday, Jan. 26.

The Lady Apaches improved to

6-4 in district play and 11-18 on the season.

Gonzales has two more games remaining in the season and are currently sitting in third place in the district standings.

If the season ended today, the Lady Apaches would take on Boerne

in the first round of the 4A Texas High School Girl's Basketball playoffs.

The Apaches will host San Antonio Memorial Friday, Feb. 2 for their final home game and will travel to Cuero Tuesday, Feb. 6.

Both games tip off at 6:30 p.m.

### GIRLS SOCCER

## Lady Apaches FC beats Floresville in home match

### STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Lady Apaches FC returned to the soccer field for a home match up against the Floresville Lady Tigers Friday, Jan. 26 at Apache Field.

The Lady Apaches beat Flores-

ville, 3-2, to closeout their non-district matches and improved to 3-3 on the season.

Gonzales will take on the San Antonio JFK Lady Rockets Saturday, Feb. 3 for the first district match of the season.

The Lady Apaches FC and Lady

Rockets split the series last season; Gonzales fell in the first meeting, 2-1, and beat them in the second meeting, 2-1.

Gonzales will host Yoakum at home Tuesday, Feb. 6. The JFK game kicks off at 10 a.m. and the Yoakum game kicks off at 5 p.m.



# Mustangs fall to Bulldogs in key district game

**BY VANDY VAN EPPS**  
Gonzales Inquirer

The Nixon-Smile Mustangs traveled to Marion for their final match up against the Bulldogs Tuesday, Jan. 30.

The Mustangs struggled in the game defensively; Marion shot multiple threes on Nixon-Smile's defense in the first quarter to put the Mustangs behind, 20-9.

Mustangs head coach Carlton McKinney said Marion shot extremely well on his defense, but his players played well, despite losing two point guards due to injury.

"It kind of hurt us and just kind of stressed us a little bit as far as our limited bench. Guys had to play extended minutes and really forced their hand and then they were able to knock down some shots, and like I said, I thought our kids played hard and gave us everything they had," McKinney said.

Nixon-Smile fell to Marion, 66-35, and were handed the sea-

son series sweep by the Bulldogs.

The Mustangs are in the final stretch of the season with four games left in district, but their playoff hopes are in the air.

Nixon-Smile currently sit in fifth place in District 26-3A and need a lot things to happen to secure a playoff spot and force a play-in with Randolph.

"We're one game behind Randolph for fourth place. And the only caveat is they beat us, so if we hold court and beat Randolph, then worst-case scenario, we tie for fourth. If we can knock off one of the remaining teams outside of Randolph, they won't put us in fourth place. We beat them, so that's how it looks," McKinney said.

The Mustangs will travel to San Antonio Friday, Feb. 2 for a district match against state-ranked Cole; and later host their final two home games against Great Hearts Northern Oaks (Tuesday, Feb. 6) and Luling (Friday, Feb. 9).

All three games tip off at 8 p.m.



Mustangs senior shooting guard Omar Abundis (10) dribbles the ball down court with Marion junior defender Braeden Fleming (2) following.

VANDY VAN EPPS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Nixon-Smile Mustangs and Lady Mustangs powerlifting teams show off their medals and plaques from the Navarro meet. The Mustangs were named runner-ups and the Lady Mustangs finished fourth at the Navarro powerlifting meet Saturday, Jan. 27.

## Mustangs powerlifting teams take home accolades in Navarro meet

**STAFF REPORT**

The Nixon-Smile Mustangs and Lady Mustangs traveled to Navarro for their second powerlifting meet of the season Saturday, Jan. 27.

The Mustangs finished second place in the overall meet with 42 points and had three lifters finish in first place in their respective weight classes.

The Lady Mustangs finished fourth overall with 24 points total and had eight lifters finish in the top five in their weight classes.

The Nixon-Smile powerlifting teams will travel to Von Ormy Saturday, Feb. 3 for their third meet of the season.

**LADY MUSTANGS TEAM RESULTS**

Fourth place: 24 points

Freshman Olivia Jackson placed fourth in the 105.5 division and lifted a combined weight of 420 lbs.

Junior Kaylie Morin placed first in the 123.5 division and lifted a combined weight of 620 lbs.

Freshman Gabriela Castillo Limon placed third in the 132.5 division and lifted a combined weight of 550 lbs.

Freshman Mariela Castillo Limon placed fourth in the 132.5 division and lifted a combined weight of 530 lbs.

Freshman Kendra Savoie placed seventh in the 132.5 division and lifted a combined weight of 455 lbs.

Senior Katelyn Fernandez placed second in the 148.5 division and lifted a combined weight of 735 lbs.

Junior Ashley Garcia placed third in the 148.5 division and lifted a combined weight of 700 lbs.

Junior Zuelma Rodriguez placed fourth in the 148.5 division and lifted a combined weight of 685 lbs.

Sophomore Janice White placed fifth in the 148.5 division and lifted a combined weight of 660 lbs.

Junior Anahi Hernandez placed sixth in the 165.5 division and lifted a combined weight of 545 lbs.

**MUSTANGS TEAM RESULTS**

Second place: 42 points.

Junior Cesar Vazquez placed third in the 114 division and lifted a combined weight of 830 lbs.

Sophomore Andrew Meza placed fourth in the 114 division and lifted a combined weight of 765 lbs.

Junior Eduardo Betancourt placed fourth in the 123 division and lifted a combined weight of 740 lbs.

Junior Tyler Barrientez placed first in the 132 division and lifted a combined weight of 1,115 lbs.

Senior Oscar Acosta placed second in the 148 division and lifted a combined weight of 1,365 lbs.

Junior Jose Olvera placed fifth in the 148 division and lifted a combined weight of 1,100 lbs.

Senior Omar Morales Navarro placed first in the 181 division and lifted a combined weight of 1,345 lbs.

Senior Jesus Espino placed second in the 198 division and lifted a combined weight of 1,370 lbs.

Senior Gracen Martin placed eighth in the 198 division and lifted a combined weight of 1,015 lbs.

Sophomore Gavino Moreno placed first in the 220 division and lifted a combined weight of 1,450 lbs.

Junior Noah Jenks placed 3rd in the 275 division and lifted a combined weight of 1,200 lbs.

## Lady Mustangs drop series to Marion

**BY VANDY VAN EPPS**  
Gonzales Inquirer

Playoff seeding was on the line between the Nixon-Smile Lady Mustangs and the Marion Lady Bulldogs Tuesday, Jan. 30, in Marion.

The Lady Mustangs entered the game tied for third in district with Marion, but turnovers plagued Nixon-Smile in their 48-32 loss.

Nixon-Smile head girls basketball coach Trevor Johnson said his team couldn't get the basketball to drop offensively and made mistakes.

"Just like last time, we put ourselves in a bad situation this time and we just couldn't come back from it. So, we just continue to make the same mistakes throughout the game that hurt us," Johnson said.

In first quarter the Lady Mustangs allowed multiple turnovers that stopped them from scoring points, and Johnson said this was worse than the last time they played Marion.

"The biggest issue this time was we just couldn't do nothing with it. We weren't forcing turnovers ourselves, but every time we would get it, it's almost like we'd give it right back to them. So defensively, we were

able to get some signs and force some turnovers, but we just couldn't do anything with it tonight," Johnson said.

The Mustangs dropped to fourth place in the loss to Marion and Johnson said this was the last chance to get the third seed in the district.

"We've got two more games. As long as we win one of them, we get that fourth spot, but we got possibly the district champion Cole in the next game on Friday. So, you know as a ranked team they're gonna be really tough and we can play with them like last time. It just depends on what team shows up," Johnson said.

"In the last game [against Great Hearts Northern Oaks], we should be able to get them if we play the same way. So I think we could still get that third spot, but it is gonna come down to getting some positive momentum going into the playoff," Johnson added.

The Lady Mustangs travel to San Antonio for their final road game of the season against state-ranked Cole Friday, Feb. 2 and will return home Tuesday, Feb. 6 for the final home game against Great Hearts Northern Oaks.

Both games tip off at 6:15 p.m.

## Mustangs fall to Ro-Hawks

**STAFF REPORT**

The Nixon-Smile Mustangs hosted the Randolph Ro-Hawks Friday, Jan. 26 in a huge district match with playoff implications.

The Mustangs fell to Randolph, 61-59, and dropping to 1-4 and fifth place in District 26-3A.

Nixon-Smile has five more

games left in the season and will have back-to-back road games against Marion and Cole.

The Mustangs traveled to Marion Tuesday, Jan. 30 and will travel to San Antonio Friday, Feb. 2 for a district match against state ranked Cole and later host Great Hearts Northern Oaks Tuesday, Feb. 6.

All three games tip off at 8 p.m.

## Randolph sweeps season series from Lady Mustangs

**STAFF REPORT**

The Nixon-Smile Lady Mustangs hosted the Randolph Lady Ro-Hawks for the second to last home game of the 2023-2024 basketball season.

The Lady Mustangs fell to Randolph, 52-29, at home, and are tied for third place with Marion with the same 3-4 district records.

Nixon-Smile will travel for back-to-back road games against Marion (Tuesday, Jan.

30) and Cole (Friday, Feb. 2).

The Lady Mustangs will close out their 2023-24 season at home against Great Hearts Northern Oaks on Tuesday, Feb. 6.

All three games tip off at 6:15 p.m.



VANDY VAN EPPS

Gonzales' Damian Orduna (13) kicks a free kick for the Apaches against the Pleasanton Eagles Friday, Jan. 26.

## SOCCER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

this week, but you still gotta come out and you got to show it," Seip said.

Gonzales finished 5-6 to close out non-district play and will host the San Antonio JFK Rockets for the first district game of the season.

Seip said he is looking forward to get his young team together for district.

"We are a young team and just seeing what we can do. I know we have enough talent to go as far as we need to be pushing for top in the district. We just got to get there," Seip said.

The JFK game kicks off at 7 p.m. at Apache Field.



# Museum begins Spring 2024 Stormont Lecture Series

## SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Victoria College's Museum of the Coastal Bend will kick off the Spring 2024 John W. Stormont Lecture Series at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 3 with Historian Joseph Fox presenting "At the Crossroads: Three Untold Stories from Victoria History." Fox will discuss significant, but little known,



Joseph Fox

Texas Independence Day Book Festival with a presentation

events that took place in Victoria.

The series will continue on Saturday, March 2 at 2 p.m. during the museum's

by Louise O'Connor, author of "Cryin' for Daylight: A Ranching Culture in the Texas Coastal Bend" and other titles.

Additional lectures in the series are scheduled, as follows:

- "Geoarchaeology - What's it Good For?" presented by Ken Lawrence, Geoarchaeologist - March 9 at 5:30 p.m.
- "Sky and Shadow" presented by Dr. Karen Hagan, VC

History Instructor - March 21, 5:30 p.m.

• "Prehistory in Victoria and the Coastal Bend" presented in conjunction with the University of Houston-Victoria Bicentennial Symposium - April 12, 10 a.m.

The lectures are free and open to the public.

The Museum of the Coastal Bend is located on VC's Main Campus at 2200 E. Red River

Street in Victoria. The museum is open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is "pay-what-you-want."

For more information on the Museum of the Coastal Bend and its upcoming events, visit [MuseumOfTheCoastalBend.org](http://MuseumOfTheCoastalBend.org), email [Museum@VictoriaCollege.edu](mailto:Museum@VictoriaCollege.edu), or call (361) 582-2511.

## JOBS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Crescent Workforce Development Area, the unemployment rate for November 2023 was 3.1 percent, lower than the state average of 3.5 percent. This represented a total of 2,865 residents in Gonzales, Calhoun, DeWitt, Goliad, Jackson, Lavaca and Victoria counties seeking employment out of a total workforce of 91,751 people.

The counties reporting in lower than Gonzales County are Lavaca County, with the lowest unemployment rate at 2.6 percent, followed by Calhoun County at 2.8 percent, with Jackson and Dewitt Counties at 2.9 percent. Gonzales and Goliad Counties follow at 3.0 percent, with Victoria closing in the highest position at 3.5 percent.

For December 2023, there were 282 individuals in Gonzales County seeking employment out of a workforce of 9,255 with 8,973 reported as employed. In November 2023, there were 292 people seeking work in Gonzales County out of an employment force of 9,247 for a total unemployment rate of 3.1 percent.

In December 2022, Gonzales County had an unemployment rate of 2.7

percent. The 3.0 percent unadjusted unemployment rate for December 2023 was the lowest seen in Gonzales County since it was reported at 2.7 percent in December 2022.

Unemployment rates since January 2022 for Gonzales County are:

- January 2022, 3.6 percent
- February 2022, 3.4 percent
- March 2022, 2.7 percent
- April 2022, 2.6 percent
- May 2022, 2.7 percent
- June 2022, 3.5 percent
- July 2022, 3.2 percent
- August 2022, 3.2 percent
- September 2022, 3.1 percent
- October 2022, 3.1 percent
- November 2022, 3.1 percent
- December 2022, 2.7 percent
- January 2023, 3.7 percent
- February 2023, 4.0 percent
- March 2023, 3.5 percent
- April 2023, 3.2 percent
- May 2023, 3.5 percent
- June 2023, 3.7 percent
- July 2023, 4.0 percent
- August 2023, 4.0 percent
- September 2023, 3.5 percent
- October 2023, 3.3 percent
- November 2023, 3.1 percent
- December 2023, 3.0 percent

# Victoria College recognizes students' academic achievements on Fall Dean's List

## SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Victoria College has recognized the outstanding academic performance of 139 students by naming them to the Fall 2023 Dean's List.

To qualify for the Dean's List, students must earn at least a 3.5 grade point average over a minimum of 12 academic credit hours within the semester and must not have any unsatisfactory grades in any classes.

Students named to Victoria College's Fall 2023 Dean's List, grouped by their hometowns, are:

- Bloomington: Javier Gallegos, Cynthia Resendez
- Cuero: Emily Buske
- Edna: Cara Beames, Keith Fuller, Kaylee Hany, Kimber Linke, Pacie Roe, Santiago Villanueva, Melissa Wells
- Ganado: Brandon Almeda, Chance Ladewig, Cassidy Thedford
- Goliad: Zory Bednorz, Rodney Comeaux
- Gonzales: Amanda Longoria
- Hallettsville: Roberto Arellano, Cole Bujnoch, Quade Henneke, Bowen Higgins, Hunter Laqua
- Inez: Delwyn Blackwell, Dylan Chavez, Jesse Fuentes, Ethan Grason, Autumn Kallus, Tyler Paul, Ann Smith

- Leesville: Sebastian Mendoza
- Lolita: Joshua Benavides, Antonio Carrizales, Dianet Hidalgo
- Luling: Emma Knox
- Lumberton: Colton Scragg, Connor Scragg
- Nixon: Oscar Galicia
- Nordheim: Ryan Schuenemann
- Palacios: Jenna Jimenez
- Pettus: John Carrillo
- Placedo: Norma Trevino
- Port Lavaca: Vivian Chiu, Josiah Flores, Brannon Garza, Dar Moo, Steven Padron, Hser Paw, Daniel Rodriguez, George Stingley, Sherry Whitcher
- Port O Connor: McKaelyn Carriles
- Refugio: Sabrina Kennedy, Javier Ontiveros
- Rockport: Erik Greenway
- Seadrift: Kelli Flint, Jayda Nguyen
- Shiner: Brooke Pesek, Emilee Wegener
- Smiley: Dustin Mejia
- Telferner: Carson Patterson
- Tivoli: Alejandro Ruiz
- Victoria: Natasha Ananefrimpong, Richard Barefield, Bunnet Bou, Brandi Brand, Emma Brunner, Sergio Calvo, Zane Cantu, Jordyn Carville, Arianna Castillo, Dominick Castrejon, Leticia Cisneros, James Collins, Thomas Cox,

- Andrew Davis, Jared Day, Dandra Dugan, Esperanza Espinoza, Cat Farrior, Brandon Ferrell, Ty Foeh, Mia Garza, Brianna Gertner, Kadrian Gonzales, Wesley Hartsfield, Cynthia Hernandez, Benny Hinojosa, Aaron Holochwest, Kate Hybner, Osiel Jasso, Vitor Juarez, Camden Knox, Thea Koenig, Scott Leos, Michael Mannella, Michalla Marshall, Emmanuel Martinez, Lela McCaskill, Brittany McCune, Joseph Mitchum, Michele Motley, Daniel Ochoa, Waheed Palmer, Delaney Peirsol, Hector Perez, Paul Perez, Huang Pham, Kaitlyn Potts, Jonathan Quintero, Gabriella Quirasco, Steven Ramirez, Madelyn Rendon, Jake Risinger, Christopher Roberts, Haylee Ruddick, Silvia Ruiz Lopez, Kenneth Sanchez, Mallory Santana, Mark Sarlls, Justin Schau, Madison Solis, Tre Thomas, Wayne Todd, Amelie Trevino, Aries Vara, Nadia Vasquez, Connor Vaughan, Kayda Velarde, Keisy Velez, Melanie Villarreal, Kyle Williams, Hevin Young
- Whitehouse: Amanda Breen
- Woodsboro: Michelle Flores
- Yoakum: Ashley Adami, Alessandra Castillo, Kaylee Garza, Alicia Kuecker, Makayla Shimek, Dru Zinke

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## BURN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

priority of ours to connect Texas landowners and managers with grant dollars and agency resources. Through our efforts with this program, more Texas land can be safely and effectively treated with prescribed fire."

Texas A&M Forest Service offers four grants to landowners to complete prescribed fires on private lands across the state, each with their own

unique goals. Residents in the Panhandle and West Texas are eligible for the State Fire Assistance for Mitigation - Plains Prescribed Fire grant.

The remaining available grants focus on East and Central Texas and include the Community Protection Program grant, State Fire Assistance for Mitigation - Central and East Texas grant and Neches River and Cypress Basin Watershed Res-

toration Program - Prescribed Fire grant.

These grant programs reimburse landowners up to \$30 per acre, for a maximum of 800 acres per recipient.

Applicants apply in the Fall and are notified of their grant award between October and December, depending on the grant. Once contracts are signed the burns are typically conducted from January through June.

For more information on prescribed burning, burning safety, benefits and more, visit <https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/PrescribedBurns/>.

For more information on grants provided by Texas A&M Forest Service and partners, visit <https://texasforestinfo.tamu.edu/fundingconnector/>.

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Jim Winkenwerder 361-298-0711  
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## NEWBURY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

employed by national broadcasting networks before owning and operating Wicks Radio, the Tacketts' group of 19 radio stations in five states.

He and Mariann have lived the good life in Brownwood, her place of birth, since 2001. All-round community servants, they continue their support of noble projects great and small. If you run into either of them, ask about their cats and dog. Then, press Rex for a hand-on-Bible answer: Does he really have cases of both cat food and hair dryers in his storage shed?...

Dr. Newbury, longtime university president, continues to write weekly and speak publicly. Contact: 817-447-3872, [newbury@speakerdoc.com](mailto:newbury@speakerdoc.com).



# CLASSIFIEDS

## HOW TO PLACE AN AD

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

**(830) 672-2861**

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

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

622 St. Paul or PO Box 616, Gonzales, TX 78629  
(830)672-2861 • (800)210-5909 • Fax (830)217-8924  
[www.gonzalesinquirer.com](http://www.gonzalesinquirer.com)

## CLASSIFIED WORD AD RATES

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

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

4 runs for \$30

DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE FOR CONSECUTIVE RUNS  
**\$15.00 Garage Sale Packages**

## CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

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

### ERRORS

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

## CALL TODAY 830-672-2861

### 110 APPLIANCE REPAIR

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

### 190 LAWN, GARDEN

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

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

### 210 MISC. SERVICES

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

### 260 ROOFING

**THIRD COAST ROOF Coatings.** We do all types of roofing. Standing Seam Metal Roof. Commercial silicone coatings for metal roofs to restore to new like appearance and waterproofing. Flat roof experts. Commercial & Residential. Been in business for 50 years in Austin. [Thirdcoastroof-coatings@yahoo.com](mailto:Thirdcoastroof-coatings@yahoo.com). Call 512-630-7589.

**ROOFING. SIDING. WINDOWS.** Hail Damage. We do it all. 10 yr. warranty. Free Estimates. 512-395-4681.

**HAIL DAMAGE.** J B Roofing. Will match insurance quotes. Senior Citizens Discounts. 5 year warranty. Gonzales County Residents. Free Estimates. 830-560-0563.



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

The **Gonzales Inquirer**

### 470 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

#### 1936 Farm House Remodel

18 – 34" wide x 36" to 72" tall double hung wood windows  
4 – window weights  
1 – 36" x 7' tall exterior door w/glass (solid core)  
1 – lot window pulleys  
1 – 30" wide x 6' tall interior door (solid core)  
8 – 6"x8" French Door glass  
16 – Wood screens

**Cash & Carry**  
Contact: [ryherd2r@yahoo.com](mailto:ryherd2r@yahoo.com) for pricing & availability

### 560 WANT TO BUY


**LOOKING FOR: UNWANTED MESQUITE.** We will clear your land of dead Mesquite for FREE. Let us beautify your land and pay you \$10 for every chord harvested. Call us at 713-446-1015 or visit our website @ [www.thefirewooddepot.com](http://www.thefirewooddepot.com).

### 670 APARTMENTS FOR RENT OR LEASE

#### Apartments For Elderly, Low Income

Rent based on Income  
Water, Sewer, and Trash Paid

Country Village Square  
1800 Waelder Rd.  
Gonzales, TX 78629  
830.672.2877  
[countryvillagesquare@voatz.org](mailto:countryvillagesquare@voatz.org)  
[www.voatz.org](http://www.voatz.org)




### 470 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

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

### 670 APARTMENTS FOR RENT OR LEASE

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

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



### 850 HELP WANTED

**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.

### 850 HELP WANTED


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

**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.



Find it! in the **CLASSIFIEDS!**

### 850 HELP WANTED



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

Victoria College is an Equal Opportunity Institution.



### 950 PUBLIC NOTICES

### 850 HELP WANTED

**COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS OF THE Golden Crescent** is seeking an individual to work with youth in the Gonzales area. The candidate should have:

- Basic knowledge of availability of community resources and supportive services that families can access
- Bachelor's Degree Required
- Previous related workforce experience strongly preferred
- Valid driver's license and proof of insurance with good driving record
- Bilingual in English and Spanish strongly preferred

Apply at [c2gps.net](http://c2gps.net)

### 950 PUBLIC NOTICES

### 850 HELP WANTED

**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

### 950 PUBLIC NOTICES

### 850 HELP WANTED

**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*  
Janice Sutton, Clerk of the District Court of Gonzales County, Texas

By: *K. Alarcon*, Deputy

### 950 PUBLIC NOTICES

#### PARKWOOD APARTMENTS

114 West 10th  
Nixon, TX 78140

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays – 9:00am to 3:00pm  
PHONE: 830-582-1343

3BR Apartments Available  
Rates Based on Income  
Rental Assistance For Qualified Families of very-low, low, and moderate income applicants.

CENTRAL HEAT & AIR  
ENERGY EFFICIENT  
LAUNDRY ROOM  
WATER, SEWER & GARBAGE PAID  
HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE UNITS


Individuals with a disability wishing to request a reasonable accommodation to complete the application process should contact the apartment manager at 830-582-1343.

Para solicitar un apartamento favor llamar a manager al siguiente numero 830-582-1343. Para solicitar una adaptación o modificación razonable, favor llamar manager al siguiente numero 830-582-1343.

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




### 850 HELP WANTED



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

### 850 HELP WANTED



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

**Electrical Instructor**  
**Welding Instructor**

For more information go to [www.victoriacollege.edu](http://www.victoriacollege.edu) and click on Jobs@VC. Equal-Opportunity Institution

## W.B. FARM AND RANCH SUPPLY

### Is now hiring for Yard Hand

Forklift experience required. Must be dependable. Benefits Package & Overtime available.

**Apply in Person**  
**2031 Water St., Gonzales, TX**  
No phone calls



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

**Electrical Instructor**  
**Welding Instructor**

For more information go to [www.victoriacollege.edu](http://www.victoriacollege.edu) and click on Jobs@VC. Equal-Opportunity Institution

## Caraway Ford Gonzales

# WE ARE HIRING!

### SERVICE ADVISOR

- Paid Vacation
- Insurance
- Paid Holidays
- 401k
- Family Friendly Hours
- Competitive Pay

**APPLY IN-STORE**  
1405 East Sarah DeWitt Dr.  
Gonzales TX  
830-672-9646

## 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

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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*  
Janice Sutton, Clerk of the District Court of Gonzales County, Texas

By: *K. Alarcon*, Deputy

### 900 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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**It's not just a generator. It's a power move.™**

Receive a free 7-year warranty with qualifying purchase\* - valued at \$735.

Call 855-704-8579 to schedule your free quote!



**GENERAC**

\*Terms and Conditions apply.



# CLASSIFIEDS

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

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

*GCWDB Equal Opportunity Employer/Program*

**January 25  
Puzzle Answers**

**Last Puzzle Solution**

S-1673

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

**YOUR NEWS. YOUR WAY.**

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**f GONZALESINQUIRER**

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING**  
 Nixon-Smiley CISD will hold a public meeting at 7:00pm, Monday, February 12, 2024, at Nixon-Smiley HS Library 800 N. Rancho Road, Nixon, Texas to discuss Nixon-Smiley CISD Texas Academic Performance Report

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

**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.

900 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 Gonzales Healthcare Systems has two buildings available for public bid.

**Building #1**  
 1997 Modular Building, 1440 Square Feet, 2 Plumbed Bathrooms, each with 1 Sink and 1 Commode, 2 Office Spaces. Interior Walls are Paneling. Interior Floor is Tile

**Building #2**  
 30x40 Shop Building. Purchased in 1996 from Sparks Portable Building. All open space, except for a small corner "office". Plywood floors

Delivery is not included. Gonzales Healthcare Systems is not responsible for disconnecting the plumbing or electrical. Building must be relocated no later than 30 days after acceptance of the bid.

Pictures are available upon request. Inspection of the building(s) is available upon appointment. Please call 830.672.7581, ext. 1011 to request an appointment.

Additionally, the following pieces of equipment are available for public bid. Pictures for all items available upon request.

**Portable Fry Filter**  
 Increase both the shortening life and quality of your oil with the Pitco P14 portable filter system. This easy-to-use and easy-to-store mobile item removes crumbs and sediment from the oil that, if ignored, can cause flavor transfer and a quicker breakdown of the shortening. The extra-large filter area boasts a shortening capacity of 55 lb. and thanks to its low-profile design, fits effortlessly under most fryer drains. If your fryer doesn't have a built-in filtration system, this unit is the perfect way to get the same great benefits without purchasing a whole new fryer! **Only used 3 times.**  
 Brand: Picto  
 Model: P14

Serial Number: F22FA035402  
 Year: 2022  
 Oil Capacity: 55 lbs

900 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

**NEED EXTRA CASH !!! ???**  
**I BUY RVs & MOBILE HOMES**  
 Travel Trailers • 5th Wheels  
 Goosenecks • Bumper Pulls  
 In Any Area!!! Any Condition!!!  
 Old/New !!! Dirty or Clean !!!  
**I PAY CASH 956-466-7001**  
 No Title - No Problem - We Can Apply For One  
 ANR Enterprises

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

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

CALL TODAY: 806.620.1422

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

**ADVERTISE OR SUBSCRIBE!**  
**830-672-2861**

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

**CITATION BY PUBLICATION**  
 CAUSE NO. AD24-0313  
 IN THE ESTATE OF MARGARET ELIZABETH WARD, DECEASED  
 TO ALL UNKNOWN OR MISSING HEIRS  
 OF THE ESTATE OF MARGARET ELIZABETH WARD, DECEASED

William Cheatham and Sharon Sanders, in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on January 18, 2024 an APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP AND FOR LETTERS OF INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION in the estate of Margaret Elizabeth Ward, Deceased, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of Margaret Elizabeth Ward, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in said estate, and appoint William Cheatham and Sharon Sanders to serve as Co-Independent Administrators of said estate and grant Letters of Independent Administration to same.

The Court may act on said Application and any opposition at any call of the docket on or after 10 o'clock A.M. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the **Gonzales County Courthouse, 414 St. Joseph St, Commissioner's Courtroom, Gonzales, Texas, 78629**, Gonzales County, Texas.

You are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court **by filing a written contest or answer** to said Application before the above stated time and date **should you desire to do so. To ensure its consideration, you or your attorney must file any contest, objection, intervention, or response in writing with the County Clerk of Gonzales County, Texas, on or before the above noted date and time.**

**Given under my hand and the seal of said Court** at office in Gonzales, Texas, on January 25, 2024.

**Lona Ackman, COUNTY CLERK**  
 Gonzales County, Texas  
 427 Saint George St., STE 200  
 Gonzales, Texas 78629

By: *Margie Zapata*  
 Margie Zapata, Deputy

Plaintiff(s) Attorney;  
 Robert Bland  
 P O Box 119  
 Gonzales, Texas 78629  
 Telephone: (830) 672-2437  
 Email: rbland@gvec.net

900 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

**CITATION BY PUBLICATION**  
 CAUSE NO. AD24-0311  
 IN THE ESTATE OF JILL COLLEY BARNETT, DECEASED  
 TO ALL UNKNOWN OR MISSING HEIRS  
 OF THE ESTATE OF JILL COLLEY BARNETT, DECEASED

James Morgan Barnett, in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on January 8, 2024 an APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP AND FOR LETTERS OF INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION in the estate of Jill Colley Barnett, Deceased, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of Jill Colley Barnett, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in said estate, and appoint James Morgan Barnett to serve as the Independent Administrator of said estate and grant Letters of Independent Administration to same.

The Court may act on said Application and any opposition at any call of the docket on or after 10 o'clock A.M. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the **Gonzales County Courthouse, 414 St. Joseph St, Commissioner's Courtroom, Gonzales, Texas, 78629**, Gonzales County, Texas.

You are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court **by filing a written contest or answer** to said Application before the above stated time and date **should you desire to do so. To ensure its consideration, you or your attorney must file any contest, objection, intervention, or response in writing with the County Clerk of Gonzales County, Texas, on or before the above noted date and time.**

**Given under my hand and the seal of said Court** at office in Gonzales, Texas, on January 25, 2024.

**Lona Ackman, COUNTY CLERK**  
 Gonzales County, Texas  
 427 Saint George St., STE 200  
 Gonzales, Texas 78629

By: *Margie Zapata*  
 Margie Zapata, Deputy

Christie Ortman Fullilove  
 403 St. George  
 Gonzales, Texas 78629  
 Telephone: (830) 672-8651  
 Email: christie@ortmanfullilovelaw.com

900 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

**TEXAS STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING NETWORK**

**TexSCAN Week of Jan. 28-Feb. 3, 2024**

**AUCTIONS**  
**Emory Home Auction** - Emory, TX: 269 Rs County Road 3346, 3BR 2.5BA 2,118+/-SF lake home on 0.74+/-AC w/attached 2-car garage. Open to the public 1-4 p.m., Sun., Jan. 28 & Feb. 11. Bid Online Feb. 19 - 21 at auctionnetwork.com. 800-801-8003, williamsauction.com/TXHomes.  
**Gilmer Home Auction** - Gilmer, TX: 105 Oasis Street, 4BR 3BA 2,438+/-SF home on 0.41+/-AC. Open to the public 1-4 p.m. Sun., Feb. 11. Bid Online Feb. 19 - 21 at auctionnetwork.com. 800-801-8003, williamsauction.com/TXHomes.

**CELLULAR PHONE SERVICE**  
 Switch and save up to \$250/year on your talk, text and data. No contract and no hidden fees. Unlimited talk and text with flexible data plans. Premium nationwide coverage. 100% U.S. based customer service. For more information, call 855-493-3803

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

**LIVESTOCK & PETS**  
 When veterinary care is unavailable or unaffordable, ask for Happy Jack® equine and canine animal health products. Results overnight. At Tractor Supply® (www.happyjackinc.com)

**OIL & GAS RIGHTS**  
 We buy oil, gas & mineral rights. Both non-producing and producing including Non-Participating Royalty Interest (NPRI). Provide us your desired price for an offer evaluation. Call today: 806-620-1422. Lobo Minerals, LLC, PO Box 1800, Lubbock, TX 79408-1800, LoboMineralsLLC@gmail.com.

**MEDICAL**  
**Portable Oxygen Concentrator** May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 866-747-9983

**DENTAL INSURANCE** from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 350 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-855-901-0467 www.dental50plus.com/txpress #6258

**WATER DAMAGE CLEANUP & RESTORATION:**  
 A small amount of water can lead to major damage and mold growth in your home. Our trusted professionals do complete repairs to protect your family and your home's value! Call 24/7: 1-877-727-3027.

**WANTED**  
 Need Extra Cash - I Buy RVs & Mobile Homes - Travel Trailers, 5th Wheels, Goosenecks, Bumper Pulls. In Any Area, Any Condition - Old/New, Dirty or Clean! I PAY CASH. No Title - No Problem, we can apply for one. We go anywhere in Texas. ANR Enterprises, 956-466-7001.

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NOTICE: While most advertisers are reputable, we cannot guarantee products or services advertised. We urge readers to use caution and when in doubt, contact the Texas Attorney General at 800-621-0508 or the Federal Trade Commission at 877-FTC-HELP. The FTC web site is www.ftc.gov/bizop.



## COOKING WITH PARIND

### Pasta Bolognese makes a great meal when cold fronts hit

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

We seem to be nestling into late winter and keep getting cold fronts every now and then so it feels like spring most of the time.

I keep thinking about homemade pasta. It is really super easy and only need three ingredients.

One of my favourite cold weather meals is traditionally pasta Bolognese, which is a hearty, rich, and a warming meat sauce or ragu when it is served over homemade pasta and it is bubbly hot.

We can also do a traditional alfredo sauce (just butter, pasta water and finely grated Parmesan cheese) with shrimp or chicken.

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

#### Ingredients:

#### Pasta:

4 cups all purpose flour  
5 eggs + 2 yolks  
½ teaspoon of salt

#### Bolognese sauce:

1/3 pound of ground beef, 1/3 pound of ground pork & 1/3 pound of ground veal (or do ½ & ½ of beef and pork or all pork or beef or even lamb or venison)  
Chopped 4 strips of bacon or pancetta (unsmoked pork belly)  
1 & ½ cups medium dice of yellow

onion  
1 cup fine dice of carrots  
2 very thinly sliced garlic cloves  
6-8 bay leaf  
½ cup of olive oil  
1.5 tablespoon of tomato paste  
2 teaspoons of dried Sicilian oregano  
1 cup of well drained canned & peeled tomatoes  
2 tablespoons of good Butter  
2 tablespoons of whole milk  
300ml of a good beer or white wine or unsweetened ice tea  
Freshly grated Parmigiano Reggiano (parmesan) Cheese  
Crushed red pepper

#### Method:

Fry the seasoned meat (salt & pepper to taste) with the chopped onion, bay leaf, sliced garlic and diced carrots in the butter over medium heat. Drain the excess fat. Add the tomato puree and stir for a minute or until the tomato paste darkens. Now add the tomatoes and bring the heat up to medium high and boil for 1-2 min and slowly add the beer, wine or unsweetened tea. Cook, stirring, until the mixture comes back to a boil and reduce heat so it is at a low/medium simmer.

Cover and simmer gently for 30 to 90 minutes while adding just enough water to keep the mixture like almost done chili and the meat becomes very tender. Don't let it become too dry. Only add water as needed. Let cool to room temperature and refrigerate overnight. Next day remove all the bay leaves. Heat a small amount and taste for tenderness and seasoning. Re-adjust the batch as

necessary.

Meanwhile, make the pasta.

Shift the flour and salt together in a large bowl. Make a well in the center. Break the eggs/yolks in the center. Using a fork or your hands mix the eggs together and start incorporating the flour little by little until you get a slightly moist mass of 'dough'. Start kneading the dough until all the flour is absorbed by the dough. It should not be wet/moist to the touch (sprinkle with a little flour until right) or too dry with cracks (rub your hands lightly with beaten eggs as many times as needed and knead until its correct).

Wrap in plastic wrap and let rest an hour.

Dust the working area with flour and start rolling of the dough until it is about ½ inch. Fold the 1/3 of the sheet from both outside into the center. Turn the dough 90 degrees and roll out to ¼ inch thick or to your preference. Cut into strips with a pizza cutter to your preferred thickness. Lightly dust the cut 'spaghetti' with flour and let dry on a sheet pan/cookie sheet while you heat & finish the sauce and bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Do NOT add oil to the water.

To finish the sauce, put the refrigerated sauce in a pan and add the milk and the olive oil. Bring to a boil slowly and reduce to a medium simmer.

Cook the pasta in boiling water until just barely cooked through. Al dente doesn't mean it has any crunchiness. It's like rice that is cooked until it is separate grains vs mushy rice, it is not crunchy. Drain the pasta while reserving a little of the cooking liquid.



Put the freshly cooked pasta in a warm bowl and top with the sauce Bolognese and freshly grated parmesan cheese to taste.

Serve with crusty bread a leafy salad and a tart vinaigrette.

The wine I would invariably choose with this dish is a rustic simple wine like a flavourful Dolcetto d'Alba or a Cotes du Rhone rouge. If choosing a white, then it would be an older chardonnay from California or a brut champagne. Cheers.

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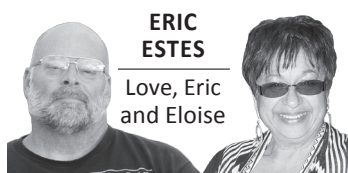


# Rome Wasn't Built in a Day

I hope everyone is doing well, and finds themselves happy, healthy, and prosperous as we forge ahead in this new year. And by the way...happy February. Is it just me or did January somehow sneak by under the radar? Either way, we've managed to survive both the frozen tundra and a monsoon in the first month of the year, but that's south Texas weather for you. Gotta say though, I did enjoy watching my racoon buddies ice skate on the pond one week while airboat racing through the back yard the following week. Yep, it's the simple pleasures that make life worth living.

In my experience, it seems that trying to keep yourself as healthy as possible, makes those simple pleasures all that more pleasurable. In the last few weeks I've given a few simple exercises that target most major muscle groups in the body, and can be done whenever, wherever, without special equipment, and are easily adapted to your personal lifestyle and physical abilities. Also in my experience, a little here and there is much better than nothing at all, and can accumulate into worthwhile results over time. Slow, steady progress is the key, with safety being at the forefront. I'll share a quick synopsis of my journey, and how it's played out over the years...

Like many, I was involved in several sports throughout my school years. Soon after, work and survival became the priority, but still managed some exercise and physical activities along the way. As life progressed, so did the responsibilities, with health taking even more of a backseat. In my mid-thirties, God blessed me with a wonderful marriage to Eloise and her two awesome young boys, to this day still the highlight of my existence here on planet earth. But with my newfound family, the responsibilities multiplied, leaving little time or energy for exercise. As things would have it, a twenty year drought of my intermittent



**ERIC ESTES**  
Love, Eric and Eloise

quest for personal health ensued. Overwork, little rest, too much bad food and a total lack of exercise lead to a sixty five pound weight gain, exhaustion, with many nagging injuries accumulating over the years. I recently saw a video of myself working outside a few years back, and would've advised this poor guy to sit down before he croaked (die, not frog noise).

Not long after, Eloise, my best friend and the love of my life, suddenly and without warning, passed away. A long period of overwhelming grief consumed me, with me still being here today a monumental testament to God's grace, love and support throughout that hideous ordeal...thank you Lord! During that time I realized that I was still here for a reason and desperately needed to start taking better care of myself. Honestly, I started going through the motions, but my broken heart just wasn't in it. Nevertheless, just going through the motions did begin to yield positive results physically, as well as mentally and emotionally. It seems that just showing up is half the battle!

Today, thanks to God being in my corner. I'm considerably healthier in every aspect. In the book of Exodus, God brought his chosen people into the land he had promised, but that victory came over a period of time, with many battles along the way, and was accomplished "little by little". Our quest to better ourselves (in any area) seems to be no different. As they say, Rome wasn't built in a day.

I encourage you to take either the first step, or the next step, on your journey to the best "you", you can be. What have you got to lose? In the following articles I'll be giving more details on the specific exercise routines I've followed, the pros and cons of each, and some very interesting things I've learned along the way, so stay tuned.

Until next time, love you guys, Eric.

## Fried fish plates support church

### SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Miracle & Deliverance Temple Church Fundraiser. Saturday, February 10, from 11 a.m.-2p.m. Fried fish, green beans and potato salad. \$12 donation. Plates can be picked up at 1710 Waco St., Gonzales. Any questions, call Melba Washington at 830-263-1007.

## Heritage Quilters to discuss show at Feb. 6 meeting

### SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Shiner Heritage Quilters are gearing up for the 2024 "Spring into Quilting" show scheduled for Friday, March 8 and Saturday, March 9 at the Shiner Methodist Church Activity Center. Come to the Tuesday, Feb. 6 guild meeting to learn all about the "behind the scenes" work going on. Show preparation will be the topic.

The guild meets at the Shiner Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 102 W. Church St., and 1 block off Hwy 90A. Members gather around 5:00 for light refreshments. The meeting begins at 5:30 and includes door prizes, show and tell, and great camaraderie. Visitors are always welcome.

Reminder: All quilt show entry forms are due Friday, February 9. Log onto [www.shinerheritagequilters.org](http://www.shinerheritagequilters.org), click on "our Show" in the menu to access important detailed instructions and entry forms or pick up same at The Square Quilter; 807 N. Ave. D in Shiner, 361-594-8022. Entry forms will be gladly accepted at the Feb. 6 meeting!

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# VC awarded TRUE grant to launch Truck Driving Program

## SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Victoria College has been awarded a \$250,000 Texas Reskilling and Upskilling through Education (TRUE) grant from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to support the final phase of launching a new Truck Driving Program in Victoria and Gonzales.

The new six-week program will allow VC to train students in the safe operation of commercial vehicles and semi-trailers, preparing them to receive a Class A Commercial Driver's License (CDL). The Texas Workforce Commission projects a 33 percent increase in truck driving jobs across all industries hiring truck drivers in the Golden Crescent region through 2030.

Since 2006, VC has offered truck driving training through a partnership



CONTRIBUTED

Victoria College is receiving a third TRUE grant that will help support the final phase of launching a truck driving program at its locations in Victoria and Gonzales.

with Houston Community College. The new program will allow Victoria College more flexibility in scheduling training that meets the needs of the Crossroads

community.

"We are grateful that our partnership with Houston Community College helped us meet the demand for well-trained truck drivers until now," said Dr. Jennifer Kent, VC President. "We are excited to launch our own Truck Driving Program with TRUE grant funding to build a stronger workforce for the future by equipping students with skills to secure high-paying jobs in a growing industry."

VC previously received a \$115,000 TRUE grant in 2021 to purchase a state-of-the-art truck driving simulator, followed by a \$515,200 TRUE grant in 2022 to purchase four semi-trucks and trailers.

This third grant will allow Victoria College to hire qualified faculty, equip the truck driving simulation lab with

instructor and student work stations, launch a recruitment campaign, and provide scholarships to reduce financial barriers for enrolled students. The project is fully funded by the TRUE grant.

Commercial truck drivers in the Golden Crescent region earn a median wage of \$22.88 per hour, according to Lightcast. Employment in Texas is projected to grow by 22 percent from 2020 to 2030, representing a significant demand for qualified truck drivers.

VC will have the capacity to train up to eight students every five weeks when the program is launched in Victoria this spring before expanding to Gonzales.

For more information on VC's Truck Driving Program, visit [VictoriaCollege.edu/IndustrialTrades](http://VictoriaCollege.edu/IndustrialTrades) or call (361) 582-2528.

## VC HONORS OUTSTANDING STAFF



CONTRIBUTED/VICTORIA COLLEGE

Victoria College has named Sabrina Romo (left), Director of Enrollment Services, and Ana Hernandez (right), Human Resources Coordinator and KEY Center Administrative Assistant, as recipients of the 2024 Outstanding Staff Award. Awarded annually, the top honor recognizes exceptional staff who demonstrate servant leadership and commitment to VC's mission, vision, and values. The recipients were nominated by their peers and were each awarded \$750 by the VC Foundation, presented by Amy Mundy (center), Executive Director of Advancement & the VC Foundation. Others who were nominated for the award were Sonia Herrera, Academic Advisor, and Tracy Edwards, Administrative Assistant for Allied Health and Career & Technical Education.

## VC honors long-time employees

### SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Victoria College honored 36 employees for their long-standing contributions to the institution during its Spring 2024 Convocation. Employees who have dedicated 5, 10, 15, 20, and 25 years of service to VC and its students received a certificate, lapel pin, and a gift of their choice.

Three individuals were recognized for serving VC for a quarter of a century:

- Keith Blundell, Vice President of Administrative Services
  - Martha Aguilar, Custodial Services Supervisor
  - Robert Hodde, Department Chair of Arts and Speech/Drama Professor
- Other employees recognized for their years of service include:
- 20 years: Darla Strother



CONTRIBUTED

Pictured left to right: Keith Blundell, Martha Aguilar, and Robert Hodde were recently recognized for 25 years of service to Victoria College.

and Dave Sulak

- 15 years: Miros Chipman, Lisa DeVries, Elaine Everett-Hensley, Kelsey Huber, Sharon Hyak, Paul Janacek, Darin Kazmir, and Shelly Ninke
- 10 years: Susana Akin, Jennifer Carrasco, Peter DeVries, Carrie Dominey, Casey Gray, Ana Hernandez,

Jason Hoffer, Irma Moreno,

- Amy Mundy, Pam Neuman, Nacona Nix, Susan Prukop, Donna Rodriguez, Susan Sullivan, and Matt Weiler
- 5 years: Marty Deckard, Calvin Hill, Bradley Johnson, Lillian Knezek, Monica Migl, Janice Rehmert, Alma Rodriguez, and Jennifer Stewart

# VC Board of Trustees approves guaranteed maximum price for Student Success Center

## SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Victoria College's Board of Trustees voted Monday, Jan. 22 to approve a guaranteed maximum price of \$33,683,644 for the construction of the new Student Success Center, setting the stage for construction to begin following a groundbreaking ceremony held Tuesday, Jan. 30.

The Board previously selected Drymalla Construction Company, Inc. as the construction manager for the project in November 2020. Monday's action amends the agreement to establish the guaranteed maximum price, ensuring project costs will not exceed the established amount.

Victoria County voters approved a \$10 million bond in May 2023, which will fund approximately 24 percent of the project, with 76 percent of the funding committed through grants, gifts and institutional funds.

The three-story expansion and renovation of the existing Student Center will provide students with resources - including a library, admissions, advising, financial aid, testing, veteran services, and tutoring - in one, central campus location.

"We invite the community to join us as we break ground and celebrate the incredible collective effort that has moved the Student Success Center one step closer to reality," said Dr. Jennifer Kent, VC President. "From our visionary Board of Trustees and dedicated employees



to the many generous donors and supportive voters, the Student Success Center will stand as a symbol of community commitment to education and progress."

Construction is expected to begin soon after the Jan. 30 groundbreaking,

with completion slated for 2025, coinciding with VC's 100th anniversary.

"As Victoria College prepares to turn 100, we are excited to open doors to a brighter future for our region's students, whether graduating with an associate degree,

transferring to a four-year institution, or entering the workforce," said Kent.

Updates on the project's progress will be posted on Victoria College's bond webpage at [VictoriaCollege.edu/Bond23](http://VictoriaCollege.edu/Bond23).

## Moving to Texas? What to know about insurance.

Before you buy your boxes and pack up, take some time to get your insurance in order and learn how it might work differently here. It will be one thing you can check off your to-do list.

### 1. Auto insurance

Tell your insurance company or agent that you're moving to Texas. You'll need a new policy with different coverages. For example, Texas requires drivers to have a minimum amount of liability coverage. (Liability coverage pays to repair the other driver's car if you caused the accident.)

Review what coverages you may need and ask what discounts the company offers that might lower your rate. Your rates will most likely change with a Texas policy.

### 2. Home or renters insurance

You'll need a new policy when you move to Texas. You can call the company you're using now or shop around for a new policy. We have resources to help you.

Wherever you move, you might need flood insurance. This policy is separate from your home or renters policy. If you'll be living on the Gulf Coast, you probably need a separate windstorm policy to pay for damage from hurricanes.

### 3. Health insurance

If your employer doesn't offer a health plan or you don't want it, there are other ways to get a health plan.

If you're keeping your health plan, let the company know you're moving. If your health plan requires you to use a primary care doctor, they will ask you to pick a new one here.

Also, go online to find the closest urgent care and hospital in your network so you're ready in an emergency.



**BRITNEY JONES CAKA**  
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## OBITUARIES

### ANNA LAURA BURGER



Anna Laura Burger passed away peacefully on January 27, 2024. She was born on September 20, 1927 to Jim and Bettie (Palitza) Vinklarek in Dilworth, TX. She attended schools there and in Shiner and Gonzales, where she graduated in 1944 at the age of 16. Upon graduation she worked at Allen Chevrolet and at Gonzales State Bank.

She married Jeff D. Burger in 1947. They were blessed with five children, David, Gerald, Margaret (Sr. Maria Paschalis), Susan and Jeanette.

They made a home in Gonzales and became active members of St. James Parish. Anna Laura was a member of the Catholic Daughters, the Altar Society, the VFW Ladies Auxiliary, and the DAV Ladies Auxiliary. She enjoyed sewing and gardening. Later in life she enjoyed helping out with after-school religious education classes. She and J.D. also

loved camping and fishing while visiting many state parks.

She was a loving wife, sister, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend to many. She will be greatly missed.

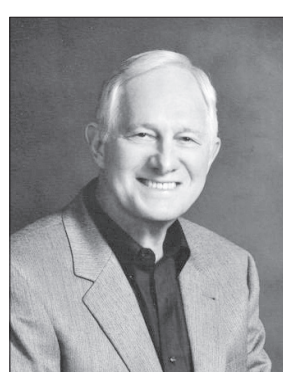
She is preceded in death by her parents, her sisters; Maria Calhoun, Tillie Evan, and Lillie Garvel. Also preceding her are her husband of 58 years, J. D., and her son, Gerald Burger.

She is survived by her son, David Burger (wife Joyce), Sister Maria Paschalis, Susan Burger, and

Jeanette Wolken (husband Joe). She has eight grandchildren and fourteen great-grandchildren.

The family will receive friends from 6 to 7 pm Tuesday, January 30, 2024 in Seydler-Hill Funeral Home. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 2 pm Wednesday, January 31, 2024 in St. James Catholic Church with Fr. Jason Martini as celebrant. Interment will follow in the Shiner Catholic Cemetery #1a. Pallbearers: Patrick Flinn, Billy Moran, Greg Burger, Chris Green, Paul Carson, and Will Moran. Honorary pallbearers: Robert Garvel and Dennis Waller. Memorials can be made to the Catholic Daughters or The Altar Society of St. James Catholic Church. Friends may leave their condolences to the family by visiting [www.seydlerhillfuneralhome.com](http://www.seydlerhillfuneralhome.com). Services are under the care and direction of Seydler-Hill Funeral Home.

### ROBERT ISAAC GINDLER



Robert (Bob) Gindler, passed away on Monday, January 22, 2024, at the age of 94. He was born in Houston, Texas, on June 2, 1929, to Henry and Esther Gindler of Weimar, TX. Bob was predeceased by his wife of 50 years, Laurie Gindler.

Bob graduated as valedictorian from Weimar High School in 1947 and earned a Bachelor of Business Administration with honors from The University of Texas at Austin in 1951. Upon completing college, Bob enlisted in the U.S. Army and attended OCS at Ft Riley, Kansas. After receiving his army commission, he was transferred to Ft. Lee, Virginia, where he met and married Laurine (Laurie) Lam on April 21, 1954.

Laurie's dad, Chaplain Alfred P. Lam performed the wedding ceremony in the Ft. Lee Chapel.

After his military service, Bob joined his brothers, Otto and Davis, in the retail department store business, settling in Hallettsville, Texas. The Gindler Brother's partnership later opened stores in Gonzales, Columbus, La Grange, Yoakum, and Smithville, in addition to the Weimar and Hallettsville locations. The brothers also owned and operated several Ben Franklin Stores.

In addition to his successful career, Bob was deeply involved in civic and community service. Bob was a past president of The Lavaca, Dewitt, Gonzales Counties Texas Ex-Students Association and organized the first scholarship fund for area students attending The University of Texas. He was a life member and past president of the Hallettsville Chamber of Commerce and Agricul-

ture, twice winning the Outstanding Community Citizen Award, a past president of the Hallettsville Lions Club, a member of The American Legion and Masonic Lodge, a past president of the Lavaca River Flood Control District, and a member of the Hallettsville City Council from 1964 to 1970, serving as Mayor Pro-Tem 1969-1970. He served as President of Hallettsville Industrial Corp and was active in The Texas Retailers Association, serving as State Chairman in 1995-1996.

Bob was a Cub Scoutmaster and Explorer Scout Leader and was awarded the Order of the Arrow in 1975 by The Boy Scouts of America. In 1973, he helped organize The Lavaca County Ambulance Service, serving as first president for the Hallettsville unit. He also worked as a volunteer Emergency Medical Technician. Bob was an area coordinator for CPR and First Aid Training in the Golden Crescent Area for The American Heart Association, and was elevated to Regional Faculty in 1998 when he founded South Texas CPR Associates, training over 3,000 persons annually in CPR in the region. In 1998 Gindler was selected as Golden Crescent Citizen of the

Year and in 2004 he was instrumental in getting AEDs placed in area police and fire departments.

Bob was a man of faith, a member of Temple Israel in Schulenberg and Williams Trace Baptist Church in Sugarland. He was also committed to preserving the history of his Jewish heritage and served at one time as Director of the Texas Jewish Historical Society.

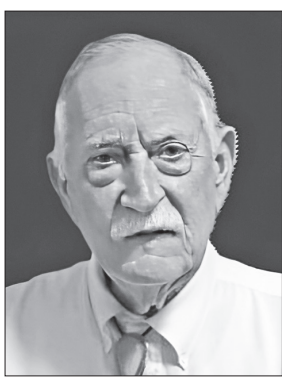
Bob leaves behind a legacy of service, leadership, and a positive impact on the lives of those he touched. He is survived by his son David and wife Alyson of Austin, TX, daughter Anne of Austin, TX, grandchildren Drue of Tulsa, OK, Brett and his wife Georgia of Houston TX, his sister-in-law Marian Gindler of Gonzales, TX, and numerous nieces and nephews.

In celebrating the life of Robert Gindler, we remember a remarkable individual whose contributions will be cherished and remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing him. May his memory be a blessing.

A memorial service will be held on Sunday January 28, 2024 at 3:00 pm at Beck Funeral Home in Pflugerville. The family invites all family and friends to join us at the service and afterwards at Rio Grande Restaurant on Ed Schmidt Blvd. in Hutto where we will celebrate and honor Bob's love of good Tex-Mex and margaritas.

In lieu of flowers, Bob asked that friends consider supporting Temple Israel in Schulenberg. Gifts can be sent to the Temple using Zelle at [tischulenburg@yahoo.com](mailto:tischulenburg@yahoo.com) or by sending a check directly to the Temple at P.O. Box 602, Schulenburg TX 78956.

### EARL GRAHAM BISHOP



Earl Graham Bishop, 88, left this world for eternal glory on Friday, January 26, 2024. He was born April 23, 1935 to Solomon Pierce Bishop and Ina Mae Mobley Bishop in Smiley, TX. His family and friends from his childhood lovingly call him "E.G." In 1960, he married the love of his life, Linda Carol Streety Bishop, and they had three daughters that they adored, Carol, Lisa, and LeeAnn. Earl is best known for his faithfulness to his Heavenly Father; his love and devotion to his wife, daughters, and grandchildren; and his kindness, generosity and service to his church and community.

Earl attended school in Smiley, TX, and graduated in 1952. He loved his country, and joined the US Air Force in 1955. While in the Air Force he was assigned to England and Germany, and enjoyed meeting up with his brother, Virgil, who was serving in the US Army. After leaving the Air Force, he attended Durham Technical School in San Antonio, TX and was employed at Medina AFB as an aircraft mechanic.

Earl and Linda resided in San Antonio until Earl went to work for Brown & Root at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in Houston where he worked in the testing and simulation lab, including SpaceCraft and the Lunar Rover. Later, he worked with instrumentation at Amoco Chemical and Oil Company and EPIC in the Houston and Galveston areas.

They made their home in League City, TX and were active members of the First Baptist Church (now Bay Area Church). Earl was ordained as a

deacon and had a combined service of more than 50 years at churches in League City and Smiley. In League City, he also served as a Sunday School Teacher and with the bus ministry, which was committed to bringing unchurched children to church on Sundays. He loved helping people in the community, especially children and the elderly, and did so quietly and often anonymously. He was actively involved with the Bay Area Christian School where his daughters attended. He also enjoyed going on mission trips; his favorite was to Costa Rica.

In 1997, Earl retired and he and Linda moved back to Smiley, TX. He and his brothers renovated Linda's family home where they settled into life in the country. They were busier than ever and spent their time seeing their grandchildren, caring for their aging mothers, serving at the First Baptist Church in Smiley, and volunteering with the Texas Baptist Men with Disaster Relief. Earl and Linda also traveled across the United States in their RV and enjoyed seeing the country and camping with friends, family, and their grandchildren. More than anything, they loved being near to their six grandchildren, their pride and joy, and

attended many athletic events, dances performances, recitals, church programs, baptisms, and graduations.

Earl leaves a legacy of devotion to his family and service to God and his community.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 60 years, Linda Carol Streety Bishop; his parents, Solomon and Ina Bishop; his infant son, Earl Graham Bishop, Jr.; son-in-law, Dr. David Jimenez; sister-in-law, Betty Bishop; brother and sister-in-law, Elder and Gracie Bishop; and his brothers-in-law, William Duncan and Philip Streety.

He is survived by his daughters, Carol Pierce and husband, Billy, of San Antonio; Lisa Jimenez, of El Paso; LeeAnn Dunn and husband, Darren, of Seguin; grandchildren Everett Pierce, Ellis Pierce, Ethan Pierce and wife, Sarah, Julia Beebe, Carter Dunn, and Addison Dunn; siblings Howard Bishop (Francis), Viola Duncan, Virgil Bishop, Irene Gaylord (Tommy); brother-in-law, Jim Streety (Janie); sister in law, Jackie Streety; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be held from 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, February 3, 2024 at Finch Funeral Chapel in Nixon. The funeral will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, February 3, 2024 at Finch Funeral Chapel in Nixon. Interment will follow at the Bundick Cemetery in Smiley. Following the services, a reception will be held at First Baptist Church Smiley.

Memorial contributions may be made to Texas Baptist Men (<https://www.tbmtx.org/ways-to-give/>) or to First Baptist Church Smiley.

### MARY ISABEL TORRES



Mary Isabel Torres, 52, of Gonzales, passed away Tuesday, January 23, 2024, in Austin, Texas surrounded by her family. She was born on February 17, 1971, to her parents Serapio and Tomasa Longoria. She was born and raised in Gonzales. Mary battled with her declining health since 2018, but she had a fighting spirit that allowed her to spend all the time she could with her family. Mary met Ancelmo Torres and they married in April of 1997, together they raised their 8 children.

Mary was hard-working, she made sure her family was taken care of. She was also a shopper, she loved shopping for shoes and clothes from every store she walked into. Mary also loved to spoil her grandkids, she loved caring for others before herself. She was a long-time member of East Side Baptist Church and shared the love of God with her family. Mary

was also crafty, she liked making hairbows for her daughters when they were young. She cherished having her family together. Mary displayed her love for her family by making their favorite foods and of course her home-made flour tortillas.

Playing loteria with her family was always a good time. Mary also took trips to Mexico to visit family often. She had a life full of love and laughter, and although they miss her dearly, they know she is

watching down on them.

Mary is survived by her husband Ancelmo, her daughters Marissa Torres (Tyler Gonzales) and Susie Torres, her sons Robert Longoria, Serapio Raul Torres (Ashley Guerra), Juan Torres, Daniel Torres (Zaena

Pelletier), Vincent Stanfill and Angel Torres. Her sisters Mary Hernandez and Rosalina Grifaldo, her brothers Serapio Longoria, Jr. and Phillip Longoria. She is also survived by her 11 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

She is preceded in death by her parents

A visitation will be held for Mary Torres on January 26, 2024, from 1:00pm to 2:00pm. A funeral service will follow at 2:00pm officiated by Pastor Robert Ramirez of East Side Baptist Church.

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

### EDGAR IRVING HUTCHINGS



How do up sum up 101 years in a few short paragraphs? I have found it impossible especially when that person is Ed Hutchings. The following are just a few examples from his life. There will never be another like him and he will be missed.

Edgar Irving Hutchings, 101, passed from this earth on January 26, 2024. He was born on August 6, 1922 in Denison, Texas to William Hutchings and Elise Shendel Hutchings.

Ed spent his childhood in Denison, Texas. His father worked for the railroad where he was known for being able to tell the rail car's content and delivery point by memory. His mother stayed busy raising three sons and a daughter. At the early age of six Ed was hunting and fishing on his own. A squirrel or rabbit cooked on an open fire was always a treat. He loved being out in nature all his life.

Ed joined the Navy to serve our country during World War II. He was stationed at the Philippine Islands where he repaired airplanes that were damaged during missions. After the war ended Ed was honorably discharged from the Navy. He attended a USO dance held in Houston where Fay Jane Williams, at the insistence of her sister, was also attending. Six weeks later they became Mr. and Mrs. on July 1, 1949. Fay was the love of his life for 64 years, she passed away in 2013, but his love for her has stayed strong and now they are with each other forever. Together they had Robert Lee, Kay Lynn and Sue Ellen while living in San Antonio. The family moved to Portland, Texas in 1962. This family was Ed's greatest joy. Together they were always on the go. Weekends were spent fishing or water skiing, and summers were for camping trips. Holy Ghost canyon in New Mexico was a

favorite camping destination with trips taken to Yellowstone National Park and all national and state parks in between. Ed loved nature and he shared this love with his family. He would often spread a blanket over the grass in the back yard after dark and he and the kids would watch the sky hoping to see a shooting star. Candle time was also a special occasion with the family. The house would be dark except for the light from one candle which was the gathering spot for the family to sit and share stories and feelings. Ed was not without his mischievous side. He would delight in playing practical jokes or telling ghost stories during thunderstorms. He would laugh harder than the receipts of his pranks. The family always loved getting him to retell the time he pretended to be a ghost when Bob had friends over to spend the night in the backyard. He could never talk about that night without bursting into a very contagious laughter. All would be in tears from laughing so hard.

Ed began working for Royal Typewriter Company and after a short time he went to work for General Electric as a salesman. He sold large appliances to retail stores. One thing he and his family enjoyed about this job was that he would get the very latest in large appliances to try out at home, such as, the color TV and a refrigerator that had ice and water in its door. He was very successful at this,

earning trips to Europe and several other destinations. This being Ed and Fay's desire to visit even more countries. Scotland and Ireland became favorites as well as Alaska here in the states. One of Ed's favorite trips was to Washington DC where he learned so much about the history of the United States. Upon returning from GE in 1993 he and Fay moved to Gonzales to be closer to family. Here they enjoyed square dancing and getting together with friends to play cards or dominoes.

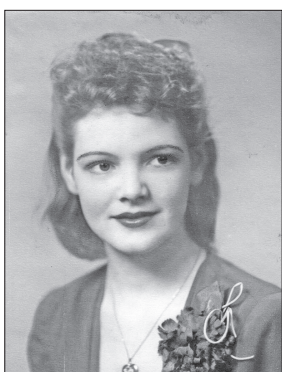
Ed is survived by his three children Bob Hutchings and wife Terry, Kay Lilly and husband Bob, and Sue Gottwald and husband Kenneth. Seven grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren including Bob and Terry's two daughters Julie Mayo, husband Rayan and son Grant, Kelly Fields and husband Rayan, Kay and Bob's two daughters April Faul, husband Eric and two sons Connor and Ethen, Kasey Clarke and husband Andrew, Sue and Kenneth's three sons Ross and wife Sarah and children Emily, Hannah and Hutch, James and wife Katy and daughters Kennedy and Delaney, Steven and wife Ashley and children, twins Addilyn and Cassidy, and son Kenneth.

Graveside funeral services will be held at 3:00 pm on Friday, January 26, 2024, at the Harwood Cemetery with Dr. Matt Pennington officiating. Honorary pallbearers: Julie Mayo, Kelly Fields, April Faul, Kasey Clarke, Ross Gottwald, James Gottwald, and Steven Gottwald. Memorials may be made to the Harwood Cemetery Association. Friends may leave their condolences to the family by visiting [www.seydlerhillfuneralhome.com](http://www.seydlerhillfuneralhome.com). Services are under the care and direction of Seydler-Hill Funeral Home.



OBITUARIES

LORAINE McLERRAN



YOAKUM: Loraine McLerran, 94, joined her heavenly family January 27, 2024.

She was born October 26, 1929, in Beaumont to the late Henry and Alpha (Myers) Burns.

Loraine was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and great-great grandmother. She was married to Lt Cdr. Virgil Ray McLerran until his passing in 1966. She owned a successful Assisted Living Facility in El Paso, Texas. She moved to Yoakum to help her daughter, Dr. Sandra Anderson raise her two daughters, Kendra, and Kimberly Anderson. She then helped raise her great-grandson, Kendon Briar Christian here in Yoakum. She celebrated this past Christmas

with 5 generations of family enjoying all their love and laughter.

Survivors are her daughter, Dr. Sandra Anderson and husband Stacy Mueller of Yoakum; sons, Danny McLerran and wife Suzanne of Galveston and Kim McLerran and wife Kelly of Kingwood, Texas; 14 grandchildren, 24

great-grandchildren and 1 great-great grandchild.

She is preceded in death by her parents; husband; daughter, Hope Marie McLerran Moore; 3 sisters, Ruth, Katherine, and Doris; 2 brothers, Nicky and Junior.

Graveside service will be held at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, February 17, 2024 at Oak Bluff Memorial Park Cemetery in Port Neches, Texas.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be given to Yoakum Volunteer Fire Department P.O. Box 101, Yoakum, Texas 77995 or drop off at the fire station.

Online guest book may be signed at [www.thielecooper.com](http://www.thielecooper.com)

Arrangements by Thiele-Cooper Funeral Home in Yoakum 361-293-5656.

EDNA "FAYE" ROBINSON



On January 19, 2024, Edna Faye Robinson peacefully passed away surrounded by family at the age of 87 to be with her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. She was born December 6, 1936 in Smiley, Texas, where she grew up and graduated from Smiley High School, class of 1955. Faye married Warren Wesley "Billy" Robinson on July 9, 1955 and they raised their three children in Luling, Texas and then settled in Smiley, Texas for their later years into retirement.

Faye, who very often introduced herself as Granny, was devoted in faith and family. She was an active member of the First Baptist Church of Smiley, a supporter of Christian missionary work, and a strong prayer warrior. She will be fondly remembered for her love of sharing her handmade needle work, her cooking and baking, daily phone calls, her willingness to always be on the go and her fun spirit and witty sense of humor.

Faye is preceded in death by her parents; husband; daughter, Billie Faye Padgett; grandsons, Terry "Joey" Key, Jr. and Travis Robinson; granddaughter, Brittany Balderas; brothers, J.D. and Bob Copeland; and sisters, Viva Holder and Verna Smith.

Faye is survived by her son, Robby Robinson;

from 10:00 am - 11:00 am at Finch Funeral Chapel, 308 E. Third St., Nixon, Texas 78140

Funeral service officiated by Pastor Marvin Miles: Friday, February 2, 2024 at 11:00 am at Finch Funeral Chapel, 308 E. Third St., Nixon, Texas 78140

Interment officiated by Pastor Marvin Miles immediately following: Round Lake Cemetery officiated by Pastor Marvin Miles

Reception immediately following at Fellowship Hall, First Baptist Church Smiley, 108 N FM 108, Smiley, Texas 78159

Love offerings can be made in her name to the following organizations Faye loved and supported over the years:

• **First Baptist Church of Smiley**

P.O. Box 100 Smiley, Texas 78159

• **First Baptist Church of Smiley, National WMU**

P.O. Box 100 Smiley, TX 78159

• **First Baptist Church of Smiley, Lottie Moon Christmas Offering**

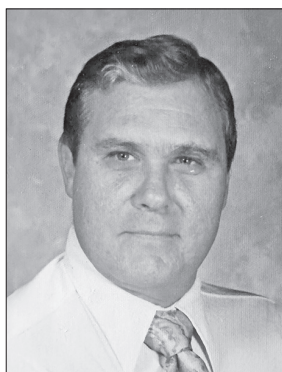
P.O. Box 100 Smiley, TX 78159

• **First Baptist Church of Smiley, Annie Armstrong Easter Offering**

P.O. Box 100 Smiley, TX 78159

The online guestbook may be signed at [www.finchfuneralchapels.com](http://www.finchfuneralchapels.com)

DON CHRISTOPHER RAINEY



Don Christopher Rainey of Gonzales, Texas, beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend, died on Thursday, January 25, at the age of 87. He was born on April 14, 1936, in Waco, Texas. After his biological parents died in 1940, Don was adopted by his maternal aunt, Lucille (Hendon) Rainey and her husband Otto Rainey. He grew up in Galveston and then Bandera, Texas.

Don graduated from Bandera High School in 1954 and joined the Navy serving from 1954-1958 as a Navy sonarman on a destroyer mine sweeper including sweeping mines in Korea. After his time in the Navy, Don attended Southwest Texas State University, graduating in 1963.

Don went on to teach history and coach in Pearsall, Wallace, Seguin, and Garland, after which he took a brief break from coaching to work as a bulk agent for Enco (now Exxon) in North Dakota. Don eventually moved to Gonzales, Texas, and took on a junior high coaching and PE job before moving on as an assistant principal and later becoming the principal of North Avenue, where he served out the remainder of his career and raised his family.

A quiet, generous, loving man, Don took great pride in his family. It was not uncommon to find Don and Imogene on the road on an early Saturday morning to watch a grandchild

play sports, sing in choir, get baptized, or to attend a grandchild's birthday party or graduation or Veteran's Day school event. No matter the event, he and Imogene showed up with donuts or chicken tenders to show their unwavering love and support.

Don's caring, support, and guidance carried over into his professional career as a teacher, a coach, and a principal. He spent many years trying to help students and teachers grow into the best version of themselves so they could grow the circle of caring, productive citizens of Gonzales.

Don attended the First Lutheran Church of Gonzales, serving a stint as the Sunday School Superintendent, and both he and Imogene served as Luther League sponsors for a time.

No matter if he coached you, taught you, mentored you, or led you on the field, in the classroom, in the hallways, or in the church, Don made an impact on

the people in the communities he loved. That legacy of unwavering support and guidance can still be seen and felt across these communities.

Don leaves behind his beloved wife of 64 years, Imogene (Burnett) Rainey; his four children Dr. Steven Rainey and his wife Maura; Mike Rainey and his wife Bridget; Susan (Rainey) Beazley and her husband Charlie; and Carol (Rainey) Nesbitt and her husband Monte. He also leaves behind his grandchildren Diego Araujo Saraiva and his wife Allana; Seth and his wife Abigail, Brenna, and Cade Rainey; Robbie, Allison, and Nathan Beazley; Heath, Bryce, and Collin Nesbitt; and great-grandchildren Andre, Mauro, Yuri, and Yohan.

Visitation will be from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Thursday, February 1, 2024. Funeral services will be held 10 a.m. Friday, February 2, 2024 at Seydler-Hill Funeral Home. Interment will follow at the Pilgrim Cemetery. Pallbearers include Robbie Beazley, Nathan Beazley, Seth Rainey, Cade Rainey, Heath Nesbitt, Bryce Nesbitt and Collin Nesbitt.

Friends may sign the guestbook and leave condolences by visiting [www.seydlerhillfuneralhome.com](http://www.seydlerhillfuneralhome.com)

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

ETHEL VERA PIZANI MAUPIN CHEATHAM



Ethel Vera Pizani Maupin Cheatham, 92, of Gonzales passed away Wednesday, January 24, 2024. She was born June 18, 1931 in Barataria, Louisiana the daughter of Clarence and Thelma Fabre Pizani.

She was very devoted to her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren and was truly the "Rock" of the family. She was a homemaker and a member of Faith Family Church.

She is survived by her daughter Susan Maupin Berger of Gonzales; sons H.V. Maupin, Jr. of New Mexico, Tom Cheatham and wife Mary of California and Jerry Cheatham and wife Jill of San Antonio; grandchildren Wayne Berger and wife Mariah, Keith Berger, H.V. Maupin

Graveside services will be held 10 a.m. Monday, January 29, 2024 at the Belmont Cemetery with Reverend Forrest Hamilton officiating. Pallbearers include Wayne Berger, Keith Berger, Aaron Berger, Miles Maupin, Jerry Cheatham and Curt Pish. Serving as honorary pallbearers are H.V. Maupin III, Tyler Maupin, Ricky Bellanger, Rodney Bellanger, Tom Cheatham, Jillian Castro, Landon Castro and Carly Cheatham.

Friends may sign the guestbook and leave condolences by visiting [www.seydlerhillfuneralhome.com](http://www.seydlerhillfuneralhome.com)

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



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ACROSS

- 1 get away!
- 5 lightweight helmet
- 6 TX George H.W. Bush alma mater
- 7 TX Jim Reeves hit: "\_\_\_ I Losing You"
- 8 TX Roy Orbison sang Traveling Wilburys tune: "Not Alone \_\_\_ More"
- 9 long, heavy curtains
- 15 Houston Museum of Fine \_\_\_
- 16 "Red River Shootout" award (2 wds.)
- 19 AL West city with Houston & Arlington deeply love
- 21 TXism: "happy as a kid sitting \_\_\_ Claus' lap"
- 27 female sheep
- 28 valuable things
- 29 "painful \_\_\_ in a tight shoe"
- 30 this Floridian Kathy beat TX Zina Garrison in 1984
- 32 first word in "Cowtown" (abbr.)
- 33 TXism: "he's \_\_\_ his own mind" (ego)
- 36 TXism: "\_\_\_ thru the wringer & hung out to dry" (tired)
- 37 I.M. \_\_\_ designed Dallas City Hall
- 38 area beyond suburbia
- 39 TX A.C. Greene or TX Larry L. King
- 41 bolo, e.g. (2 wds.)

DOWN

- 42 suddenly bright stars
- 45 action needed for "4th and long" in football
- 46 fed. ID no.
- 47 what TX George Foreman did to practice
- 48 TX Stuart Hamblen song: "This \_\_\_ House"
- 49 Hispanic heritage book: "\_\_\_ \_\_\_ Texas"
- 52 Rio Grande early name: "Rio \_\_\_ \_\_\_ Palmas"
- 53 NBA rim hanger
- 54 golf accessory
- 55 speed measure in inches (abbr.)

DOWN

- 1 "Deaf" Smith during the Texas Revolution, e.g.
- 2 TX George H.W., a dir. of this agcy.
- 3 in Cass County on highway 77
- 4 Valley Tex-Mex group: "? and \_\_\_"
- 8 "Hill Country State Natural \_\_\_"
- 9 TXism: "\_\_\_ in the woods?" (yes)
- 10 longtime mayor of Dallas \_\_\_ Thornton
- 11 money maker for the Azle News, e.g.
- 12 TXism: "two \_\_\_ \_\_\_" (alike)
- 13 TX Gene Tierney 1950 film: "Where the Sidewalk \_\_\_"
- 14 Mule \_\_\_\_, TX
- 15 TXism: "got as much chance as \_\_\_ \_\_\_ a packing plant"
- 16 \_\_\_ Rose, TX
- 17 annual event in Sunset Valley, TX
- 18 COVID advice: "\_\_\_ \_\_\_. Treat it. Beat it."
- 20 a carbon copy
- 22 \_\_\_ "Bum" Phillips

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by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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SUDOKU

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	1					8		
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				5	3		7	

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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.



## LAW ENFORCEMENT WEEKLY REPORTS

### Gonzales County Sheriff's Office

01/14/24 – 01/20/24

01/14/24

• Flores, Jesse Manuel, 03/1986, Nixon: Other Agency Hold – Parole Violation, Remains In Custody

01/16/24

• Engler, Cordy Allen, 09/1987 Austin: Commitment/Sentence – Poss Cs Pg 1>=4g<200g, Remains In Custody  
• Hinojosa-Toney, San Juanita, 10/1978, Yoakum: Local Warrant – Theft Prop >=\$100<\$750; Other Agency

Hold – Detainer, Requires \$1,500 Bond; Transfer Victoria County  
• Rosales, Tito, 03/1976, Gonzales: Local Warrant – Bench Warrant- Witness, Other Agency Hold – Detainer Remains In Custody

01/17/24

• Bernal-Maldonado, Abraham, 09/1991, Hidalgo: Other Agency Hold - Driving While Intoxicated Bac>=0.15, Released \$7,500.00 Bond  
• Carothers, Cedric Wayne, 03/1987, Austin: Local Warrant – Poss Marij <2oz, Requires \$1,500 Bond, Remains In Custody  
• Morales, Carlos Renne, 03/20, Gonzales: Local Warrant

– Poss Cs Pg 1/1-B<1g, Requires \$5,000 Bond, Remains In Custody  
• Tuch, Craig Thomas, 09/2003, Gonzales: Local Warrant - Proh Substance/Item Correctional Facility, Local Warrant - Tamper/Fabricate Phys Evid W/Inten To Impair, Remains In Custody

01/19/24

• Antonelli, Stephanie Marie, 11/1979, Arlington: Warrantless/On-View – Poss Cs Pg 1/1-B >=1g<4g, Released \$8,000.00 Bond; Warrantless/On-View - Poss Cs Pg 1/1-B < 1g, Released \$5,000.00 Bond  
• Mosqueda, Manuel Carrillo, 08/1976, Waelder: Local Warrant

– Driving While Intoxicated 3rd Or More, Requires \$5,000 Bond, Remains In Custody  
• 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  
• Saucedo, Faustino Estrada, 02/1971, Houston: Commitment/Sentence – Driving While Intoxicated 3rd Or More lat, Released - Weekender

Total Arrest, Court Commitments, Other Agency Arrest And Processing's:	
GCSO	12
DPS	02
GPD	06
WPD	00
NPD	00
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
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>

### Gonzales County Sheriff's Office

01/21/24 – 01/27/24

01/21/24

• Mcgee, Christina Lauren, 11/1992, Smiley: Other Agency Hold - Cruelty To Livestock Animals Physical Abuse, Requires \$5,000 Bond; Other Agency Hold - Cruelty To Livestock Animals Physical Abuse, Requires \$5,000 Bond; Other Agency Hold - Cruelty To Livestock Animals Physical Abuse, Requires \$5,000 Bond; Other Agency Hold - Cruelty To Livestock Animals Physical Abuse, Requires \$5,000 Bond; Other Agency Hold - Cruelty To Livestock Animals Physical Abuse, Requires \$5,000 Bond; Other Agency Hold - Cruelty To Livestock Animals Physical Abuse, Requires \$5,000 Bond;

Other Agency Hold - Cruelty To Livestock Animals Physical Abuse, Requires \$5,000 Bond; Other Agency Hold - Cruelty To Livestock Animals Physical Abuse, Requires \$5,000 Bond; Other Agency Hold - Cruelty To Livestock Animals Physical Abuse, Requires \$5,000 Bond; Other Agency Hold - Cruelty To Livestock Animals Physical Abuse, Requires \$5,000 Bond; Released – Transfer To Dewitt Co.

01/23/24

• Horn, Davin Keith, 01/1993 Seguin: Warrantless/On-View - Engaging In Organized Criminal Activity, Requires \$25,000 Bond  
• Vierig, Kimberly Wynn, 01/1972, Seguin: Warrantless/

On-View - Engaging In Organized Criminal Activity, Requires - \$25,000 Bond, Remains In Custody

01/24/24

• Reyes, Ramiro, lli, 10/1990, Alice: Local Warrant - Assault Causes Bodily Inj, Released - \$20,000 Bond

01/25/24

• Horn, Davin Keith, 01/1993, Seguin: Other Agency Hold - Parole Violation, Remains In Custody

01/26/24

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

• Montealvo, Anastasia Lisea, 11/2000, Seguin: Warrantless/On-View - Assault Causes Bodily Injury Family Member, Requires \$3,500 Bond; Warrantless/On-View - Resist Arrest Search Or Transport, Requires \$3,500 Bond, Released  
• Riojas, Coty John, 06/1987, Nixon: Commitment/Sentence - Criminal Mischief >=\$100 <\$750, Released – Weekender  
• San Miguel, Michael Ray, 11/1985, Gonzales: Local Warrant - Injury Child/Elderly/Disable W/Int Bodily Inj, Released – Weekender  
• Saucedo, Faustino Estrada, 02/1971, Houston: Warrantless/On-View - Driving While Intoxicated 3rd Or More lat, Released - Weekender

Total Arrest, Court Commitments, Other Agency Arrest And Processing's:	
GCSO	10
DPS	03
GPD	01
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
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>



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John is originally from Gonzales, TX, he is a member of the United Methodist Church of Gonzales, the Texas Wildlife Association and is Vice President of Gonzales County Wildlife Management Association. In his down time, John enjoys spending time on the family ranch. John resides in Gonzales, TX.

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## DAMAGE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Tool (iSTAT) damage survey. The iSTAT damage survey can be filled out in English and Spanish online by visiting [damage.tdem.texas.gov](http://damage.tdem.texas.gov) and clicking on “January 21st - Ongoing Flooding Event.”

Information provided through the iSTAT damage survey help emergency management officials understand the extent of damages that have occurred. This process also helps identify any immediate resource needs.

Additionally, survey details aid officials in determining whether the state meets federal requirements for various forms of disaster assistance.

Reporting damage through the iSTAT tool is a voluntary activity and is not a substitute for reporting damage to your insurance agency. It does not guarantee disaster relief assistance. English and Spanish tutorial videos explaining how to fill out iSTAT surveys are available at [damage.tdem.texas.gov](http://damage.tdem.texas.gov).

TDEM also reminds Texans to consider purchasing or renewing a flood insurance policy. A flood insurance policy typically takes up to 30 days to take effect, so it is important to buy well before disaster strikes. For more information on flood insurance coverage, visit the

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) at [floodsmart.gov](http://floodsmart.gov).

Texans are urged to follow these flood preparedness and safety tips:

- Know the types of flood risk in your area and learn the basics of flooding
- Keep important documents in a waterproof container. Create password-protected digital copies.
- Protect your property. Move valuables to higher levels. Declutter drains and gutters. Install check valves. Consider a sump pump with a battery.
- To access flood gage data and review flood safety information, visit [TexasFlood.org](http://TexasFlood.org).

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## TRIAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

serious bodily injury.

Sanchez was assisting the Gonzales County Sheriff's Office with traffic diversion after a collision between two 18-wheelers on I-10 by mile marker 655 near Waelder on June 14, 2021, when she was hit by a car authorities say was driven

by Ramirez. Sanchez was airlifted to Ascension Seton Hays Hospital in Kyle but has since recovered and come back to work for GPD.

*Editor's Note: Criminal defendants are granted the presumption of innocence until proven guilty in a court of law.*

## MISTRIAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

verdict following a four-day jury trial.

John Patrick Crow Jr. had a Jan. 8 jury trial in 25th District Judge William Old III's courtroom on two charges of aggravated sexual assault of a child, two charges of sexual assault of a child and one charge of indecency with a child by sexual contact. Because the jury was unable to agree about whether to find Crow guilty or not guilty, Old declared a mistrial and reset the case to the court docket for Friday, Feb. 2.

Gonzales County First Assistant Attorney David Benning Smith said the prosecution had no further comment at this time since the case is still pending. Crow is being represented by attorney Travis Hill.

The cases against Crow includes at least four dates ranging in time from Feb. 9, 2005 to Sept. 1, 2022.

*Editor's Note: Criminal defendants are granted the presumption of innocence until proven guilty in a court of law.*

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# DISCOVER Gonzales County

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**Ad deadline: Friday, Feb. 9**  
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VANDY VAN EPPS

The Edwards Association presented the winners of the MLK essay contest to four Gonzales High School students Tuesday, Jan. 30. Left to Right: Assistant Principal Tyler Newlin, GHS English teacher John Dunn, Amiyay Ibarra, Emilio Amador, Joelee Lester, Mia Guerra (Not Pictured), Tena Roaches and David Tucy.

## ESSAYS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

due to soccer) were named winners of the Edwards Association's MLK contest.

More than 50 essays were turned in by GHS English teacher John Dunn and the topic was Dr. King's "Mountain Top" speech — his last speech before he was assassinated in Memphis, Tenn., on April 4, 1968.

"In the essays we had dealt with the 'mountain top' speech, they dealt with women's rights, immigrants rights, youth rights, so they dealt with a lot. In reading them, all aspects of life were included in their essays," said Tena Roaches, the MLK Committee Chair for the Edwards Association.

Roaches added it was tough

picking the best ones when she received the essays the Friday before the holiday break.

It's been more than 50 years since Dr. King's "Mountain Top" speech and the legacy of his speech still is being taught to GHS students.

"I feel like it's very important, because, what he stood for, what he did not only for the black race, but what he did for people in general. He wasn't about the blacks. He was about equality for everybody," Roaches said.

"His work was very effective, because it helped everybody. You know, I liked what I was reading about the women's rights, about how women have jobs now. In the

past, man made X amount and the women made lesser," Roaches added.

Roaches is thankful to Gonzales High School and GISD Superintendent Dr. Elmer Avellaneda for supporting the MLK program.

"Well, as I stand here and looking at this great wall in the high school that I graduated from: 'Growing Greatness, Our Students Our Future.' What these students did here is a reminder of the future, because it includes love, equality, and inclusion of all students, and they are our future, which is the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.," said David Tucy, president of the Edwards Association.

## MISSING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

pears Smith went willingly with Van Mersbergen after initially fearing an abduction.

Anyone with information concerning the whereabouts of Scarlett Smith, please contact the Gonzales County Sheriff's Office at 830-672-6524.

Authorities in Williamson, Milam, Lee, Burleson, Washington, Austin, Colorado, Fort Bend, Waller, Wharton, Matagorda, Fayette, Lavaca, Jackson, Calhoun, Victoria, DeWitt, Gonzales, Goliad, Caldwell, Bastrop, Travis, Hays, Blanco, Kendall, Comal, Bexar, Bandera, Medina, Frio, Atascosa, Wilson, Karnes, Refugio, Bee, Live Oak, McMullen and Guadalupe counties have also been notified.

**“ We want to thank the caller for looking out for their neighbors, and remind everyone, if you see something, say something. With your help, we can do everything we can to make this the best county to live in.”**

—Gonzales County Sheriff's Office

## BURGLARY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Texas 80 reporting two vehicles were currently on his neighbor's property when there should be no one there.

The 911 caller also reported when he went to check on them, three subjects quickly entered their vehicles and fled the scene in different directions.

Due to the quick action of GCSO patrol deputies, one of the suspect vehicles was located pulling into the Diamond A gas station in Belmont. During the investigation, it was discovered that the two occupants of the vehicle were in possession of stolen items from the property. Deputies were also able to identify the third suspect, who was able to flee in a separate vehicle. Ultimately the two occupants of the vehicle were placed under arrest.

Kimberly Wynn Vierig, 52, of Seguin, and Davin Keith Horn, 31, of Seguin, were each charged with engaging in organized criminal activity and were being held in lieu of \$25,000 bond each.

"We want to thank the caller for looking out for their neighbors, and remind everyone, if you see something, say something," the department said in a release. "With your help, we can do everything we can to make this the best county to live in."

## ALMAGUER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

First Assistant Attorney David Benning Smith said.

Crawford had ordered a presentence investigation (PSI) for Almaguer in November on charges of theft of property greater than or equal to \$30,000 and less than \$150,000, a third-degree felony normally punishable by two to 10 years in prison and up to a \$10,000 fine.

A PSI is ordered in a felony case in Texas when a judge is expected to impose sentence and often happens when a defendant wishes to plead guilty and then seeks leniency or mercy from the court in assessing punishment. Almaguer pled guilty on Nov. 8.

Conditions imposed upon Almaguer include requiring her to repay the remaining \$51,000 in restitution in payments to the Gonzales Little League (for a total of \$65,000 in restitution); reporting to the Adult Probation Department monthly in person; completing a Theft Awareness program; writing a letter of apology to the Gonzales Little League; and completing the "Commitment to Change" Overcoming Errors in Thinking Program.

As a convicted felon, she will no longer be able to vote or possess a firearm.

"This was the best resolution for this case. It brings accountability to the defendant for her actions and provides an enforceable way for her to pay back what she stole to the Little League," County Attorney Paul Watkins said.

On May 6, 2021, Little League officers made a report to the Gonzales Police Department regarding theft from their organization and alleged to have a signed confession from a subject, believed to be Almaguer, regarding the missing money.

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