

The Gonzales Inquirer

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UIL announces 2024-26 reclassification, realignment for football, volleyball, basketball

BY LEW K. COHN AND VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The UIL split up longtime district rivals Cuero and Gonzales in football in the

2024-26 Football, Volleyball and Basketball Reclassification and Realignment, announced Thursday, Feb. 1.

Meanwhile, Nixon-Smilely will see the return of a familiar foe in Stockdale in its district in 3A-II in all three sports while

also gaining Cotulla and Young Men's Leadership Academy as district football opponents.

FOOTBALL

It was thought that both Cuero and Gonzales would be joining District 15 in Region 4

due to a number of schools in 4A-II that dropped in classification to 3A-I, creating a vacuum the UIL needed to address by shifting teams from Region 3.

However, while Cuero did indeed move into District 15-4A-II with Ingleside, Robstown,

Rockport-Fulton and Sinton, the Apaches found themselves and Smithville moved into District 13-4A-II with Geronimo Navarro, Jarrell, Lago Vista, Salado and Wimberley to cre-

See **UIL**, page 15

Contract awarded to upgrade portion of Texas 80

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

The Texas Transportation Commission has awarded maintenance and improvement contracts totaling nearly \$955 million to several projects in Gonzales, Colorado, DeWitt, Fayette and Victoria counties, including a portion of the money needed to convert Texas 80 into a "Super 2" highway.

The grand total the commission awarded in contracts at their Jan. 17 meeting for the Yoakum District of the Texas Department of Transportation is \$954,911,661.02. Projects that were let for bids are ones that are included in the district's

See **HIGHWAY**, page 16

Gonzales teen found safe; police charge man

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

An Amber Alert for a Gonzales teen has been canceled after she was found safe in San Marcos Wednesday, Jan. 31.

Scarlett Smith, 14, was safely recovered and her companion, 22-year-old Barry Vanmersbergen was booked into the Hays County Jail on multiple charges.

"The Gonzales County

See **MISSING**, page 15



Framed portrait of Waelder resident awaits new home

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

Down in Louisiana, where the black trees grow, is not only where you will hear the legend of voodoo priestess Marie Laveau, but where a framed portrait of Waelder resident Milvern Crozier sits awaiting a new home.

Lafayette, La., resident Robert LeBlanc reached out to the Gonzales Inquirer recently for help finding Crozier's closest Texas relatives, so the portrait can be rehomed in the Lone Star State.



See **PORTRAIT**, page 15

Russells to appear for pre-trial hearing in EMS embezzlement case

FROM STAFF REPORTS

James and Carla Russell are expected to appear in 25th District Judge William D. Old's court Monday, Feb. 12, for a pre-trial hearing on charges of misapplication of fiduciary property or property of a financial institution.

The Russells, who are represented by Robert Bland, had a pre-trial hearing on Feb. 2, but it was reset for Feb. 12. Other pre-trial hearing dates are set for March 25 and April 1. Pre-trial hearings often are used by the judge to determine legal issues and motions and can be a chance for the defense or prosecution to present evidence or witness testimony they wish to include or exclude at trial.

It is not known when the case will officially go to trial.

The couple are accused of embezzling thousands of dollars from the Gonzales County Emergency Medical Services. They are being tried by the Texas Attorney General's office after the case was referring to them by County Attorney Paul Watkins. They have pleaded not guilty.

The Russells were each indicted by a Gonzales County grand jury in November 2019 on one count of misapplication of fiduciary funds in the amount of \$30,000 or more but less than \$150,000 and one count of theft by public servant in the amount of \$30,000 or more but less than \$150,000.

See **RUSSELLS**, page 16

Pilot Club of Gonzales hosts Bunco Fiesta

BY LINDA VACLAVIK
President, Gonzales Pilot Club

The Pilot Club of Gonzales held its third annual Bunco Fiesta. It was a great fun time for all the Bunco players.

Proceeds from the fundraiser will go towards funding a splash

See **BUNCO**, page 16



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Pilot International Club of Gonzales hosted a Bunco Fiesta fundraiser Sunday, Feb. 4 at the Gonzales Elk Lodge. All the funds from the event will go towards an adaptive playground and as well as other projects.



PRIVATE JET IN TOWN

A private jet parked Monday, Feb. 5, at the Roger M. Dreyer Memorial Airport in Gonzales belonged to Dr. Jerry Savelle of Crowley, Texas-based Jerry Savelle Ministries International. Savelle was the guest speaker Sunday, Feb. 4, at Nations Christian Fellowship in Smiley. Savelle is the founding pastor of Heritage of Faith Christian Center and the author of more than 70 books. His weekly television program runs on the Daystar Television Network.

COURTESY/JOHN COALE

Inquirer, GOP co-sponsor local candidate forum

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Gonzales Inquirer and the Republican Party of Gonzales County will join forces again to co-sponsor a Meet and Greet Candidate Forum on Thursday, Feb. 15, at the Gonzales American Legion Post 40, 1612 Robertson St., Gonzales.

Doors will open at 6 p.m. for meet and greet and the forum will begin at 6:30 p.m. Lew K. Cohn, publisher of the Gonzales Inquirer, will serve as moderator, while Betty Cohn will serve as the official time-

See **FORUM**, page 16



GCSO recovers stolen vehicles, searches for suspects

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Gonzales County Sheriff's deputies were able to help Luling Police Department recover two stolen vehicles and one stolen trailer in Gonzales County.

On Monday, Jan. 29, the department received information that Luling police were working several vehicle thefts in their city. That is when Gonzales County deputies were able to assist in locating stolen items. The suspects have not yet been located and are still being sought.

"There is currently a rash of vehicle thefts in our area that is focusing on pickup trucks," the department said in press release. "Please remember to lock your doors, remove your keys and remove any valuables or firearms that are in your vehicle."



"The Gonzales County Sheriff's Office would like to thank all agencies involved, Gonzales County Constable's Office Pct 3 and the Luling Police Department. We would like to thank the Gonzales County citizens who saw something and said something."

Photographs of the recovered vehicles and possible suspects are printed in this edition of the newspaper



with this story. "If you recognize any of the suspects please do not comment on this post, please contact the Gonzales

County Sheriff's Office or Greater Gonzales County Crime Stoppers. Call 830-672-TIPS for a cash reward!" the department said.



Veronica Johannsen

Gonzales ISD chief of administration receives Bravo Award

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Veronica Johannsen, chief of administration, communications, and safety for Gonzales Independent School District, has been honored with the 2024 Bravo Award by the Texas Council of Women School Executives (TCWSE).

The award recognizes exemplary practitioners, innovative programs and initiatives that promote community and parental involvement in education.

Veronica was one of 10 recipients from across the state nominated to receive the award and selected by a committee of council members.

One of Johannsen's notable achievements is the passage of the board-approved communications internship program, which provides high school students with an interest in communications, hands-on learning opportunities, and mentorship. Johannsen collaborated with Wendy Cox, Jennifer Ervin, and Brandy Low to start the program. TASB recently informed the GISD communications team that the interns were selected to present at the Texas Association of School Boards Governance conference for their communications internship

work.

This year, the communications team organized several successful community events that promote community involvement, such as:

- The GISD Winter Wonderland.
- The GISD Bonfire.
- Battle of the Badges.
- Paletas at the Park.
- Splashing into PreK with the Principal.

Johannsen said she was humbled and grateful to receive the Bravo Award.

"I am honored to be recognized by such a prestigious organization as TCWSE. This award recognizes the efforts of the entire Gonzales ISD team. I am proud to work with such dedicated and passionate educators who strive to make a positive difference in the lives of our students and families every day," she said.

Johannsen added that she was surprised and thankful to have been recognized by women she deeply admires. TCWSE is a community of women superintendents, executives, and educators who are passionate, take action, and make things happen.

The Bravo Awards are presented annually, bringing hundreds of women educators across Texas to learn, collaborate, and celebrate their achievements.

Lavaca County deputies warn of rash of vehicle thefts

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Lavaca County Sheriff's deputies are warning residents to be wary of a recent uptick in vehicle thefts in both Lavaca and Gonzales counties.

On Sunday, Feb. 4, at approximately 1:30 a.m., a white Ford F-150 entered the RV park on US 77-A near County Road 177.

The person in the passenger seat exited the truck and was attempting to enter a vehicle when the owner of that vehicle exited his residence.

The suspect went back to the passenger side of the suspect truck and fired two rounds from a firearm before leaving and fleeing back towards Yoakum.

There were several other theft

attempts on CR 356 near Shiner. One vehicle, a 2020 Chevrolet dually with a flatbed, bluish grey in color, was stolen.

Please take the keys out of your vehicles and lock the doors. If you have any information or have surveillance video you might think is helpful please contact the Lavaca County Sheriff's Office at 361-798-2121.

GCAM offers volunteer opportunities to help give back

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

GCAM stands for Gonzales Christian Assistance Ministry. This non-profit organization was officially established and then approved by the state of Texas in 1996 in order to meet the growing needs of the Gonzales community. GCAM has been serving Gonzales residents ever since.

Located at 708 St. Louis St., GCAM distributes 96 food boxes on a first-come, first-served basis each Monday, Wednesday and Friday starting at 8:15 a.m. To be eligible for assistance, clients must reside in Gonzales and show proof of residency. Additionally, GCAM operates a thrift store which is open those same days from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

This past summer, GCAM hired a new executive director, Michelle Tucker, as well as a new food pantry manager, Michael Salinas. A third member of GCAM, Mike Brecka, who has been serving GCAM for several years, rounds out the team. They are assisted by a group of volunteers, while an executive board oversees the activities of

GCAM.

Michelle Tucker said, "First of all, I would like to say thank you to the organizations and volunteers who are currently supporting and assisting GCAM. We couldn't do this without you."

"I would also like to say that we would love to be able to do more for the community. For example, expand our Thrift Store hours, serve more families with our food outreach and perhaps even expand to serve other needs of the community. In order to do these things, we need the community to know we are here and we would love to get the entire community to come alongside us with support."

What would this support look like? Currently the greatest need is for donations of food and/or money followed by the need for volunteers/community involvement.

This month, O Taste & See Bakery and Coffee Shop is sponsoring a fundraiser for GCAM. Store owner Liz Pulliam said, "I hope that this will bring attention to GCAM and kickstart a shower of support for this nonprofit organization that has been serv-

ing the community so well for over 25 years."

O Taste & See will be selling cupcakes in a jar, half-pint size, for \$10 with \$1 per jar going directly to GCAM. Watch for more information on their Facebook page (O Taste & See Bakery and Coffee Shop) or the Chamber of Commerce website.

How can you help? There are many ways, whether you are an individual or an organization. First of all, support their fundraiser(s)

by making a purchase. Become a volunteer. Offer to fill a seat on the board of directors. Make a donation. If you are a business, GCAM would love to partner with you! Host a fundraiser in the near future. Make a donation. Schedule a group to come and volunteer at GCAM once a month. Additional ideas are also welcome.

Reach Michelle Tucker by email at: gcamdirector@yahoo.com or by phone: 830 672-5566.

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Celebrations

Birthdays

February 8th Adolph Gonzales James Molnoskey Robert Steed	February 11th Shirley Behlen Randy Berger Alfred Brown Christian Henderson Tony Joel Martinez Ashley Spring Heather Stampert	February 13th Laura Adams Bird Barbara Brzozowski Ken Calloway Michelle Fernandez Kathryn Lewis Rudy Martinez Gerry Stamps Andrew Stewart Tammy Turner
February 9th Jordan Buckley Lori DuPree Robert Valenta Dee Zavadil	February 12th Harrell L. Frederick Joel Johnson David Kuntschik Zack Miles Bobby O'Neal Zoe Purcell	February 14th Cathy DuBose Eric Linebrink Mary Ara McNabb Zachary Zella

Anniversaries








February 10th Tommy & Pat Schurig	February 14th Paula & Jesus Yanez
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Gonzales Weather

	February 8 70°/59°	Cloudy 25% chance of rain • RealFeel 69
	February 9 74°/56°	Cloudy with a shower in the area 45% chance of rain • RealFeel 71
	February 10 72°/52°	Mainly cloudy with occasional rain and a thunderstorm in the afternoon 60% chance of rain • RealFeel 69
	February 11 62°/42°	Widely separated thunderstorms in the morning; otherwise, more clouds than sun 49% chance of rain • RealFeel 64
	February 12 63°/40°	Sunny 0% chance of rain • RealFeel 65
	February 13 60°/42°	Plenty of sunshine 0% chance of rain • RealFeel 65
	February 14 61°/45°	Sun and areas of high clouds in the morning, then becoming cloudy 22% chance of rain • RealFeel 61

Upcoming Events at J.B. Wells Park in Gonzales

February 9th-11th
Region 6 Rodeo

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TEXAS AGM AGRILIFE PHOTO BY LAURA MCKENZIE

Hay production was better during the 2023 hay season, but back-to-back years of impacts from drought have left Texas hay supplies tight as cattle producers feed herds through winter.

Hay supplies remain tight for Texas cattle producers

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Hay supplies may be better than last year, but they remain extremely tight as costs for winter feeding continue to mount for Texas ranchers, according to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service experts.

Jason Cleere, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension statewide beef cattle specialist and professor in the Texas A&M Department of Animal Science, Bryan-College Station, said hay supplies have improved but stocks are still below pre-drought

See HAY, page 14

Garden Q&A

with CALVIN FINCH



Q. Is Chinese pistache an invasive tree? I love the shape of ours and its attractiveness to birds as a food source, but I notice that some of the guests on your radio show have been saying that it is invasive. I notice that you also did not list it on a recommended plant list in the paper.

A. You are right there is some debate on its status as an invasive tree. I have one in my yard that has never spread until lately a neighbor who is a good gardener says it is seeding in his yard. My most recent inspection makes me believe that is seedlings are not Chinese pistache, but we need to do some more examination. For now, the question is not resolved.

Q. My snapdragons are still alive, but they look all beat up from the cold. Is it easier to nurse them back to bloom, buy new plants or just wait until March and then plant zinnias?

A. If your favorite nursery has new snapdragon plants it is easiest to purchase and plant them, but it also works well to let the cold damaged plants recover. Zinnias could be planted in March if the weather is mild. Three good options.

Q. What are some good small and

medium size trees to plant in the yard? Do some bloom?

A. One of my favorites is anaqua. It is an evergreen with a compact crown, yellow flowers and yellow berries. It is a favorite of the birds. Texas or Oklahoma redbud are also a good choice. They bloom early and perform well in the edge of the shade tree thicket. Mexican plum produces fruit and has an attractive compact form. Plant this relatively small tree with three in a cluster.

Q. Will the last freeze negatively affect the wildflowers? Our yard is overrun by rescue grass that is so thick and tall that I can't see almost any other plants in the ground in an area usually covered by bluebonnets and other wildflowers.

A. It may be a problem in yards with the rescue grass, the freeze did not seem to damage it and the January and February rains have helped it take advantage of the bare soils due to the long drought. I have seen some poppies, coreopsis, blue curl, and larkspur sneak through, but you are right wildflowers will have a tough time in some locations. Mowing helps but the contact herbicides for grasses don't seem to be very effective on rescue grass.

WEEKLY LIVESTOCK REPORTS

GONZALES LIVESTOCK MARKET

February 3rd
Cattle - 876

Compared to our last sale:
Number 1 choice calves and yearlings sold steady to very active to higher on 3.00-5.00 weights. Less quality calves and yearlings sold steady. Packer cows sold steady & bulls sold fully steady.

Stocker-feeder Steers: Medium and large-frame No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 295-400; 300-400 lbs., 295-395; 400-500 lbs., 275-360; 500-600 lbs., 245-295; 600-700 lbs., 230-271; 700-800 lbs., 195-250. 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., 241-295; 500-600 lbs., 232-251; 600-700 lbs., 185-237.

Packer Cows: Good lean utility and commercial, 85-96; Cutters, 101-116; Canners, 65-82; High yielding fat cows, 97-104. **Packer Bulls:** Yield grade 1 & 2, good heavy bulls, 122-130; Light weights and medium quality bulls, 105-118. **Stocker Cows:** \$750 to \$1,500. **Pairs:** \$1,100 to \$1,900.

NIXON LIVESTOCK

February 5th
Cattle - 935

Steers:
200-300 lbs - \$328-338-420
300-400 lbs - \$309-319-380
400-500 lbs - \$280-290-345
500-600 lbs - \$256-265-314
600-700 lbs - \$226-236-278
700-800 lbs - \$200-210-246
Heifers:
200-300 lbs - \$272-282-410
300-400 lbs - \$272-282-365
400-500 lbs - \$245-255-310
500-600 lbs - \$223-233-295
600-700 lbs - \$208-218-275

700-800 lbs - \$187-197-219
Slaughter Cows - \$65-109
Slaughter Bulls - \$90-124
Stocker Cows - \$950-1100
Pairs: 2 pair @ \$1400
Hallettsville Livestock Commission Co., Inc.
Sale date: January 30th
Cattle on hand: 1740

Packer Cows:
High Dressing: \$90-119
Medium Dressing: \$78-100
Low Dressing: \$60-80
Poor/Weak Cows: \$50-64
Packer Bulls:
High Dressing Bulls: \$116-131
Medium Dressing Bulls: \$103-116
Low Dressing Bulls: \$95-102
Stocker Cows:
Good Stocker/Cows & Heifers: NONE
Medium Stocker Cows & Heifers: \$1125-1550
Good Cow & Calf Pairs: NONE
Medium Cow & Calf Pairs: \$1575-1825

Stocker & Feeder Calves & Yearlings:
Number 1 steer & bull calves:
Under 200 lbs.: \$290-410
200-300 lbs.: \$300-410
300-400 lbs.: \$310-410
400-500 lbs.: \$280-367.50
500-600 lbs.: \$255-312
600-700 lbs.: \$235-281
700-800 lbs.: \$215-252

Number 1 heifer calves:
Under 200 lbs.: \$260-390
200-300 lbs.: \$270-350
300-400 lbs.: \$270-340
400-500 lbs.: \$240-315
500-600 lbs.: \$230-275
600-700 lbs.: \$215-252
700-800 lbs.: \$200-224

Replacement Heifers:
350-700 lbs.: NONE
The calf market exploded higher this week. Heavier weight calves sold \$10-\$20 higher. Light weights sold \$15-\$30 higher. Average of all calves was \$22 higher. Calf prices are near with

some above all time highs. Extremely active sale. Packer cows and bulls sold \$2 to \$3 higher than last weeks big increase on 250 head.

SEGUN CATTLE CO.

January 31st

Quality very good. Stocker cattle a full \$10.00 better with packer cows and bulls \$5.00 better
Cattle - 728
Sheep & goats - 1053
Medium & large frame #1 Steers:
200-300 lb. 1.45-2.91-3.75
300-400 lb. 1.25-3.01-3.90
400-500 lb. .70- 2.74-3.55
500-600 lb. .60-2.45-3.15
600-700 lb. .70-2.10-2.60
700-850 lb. .62-1.88-2.40
Medium & large frame #1 Heifers:
200-300 lb. 1.35-2.36-3.35
300-400 lb. .40-2.35-3.35
400-500 lb. .65-2.50-2.85
500-600 lb. .60-2.18-2.60
600-700 lb. .35-1.78-2.30

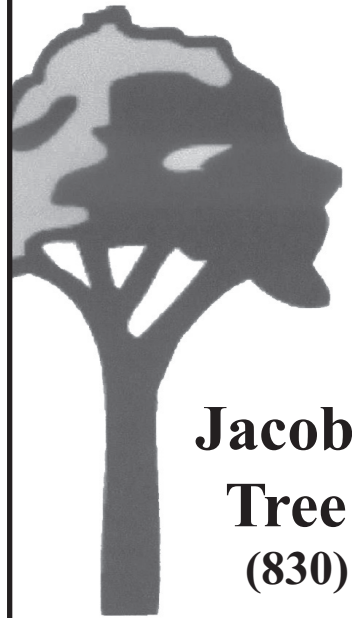
Cows:
Utility & commercial - .71-1.03-1.19
Cutters - .60-.74-.87
Canners. -.40-.57-.73
Palpated cows - 1.225-1.550
Cow/Calf Pairs - 800-2000

Bulls:
Heavy High Yielding - 1.05-1.26
Light & Low Yielding - .75-1.04
Sheep & Goats:
Nannies - 45-230
Kid Goats (Fat) - 2.40-2.95
Wethers - 1.65-2.85
Billies - 1.25-2.60
Dorp. Ewes - 55-160
Dorp. Lambs (Fat) - 2.20-2.85
Wooled Ewes - 75-95
Wooled Bucks - 1.10-1.51
Lambs - 1.45-1.80
Barb. Bucks - 200-500

CUERO LIVESTOCK MARKET
February 2, 2024
Number of head 2343

There were 234 cows and 22 bulls. The packer market was steady with last week with the top packer bull bringing \$127/cwt and the top cow \$116/cwt. The calf market was extremely active and much higher across the board. Calves averaged \$12/cwt higher, for a value of \$1,214.47 per head, over \$18 higher than last week. It was a great day to be a seller!
Packer bulls: 92.00-127.00
Packer cows:
canners & cutters 75.00-116.00
poor & weak 30.00-60.00
Palpated: 24 BRED 98.00-123.00
PAIRS: 1 \$2,100
Steer Calves:
200-250 lbs 310.00-355.00
250-299 lbs. 306.00-380.00
300-350 lbs. 320.00-390.00
350-400 lbs. 318.00-380.00
400-450 lbs. 291.00-367.50
450-500 lbs. 276.00-327.50
500-550 lbs. 260.00-305.00
550-600 lbs. 256.00-302.00
600-700 lbs. 234.00-290.00
700-800 lbs. 222.00-245.00
Bull Calves: (AVG-HIGH)
Under 250lbs 294.00-380.00
250-300 lbs. 308.00-384.00
300-350 lbs. 320.00-390.00
350-400 lbs. 299.00-360.00
400-450 lbs. 282.00-348.00
450-500 lbs. 259.00-314.00
500-550 lbs. 254.00-308.00
550-600 lbs. 239.00-272.00
600-700 lbs. 227.00-274.00
Over 700 lbs. 211.00-236.00
Heifer Calves: (AVG-HIGH)
Under 200 lbs. 283.00-345.00
200-250 lbs. 271.00-350.00
250-300 lbs. 284.00-360.00
300-350 lbs. 272.00-380.00
350-400 lbs. 266.00-355.00
400-450 lbs. 253.00-316.00
450-500 lbs. 243.00-292.00
500-550 lbs. 237.00-285.00
550-600 lbs. 230.00-262.00
600-700 lbs. 214.00-249.00
Over 700 lbs. 197.00-241.00

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Texas health foundation broadens focus beyond the doctor's office

BY ROZ BROWN
Texas News Service

There are Texas ZIP codes where people with lower incomes and few health services have a 20-year difference in life expectancy than those who are more fortunate. One of the state's largest health foundations said it is time to change it.

Brian Sasser, chief communications officer for the Episcopal Health Foundation, said improving nutrition and maternal health, and preventing health issues like diabetes, include factors that go beyond the doctor's office and cannot be improved by medical care alone.

"What we're doing is really looking at certain chronic conditions and other situations that we think, if we make a difference in those, that we can really improve the health of all Texans," Sasser explained.

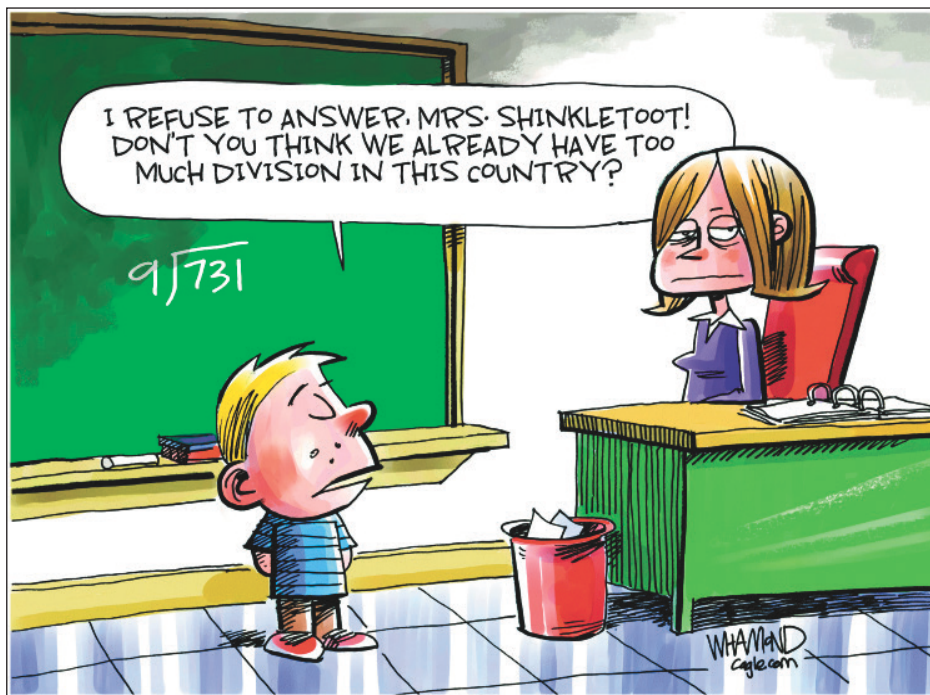
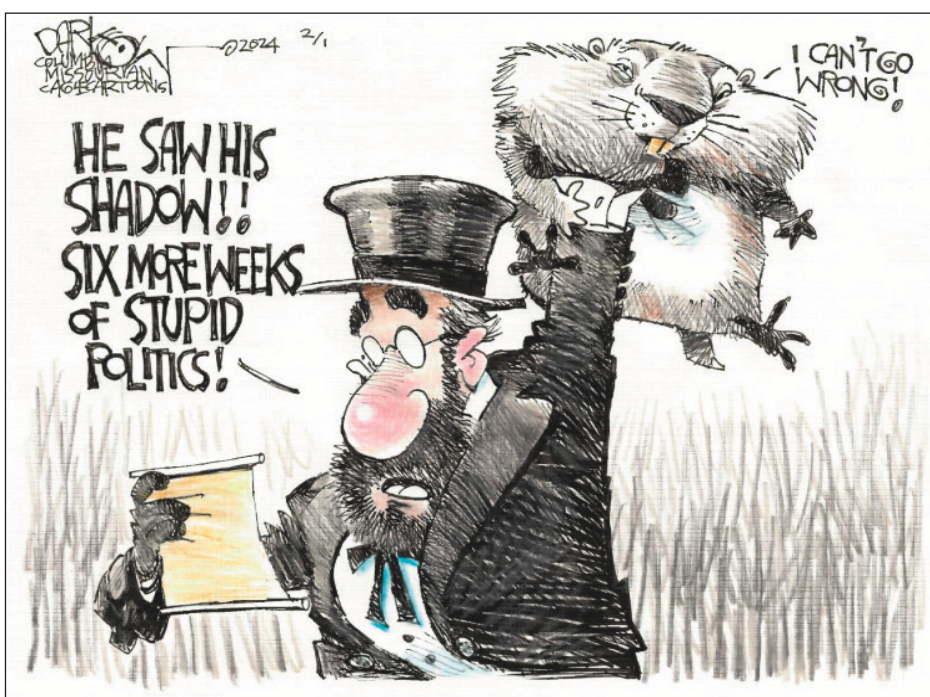
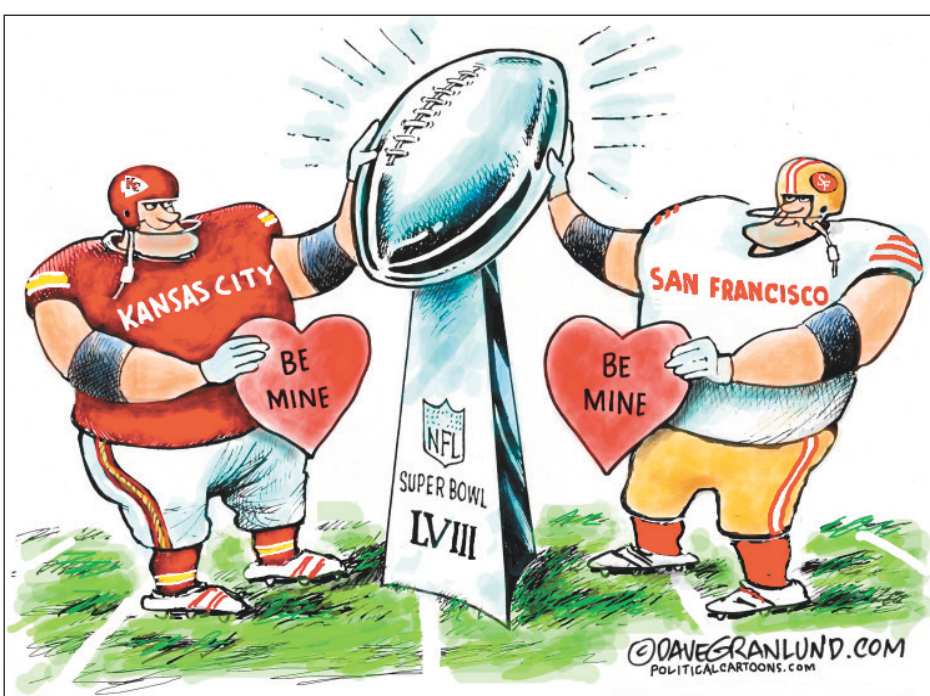
Sasser pointed out diabetes, for example, can be improved by eating healthier food and getting active most days. But it is tough when people live in food deserts or unwalkable neighborhoods. The Foundation has released a new strategic framework to address underlying nonmedical factors affecting health.

Sasser emphasized certain health conditions and events serve as warning signs that systems and circumstances need to be improved in Texas. By starting with diabetes, nutrition and food security, and maternal health, the Foundation believes it can make an impact in reducing preventable differences in health outcomes based on income, race or ethnicity, and where a person lives.

"All three of these conditions are affected by all those things outside the doctor's office," Sasser observed. "So, while if you're pregnant it's so important to get prenatal care, there's also things like nutrition and exercise, and whether you have good living conditions."

According to Sasser, key studies show up to 90% of maternal deaths are preventable, as are nine in 10 cases of diabetes, and 4 million Texans experience food insecurity. He stressed the Foundation will spend the first part of this year asking communities what could make a positive difference.

"Really taking a part of the year to learn what the community thinks could help and then, trying to put those in place by our grant making, by our research, by our policy priorities," Sasser concluded.



DR. DON NEWBURY
The Idle American

A coach who did it right...

In a perfect world, coaches, parents and participants would rightly refer to sports aspirants as "student athletes."

Today, however, this often is not the case. For many--in both high school and college--reference to "student athletes" is an oxymoron, as far apart as the east is from the west.

The best coaches--at all levels--first are teachers in the noblest sense, imparting life lessons first and sports second. I've known several who "got it right." One was the late Paul Stueckler, head basketball coach at Midland Lee High School, 1961-1990. His zeal for teaching was unbelievable, work ethic unquestioned and passion for coaching unsurpassed....

Son of a Lutheran minister, Paul wasn't afraid of challenges. First, he



Stueckler

took on coaching all sports at tiny Presidio, TX, High School in 1954.

He was there for a year, followed by six more at El Paso Austin High School before he dared to

introduce basketball to young men at Midland Lee High School upon its opening.

Introduced basketball? During most of Stueckler's years there, football was king. One guy--claiming Lee's district to be the "little South-west Conference"--recognized only two sports: football and spring training. At Lee, Stueckler won six district championships and made the playoffs 13 times. In 1975, his LHS Rebels took Houston Kashmere to three overtimes before losing to the eventual champions who were undefeated the previous season. With more than 700 career wins, he was Texas' fourth-winningest basketball coach.

Stueckler's heritage included a strong work ethic, and he never let go. A graduate of Concordia High School in Austin, he favored playing football and baseball. For coaching, though, he chose basketball after his first year. While in Presidio, by the way, they played on a dirt court, but old-timers remember that he and his players cobbled together a wooden, "make-do" floor....

Son David experienced his dad's firm direction as a basketball player in 1977 and 1978. "He kept the gym warm for work-outs and warmer for games," he recalls. Unforgettable are drills of rope-climbing, fingertip push-ups and lots of running.

Though animated and vocal, Paul never resorted to profanity. Armed with motivational stories and jokes, he grew serious when Hobbs, NM, High School was mentioned. Coached by legendary Ralph Tasker, the Eagles were the scourge of New Mexico, avoided by their non-district foes. Stueckler scheduled Hobbs regularly, however, holding his own in most games and winning some.

He was more than resourceful. During games, he spoke reminders into a tape recorder, playing them back at halftime. Against Houston Kashmere in the 1975 semi-finals, Paul was certain that his lads would be uptight. So, he showed up in a tuxedo, finally losing to the state champions in three overtimes....

They asked him to help coach at Midland College following retirement at Lee, thus delaying plans to retire to Alabama, where he had enjoyed childhood visits that included much fishing. (There weren't many fishing holes around Midland.) After four years and hindered by a hip replacement, he and his wife, Gay, retired to Lillian, AL, where he planned to spend blissful days on his Perdido Bay fishing boat.

When word got out about his Lillian retirement, he was recruited once again to "help out" at Pensacola Junior College. Finally, health concerns caused him and Gay to return to Texas. Awaiting him, though, was one final assignment, this time at Collin College. Including parttime roles, he coached for 51 years, passing away in 2017 at age 84.

Both David and sister Laura Seale are grateful for strong parental guidance. "He had a high standard for character and an insanely high

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear editor,
The calendar says Valentine's Day is coming, a time of love, kisses and hugs.

I remember when my baby was young — those short arms and legs, beautiful tiny fingers, and sweet, oh so sweet toes. And so many precious hugs, both given and received. My late wife and I hugged our baby a lot, year round.

My baby is 41 now with her own family, husband and 12-year-old daughter. Where does the time go?

So, on Valentine's Day, hug your baby, or find one to hug. Maybe give him or her an extra hug — say it is from Uncle Bob, or from whomever you wish.

Happy Valentine's Day. Hug your baby!

Bob Burchard
Gonzales

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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Gobblers stun Apaches, knock them to fifth in district

STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Apaches hosted the Cuero Gobblers Tuesday, Feb. 6 in a huge district game with playoff implications on the line.

Cuero handed the Apaches a 69-57 loss, avenging an earlier loss, and prevented the season sweep.

The Apaches dropped to 4-6 in district and dropped a game behind the Fox Tech Buffaloes for the fourth playoff

See **APACHES**, page 7

Lady Apaches fall to Cuero in regular season finale

STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Lady Apaches traveled on the road for their final regular season game against the state-ranked Cuero Lady Gobblers Tuesday, Feb. 6.

The Lady Apaches fell to Cuero, 60-24, and closed out district play with a 7-5 record and a third-place finish.

The last time the Lady Apaches finished third in district was in the 2018-19

See **FINALE**, page 7

Lady Apaches secure third seed in district

STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Lady Apaches closed out their final home game of the season with a 53-23 win over the San Antonio Minutewomen Friday, Feb. 2.

The Lady Apaches improved to 7-4 in district play and secured the third seed in District 28-4A.

If the season ended today, the Lady Apaches would take on the Boerne Lady Greyhounds of District 27-4A; Boerne is currently second in the district with a 9-2 record and is 28-4 overall on the season.

Gonzales closed out the season on the road against state-ranked Cuero Tuesday, Feb. 6.

Playoff information and location will be posted at a later time.



Gonzales point guard Tavarus Ornales (13) battles a San Antonio Memorial player towards the basket.

VANDY VAN EPPS

Apaches keep playoff hopes alive with win over Memorial

BY VANDY VAN EPPS

Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales Apaches traveled on the road to San Antonio Friday, Feb. 2 for a district match against the Memorial Minutemen.

The Apaches completed the season sweep of San Antonio Memorial with a 72-38 win.

Gonzales held the Minutemen to only 38 points total for the whole game, and Apaches head basketball coach Steven Pinchback was proud of how his team played.

"The guys did what they're supposed to do. We knew that we were the better team. We've just got to take care of our business and not fall into the trap of, 'hey, let's play down and let's give these guys an opportunity to hang around,'" Pinchback said.

See **BASKETBALL**, page 6



VANDY VAN EPPS

Apaches junior shooting guard Gavin Lekgega shoots two free throws in the district match against San Antonio Memorial.

Apaches FC fall to Rockets in district opener

STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Apaches FC traveled to a neutral site in Lockhart for their district opener against the San Antonio JFK Rockets Saturday, Feb. 3.

The Apaches fell to the Rockets, 3-1, in the first district game of the season. JFK shut out the Apaches, 2-0, in the first half. Gonzales scored its only goal of the match in the second half. The Apaches traveled to Yoakum,

Tuesday Feb. 6, and will host back-to-back home games against San Antonio Fox Tech (Friday, Feb. 9) and La Vernia (Tuesday, Feb. 13).

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



VANDY VAN EPPS

Gonzales' Cassandra Mendez (7) battles a San Antonio JFK player for possession of the soccer ball.

Lady Apaches FC open district with tie against JFK

BY VANDY VAN EPPS

Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales Lady Apaches FC hit the road Saturday, Feb. 3 in San Antonio for the district opener against the JFK Lady Rockets.

The Lady Apaches kicked off the match strong with a goal by Bella Agüero in the first half, but JFK responded in the final five minutes of the half with a goal.

The match ended in a 1-1 tie, with both teams earning one point in the district standings.

Lady Apaches head soccer coach Shantael Trimm said the team dominated possession time and shot attempts against JFK.

"I'm actually really proud of the way they performed today. Like I was just saying, we knew this was a tough team. We know who our tough competition is and we came in, and I think we played strong and the girls played with heart. No one

gave up; no one quit running. No one quit trying," Trimm said.

Last year, the Lady Apaches fell to the Lady Rockets, 2-1, in the opener and beat them in the second meeting, 2-1.

Gonzales shut down JFK's offense with a scoreless second half.

"Our defense is always so strong. It's one of the things that we get complimented for the most from other coaches and other players. They have incredible sportsmanship. They play with integrity, and they have incredible, unbreakable focus," Trimm said.

The Lady Apaches went back on the road Tuesday, Feb. 6 for a district match against Yoakum, and Trimm said they have played them in pre-district and know what to expect.

"We had a really strong showing with our varsity playing their

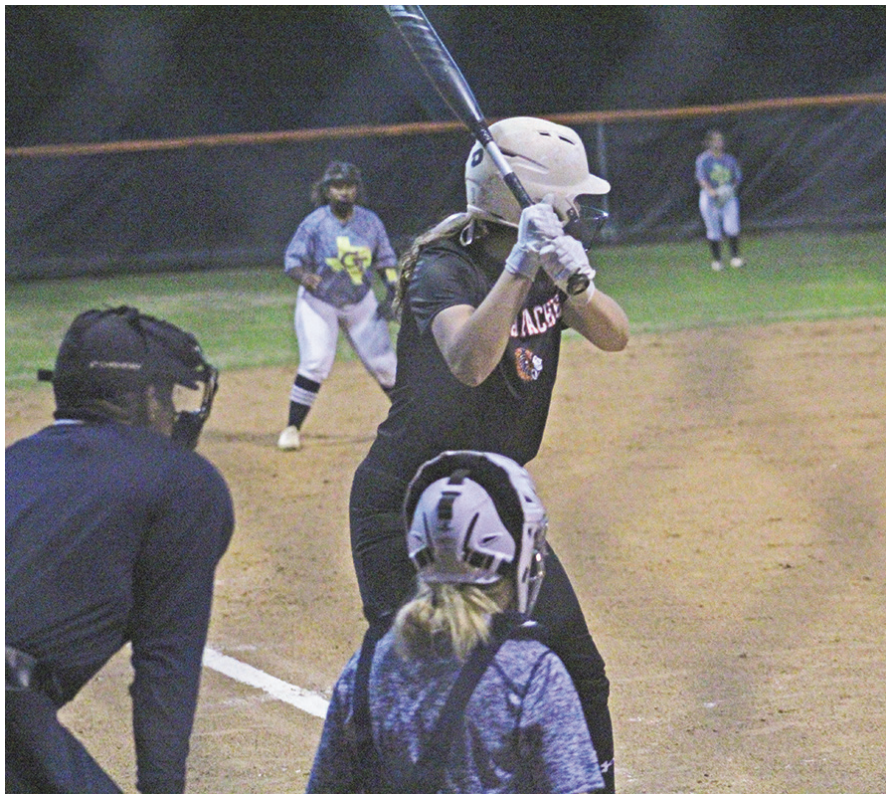
See **SOCCER**, page 7

LADY APACHES HIT THE MOUND FOR NEW SOFTBALL SEASON



Above: The Gonzales Lady Apaches infielders and outfielders in the huddle with their coaches in the Goliad scrimmage at the Lady Apaches Softball Field. The Lady Apaches are under the leadership of second year head coach Michelle Uribe and assistant coach Rebecka Rios. Gonzales finished the 2023 season with a fourth place 4-6 district record and were bi-district finalist. Left (top): Gonzales freshman pitcher Dixie Rea Lester (10) pitches in the first inning for the Lady Apaches against Goliad in a scrimmage match. Left (bottom): Lady Apaches junior center fielder Sarah Padilla (7) on second base for Gonzales in the Goliad scrimmage Tuesday, Feb. 6. Below: Gonzales senior outfielder Kelly Breitschopf (24) at bat for the Lady Apaches against the Goliad Lady Tigers in a scrimmage. The Lady Apaches senior leadership consists of Sydney McCray (3), Haley Cantu (4), Dakota Schmidt (15), and Breitschopf.

VANDY VAN EPPS



Mustangs fall to Cole at home

STAFF REPORT

The Nixon-Smilely Mustangs traveled to San Antonio for a district match against the Cole Cougars Friday, Feb. 2.

The Mustangs fell to the Cougars, 84-50, and dropped to 1-6 in district play and sit in fifth place in District 26-3A behind Randolph.

With three games left in the basketball regular season, Nixon-Smilely remains in contention for the final playoff spot in the district.

The Mustangs host back-to-back home games against Great Hearts Northern Oaks (Tuesday, Feb. 6) and Luling (Friday, Feb. 9) and will close out the season on the road against the Randolph Ro-Hawks.

The Randolph and Luling games tip off at 7:30 p.m.

Lady Cougars roll past Lady Mustangs in district play

STAFF REPORT

The Nixon-Smilely Lady Mustangs fell to the state-ranked Cole Lady Cougars, 66-32, on the road Friday, Feb. 6 in San Antonio.

The Lady Mustangs struggled offensively, being held in the single digits in the first three quarters of the game.

Nixon-Smilely dropped to 3-6 in District 26-3A and are currently sitting in fourth place with the final playoff spot in their grasp.

The Lady Mustangs will host the Great Hearts Northern Oaks Lady Griffins Tuesday, Feb. 6 for the regular season finale.

Playoff projections at this time have the Lady Mustangs playing either Hallettsville or Edna from District 25-3A in the bi-district round; Hallettsville and Edna are tied for first place with a 12-1 district record.

Playoff information will be posted at a later time.

Mustangs lose fourth straight, fall to Griffins

STAFF REPORT

The Nixon-Smilely Mustangs lost their fourth game in a row in a 66-55 loss to the Great Hearts Northern Oaks Griffins Tuesday, Feb. 6 at home.

The Mustangs drop to 1-7 in district play and 13-16 on the season.

The last time the Mustangs had a seven-loss district season was in the 2018-19 season, when they went 0-7, according to Max Preps.

Nixon-Smilely has two more games left on its schedule against the Luling Eagles (Friday, Feb. 9 at home) and the Randolph Ro-Hawks (Tuesday, Feb. 13 in San Antonio).

Both the Mustangs and the Eagles have seven-loss district records, and if the Mustangs beat the Luling, they'll tie Randolph for fourth place in District 26-3A with their last game becoming the tiebreaker that determines who gets that final playoff spot.

The Luling and Randolph games tip off at 7:30 p.m.

Lady Mustangs sweep season series from Lady Griffins

STAFF REPORT

The Nixon-Smilely Lady Mustangs hosted the Great Hearts Northern Oaks Griffins Tuesday, Feb. 6 for their regular season finale.

Before the start of the game, the Lady Mustangs honored their four senior

players: Victoria Gonzales, Emmersyn Stone, Kendall Amaya and Arian Hanson for senior night.

Nixon-Smilely took care of business with a 51-27 blowout win over the Lady Griffins, securing the fourth and final playoff spot in the district and improving to 4-6

in district play.

The Lady Mustangs will take on the winner of District 25-3A (either Hallettsville Lady Brahmas or Edna Cowgirls) in the first round of the playoffs.

Both Hallettsville and Edna finished with a 13-1 district record and both

losses were to each other; They will play a tiebreaker game on Friday, Feb. 9.

Playoff information will be released at a later date.

The UIL Girls Basketball playoffs tips off Monday, Feb. 12 and Tuesday, Feb. 13, according to the UIL website.

Apaches FC roll past Yoakum for first district win

STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Apaches FC traveled to Yoakum Tuesday, Feb. 6 for their second district match of the season against the Yoakum Bulldogs.

The Apaches beat the Bulldogs, 5-1, earning their first district win of the 2024 season; Gonzales extends their win streak over Yoakum to two, dating back to March of last year.

Gonzales will host back-to-back home matches against the Fox Tech Buffaloes (Friday, Feb. 9) and the La Vernia Bears (Tuesday, Feb. 13).

La Vernia sits in second in district behind San Antonio JFK and has an overall 12-3-1 record; Fox Tech sits tied for fourth place with the Apaches.

The Apaches and the Buffaloes split the series last season; Gonzales beat them in the first meeting, 5-1, and Fox Tech shut out the Apaches, 5-0, in the return match.

The Fox Tech match kicks off at 4:30 p.m. and the La Vernia match kicks off at 7 p.m.

BASKETBALL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

The Apaches keep their playoff hopes alive with a 4-5 district record, sitting just behind Fox Tech for the fourth and final playoff spot.

"We've just got to take care of us. Fox Tech was off; they are 4-5, so we're 4-5 now and so we're tied for fourth. It's all about us taking care of Gonzales one game at a time and not worrying about anybody else," Pinchback said.

The Apaches and the Fox Tech Buffaloes have similar schedule in the final three games and the finale will be between the two of them.

"These young men have hope and I can tell we've been having some really good practices. Even the coach over here [at Memorial], he said that we're playing at the right time, we're peaking at the right time, and I've been stressing that to them all year. It's not how you start. It's how you finish, and right now, we're playing pretty good basketball and we're feeling like we can compete



VANDY VAN EPPS

Apaches freshman power forward Luis Zuniga Jr. (21) defends a San Memorial player in the district match Friday, Feb. 2.

with anyone as long as we play our game," Pinchback said.

The Apaches played Cuero Tuesday, Feb. 6 at home and will play their final games against the YMLA Lions (Friday, Feb. 9 in San Antonio) and Fox Tech (Tuesday, Feb. 13 at home).

Yoakum hands Lady Apaches FC first district loss

STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Lady Apaches FC went back on the road for a district match against their rival, the Yoakum Lady

Bulldogs, Tuesday, Feb. 6.

The Lady Apaches fell to the Lady Bulldogs, 1-0, and were handed their first loss of the season.

Gonzales will head back

on the road for back-to-back matches against the La Vernia Lady Bears (Tuesday, Feb. 13) and the YWLA Lady Cardinals (Saturday, Feb. 17).

The Lady Bears are 1-0 in

district play and 5-7 overall and the Lady Cardinals are 0-0-1 in district and 2-6-2 overall.

The La Vernia match kicks off at 6:45 p.m. and the YWLA match kicks off at 11:30 a.m.

Lady Apaches send two lifters to regionals

STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Lady Apaches traveled to Kenedy for their third powerlifting meet of the 2024 season Thursday, Feb. 3. The Lady Apaches had three lifters finish second in their respective

weight class: Denisse Navarro, Serenity Perez and Madison Sampleton; Sampleton and Navarro clinched their spots for the regional meet. Sampleton also clinched her state numbers to qualify for the state meet; she is ranked No. 2 in the state in the 220 weight class.

Aubrey Hernandez, Alize Miller, Midaya Cantu and Jazlin Juarez all finished in the top five in their classes at the Kenedy meet. The Lady Apaches will travel to Victoria for the Clash with the Titans meet at Victoria East High School Saturday, Feb. 17.

--KENEDY RESULTS--

- Denisse Navarro**-105 Weight Class: second place: 595 total pounds (regional qualifier)
- Aubrey Hernandez**-114 Weight Class: fifth place: 470 total pounds
- Serenity Perez**-114 Weight Class: second place: 555 total pounds
- Alize Miller**-165 Weight Class: third place: 700 total pounds
- Midaya Cantu**-165 Weight Class: fourth place: 620 total pounds
- Madison Sampleton**-220 Weight Class: second place: 1,015 total pounds (regional qualifier and state qualifier)
- Jazlin Juarez**-220 Weight Class: third place; 725 total pounds

Apaches powerlifting team competes in Kenedy meet

STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Apaches powerlifting team traveled to Kenedy Thursday, Feb. 1 for their second meet of the 2024 season. Omar Borjon and Landon Holub finished first place in their respective weight classes; Hector Reyna and Kaden Deleon took home second place finishes at the meet. Jesus Maldonado, Gary Lewis Isaiah Baldera and Gustavo Rodriguez finished in the top five in their respective weight classes. Gonzales took home third place overall at the meet. The Apaches will travel to Victoria for the Clash with the Titans meet at Victoria East High School Saturday, Feb. 17.

FINAL RESULTS

- Lady Mustangs (fourth place: 18 points):**
Grace Gomez: 105 weight class-eighth place: 490 total pounds
Kaylie Morin: 123 weight class-third place: 660 total pounds
Mariela Castillo Limon: 132 weight class-sixth place: 595 total pounds
Gabriela Castillo Limon: 132 weight class-seventh place: 595 total pounds
Katelyn Fernandez: 148 weight class-second place: 820 total pounds
Zuelma Rodriguez: 148 weight class-third place: 755 total pounds
Janice White: 148 weight class-fifth place: 715 total pounds
Ashley Garcia: 165 weight class-third place: 795 total pounds
Anahi Hernandez: 165 weight class-seventh place: 710 total pounds
Gabriella Villalobos: 181 weight class-third place: 760 total pounds
- Mustangs (sixth place: 15 points):**
Cesar Vazquez: 114 weight class-first place: 875 total pounds
Khali Jantes: 123 weight class-fifth place: 830 total pounds
Eduardo Betancourt: 123 weight class-sixth place: 820 total pounds
Eric Rodriguez: 148 weight class-sixth place: 975 total pounds
John Garza: 148 weight class-seventh place: 920 total pounds
Adolfo Vazquez: 165 weight class-seventh place: 1130 total pounds
Miguel Valerio: 165 weight class-ninth place: 1080 total pounds
Jesus Espino: 198 weight class-first place: 1465 total pounds
Alan Espino: 198 weight class-eighth place: 1070 total pounds
Jaylun Rodriguez: 198 weight class-ninth place: 1055 total pounds
Gracen Martin: 220 weight class: 220 total pounds

Nixon-Smiley powerlifting teams compete in Von Ormy

STAFF REPORT

The Nixon-Smiley Mustangs and Lady Mustangs powerlifting teams traveled to Von Ormy for a powerlifting meet Saturday, Feb. 3. The Lady Mustangs competed in their second meet of the season and took home fourth place with 18 points. Katelyn Fernandez finished second in the 148 weight class with 755 total pounds; and her team Zuelma Rodriguez finished third behind Fernandez with 755 total pounds.

MUSTANGS

The Mustangs competed in their second meet in their 2024 powerlifting season; and competed in six weight categories. Cesar Vazquez and Jesus Espino took home first place in their respective categories; Vazquez finished the 114 weight class with 875 total pounds and Espino finished with 1,465 total pounds in the 198 class. The powerlifting teams will travel to Karnes City for the KCISD Powerlifting Invitational Saturday, Feb. 17.

--KENEDY RESULTS--

- Hector Reyna**: 114 Weight Class: second place: 655 total pounds
- Jesus Maldonado**: 114 Weight Class: fourth place: 645 total pounds
- Kaden Deleon**: 165 Weight Class: second place: 1300 total pounds
- Roland Nino**: 165 Weight Class: 670 total pounds
- Gary Lewis**: 242 Weight Class: fifth place: 1160 total pounds
- Landon Holub**: 275 Weight Class: first place: 1575 total pounds
- Isaiah Baldera**: 275 Weight Class: fifth place: 1080 total pounds
- Eduardo Salazar**: 275 Weight Class: 1035 total pounds
- Omar Borjon**: 308 Weight Class: first place: 1540 total pounds
- Gustavo Rodriguez**: 308 Weight Class: fifth place: 1280 total pounds
- Leonel Tinajero**: 308 Weight Class: 925 total pounds



Lady Apaches Abigail Reyna (13) battles a JFK player for possession of the soccer ball in the district opener Saturday, Feb. 3.

SOCCER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

starters and I think we won that game, 2-0, and then our JV played their bench and I think it was 0-0 — it was tie,” Trimm said. “And so I think they know what they’re walking into just from this year before our district started, so they know exactly how hard they have to work, which is 100% every time, but they know what they are looking at as far as Yoakum’s defense.”

As district moves forward, Trimm said she is looking forward to seeing her players realize how much they have improved entering district. The Lady Apaches will be on the road for two more games against La Vernia (Tuesday, Feb. 13) and YWLA (Saturday, Feb. 17). The La Vernia game kicks off at 6:45 p.m. and the YMLA game kicks off at 11:30 a.m.

APACHES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

spot in District 28-4A. Gonzales has two more games left in its 2023-24 basketball season against the YMLA Lions (Friday, Feb. 9 in San Antonio) and Fox Tech (Tuesday, Feb. 13 at home). To have a shot at making the playoffs, Gonzales must beat Fox Tech, have YMLA beat Cuero on Feb. 13 and have La Vernia beat Fox Tech on Feb. 9. That would create a three-way tie for fourth place between Gonzales, Cuero and Fox Tech, all with 5-7 records and set up a mini-tournament between the three teams to determine who would represent 28-4A as the final seed. If Gonzales could pull off the upset over YMLA and beat Fox Tech (with the other scenarios happening to Cuero and Fox Tech as well), the Apaches would finish 6-6 in district and be the fourth place seed without needing a play-in tourney. The YMLA game tips off at 7 p.m. and the Fox Tech game tips off at 6:30 p.m.

FINALE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

season with a 9-3 record. Gonzales will play Boerne in the bi-district round of the 4A UIL Girls Basketball playoffs; the Lady Greyhounds finished their season with a 10-2 district record and finished 29-4 overall. The last time the Lady Apaches won a playoff game was a 54-34 win over Hondo in bi-district in the 2019-20 season. Playoff information will be released at a later time; the first round of the UIL Girls Basketball playoffs tips off on Monday, Feb. 12 and Tuesday, Feb. 13 around the state, according to the UIL website.

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VICTORIA COLLEGE
Est. 1925

Victoria College is recruiting for full-time, twelve-month, non-tenure track instructors to teach Commercial Truck Driving for the Workforce & Continuing Education Department. **Classes will begin in January 2024.** Position may include the role of Program Coordinator. Class size is limited to four students per tractor.

Starting earned monthly salary for the twelve-month position is \$4,944.89.

For more information and to complete an online application, please go to www.VictoriaCollege.edu and click on Jobs@VC. EEOE

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Kristein Kolzbeue: (830) 203-4550

Carol Hardcastle: (830) 857-3517
Rebekah Morgan: (830) 857-5664
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Sherr Schellenberg: (830) 857-6439

670 APARTMENTS FOR RENT OR LEASE

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

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

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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.

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VICTORIA COLLEGE
Est. 1925

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

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850 HELP WANTED

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Est. 1925

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

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
Est. 1925

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

Electrical Instructor
Welding Instructor

For more information go to www.victoriacollege.edu and click on Jobs@VC.
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Victoria College is an Equal Opportunity Institution.

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF GONZALES PROFESSIONAL SERVICES RFP 2024-1 NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The City of Gonzales is requesting competitive sealed proposals to solicit statements of qualifications, technical approach, and pricing from interested firms capable of providing field data collection of water service line material on approximately 3,300 water meters throughout the city. The water service line material for both City and customer sides of the meters will be identified by visual inspection, scratch test, and magnet test then categorized into one of the four following categories: 1. Lead 2. Galvanized 3. Non-Lead 4. Lead Status Unknown. Data collection is in response to and will be compliant with the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) issued by the USEPA on January 15, 2021.

The full requirements of the Request for Proposal can be located on the City of Gonzales website <https://www.gonzales.texas.gov/p/government/bidrfp> or by contacting Kristina Vega, Administrative Services Director, by email at citysecretary@gonzales.texas.gov.

Questions concerning the Request for Proposal, discrepancies or omissions in the solicitation document or other clarifications of such matters should be submitted in writing by Friday, February 16, 2024 at 2:00 PM to: Kristina Vega, Administrative Services Director, by email at citysecretary@gonzales.texas.gov. Only written or emailed communication will be acknowledged.

A PDF VERSION OF THE PROPOSAL SHALL BE EMAILED TO KRISTINA VEGA AT CITYSECRETARY@GONZALES.TEXAS.GOV BY: **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2024 AT 2:00 PM.** BE CERTAIN TO REQUEST AND OBTAIN CONFIRMATION OF RECEIPT OF THIS EMAILED SUBMISSION. QUALIFICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THAT TIME WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

The city expects to select the proposal that provides goods or services at the best value for the City. The City of Gonzales reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any and all formalities and technicalities, and to accept any bid which it deems advantageous to the City of Gonzales. Each bidder agrees to waive any claim it has or may have against the City of Gonzales and their respective agents and/or employees arising out of or in connection with the administration, evaluation, or recommendation of any bid.

The contractor and all subcontractors for this project will be required to pay not less than the prevailing wage rates for the area of the project and to be in compliance with Executive Order 11246, as amended, entitled "Equal Employment Opportunity" and as supplemented in the Department of Labor Regulation (41 CFR Part 60).

THE STATE OF TEXAS CITATION BY PUBLICATION

CAUSE NO. AD24-0316
IN THE ESTATE OF THOMAS LEE ONEILL, DECEASED
TO ALL UNKNOWN OR MISSING HEIRS OF THE ESTATE OF THOMAS LEE ONEILL, DECEASED

Annie Gwin, in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on January 23, 2024 an APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP AND FOR LETTERS OF INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION in the estate of Thomas Lee Oneill, Deceased, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of Thomas Lee Oneill, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in said estate, and appoint Annie Gwin 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 31, 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
PO Box 119
Gonzales, Texas 78629
830-672-2437
830-672-2439
rbland@gvec.net

February 1 Puzzle Answers

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

Last Puzzle Solution

S-1674

CLASSIFIEDS

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

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

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Emory **Gilmer**

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Open to the Public: 1-4pm Sunday January 28 & February 11

GILMER, TX • **105 Oasis Street.** 4BR 3BA 2,438+/-sf home on 0.41+/-ac. New roof, new AC, large shed in backyard, and more!
Open to the Public: 1-4pm Sunday February 11

FLINT, TX • **11340 Sandy Grove Ct.** 4BR 2.5BA 2,715+/-sf home w/ pool & outdoor living.
Open to the Public: 1-4pm Sun January 28 & February 11

Bid Online Feb 19 - 21 at auctionnetwork.com
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950 PUBLIC NOTICES

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

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

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

THE STATE OF TEXAS

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

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

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


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

Being 8.00 acres of land, more or less, located in the Turner Barnes Survey, A-112, Gonzales County, Texas and being the same land described in the Deed from S.B. Moore and W.J. Moore to Aug. Krauze, dated April 27, 1895, recorded in Volume Z-2, Page 295, of the Deed Records of Gonzales County, Texas.

and to execute Oil, Gas and Mineral Leases thereof to the Plaintiff, and take such other action deemed necessary under the provisions of said statute.

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

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


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

900 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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TexSCAN

TexSCAN Week of Feb. 4-10, 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., 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.

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950 PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

The undersigned give(s) notice of application with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit and a Late Hours Certificate for Pollos Asados "El Guero" LLC, to be located at 105 E. Central Ave., Nixon, Gonzales County, Texas 78140. Pollos Asados "El Guero" LLC, Heron Hernandez Jr., Member applicant(s).

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.gcworkforce.org.

GCWDB Equal Opportunity Employer/Program

PUBLIC NOTICE

It has been PROPOSED TO BUILD A 300-FOOT LATTICE SELF-SUPPORT COMMUNICATIONS TOWER. Anticipated lighting application is medium intensity dual red/white strobes. The site location is approx. 3 miles North of the intersection of TX HWY 80 & 97, Nixon, TX., Gonzales County, TX; Latitude: 29° 22' 25.5" N, Longitude: 97° 34' 59.8" W. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Antenna Structure Registration (ASR, Form 854) FILING NUMBER IS A1274160. Interested persons may review the application for this project at www.fcc.gov/asr/ applications by entering ASR filing number A1274160 and may raise environmental concerns about the project by filing a Request for Environmental Review with the Federal Communications Commission. Requests for Environmental Review must be filed within 30 days of the date that notice of the project is published on the FCC's website. The FCC strongly encourages interested parties to file Requests for Environmental Review online at www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest. Paper requests can be submitted to: FCC Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554.



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'Blessed Assurance!' A Ladies Bible Conference on 1 John

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Thompsonville Community Church will hold "Blessed Assurance!" a Ladies Bible Conference on 1 John on Feb. 23-24 at the church, 2494 County Road 423, Waelder.

Sessions will be from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 23, and from 8:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 24. The cost of the conference is \$45 per person, which includes supper Friday and lunch Saturday. To reserve a spot, log onto <https://tccbibleconference.rsvpify.com>. Attendance is limited.

"In our world today, where there are so many uncertain things, we can be assured of the genuineness of our faith. Our hope in studying 1 John is that we will walk away completely assured of the authenticity of our faith, which will drive us to enjoy fellowship with God based on the truth about Jesus Christ, resulting in a lifestyle of obedience and love," according to a release by the church.

Guest speakers include:

- Nicole Dorris, originally from Utah, has been a Texan for many years. She

came to faith in Christ as a young adult. She has been married for 25 years with two young adult children. Nicole had the privilege of leading in Bible Study Fellowship for over twelve years, including five years as Teaching Leader.

She is pursuing seminary through a Titus 2 women's ministry and engaging in Biblical Counseling courses through ACBC (Association of Certified Biblical Counselors). Her primary objective is to address the issue of Biblical illiteracy by helping women recognize that the Holy Bible is an invaluable treasure, to be cherished and embraced as the ultimate source of truth. She will be teaching through the book of 1 John, aiming to guide attendees towards the blessed assurance of salvation.

- Kathleen Gibson currently resides in Leander, Texas, serving in her church, Grace Community Fellowship. She is pursuing Institute in Christian Leadership seminary classes through a Titus 2 Women's Ministry while also pursuing Biblical Counseling training through the Association of Certified Biblical Counselors.

Kathleen's passion is to know Jesus Christ more deeply and intimately, and to encourage and equip women to seek the Lord with all their heart through His Word; encouraging them to lean solely on His Divine Truth and Authority — for it is Jesus Christ who has the words of life within the Scriptures — our Standard that is complete and sufficient with absolute authority in every way. Kathleen has four children and eleven grandchildren.

- Debbie Schrull is a devoted wife of 34 years with three children and five grandchildren. Originally from California, Debbie and her spouse moved to Texas three years ago, to be closer to children and grandchildren. They are active members in their church, Grace Community Fellowship. Debbie humbly acknowledges her own shortcomings as a sinner but she finds solace in the grace and mercy bestowed upon her by God. Grateful for His unending love, she lives her life with a deep desire to serve and honor Him in all that she does.

Worship leaders include:

- Janet Krett, whose music has always

held a special place in her life. From a young age, Janet's musical talent was recognized, leading her to pursue music academically, double majoring in music education and voice performance at DePaul University in Chicago, Illinois. For a decade she taught music in public schools in the north. She is married for 25 years with two young adult children she homeschooled. She uses her talents in her Church, community, and beyond. She is humbled and awed at how God brings opportunities into her life, like this conference, where she can share her talents while bringing glory all back to Him. To God be the glory, great things He has done.

- Cheryl Roberts has been married 32 years. She left a nursing career to homeschool six children, some of whom are married now. She has six grandchildren. She has served in various children's and music ministries over the years.

Bring your Bibles and dress comfortably and join for worship, fellowship and encouragement. If you have any questions, email sarahwnunes@gmail.com or call 830-203-0478.

Master Gardeners to hold Lunch and Learn

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Master Gardeners will hold their Lunch and Learn, "Composting 101" from noon to 1 p.m. Feb. 13 at the PACE building, 623 N. Fair St., Gonzales. The event is free and open to the public.

Compost is nature's free plant food. Ready to start composting, but not sure where to start? Gonzales Master Gardener Nanette Monaghan is

here to help.

Nanette wants you to know that composting can be very easy, and will show you how!

Gonzales County Chapter of Texas Master Gardeners is hosting a Lunch and Learn that will teach you the magic of composting, so pack a sack lunch and join them. The Gonzales County Master Gardeners will share tea, cookies, and knowledge.

Masonic Lodge holds Spring Fish Fry

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Gonzales Masonic Lodge Spring Fish Fry. Eat in or take out at Gonzales VFW Post 4817, 3302 Harwood Road, Gonzales on Saturday, March 2, 2024 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

\$12 each ticket. Meal includes: Fried Catfish, French Fries, Hushpuppies, beans, & coleslaw, (Dessert & Tea included).

Fundraiser for Local charities: Gonzales County Christian Ministries and Gonzales Masonic Lodge General Fund.

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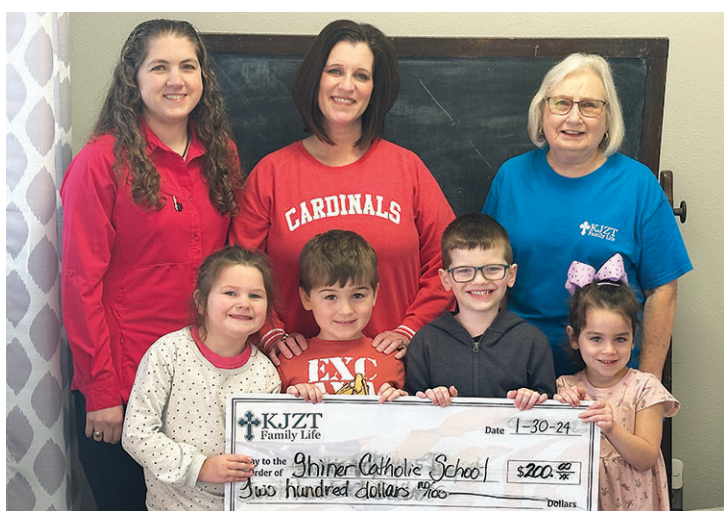
Michael Durrett 830-857-4442

Emmanuel Christian School honor roll announced

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Emmanuel Christian School announced the following students obtained honor roll status during the second quarter. Students included on the A and B Honor Roll were Jason Beck, Kensie Stamps and Raelyn Young. Making the all A's Honor Roll was Eli Stern. The staff at ECS congratulates these students for their achievement and expresses their appreciation for the good work completed by these students.

KJZT donates to Catholic Schools Week campaign



CONTRIBUTED/SHINER CATHOLIC SCHOOL

KJZT Society #5 donated \$200 to Shiner Catholic School during Catholic Schools Week. The school ran a Day of Giving campaign to raise \$25,000 for faculty and staff bonuses. KJZT Society #5 was the first donation to come into the school. Presenting the check are top row, from left, Allison Nieto KJZT, Neely Yackel, SCS Principal, and Rita Kurtz KJZT. Accepting the check are students, from left, Theresa Rapoza, August Kneseck, Liam Berger, and Josie Castello. Thanks to the many generous donations from family, friends, and supporters of the school, the goal of \$25,000 was reached!

Progressive resistance

“Hay” there y’all, ready for another beautiful day? Oh sorry, just saying good morning to my donkeys, as they were hollering for breakfast. Sometimes I feel kinda sorry for them, as they’re stuck eating grass every day, but upon reflection, noticed that they live a pretty long and healthy life with few glitches along the way. Then it crossed my mind that maybe we should learn something from animals, as they eat for survival, not as a pleasurable hobby as so many of us do. It’s seems funny that when we’re stressed, the first thing we turn to is food for comfort. Which over a period of time leads to weight gain & obesity, diabetes, clogged arteries & heart disease, and a host of other maladies that were mostly avoidable, or at least could’ve been held off for a while, leading to us being even more stressed... and the cycle repeats. I’ve noticed that when calves are separated from their mothers, the mothers will cry for them for several days, but yet, don’t try to force down a truck load worth of hay bales in one sitting. Hello, do they not know how this works? I believe that “Golden Corral” probably started out as a cattle feed lot, but with profits being only marginal, was soon turned into a buffet for human consumption and voila, profits sky rocketed!

In continuing with our quest for better health series, we’ll stay focused on the exercise portion, and save the diet and “portion” control aspects for later. Now in my late sixties, as far as diet and exercise goes, I’ve just about seen and tried it all. From total neglect to insane workouts, boxes of donuts to buckets of salad, and everything in between. In hindsight, it seems that moderation might be the way to go, as most things are an ongoing process and take time to see results. The basic exercises so far are the push-up, bent over row, abdominal crunch / deadlift, and squats. These will hit most major muscle groups, and if that’s all you do, will accomplish a lot. While starting off slowly (after some light stretching and warm up) is always recommended, the concept of “progressive resistance” now comes into play. Think of it as making something more difficult as you go along, which in turn makes you stronger and capable of doing even more. Over the years I’ve found that when first starting out, or after a layoff, or when recovering from injuries, and now getting a little long in the tooth (older), slow but steady progress will help not only avoid injury, but will almost eliminate that pesky muscle soreness most people experience, as we tend to underestimate how something we’re



not used to yet will effect us. For example, I’ll start with only one set of an exercise (until it feels like the muscle is working, not annihilated), and see how it feels the next day. If that muscle got slightly sore or tight, I’ll do the same the next time, if not, I’ll try two sets, etc. As you slowly build up, you’ll notice that what might have been difficult in the beginning, is now much easier, allowing you to do more or push a little harder. This is the concept of progressive resistance, and after a while you’ll probably need to get fitted for a new cape! This is just the beginning of our journey and may seem over simplistic for many, but for many, they may be just getting started and will find this approach not only more enjoyable, but more importantly...sustainable. Progress takes time, and most will quit early by starting out to aggressively, this is why health clubs typically sell more memberships than they can actually accommodate. So, take your time as life is a marathon, not a sprint. Until next time, love you guys, Eric.

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First Assembly of God
509 E. 3rd St., Nixon

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Country Baptist Church
Highway 87, Smiley
Eastside Baptist Church
Seydler Street, Gonzales
Efeso Iglesia Bautista
Highway 87, Smiley
Elm Grove Baptist Church
4337 FM 1115
Waelder, TX, 78959
First Baptist Church
422 St. Paul, Gonzales
First Baptist Church
403 N. Texas, Nixon
First Baptist Church
Highway 108 N., Smiley
First Baptist Church
406 N. Avenue E, Waelder
Greater Palestine Baptist Church
S. of 90A (sign on Hwy 80)
Greater Rising Star Baptist Church
Harwood Baptist Church
North of Post Office, Harwood
Iglesia Bautista Macedonia
201 S. Congress, Nixon
Iglesia Bautista Memorial
Highway 97, Waelder
Leesville Baptist Church
E. of Highway 80 on CR 121
Memorial Heights Baptist Church
1330 N. College, Gonzales
Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church
100 Capes, Gonzales
Oak Valley Baptist Church
Highway 97, Bebe
Old Moulton Baptist Church
1121 N. College, Gonzales

Providence Missionary Baptist Church
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Stratton Primitive Baptist
FM 1447,
9 miles east of Cuero
St. James Baptist Church
Hwy 80, north of Belmont.
St. Paul Baptist Church
SE 2nd Street, Waelder
Shiner Baptist Church
Union Lea Baptist Church
St. Andrew St., Gonzales
Union Valley Baptist Church
FM 1681, NW of Nixon

CATHOLIC
St. James Catholic Church
417 N. College, Gonzales
Sacred Heart Catholic Church
St. John St., Gonzales
St. Joseph Catholic Church
207 S. Washington, Nixon
St. Patrick Catholic Church
Waelder
St. Phillip Catholic Church
Highway 87, Smiley

CHRISTIAN
First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
712 Crockett, Luling

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201 E. Second St. Nixon
Church of Christ
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Church of Christ, Belmont

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Gonzales Memorial Church of God in Christ
1113 Hastings, Gonzales
New Beginnings
1020 St. Louis, Gonzales
Episcopal Episcopal Church of the Messiah
721 S. Louis, Gonzales

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Dewville United Methodist
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First Methodist
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410 N. Franklin, Nixon
Flatonia United Methodist
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S. Liberty St., Nixon
Harwood Methodist Church
Harwood
Henson Chapel United Methodist
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Bread of Life Ministries
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Encouraging Word Christian Fellowship
Highway 80, Leesville
Lighthouse Church of Our Lord
1805 Weimar, Gonzales
New Life Temple for Jesus Christ
16214 US 90 W, Harwood
River of Life Christian Fellowship
207 Steele St., Smiley
Thompsonville Community Church
CR 423, Thompsonville
Between Harwood & Waelder off old Hwy. 90
Two Rivers Bible Church
1600 Sarah DeWitt Dr., Suite 210, Gonzales
INTER-DENOMINATIONAL
Faith Family Church
1812 Cartwheel Dr., Gonzales
Living Waters Fellowship
306 St. Paul, Gonzales
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Faith Temple
Hwy. 80 (N. Nixon Ave.), Nixon
Holy Temple of Jesus Christ No. 2
1515 Dallas, Gonzales
Iglesia Pentecostes Filadelfia
893 S. Magnolia Ave., Luling
Temple Bethel Pentecostal
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GISD Education Foundation ‘prize patrol’ awards \$18K in grants

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Gonzales Independent School District Education Foundation “prize patrol” made nine Gonzales ISD teachers very happy Monday, Feb. 5, when they surprised them in their classrooms with Innovative Teacher Grant awards.

GISD Education Foundation board members, along with GISD Superintendent Dr. Elmer Avelaneda visited teachers to give grant checks totaling \$18,214.56 to the following teachers:

- Gonzales Primary

Academy: Jessica Boulter
 • Gonzales Elementary: Kelsey Boulter, Kaily Hillman, Kendall Fougerat and Brenda Hernandez

• Gonzales North Avenue: Brent Baker and Amanda Grahmann
 • Gonzales Jr. High School: Tracey Patek
 • Gonzales High School: John Dunn

The grants ranged from rugs in the rooms to technology for the classrooms.

Since 2011, the Gonzales ISD Education Foundation has made a difference for teachers and students within the



district through awarding over \$318,000 in teaching grants to Gonzales ISD faculty and staff for resources, projects, and programs outside the scope of traditional school funding. In addition to awarding annual Teacher grants, the Foundation began awarding Campus grants in 2023 for eligible projects as a way of extending the

reach and impact of the organization’s mission even further.

Grants are designed to encourage, facilitate, and recognize and reward innovative and creative instructional approaches to accomplish program objectives. Teachers receiving grants have enhanced their classrooms and curriculum with projects ranging from

center accessories and active learning furnishings, to materials and technology that enhance lesson modules.

Teacher grants of up to \$2,500 and Campus grants of up to \$6,500 are awarded annually. The number of grants given each year is determined by the amount of funds available from the Foundation. Criteria for grant consideration include: clarity of objectives and how the project will be implemented, the reach of students the project will benefit, the degree to which student academic performance is emphasized, and measurability of successful impact through evaluation procedures, to name a few. The Gonzales ISD

Education Foundation is governed by a volunteer board of directors and operates exclusively for charitable purposes. The Foundation links community resources — time, money, services, expertise — with the needs of our schools to enhance and complement the educational mission of Gonzales ISD.

GISD Education Foundation board members include President Josh C. Gray; Vice President of Programs/GISD Adrienne Steen; Vice President of Development TziTzi Daniel; Vice President of Finance Monica Leal; Vice President of Marketing Naomi Brown; and Secretary Krystal Olmos.



VC’s ‘What’s Your Story?’ scholarship contest open

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Victoria College students will have the opportunity to win \$1,000 scholarships by telling their story in the an-

nual “What’s Your Story?” scholarship contest.

Current VC students are invited to submit an essay explaining how education or training will help shape their futures in 250 words or more. Students may write about life events, challenges they have faced, sources of inspiration, and how they stay driven while pursuing their education and career goals.

In addition to receiving a \$1,000 scholarship, the winners’ stories will be featured in local media and on VC’s social media accounts.



The deadline to submit an application and essay is April 5.

For more information on contest guidelines and

other VC scholarship opportunities, visit VictoriaCollege.edu/Scholarships or contact Susan Prukop at (361) 582-2419.



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



Tim and Jennie Reiley of Nixon, Texas are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Anna Reiley, to Robert Hughes, son of Ken Hughes of Corpus Christi, Texas, and Susan Hughes of Converse, Texas. The couple have planned to wed in May of this year, in a small ceremony in Nixon, Texas.

OBITUARIES

JOY NELL SPAHN LOW



Joy Nell Spahn Low, age 94, entered eternity with Jesus her Savior on February 4, 2024. She was born at home in Gonzales on July 13, 1929 to Walter Adam and Veda Pearl Caraway Spahn, the fourth of seven children. She married Clarence David Low of Gonzales on May 3, 1947, and she graduated from Gonzales High School a couple weeks later. Their only son, Walter David Low, was born to them in 1953.

Joy Nell was a loving wife and mother to her family. They lived in several different cities in south Texas, moving as required for her husband's work for rural electric cooperatives. During that time, Joy Nell was employed by Medina Electric Coop for 10 years herself. She had many stories to tell about their time in Uvalde where they were friends with, and frequently entertained, Mr. and Mrs. Dolph Briscoe. The Lows returned to Gonzales to live in 1990. Traveling the U.S. was something Joy was able to enjoy and she took many

trips with the Baptist Church XYZs. Some of her favorite destinations were Branson, Missouri; Terlingua, Texas; and Nashville, Tennessee. Her favorite trips, though, were to the beaches of the Texas Gulf coast. She regaled her family and friends with many amusing stories of vacations at Indianola and South Padre Island. South Padre Island was her favorite place to visit with her extended family. Her family will remember her as a funny lady who always had a story to tell. She possessed a dry sense of humor and a quick wit that will be forever missed by those who knew and loved her.

She was preceded in death by her parents and siblings: brothers Lewis Spahn, Kenneth Spahn, and Wayne Spahn; sisters Linda June Spahn, Odessa Harborth, Elaine Martin Rose. Her husband and son also predeceased her. She is survived by her daughter-in-law, Rachel Low of Ennis, TX; sister-in-law, Loretta Spahn of Gonzales; brother-in-law, Winston Low and wife Louise of Victoria, TX; and many nieces and nephews.

A graveside service will be held on Friday, February 9 at 2 p.m. at the Odd Fellows Cemetery in Gonzales with Reverend Clint Lowery officiating. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations be made to Memorial Heights Baptist Church of Gonzales.

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

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

DOROTHY IONE WILEY BAKER



Dorothy Ione Wiley Baker passed away on Friday, January 26, 2024, at the age of 85. She was born in Gonzales, on August 31, 1938, to parents Fritz Jackson Wiley and Lela Ann Gibson Wiley.

Dorothy married the love of her life, Charles C. Baker, on January 18, 1958. They raised a family and shared 66 years of marriage together. After staying home with their children until they were old enough for school, she had a long career at BR Kidd Trucking in Luling before going to work at Palmetto State Park in Gonzales. She finally retired after 10 years at the park and dedicated the remainder of her life to taking care of her family.

Dorothy is survived by her loving husband Charles C. Baker, great-

granddaughter Heaven Alexandria Lockhart, son William Baker, stepson Richard (Marion) Baker, sister Wilma Holst, and brother Jack Wiley. She is also survived by her grandchildren Trisha (Cody) Lawson, Shay (Alex) Harmon, Clint (Jasmine) Baker, Lacey (Greg) Kuntzschik, and great-grandchildren Zane, Jaclyn, Isaac, Kasen,

Cayde, Tatum and Joel. She is preceded in death by her parents, daughters Patsy Baker and Karen Pena, stepson Jack Baker, grandson Jeremy Baker, siblings Otha Wiley, Louise Warren, Clifton Wiley, Annie Pearl McDonald, Estha Kuntzschik, and Kathleen Bolton.

There will be a visitation at Seydler - Hill Funeral Home on Wednesday, January 31, 2024, from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. A funeral service will also be held at Seydler - Hill Funeral Home on Thursday, February 1, 2024, at 10:00am. Interment will proceed at Ebenezer Cemetery. Pallbearers will include Zane Archer, Clinton Baker, Cody Lawson, Greg Kuntzschik Jr., Eric Kuntzschik, Kevin Kuntzschik and Gary Baker.

LAW ENFORCEMENT WEEKLY REPORTS

Gonzales County Sheriff's Office

01/28/24 - 02/03/24

01/28/24

• Perez, Jacob Moses, 05/2000, Seguin: Warrantless/On-View - Driving While Intoxicated, Released \$3,500 Bond

02/01/24

• Mercer, Bill Spencer, III, 12/1989: Local Warrant - Assault Public Servant, Requires \$50,000 Bond, Remains In Custody

02/02/24

• Martinez, Sharron, 08/1974, Nixon: Local Warrant - Assault Causes Bodily Injury Family Member, Requires \$1,500 Bond, Remains In Custody

• San Miguel, Michael Ray, 11/1985, Gonzales: Commitment/Sentence -

Injury Child/Elderly/Disable W/Int Bodily Inj, Released - Weekender

- Riojas, Coty John, 06/1987, Nixon: Commitment/Sentence - Criminal Mischief >=\$100 <\$750, Released - Weekender
- Pelletier, Tristin Scott, 07/1996, Gonzales: Local Warrant - Injury Child/Elderly/Disable W/Int Bodily Inj, Released - \$75,000 Bond
- Rodriguez-Palomares, Jose Rosario, 01/1986, Austin: Local Warrant - Injury Child/Elderly/Disable W/Int Bodily Inj, Requires \$25,000 Bond; Other Agency Hold - Immigration Detainer, Remains in Custody
- Bean, Jessica Lorene, 06/1987, Cuero: Commitment/Sentence - Poss Cs Pg 1/1-B >=\$4g<200g, Remains In Custody

• Newhouse, Justin Joseph, 04/1980, Maxwell: Commitment/Sentence - Tamper/Fabricate Phys Evid W/Inten To Impair, Commitment/Sentence - Poss Cs Pg 1/1-B < 1g, Remains In Custody

Total Arrest, Court Commitments, other agency arrest and processing's:	
GCSO	09
DPS	05
GPD	04
WPD	00
NPD	05
GISD	00
SMO	00
Constable 1	00
Constable 3	00
Constable 4	00
DWCSO	00
DEA	00
TPW	00
GCAI	00
Rangers	00
Other	00
Total	23

DANIEL JOSEPH PEKAR JR.



Daniel Joseph Pekar, Jr., 59 joined our Heavenly Father on January 30, 2024. He was born in Gonzales, Texas to Daniel and Dolores Pekar.

Daniel was a man who was "all about" family. He loved spending time with his 4 sons, his grandson, his 5 sisters and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. Daniel was an avid hunter, fisherman, outdoorsman. Daniel absolutely loved listening and dancing to polka music. He joked around with everyone and was always full of fun and laughter. As a young man, Daniel worked for Fehner & Son Grain Co. in Gonzales and after moving to San Marcos worked for several different trucking companies.

stand the reason God called him home, but He has gained a loyal, devoted servant.

Daniel is survived by his wife, Janie Pekar, sons Colton Gray Staton, Dalyn Payne Pekar, Weston Tanner Pekar, Luis Adrian Martinez, grandson Colton Jay Staton, his sisters Betty Jo Contreras (Rando), Susan Gail Gar-

cia (Jesse), and Beverly Bond (Joe) and Jeanette Pekar. He is also survived by many nieces, nephews, cousins and dear friends. He is preceded in death by his first wife Judith Annette Pekar, parents Daniel and Dolores Pekar, and sister Kathleen Marie Balderas.

Family will receive friends from 5:00pm-8:00pm Monday, February 5, 2024 with recitation of the Holy Rosary at 7:00pm at Pennington Funeral Home, 323 N. Comanche St., San Marcos, Texas. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Tuesday, February 6th, 10:00am at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, 310 Lockhart St., Martindale, Texas.

Group helps childraising grandparents

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren will

be meeting at First Presbyterian Church of Seguin, 1121 E. Walnut St., Seguin on Feb. 16, starting at 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Any questions please call 830-379-5421 please leave a message if no one is available. Some-

one will get back to you as soon as they receive the message.

If you are a grandparent raising a grandchild, this group is available to assist with questions regarding your rights and benefits available to you.

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Gonzales Healthcare Systems February 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			Dr. Ryan Dr. Echols	1 2
Austin MFM 5	Dr. Echols 6	Dr. Quebedeaux Dr. Miller 7	Dr. Ryan Dr. Echols 8	Amy Trost Dr. Miller 9
Austin MFM 12 Dr. Malik Dr. Desai	Dr. Echols 13 Dr. Quintero DeTar Oncology	Dr. Quebedeaux Dr. Twitero 14	Dr. Ryan Dr. Echols Dr. Malik 15	Dr. Bui 16
Austin MFM 19	Dr. Echols 20	Dr. Quebedeaux Dr. Miller 21	Dr. Ryan Dr. Kirchner Dr. Echols 22	23
Austin MFM 26	Dr. Echols 27	Dr. Quebedeaux 28	Dr. Ryan Dr. Echols 29	

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Hearing Specialist
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Yong Du, MD
361-576-0011

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Oncology
DeTar Cancer Center
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Pain Management
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830-272-7746

Urology
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Ophthalmology
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Orthopedics
Trent Twitero, MD
830-625-0009

Podiatry
Terri Quebedeaux, DPM, PA
830-303-0005
Charles White, DPM
830-303-0005

Austin Maternal Fetal Medicine
512-821-2540

NEWBURY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

commitment to the work ethic. No cheating, foul words or facades were allowed," Laura remembers. "I'm in education, too, and learned from Dad to get inside kids' heads to teach them." David, also a University of Texas graduate, has served the Linbeck Group, a Texas-based commercial construction company, for 42 years, rising through the ranks to CEO 12 years ago...

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



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Feel the Difference

Comptroller applauds Rural Law Enforcement grant applications

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar today said his office received more than 500 applications for financial assistance from rural law enforcement and prosecutor offices requesting nearly \$125 million for salary assistance. The application deadline was Jan. 31.

Enacted by Senate Bill 22 during the 88th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, these programs will provide financial assistance in the form of supplemental salaries to sheriff's departments, constable's offices, and district and county

attorney's offices in eligible counties. The Comptroller's office cites high levels of participation by eligible entities, with more than 94 percent of the eligible rural sheriff's offices and nearly 86 percent of the eligible prosecutor's offices applying for these grant programs.

"The state of Texas is adding another layer of support to ensure our communities are safe through these rural grant programs, and I'm extremely proud of the work my office has done to help law enforcement offices across this state get the additional financial tools they need," Hegar said. "I am grate-

ful to all the state lawmakers who passed this legislation, worked with county judges and prosecutors in their districts to raise awareness regarding the availability of these dollars and ensured that law enforcement agencies and prosecutor offices applied for this grant funding.

"For the Texas economy to grow and prosper, we must make sure that Texas families feel safe, and that requires supporting our local law enforcement men and women who work tirelessly every day. Tragically, some governmental jurisdictions are defunding the police, yet thankfully Texas leadership has stepped up

with additional support for law enforcement agencies across our vast state."

The grant programs allow the Comptroller's office to administer the following to counties with populations of less than 300,000 people:

- The Rural Sheriff's Department Salary Assistance Grant Program awards grants between \$250,000 and \$500,000. The grant funding must be used to provide specified minimum salaries, give salary increases, hire additional deputies or staff for the department, or to purchase safety equipment for the sheriff's department.

- The Rural Constable's Office Salary Assistance Grant Program provides financial assistance to constable's offices. The grant funding must be used to provide a minimum salary of \$45,000 to an elected constable who makes motor vehicle stops in the routine performance of the constable's duties.

- The Rural Prosecutor's Office Salary Assistance Grant Program awards grants between \$100,000 and \$275,000. The grant funding must be used to increase the salary of assistant attorneys, investigators and victim assistance coordinators, or to hire additional staff.

HAY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

averages. Back-to-back years have led to deeper culling and difficult decision making for some producers about their herds even as cow/calf prices remain historically strong.

Cleere said spotty rains delivered moisture to some parts of the state early and other areas late in the hay season last year. That provided decent early or late-season cuttings for those areas, but forage production was held back by hot, dry conditions overall.

"Texas had two rough summers, and producers can absorb a miss one year with reserves from the previous haying season, but two years in a row becomes more challenging," he said. "We really haven't stopped feeding hay since mid-July on our farm, and that is a challenge for producers who aren't producing their own hay, given bale prices."

TIGHT HAY SUPPLIES DRIVING PRICES HIGHER

David Anderson, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension economist and professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics, Bryan-College Station, said tight supplies and higher demand is driving prices upward. Anderson said Dec. 1 hay stocks were the third lowest on record behind 2022 and 2012, respectively.

Texas hay yields averaged 1.87 tons per acre in 2023 compared to 1.56 tons per acre in 2022, but tonnage was still below historic averages, he said. Producers had yielded 1.95 tons per acre on average since 2012.

The national price for round bales is \$102, but Cleere said grass hay bales in Texas have been selling for \$100-\$140, or \$200-\$280 per ton based on quality.

Some ranchers are shipping in hay and alfalfa from out of state due to low availability locally, Cleere said. Anderson said Oklahoma hay stocks were up 97% compared to last year, while New Mexico, which produces mostly alfalfa, was up 25% and Kansas was down 12%.

"Prices are not as high as a year ago, but they are indicative of the tighter

supplies and higher input costs," Anderson said. "There are fewer cows to feed, but the costs to keep herds fed through winter after poor hay and grazing production has translated into tough decisions for some producers."

CONDITIONS FOR GRAZING, HAY SEASON IMPROVING

Vanessa Corriher-Olson, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension forage specialist and professor in the Department of Soil and Crop Sciences, Overton, said recent rainfall could alleviate some producer concerns. Storm systems that delivered moisture to much of the state could improve conditions in established cool-season forages, like winter wheat or annual ryegrass. The rain should also improve conditions as warm-season perennial grasses begin breaking dormancy this spring.

Cool-season forage conditions for some producers, especially in areas with more moisture like East Texas, were good for grazing, and the rain should help improve production, she said. However, grazing availability is a mixed bag around the state, even in East Texas where many producers may have not seeded ryegrass due to dry conditions in September and October.

In other parts of the state like the Panhandle and South Plains, sporadic soil moisture led to decent winter wheat establishment, but little production for some and failure for others. Some dry-sown fields had yet to emerge, and AgriLife Extension experts said the recent moisture may be too late to help grazing.

"The producers who planted in mid-October are having success, but I think fewer people planted this year because of drought and doubts about rainfall," Corriher-Olson said. "But now we're in February, and I've gotten calls from people wanting to plant because they are out of hay and don't have anything to graze. The moisture will help what is up, but unfortunately, it's too late to plant."

The key now, she said, is to focus on

what can be done to optimize hay output in 2024. Unfortunately, many forage producers have reduced fertilizer inputs or cut them completely over the previous two seasons because of high prices in 2021 and drought in 2022.

The lack of fertility and overgrazing could lead to compounding problems this season, she said. Lack of fertility, especially potassium, has led to unhealthy and thinning stands in Bermuda grass fields while overgrazing will likely result in a "bumper crop" of annual weeds.

Producers should start with a soil sample now that there is moisture to make sampling easier, she said. Analysis is the only way to know the state of soil and its ability to support warm-season perennial grass production.

Planning also will give producers time to shop around for contract fertilizer options to meet the soil fertility requirements recommended based on the soil analysis, she said.

"Low fertility, unhealthy or overgrazed stands will not recover as quickly without reducing competition with weeds and feeding the grass what it needs to grow," she said. "We will need more rain going into and during the growing season, but this moisture should bring some optimism."

OUTLOOK REMAINS POSITIVE FOR CATTLE PRODUCERS

Cleere said the future looks bright for cattle producers who have been able to hold and maintain good body conditions on quality cows and heifers. But balancing feeding costs with potential gains and realized sale prices for calves will be critical for short- and long-term profitability.

He recommends continued assessment of both hay rations, body conditions and potential culls of older or troublesome cows and to consider earlier weaning of calves to reduce pressure on cows.

Producers should also consider moving cattle to smaller holding locations for winter feeding to help other grazing pastures recover quicker, he said.

DPS launches state's Violent Offender Database

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) is pleased to announce that the Violent Offender Database is now available. This new database launched on December 29, 2023 — officially going live ahead of its required Jan. 1, 2024, deadline.

The new database was created by House Bill 5202 during the regular session of the 88th Texas Legislature. This bill required DPS to create and maintain a public centralized database of offenders who have committed certain violent offenses, including those involving family violence. DPS provides access to the website free of charge.

The Violent Offender Database contains information regarding offenders who, on two or more occasions, have been convicted of assault, sexual assault, aggravated assault or aggravated sexual assault involving family violence. This also includes offenders who have been convicted of continuous violence against the family, stalking or any combination of such offenses.

The database includes the offender's full name, date of birth, a recent photograph and a physical description, or as much information as possible. It also includes a list of applicable offenses, the date of conviction, punishment and outcomes for each offense.

The department worked with the Texas Council on Family Violence on both the website design and language to ensure the site was easy to use and contained valuable information for those searching the site. To access the Violent Offender Database, visit the DPS website.



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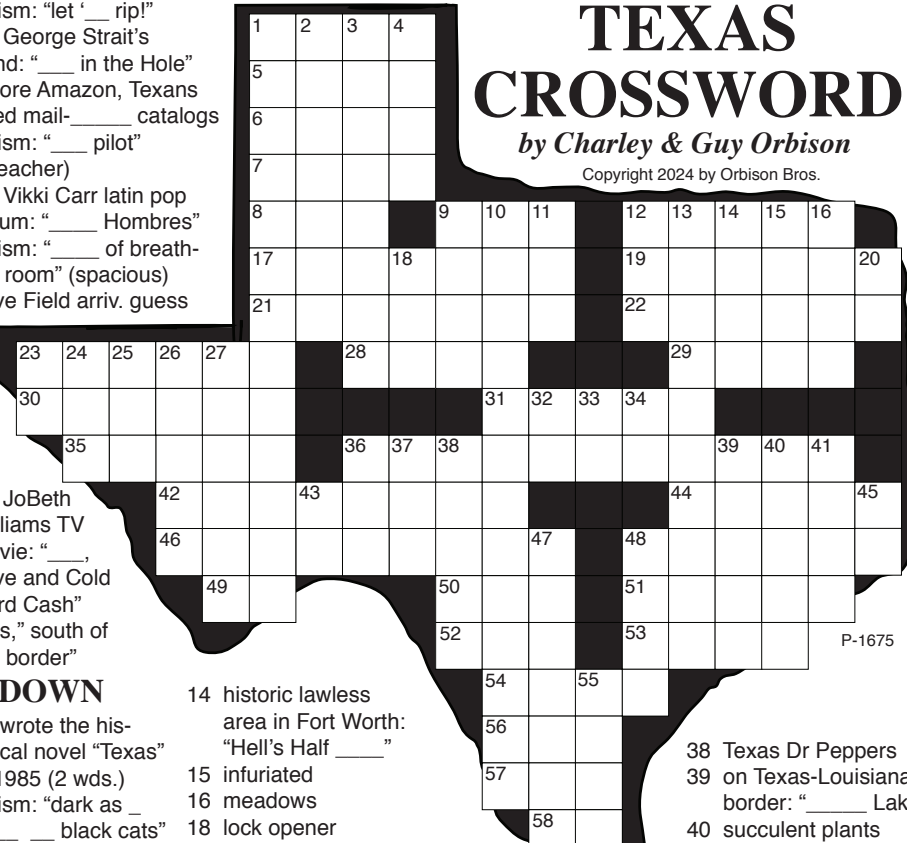
by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

- 1 first name of actor who played "Jake" in 1969 "Support Your Local Sheriff"
- 5 rainbow's end? (2 wds.)
- 6 silent actor
- 7 last name of actor in 1-across
- 8 Ted Cruz title (abbr.)
- 9 org. of the Spurs
- 12 TXism: "skinny as _____"
- 17 those who mimic people scornfully
- 19 classified top _____
- 21 TXism: "_____ a dog, he wouldn't wag his own tail" (lazy)
- 22 "it's _____ come true"
- 23 cloth
- 28 "the _____ of Texas are upon you"
- 29 crimsons
- 30 "take your time" (2 wds.)
- 31 this Dave was Cowboys QB coach (1989-90)
- 35 TXism: "mean as an old _____ cow"
- 36 not convinced (2 wds.)
- 42 in Texas, snow is often _____ after it falls
- 44 broad valleys
- 46 advanced stealthily (2 wds.)
- 48 in Ellis County on I-35

DOWN

- 1 he wrote the historical novel "Texas" in 1985 (2 wds.)
- 2 TXism: "dark as _____ black cats"
- 3 city with the "Chief" newspaper
- 4 "Talk" AM in Temple
- 9 Kerr County: "Kid '____ Fiber Festival"
- 10 equalizer in a fight (2 wds.)
- 11 biblical donkey
- 12 TXism: "confused _____ goat on astroturf"
- 13 Texas Tech athletic teams (2 wds.)
- 14 historic lawless area in Fort Worth: "Hell's Half _____"
- 15 infuriated
- 16 meadows
- 18 lock opener
- 20 first two initials of 24th governor, Campbell
- 23 noncitizen resident (abbr.)
- 24 FM station format that started in 1960s
- 25 bikini top
- 26 ladder features
- 27 TX Don Henley co-wrote "After the Thrill _____"
- 32 TXism: "_____ two-steps to his own beat"
- 33 TXism: "that gets my dander _____"
- 34 Dan Patrick is _____ Gov. of Texas
- 36 pose a question
- 37 TCU BB coach, Iba (1987-1994)
- 38 Texas Dr Peppers
- 39 on Texas-Louisiana border: "_____ Lake"
- 40 succulent plants
- 41 rich Texans once flew in _____ jets
- 43 this Ed was "Mingo" when TX Fess was "Daniel Boone" (init.)
- 45 TX Sissy's "Carrie" was based on this writer's novel (init.)
- 47 cacti used for a hallucinogenic drug
- 48 small Eurasian deer
- 55 airport transport



P-1675

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

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

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

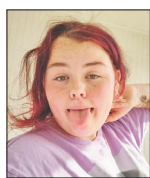
Answers found in next week's Classifieds.

MISSING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Sheriff's Office would like to thank the citizens with all the information assisting with this case. The Gonzales County Sheriff's Office would also like to thank the San Marcos Police Department, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation for their assistance in locating Scarlet and apprehending Barry Vanmersbergen," the department said in a press release this afternoon

authorized use of a motor vehicle out of Dallas County — a state jail felony. He remained in the Hays County Jail Wednesday night.



Smith

Deputies had put out the Amber Alert on Tuesday, Jan. 30 for Smith because they believed her to be in danger after she went missing on Monday, Jan. 29. She was last seen at 11 p.m. Monday in the 15700 block of West US 90-A in Gonzales.

Vanmersbergen was charged by San Marcos police with obstruction or retaliation, a third-degree felony; harboring a runaway child, a Class A misdemeanor; and resisting arrest, search or transport, a Class A misdemeanor. He was also charged with evading arrest or detention, a Class A misdemeanor, dating from Dec. 7, 2023, and a parole violation for un-

Authorities early on believed she was with Vanmersbergen, who also was known to go by the name "Ben." It appears Smith went willingly with Vanmersbergen as a runaway though they had initially feared she had been abducted. Due to the age difference between the two individuals, they treated the situation seriously.

FORUM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

keeper for the event. The host for the event is Gonzales County GOP Chair Liz Hernandez.

Candidates for contested offices in the March 5 Republican primary — Precinct 1 Commissioner, Precinct 2 Commissioner and Precinct 1 Constable as well as candidates for House District 44 — will introduce themselves and then be asked a series of questions by the moderator, with each being given a minute to respond. The candidates will then give a brief closing statement.

This is not a debate and candidates will not address each other, but instead will address the audience when giving

their answers. The event is being held as a friendly exercise in the political process and as a way for voters to get to know those who wish to serve the community in these elected positions.

Candidates for other offices, including uncontested local races as well as state and federal races, are welcome to set up a table, distribute literature and be introduced and give a two-minute "elevator speech" about their candidacy for office and why they are best qualified for the position.

Set up time for candidates is at 5 p.m. Admission to the forum is free and seating is first-come, first-served.

BUNCO

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Ipad for the city of Gonzales; the Texas Brain Injury camps; and scholarships for high school students in the Gonzales Anchor Pilot Club.

The Gonzales Pilot Club is a non-profit

organization within Pilot International. Pilot International's mission is "Influencing Positive Change in Communities throughout the World."

The Gonzales Pilot Club welcomes anyone interested in supporting

our mission. Contact Liz Reiley for information at (830) 857-3744 or Liz.reiley@gmail.com

The Gonzales Pilot Club thanks all the participants and the very generous donors for the Silent Auction.



UIL Reclassification and Realignment Conference Cutoff Numbers 2024-2025 & 2025-2026



Conference Cutoffs

6A	2275 and above	249 schools; 249 (Basketball); 249 (Football); 247 (Volleyball)
5A	1315 – 2274	252 schools; 251 (Basketball); 248 (Football); 252 (Volleyball)
4A	545 – 1314	217 schools; 216 (Basketball); 200 (Football); 215 (Volleyball)
3A	254 – 544	230 schools; 230 (Basketball); 200 (Football); 220 (Volleyball)
2A	105 – 253	226 schools; 226 (Basketball); 206 (Football); 170 (Volleyball)
1A	104.9 and below	216 schools; 215 (Basketball); 154 (Football); 123 (Volleyball)

1A – 5A Football Division I and Division II Numbers

1A Division I	61.5 – 104.9	78 schools
1A Division II	61.4 and below	76 schools
2A Division I	181.5 – 253	103 schools
2A Division II	105 – 181.4	103 schools
3A Division I	369 – 544	100 schools
3A Division II	254 – 368	100 schools
4A Division I	957 – 1314	107 schools
4A Division II	545 – 956	93 schools
5A Division I	1903 – 2274	129 schools
5A Division II	1315 – 1902	119 schools

UIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ate a seven-team district.

The move threatens a rivalry that began in 1916 and has been played 85 times overall, including the last 26 years in a row. The two teams did not play each other in 1996 or 1997. They played before that for 32 consecutive seasons from 1954 through 1995. Cuero has a 47-37-1 overall lead in the series, with Gonzales' last win coming in 2019 in a 21-20 classic.

If Gonzales advances to the playoffs in football, they will play a team from District 14, which includes Bandera, Carrizo Springs, Devine, Pearsall and San Antonio Memorial. Cuero would play a team from District 16, which includes Kingsville King, La Feria, Port Isabel and Rio Grande City Grulla.

Former Apache district foes Giddings, Caldwell and La Grange are now playing Bellville, Madisonville and Sealy in District 11-4A-II.

In Class 3A-II, Nixon-Smilely said goodbye to Comfort and South San Antonio West in their district, but will again be playing their nemesis in Stockdale, which moved back up from 2A-I. The teams last played in 2021, when the Brahmas beat the Bulldogs, 31-12.

Nixon and Smiley consolidated in 1983 and the combined school has only played Stockdale three times since in football, losing all three, but the Nixon Bobcats played Stockdale 58 times between 1914 and 1982, with Stockdale holding a 28-25-5 advantage.

The full District 15-3A-II also includes holdovers Dilley, Karnes City, Natalia and Poth in addition to newcomers Cotulla and San Antonio YMLA. If Nixon-Smilely advances to the playoffs in football, they will face District 16-3A-II, which includes Banquete, George West, Hebronville, Monte Alto, Odem, Santa Rosa and Taft.

VOLLEYBALL

Gonzales' road to the playoffs in volleyball got a little easier as they were placed in District 28-4A with Cuero, La Vernia, San Antonio Kennedy and San Antonio Memorial. The math is simple: sweep one team in district (most likely Kennedy or Memorial) and you're automatically in as at least a fourth-place team. Sweep two and you're at least in third place, even with powerhouses Cuero and La Vernia in the mix.

In bi-district, Gonzales would then play a team from District 27-4A like Carrizo Springs, Devine, Floresville, Pearsall, Pleasanton, Somerset or Uvalde.

Nixon-Smilely finds itself in District 26-3A with Goliad, Karnes City, Luling, Poth and Stockdale, while former foes Marion, SA Great Hearts Monte Vista, SA Great Hearts Northern Oaks, YMLA, SA Cole and Universal City Randolph are in District 27-3A. A playoff berth for the Lady Mustangs would find them playing a team from District 25-3A, like Altair Rice, Columbus, Edna, El Maton Tidehaven, Hallettsville,

Palacios, Vanderbilt Industrial or Yoakum.

Waelder is in a four-team District 28-A with Fayetteville, Prairie Lea and Round Top-Carmine. The top three schools advance to the playoffs. If Waelder is one, they would play a team from District 27-A, which includes Buckholts, Calvert, Dime Box and North Zulch.

BASKETBALL

Gonzales' boys and girls teams will have familiar foes in Cuero, La Vernia, San Antonio Kennedy and San Antonio Memorial in District 28-4A, with the boys also picking up SA Harmony Science. Playoffs would mean facing a team from District 27-4A, which are Carrizo Springs, Devine, Floresville, Pearsall, Pleasanton, Somerset and Uvalde.

For Nixon-Smilely, their basketball district will be the same as volleyball: District 26-3A with Goliad, Karnes City, Luling, Poth and Stockdale. Winning a playoff berth also means a game against a District 25-3A school: Altair Rice, Columbus, Edna, El Maton Tidehaven, Hallettsville, Palacios, Vanderbilt Industrial or Yoakum.

Waelder will be in a stacked District 30-A in basketball, facing Austwell-Tivoli, Matagorda, Moulton, Nordheim, Prairie Lea and Runge. Winning a payoff berth means facing a District 29-A team like Buckholts, Calvert, Dime Box, Fayetteville, North Zulch, Richards or Round Top-Carmine.

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Police detain man for odd behavior at Nixon-Smiley CISD daycare

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

A man was detained Friday, Feb. 2, at the Nixon-Smiley Consolidated ISD daycare after causing a disturbance. At about 6:30 a.m., a man

who claimed to have been threatened by another individual attempted to follow one of the daycare employees into the building, Superintendent Jeff VanAuken said. The daycare employee denied the subject

access to the building and alertly called local law enforcement. Nixon police arrived and detained the individual for being “under the influence,” Van Auken added.

“The district, along with Nixon PD, feels like this was an isolated incident and that the safety of our students and staff remains intact,” he said. “Out of extreme caution, a police presence will remain

on our campus throughout the day. The district would like to thank Nixon PD for their quick response and would also like to assure the community that the safety of our students and staff is our number one priority.”

HIGHWAY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Unified Transportation Plan (UTP).

Hunter Industries of San Marcos received the \$39,193,544.65 contract to widen the roadway and add lanes on Texas 80 from the intersection with US 90-A in Belmont to 1.23 miles north of FM 1682 in Leesville for a total of 18.033 miles. That amount was \$18,773,655.65 more than the \$20,419,889 TxDOT had earmarked for the project in the 2024 UTP, which broke down the full project to revamp Texas 80 from the Guadalupe County line to just north of Nixon into a Super 2 into three parts.

A Super 2 Highway is a two-lane rural highway in which a periodic passing lane has been added to allow faster vehicles to pass. The passing lane typically alternates from one direction of travel to the other within a section of roadway, which allows periodic passing opportunities in both directions in a safe manner. The transitions at the beginning and end of the passing lane allow sufficient room for the diverging and merging traffic.

The UTP also calls for \$26,769,745 to upgrade Texas 80 from the Guadalupe County line to US 90A in Belmont and \$31,229,156 to upgrade Texas 80 from 1.23 miles north of FM 1682 to the intersection with FM 1681. Those projects have not been let yet.

Funding for Texas 80 was included in the plan due to its connectivity to Interstate 10, a vital corridor which connects San Antonio to Houston. The southern part of the highway also sees a great deal of energy sector traffic because of natural gas extraction in the Eagle Ford Shale, one of the largest natural gas fields in the country.

Other projects let last month by the Texas Transportation Commission in the Yoakum District include:

COLORADO COUNTY

Gibson & Associates Inc. of Balch Springs was awarded the \$8,899,649.39 contract for bridge maintenance on Texas 71 from US 90 UP RR eastbound and westbound for a total of 1.022 miles.

DEWITT COUNTY

Acme Bridge Company Inc. of New Braunfels received the \$3,648,033.01 contract for bridge replacement at Sandies Creek to STR #AA01-66-001 (Westhoff-Cheapside).

FAYETTE COUNTY

Hunter Industries of San Marcos won the contract to widen road and add lanes with a bid of \$112,692,655.90 on US 77 from Texas 71 to 0.56 miles north of County Road 156 for a total of 12.328 miles.

VICTORIA COUNTY

Hunter Industries of San Marcos won the \$1,666,764.20 contract to install illumination on US 59 at SP 91. Hunter Industries also was awarded a \$11,515,798.33 contract for surfacing/road restoration on US 77 from Spur 91 to Refugio County line for a total of 12.593 miles.

PORTRAIT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

LeBlanc is the son of Geraldine Crockett LeBlanc, the grandson of Willie May Holland Crockett and great-grandson of John Ida Crozier Holland, who was Milvern Crozier's sister. Milvern Crozier, who was born Feb. 25, 1883, sadly died at the age of 21 on Sept. 8, 1904, and was buried in Waelder Cemetery.

“I’m assuming my great grandmother, John Ida Crozier Holland, who we affectionately call ‘Great Nanny’, had this portrait of her brother, Milvern, in her home in Waelder,” LeBlanc said. “I would presume it first belonged to her mother, Texanna Missouri Hopkins Crozier. To the best of my memory, it was said he died of tuberculosis, but they referred to it as consump-

tion. I don’t recall seeing it at ‘Great Nanny’s’ when we visited her.”

LeBlanc said when his ‘Great Nanny’ died in 1962, the portrait was passed on to his grandmother, Willie May Holland Crockett, called ‘Nanny’ by his family. It then was left to his mother, Geraldine Crockett LeBlanc Lyons, who lived in Port Arthur.

“It hung in her living room for years,” LeBlanc said. “Then one day, she decided to place a flowered picture on top. When my wife and I built our home in Lafayette, she knew my wife, Cindy, loved antiques and thought we’d enjoy having it. Of course, we took the flowered picture off.

“We are now in our seventies and have no children to pass it down to. Cindy had this idea to search around on the internet to see if we could find any Crozier descendants who might want the portrait. We started looking at the family names on the website, Find a Grave, and who managed them. Then we tried the local newspaper in Gonzales.”

—Robert LeBlanc

“We are now in our seventies and have no children to pass it down to. Cindy had this idea to search around on the internet to see if we could find any Crozier descendants who might want the portrait. We started looking at the family names on the website, Find a Grave, and who managed them. Then we tried the local newspaper in Gonzales.”

The Inquirer has given LeBlanc’s information to Gonzales residents Richard and Barbara Crozier, as Richard is a descendant of the same Crozier family. If there are any closer relatives of Milvern Crozier who wish to have the portrait, they may contact Robert LeBlanc by email at cy_brown@bellsouth.net.

For this, Robert LeBlanc says, “Merci beaucoup!”

RUSSELLS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The pair were initially arrested on June 4, 2018 following a lengthy investigation into allegations of misappropriation of Gonzales County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) funds. Jim Russell previously served as the EMS director while Carla Russell was the EMS’ acting bookkeeper.

While Jim Russell was under investigation by several law enforcement agencies in Janu-

ary 2018, the EMS board placed him on administrative leave without pay. When his arrest became public, he was terminated by the board on June 26, 2018. The board requested that Carla Russell resign from her position following her arrest and she obliged.

The indictment alleges that between January 2011 to June 2018 the Russells misapplied EMS funds —over which they

had responsibility — for their own benefit. This occurred by depositing money meant for the EMS and CPR classes into their own personal bank accounts, overpaying themselves or other employees for unworked hours, being paid by other entities while simultaneously being paid by the EMS and mishandling donations to the EMS.

Since the Russells were ar-

rested and charged, the EMS merged with the Gonzales County Emergency Services District No. 1 and have come under the direction of Eddie Callendar Jr. and Allen Linebrink, who have worked to stabilize funding for the county’s EMS operations.

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



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