

The Gonzales Inquirer

OUR 169TH YEAR SERVING GONZALES COUNTY \$1.00

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Chamber honors Breitschopf as Walshak Award winner



LEW K. COHN

Shirley Breitschopf's admission of being speechless for "one of the few times in my life" causes Gonzales Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture Excellence Gala host Steve Scott to laugh heartily and Chamber President Wayne Baker to raise an eyebrow (or two). Breitschopf was presented the David B. Walshak Lifetime Achievement Award at the Thursday, Feb. 22 banquet. For more photos, see page B1.

Kenny Hyden, CATI Committee win Community Service Awards

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

For more than 50 years, Shirley Breitschopf has been a shining example of the "can-do" spirit of Gonzales — from raising animals to raising a family to growing her own successful real estate business, all while giving back to the community she loves so much.

On Thursday, Feb. 22, the Gonzales Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture honored her with the David B. Walshak Lifetime Achievement Award at its annual banquet at the JB Wells Expo Center.

See **CHAMBER**, page A5

A LOOK BACK

Gonzales celebrates 50 years of EMS service in the area

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

On March 1, 1974, Seydler-Hill Funeral Home parked their Oldsmobile ambulance at the Gonzales City Hall and left the keys with it.

Had it not been that Seydler-Hill had warned the community months in advance, this could have been disastrous. Knowing this was coming, a group of citizens formed the Gonzales County Volunteer Ambulance

Corps. They enlisted the help and leadership of a new young doctor in town, Dr. Robert A. Williamson.

At the designated time, the first aid, CPR, and some EMT volunteers were trained, certified and ready to go. Calls were dispatched via pagers to the volunteers who were designated for their shift, usually 12 hours at a time.

For a number of years, as the service grew, additional am-

See **EMS**, page A6

'JUSTICE FOR PHOENIX'

Nixon man arrested in animal cruelty case

FROM STAFF REPORTS

A Nixon resident has been charged with animal cruelty for the burning and torture of a small dog the community has renamed Phoenix.

Michael Villaneuva, 28, was served a warrant Tuesday, Feb. 27, for cruelty to non-livestock animals, a third-degree felony charge under Texas Penal Code 42.092, said Nixon Police Chief Miguel Cruz Cantu.

See **ARREST**, page A13



LEW K. COHN AND JUSTIN JIMENEZ

Liz Longoria has the dice ready to throw while playing craps during the Gonzales ISD Education Foundation Casino Night at JB Wells Expo Center on Saturday, Feb. 24. Attendees played table games, dined on steak and had a great time raising money for a worthy cause. For more photos, see page B2.

Proposed renewable energy, fertilizer facility for Waelder gets county support

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

A proposed facility in Waelder that would process agricultural waste into renewable fuels and natural fertilizer is getting a green thumbs up from the Gonzales County Commissioners Court after those involved gave a presentation Monday, Feb. 26.

"This is a fantastic

project for the county, for the city of Waelder, and also for the state of Texas," said Robert Crouch of Fort Worth-based CowPower Bio Energy to commissioners.

The partnership between Oberon Fuels, DVO Renewables, CowPower BioEnergy and Cal Maine Foods would

See **ENERGY**, page A14

Early voting ends this Friday in joint primaries

Polls will be open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on election day as well

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

Early voting for the March 5, 2024, joint Gonzales County Republican and Democratic primaries will end this Friday, March 1.

As of 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 27, there had been 1,261 votes cast in person and by mail in early voting, or just under 10 percent

See **VOTE**, page A6

HONORING THE IMMORTAL 32

The Crystal Theatre Young Texian troupe re-enactments a scene of the King family of Gonzales getting the call to arms letter from Alamo commander William B. Travis at the ceremony in honor of the Immortal 32 at the Gonzales Memorial Museum on Tuesday, Feb. 27. At the right, Ricky Walker, a member of the Sons of the Republic of Texas and a descendant of two members of the Immortal 32, sets the wreath up in front of the monument at the museum. For more photos, see page B8.

LEW K. COHN



Smiley City Council goes over fiscal year audit

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The Smiley City Council met for its regularly scheduled monthly meeting Wednesday, Feb. 21 at city hall.

One of the big items that was mentioned at last Wednesday's meeting was the 2021-2022 fiscal audit for the City of Smiley. CPA Donald Goldman gave the council a presentation of the city's audit and reported it is a clean opinion.

"First paragraph is the opinion and we have audited the cash basis financial statements on a cash basis and on an accrual basis, and do that to try to save the city a little bit of money. In our opinion, the financial state referred to above presents fairly in all material respects with the cash basis financial position of the city of Smiley," Goldman said.

Goldman reported the valorem taxes were \$41,000 and sales taxes were \$35,000 for the audited fiscal year.

"The sales tax is trying to increase and that's a good thing. The municipal court was at \$36,000 and it was down a little bit because during that year, you didn't have the staff to do what you needed to do," Goldman said.

"Grant proceeds were \$430,000 and that was to build capital assets. Proceeds from the sale of assets \$26,000, total receipts of \$636,000. That's up over the past couple of years, primarily due to the grants," Goldman added.

In other business, the council voted on the following agenda items:

- approved the animal ordinance draft one that was submitted Wednesday, Dec. 20.
- approved to not accept the animal ordinance draft two that was submitted Wednesday, Jan. 17.
- approved the Barbie the Crafty Board LLC presentation.
- approved the fiscal year 2025 Criminal Justice Grant program.

SPADE & TROWEL HELPS EDWARDS 'SAVE THE CEILING'



CONTRIBUTED

The Spade and Trowel Garden Club members presented a check to the Edwards Association on Saturday, Feb. 24, to help fund their "Save the Ceiling" Campaign to preserve the historic lamella roof at the Edwards High School gym.

Janota seeks Precinct 1 Commissioner office

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

I am David Janota, a lifelong resident of Gonzales County and Precinct 1. I have been married to my wife Becky for almost 38 years. We have two children and two grandkids. I dedicated my service to Gonzales as a city carrier, also known as a "mailman," for 37 years, accumulating over 3,000 hours of sick time.



Janota

Three days after retirement from USPS I was and I am employed by Tyson Foods as a data collector (blood-fat-mortality). Some of my activities since graduating from GHS and attending Southwest Texas State University: member of KC #5090 for 43 years; Gonzales Area Go Texan Community for four years; Gonzales Little League for 18 years; past board member MHMR; KCTI announcer and DJ; Rescue and Recovery Team for one year.

I have owned my own business (Janota's Exxon) and managed a multi-million C-Store. I have also served as OIC/Postmaster at Cost, Kingsbury and Gonzales Post Offices and was an acting supervisor for 17 years.

As your county commissioner, I will be dedicated and committed to the county of Gonzales and, more importantly, the taxpayers. I am a candidate who is uniquely experienced in multiple areas. I have the managerial experience to manage cost, future investments, lower long term cost of operations and be mindful of budgetary constraints.

So on March 5, I am asking for your vote to be elected as your full time Gonzales County Commissioner for Precinct 1.

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

GEDC honored for economic excellence at winter conference

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Texas Economic Development Council (TEDC) named Gonzales Economic Development Corporation (GEDC) as one of the recipients of its annual Economic Excellence Recognition program for 2023.

The awards were presented on Friday, Feb. 23, during the TEDC's 2024 Winter Conference in San Antonio, Texas.

The Economic Excellence Recognition program provides recognition to economic development organizations that meet a desired threshold of professionalism. Recipients qualify for recognition based on training taken by their governing board/council as well as the economic development director and professional staff.

Certifications, professional memberships and activities, and organizational effectiveness of the economic development staff also contribute to the standards for qualification. A total of 72

economic development organizations, including GEDC, received the TEDC's 2023 Economic Excellence Recognition.

"I'm pleased to share that Gonzales Economic Development Corporation (GEDC) is being recognized by the Texas Economic Development Council (TEDC) for its economic excellence!" said GEDC executive director Susan Sankey. "This prestigious award recognizes the outstanding efforts of GEDC in fostering economic growth and quality of life efforts in Gonzales. Thanks for the efforts of the board, community leaders, business professionals, many engaged citizens, and staff who help us grow."

"The TEDC's Economic Excellence Recognition program is one of the ways in which our organization honors the outstanding commitment to excellence of our communities and regions, their leaders, and their economic development professionals have toward the professionalization of their economic

development efforts," noted Carlton Schwab, President/CEO of the TEDC.

The Texas Economic Development Council, established in 1961, is an Austin-based, statewide, non-profit professional association, dedicated to the development of economic and employment

opportunities in Texas. The TEDC provides information, educational and legislative services to more than 1,000 members. The organization's objective is to support the economic growth of Texas and develop strategies that promote a positive business climate in the state.

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

BYK USA Inc, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for renewal of Air Quality Permit No. 49153, which would authorize continued operation of the clay processing plant located at 1212 Church Street, Gonzales, Gonzales County, Texas 78629. Additional information concerning this application is contained in the public notice section of this newspaper.

Celebrations

Birthdays

March 1st Max Barta Lori Benes Cathy Hanke Landon Hutchins Elizabeth Maldonado	March 4th Pat Anders Lanece Darilek Blakely Riojas
March 2nd Lisa Blackwell Anne Davidson Helen Hahn Mallory Pyssen Michael Torres III	March 5th Megan Burns Dardenella Davis Kim Haynes Kevin Knesek Michael Torres Jr Pat Wenzel
	March 6th Cindy Carter

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Gonzales Weather

	February 29 67°/52°	Some sun with a strong thunderstorm in spots 40% chance of rain • RealFeel 68
	March 1 74°/55°	Sunny and warmer 0% chance of rain • RealFeel 75
	March 2 70°/60°	Mostly sunny 1% chance of rain • RealFeel 73
	March 3 74°/56°	Partly sunny 0% chance of rain • RealFeel 73
	March 4 73°/50°	Variable cloudiness; watch for a strong thunderstorm in the morning followed by a thunderstorm in spots in the afternoon. 40% chance of rain • RealFeel 75
	March 5 78°/52°	Partly sunny 0% chance of rain • RealFeel 82
	March 6 70°/53°	Not as warm; mostly cloudy in the morning followed by sun through high clouds. 1% chance of rain • RealFeel 72


District 3 Meeting

GVEC MEMBERS IN DISTRICT 3 ATTEND YOUR DISTRICT MEETING

Thursday, March 14, 2024

<p>First Evangelical Lutheran Church 1206 N. St. Joseph Street</p> <p>Registration: 6:00 p.m. Business Meeting: 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Refreshments will be served and door prizes awarded.</p>
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The purpose of the meeting is to nominate individuals as Director-Candidates to represent you on the Board of Directors as well as share in topics of interest to you on Cooperative-related matters.



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Gonzales Inquirer

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Upcoming Events at J.B. Wells Park in Gonzales

February 29th – March 2nd
Gonzales County Youth
Livestock Show

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MARCH GARDENING CALENDAR

March is the beginning of the spring vegetable gardening month but you can still do some planting of winter vegetables. Transplant kale, collards, onions and spinach to the garden first thing in the month. You can also seed lettuce, English peas, turnips, radishes, beets, and carrots.

Plant potatoes in a trench at least 6 inches deep. Gain some depth by mounding the soil over the row as the stems emerge. Harvest new potatoes when the plants begin to bloom. Harvest the remainder of the crop when the plant tops brown. Don't leave the potatoes in the ground too long especially if the soil is moist.

Wait to plant tomato transplants until March 15. "Pot them Up" in the meantime. Place a recommended determinate variety such as Rambler, Thunderbird, Tycoon, Red Snapper, Celebrity, BHN 968, Ruby Crush or Red Deuce in a one gallon container and then place it in the sun out of the wind until March 15. I think the best tasting tomatoes are the cherries Ruby Crush and BHN 958. A determinate variety is one that grows to full size quickly and then concentrates on producing fruit. Being a determinate variety means that the selection can cope with our short tomato growing season. It is recommended that the spring planted tomatoes be pulled in early July.

Late in the month plant summer squash, green beans, and cucumbers. If you have had trouble with squash vine borers replace the summer squash with tatum. The 2 species taste the same and tatum resists the vine borers.

Keep mowing the rescue grass weed through the month to reduce its eventual seed production and to make room for your real grass which should start to green up. Wait to fertilize until you mow real grass



twice, usually at the end of April.

If you have problems with sand burs in the summer apply a preemergent herbicide such as Dimension or Crew now. Follow label instructions.

Finish pruning your fruit trees in March and continue spraying to prevent insects and fungus. Malathion once /week works well for the insects. Read the labels and select the fungicide from the nursery shelf that best meets your needs.

The winter flowers that are remaining cyclamen, primula, snapdragons, calendula, and dianthus should continue to bloom well into April. Make sure to keep protecting the primula with slug and snail bait.

You can plant zinnias after mid-March. The blue curl and larkspur wildflowers will begin to bloom soon.

In addition to the zinnias, blue curl, and larkspur, plant mistflower and milkweed to provide nectar for the migrating Monarchs.

Garden Q&A with CALVIN FINCH



Q. We love our Rescue Grass lawn this winter. Our lawn is normally Bermuda grass but it has too much shade. What can we do to encourage the Rescue grass even if it is at the expense of the Bermuda grass?

A. It will be hard to match this year's growth because the heat, bare soil and rain timing was ideal for a winter lawn but as long as the Bermuda grass is reduce by the shade and there is winter rain you should get a pretty good growth.

Q. What is the deal with the blue curl wildflower? Two years ago we didn't have any and now it is taking over! We planted a small amount two years ago.

A. The blue curl that you planted several years ago was able to take advantage of the heat, bare soil, and well timed rain that we experienced this year. The blue curl and rescue grass both were

able to take advantage of the drastic conditions this winter!

Q. When should we fertilize our St Augustine lawn . It is still dormant and I am worried the weeds will take over unless we fertilize the grass.

A. The St Augustine grass will green up in late March and April. Fertilize it after it greens up and you mow real grass twice, usually about May 1. If you fertilize too early only the weeds benefit. Just keep mowing the weeds down.

Q. Which of the winter vegetables will continue to taste mild and pleasant farthest into the summer?

A. Spinach, Crawford lettuce, cabbage, collards, and Brussels sprouts are my favorite in term of staying good tasting. I don't think kale changes its taste but it isn't good tasting to me even in early winter!

LIVESTOCK WEEKLY REPORTS

GONZALES LIVESTOCK MARKET

February 24th
Cattle - 1321

Compared to our last sale:

Number 1 choice calves and yearlings sold steady. Less quality calves and yearlings sold steady. Packer cows sold steady & bulls sold fully steady. Stocker-feeder Steers: Medium and large-frame No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 295-405; 300-400 lbs., 295-395; 400-500 lbs., 295-380; 500-600 lbs., 245-330; 600-700 lbs., 230-271; 700-800 lbs., 198-250. Bull Yearlings: 700-900 lbs., 90-155.

Stocker-feeder heifers: Medium and large-frame No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 285-330; 300-400 lbs., 300-355; 400-500 lbs., 275-315; 500-600 lbs., 242-285; 600-700 lbs., 212-250. Packer Cows: Good lean utility and commercial, 88-102; Cutters, 108-118; Canners, 72-85; High yielding fat cows, 98-107. Packer Bulls: Yield grade 1 & 2, good heavy bulls, 122-131; Light weights and medium quality bulls, 105-118. Stocker Cows: \$900 to \$1,900. Pairs: \$1,400 to \$2,100.

NIXON LIVESTOCK

February 26TH
Cattle - 1377

Steers:
200-300 lbs - \$297-425
300-400 lbs - \$294-415
400-500 lbs - \$284-370
500-600 lbs - \$249-273
600-700 lbs - \$223-273
700-800 lbs - \$203-263

Heifers:
200-300 lbs - \$259-370
300-400 lbs - \$259-395
400-500 lbs - \$241-355
500-600 lbs - \$218-350
600-700 lbs - \$207-234
700-800 lbs - \$148-212

Slaughter Cows - \$82-117
Slaughter Bulls - \$94-135
Stocker Cows - \$650-1175
Pairs: \$1300-2150

HALLETTVILLE LIVESTOCK COMMISSION CO., INC.

Sale date: February 20th
Cattle on hand: 1171

Packer Cows:
High Dressing: \$118-133
Medium Dressing: \$90-118
Low Dressing: \$65-80
Poor/Weak Cows: \$58-68
Packer Bulls:
High Dressing Bulls: \$118-133
Medium Dressing Bulls: \$103-118
Low Dressing Bulls: \$100-108

Stocker Cows:
Good Stocker/Cows & Heifers:
NONE
Medium Stocker Cows & Heifers:
\$1225-1825
Good Cow & Calf Pairs: \$2150-2450
Medium Cow & Calf Pairs:
\$1300-1525

Stocker & Feeder Calves & Yearlings:
Number 1 steer & bull calves:
Under 200 lbs.: \$295-410
200-300 lbs.: \$325-420
300-400 lbs.: \$315-400
400-500 lbs.: \$285-360
500-600 lbs.: \$265-325
600-700 lbs.: \$240-310
700-800 lbs.: \$225-277.50

Number 1 heifer calves:
Under 200 lbs: \$265-400
200-300 lbs.: \$280-375
300-400 lbs.: \$275-365
400-500 lbs.: \$250-335
500-600 lbs.: \$230-285
600-700 lbs.: \$215-260
700-800 lbs.: \$200-230

Replacement Heifers:
350-700 lbs.: \$240-300
The market was once again higher this week. #1 classes sold \$4 to \$8 higher. Average of all calves sold was \$7 higher. Grazing demand continues very

strong. Packer cows & bulls sold strong to \$2 higher on a total supply of 200 head.

SEGUIN CATTLE CO.

February 21st

Quality of cattle still remaining good. Market steady on all classes with packer cattle steady.

Cattle - 524
Sheep & goats - 528
Medium & large frame #1 Steers:
200-300 lb. 2.50-3.44-4.00
300-400 lb. 1.00-3.00-4.20
400-500 lb. .80- 2.82-3.40
500-600 lb. .60-2.35-3.12
600-700 lb. 1.20-2.20-2.95
700-850 lb. .93-2.00-2.35

Medium & large frame #1 Heifers:
200-300 lb. 1.35-2.75-3.20
300-400 lb. 1.40-2.75-3.30
400-500 lb. .80-2.39-2.95
500-600 lb. .70-2.20-2.74
600-750 lb. .70-1.89-2.42

Utility & commercial - .89-1.13-1.20
Cutters - .65-.75-.84
Canners - .60-.68-.75
Palpated cows - 600-1275
Cow/Calf Pairs - NONE
Bulls:
Heavy High Yielding - 1.10-1.30
Light & Low Yielding - .80-1.09

Sheep & Goats:
Nannies - 85-225
Kid Goats (Fat) - 2.30-2.92
Wethers - 1.10-2.75
Billies - 1.55-2.25
Dorp. Ewes - 60-180
Dorp. Lambs (Fat) - 2.00-2.85
Woolled Ewes - NONE
Woolled Bucks - 1.40-1.50
Lambs - 1.62-2.05
Barb. Bucks - 260-310

CUERO LIVESTOCK MARKET

February 23, 2024

Number of head 1,431
There were 301 cows and 41 bulls. Top packer bull was up to \$140/cwt, while the top on pack-

er cows was \$120/cwt. Prices continue to be high as demand continues to be very strong, resulting in record highs on packer bulls. The calf market was once again higher even on top of last week's big jump. Demand remains incredibly strong across the board. Calves were \$71/head higher on 17 pounds of more weight. Great day to be a seller!!

Packer bulls:
All weights 104.00-140.00
Packer cows:
canners & cutters 85.00-120.00
poor & weak 30.00-57.00
Palpated: 13 BRED 1300-1700
PAIRS: 1 \$1,650 - 2,100

Steer Calves:
Under 250 lbs 317.00-410.00
250-299 lbs. 343.00-400.00
300-350 lbs. 309.00-395.00
350-400 lbs. 313.00-375.00
400-450 lbs. 309.00-332.00
450-500 lbs. 289.00-326.00
500-550 lbs. 289.00-318.00
550-600 lbs. 261.00-318.00
600-700 lbs. 252.00-278.00
700-800 lbs. 244.00-248.00

Bull Calves: (AVG-HIGH)
Under 250lbs 317.00-410.00
250-300 lbs. 285.00-390.00
300-350 lbs. 338.00-400.00
350-400 lbs. 293.00-364.00
400-450 lbs. 301.00-334.00
450-500 lbs. 292.00-328.00
500-550 lbs. 275.00-312.00
550-600 lbs. 255.00-302.00
600-700 lbs. 232.00-268.00
Over 700 lbs. 214.00-250.00

Heifer Calves: (AVG-HIGH)
under 200 lbs. None
200-250 lbs. 285.00-335.00
250-300 lbs 310.00-360.00
300-350 lbs. 277.00-350.00
350-400 lbs. 289.00-340.00
400-450 lbs. 266.00-322.00
450-500 lbs. 253.00-292.00
500-550 lbs 244.00-272.00
550-600 lbs. 227.00-274.00
600-700 lbs. 220.00-275.00
Over 700 lbs 180.00-240.00

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AI has potential to disrupt 2024 election in Texas, other states

BY ROZ BROWN, TEXAS NEWS SERVICE
Special to the Inquirer

The rise of artificial intelligence is raising alarm bells for election officials across the country.

In Texas, Feb. 5 was the last day to register to vote in the March 5 primary election, and officials have noted the chaos that ensued ahead of New Hampshire's primary when a robocall imitating President Joe Biden's voice told them not to vote. That robocall allegedly was generated by Life Corporation and was allegedly transmitted by a company called Lingo Telecom, both Texas-based companies, according to New Hampshire Attorney General John Formella.

Rachel Orey, senior associate director of the elections project for the Bipartisan Policy Center, said while the incident like the one in New Hampshire might be isolated, AI could have other consequences.

"Our bigger concern is what's known as a liar's dividend," Orey explained. "Even when there are instances of generative AI being used to target voters with false information, they feed into this bigger risk that the presence of false information makes voters trust any information less."

Orey pointed out the past few years have seen a near constant assault on accurate voting information, which has made it challenging for good information to reach voters. She worries what happened in New Hampshire is a potential preview of what other voters could experience this year.

Orey noted AI could supercharge the misinformation campaigns that have existed for years, but election officials across the country have a leg up going into the 2024 vote.

"Election officials and voting advocates around the country are sort of well-prepared to mitigate and respond to increases in misinformation," Orey emphasized. "Because they spent the last couple of years flexing that muscle and learning how to respond to misinformation and election denial campaigns."

Orey urged election officials to have a plan ready to respond to AI misinformation campaigns, which might include contacting affected voters. She added right now, regulatory options do not exist to stop dishonest AI operations.

Support for this reporting was provided by The Carnegie Corporation of New York.

Letters to the Editor Policy

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

During periods ahead of an election, The Inquirer does not accept letters to the editor urging voters to vote for or against candidates in local elections. Endorsements should be displayed in political advertising. In light of this policy, we reserve the right to reject or edit letters for references to candidates and whether or not they should be elected. The Inquirer will accept letters expressing views on bond measures, constitutional amendments and other such issues. Letters will not be accepted once early voting has begun.

The Inquirer will not knowingly publish factually incorrect information.

Only letters written exclusively to the newspaper will be published. Letters to a third party or those written to more than one newspaper are not accepted. "Wallpaper" - submissions that are in large part copied-and-pasted from another author or organization - will not be published.

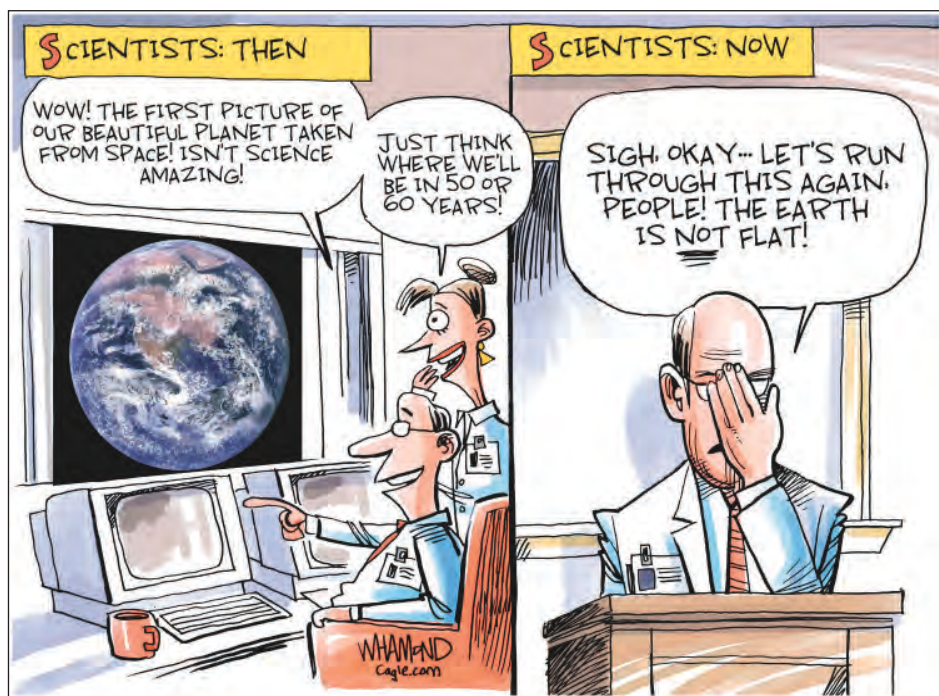
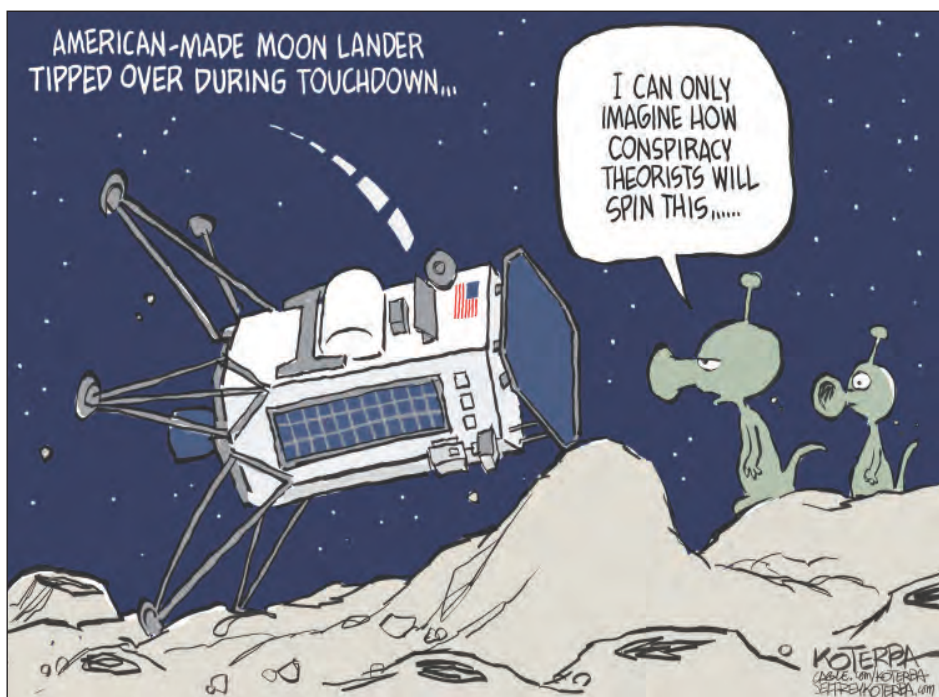
Letters written in response to other letter writers should address the issue at hand. Discourse should be civil and people should be referred to in a respectful manner. Letters referring to news stories should also mention the headline and date of publication.

All letters must be signed and include the writer's street address or route address telephone number, which will be used for verification purposes only.

Please send Letters to the Editor:

- Email: publisher@gonzalesinquirer.com
- 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.



Grilling groans...

Texas' prime grilling season is only weeks away. I await in the shadow of a conundrum, not knowing whether to mark off calendar days with giddy anticipation or be "gloomed" like Charlie Brown stumbling away from another setback.

There's a certain limpness accompanying the unknown. That's how I remember a sudden desire at age 30 to learn to play the organ, blowing off a warning to allot plenty of practice time. Right off, I bought a Wurlitzer transistorized model on a monthly pay-out plan. Months later, I sold it for pennies on the dollar.

The pattern started with my first and only childhood violin lesson. I didn't want to go, but parentally driven, I fumbled through it, knocking over a lamp, tracking mud into the teacher's home and finally dropping the fiddle. "If you don't shape up this minute," she said sternly, "I'm going to tell your folks that you have definite promise..."

This is a new day and a new challenge. This time, I'm "locked and loaded." First off, I have a 55-gallon, custom-built steel grill that takes three strong men to move and one strong man to lift the lid. No one lives here with such attributes, so I've decided to sell it. (It is embarrassing to ask neighbors repeatedly to lift and/or lower the grill lid.)

There is hope, however, with a state-of-the-art Camp Chef, charcoal pellet-burning, WiFi-equipped grill I bought from a man who is good at grilling and desired a bigger one, perhaps to feed neighbors in all directions.

Curses! The purchase may have been ill-advised. It didn't dawn on me what "WiFi-equipped" portends. I'm afraid it means there's a good chance it involves my smartphone, and at the moment, we are not "speaking." The grill handbook says I can--with my phone--control grilling from my easy chair or from other time zones. Truth to tell, I just want to master the art in "present tense," smelling the aroma and seeing the flames that may need squirting....

Almost forgot. On one end, there's a small butane burner, suggesting that I can cook two things at once. Again, a challenge looms.

I headed for Lowe's, not noticing that I parked within a few feet of the Blue Rhino display that includes dozens--if not hundreds--of canisters of butane, or maybe it's propane, or maybe they're the same thing.

Inside the store, I asked a couple of "associates" about the location of those butane "thingamajigs," since "canister" was a term I'd hear later in the visit. One employee directed me to lawn/garden, and another suggested aisle eight. I decided to visit customer service for specific directions....

The gracious woman answered, "They're outside, since they can't legally be brought inside the store. Pay for it at the register, and someone will accompany you to the Blue Rhino display."

All went well. I paid, and a lady showed up with a key to unlock the bin containing stacks of canisters, each splashed with big letters: "FLAMMABLE." (This made me ponder whether there's a difference between "flammable" and "inflammable," but such discourse is for another time.)

Before leaving, I noticed that Lowe's offers free tire inflation adjacent to the Blue Rhino display. Hmmm, maybe there's a reason I've never seen anyone getting air there. Some may fear a malfunctioning air hose--or errant cars moving within a few feet of the display--could cause an explosion. Who knows? My immediate concern was mastering safe use of butane at one end of my grill and electrically-ignited charcoal pellets at the other....

Later, I thought of the old joke about a parachutist whose 'chute didn't open and the old couple who replaced their woodstove with a butane replacement they didn't know how to ignite.

They met in midair, him going downward as the couple soared upward. "Know anything about parachutes?" the former frantically asked.

"No," one oldster responded, "Do you know anything about butane stoves?..."

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

The Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales Inquirer, 622 St. Paul, Gonzales, TX 78629 is a periodical postage paid at Gonzales, Texas and additional mailing offices.

Postmaster: For change of address, notify The Gonzales Inquirer, P.O. Box 616, Gonzales, TX 78629-0616

Mail Subscription Rates

Payable in advance	
In county	
One year	\$48
Six months	\$36
Three months	\$28
Out of county	
One year	\$60
Six months	\$48
Three months	\$38
E-Edition	
One year	\$40
Six months	\$25
Three months	\$20

You can reach us at: 830-672-2861 OR publisher@gonzalesinquirer.com

Affiliations: National Newspaper Association

South Texas Press Association

Texas Gulf Coast Press Association

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The Gonzales Inquirer is published every Thursday by Guadalupe Valley Publishing Co. USPS 221-740 • ISSN 1059-7158 • 622 St. Paul St., P.O. Box 616 • Gonzales, TX 78629

CHAMBER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

Local volunteer (and perennial Santa Claus) Kenny Hyden and the Come and Take It Committee both won the Community Service Award, while Lavonne Hyden and Linda Menking won the inaugural President's Appreciation Award for their work with the Chamber.

Chamber President Wayne Baker touted Breitschopf as the "epitome" of the Lifetime Achievement Award as a lifelong Gonzalean who has been "a pillar of the community, seeking success and growth for her hometown."

"Throughout her life, she has promoted Gonzales both economically, socially and through volunteerism," Chamber President Wayne Baker said. "She has been in real estate business, owning her own agency (Breitschopf-Cooper Realty) for 50 years. During this time, she has been an integral part in numerous transactions by bringing in new businesses, connecting investors to development, finding homes for new residents and commercial transactions. During her travels she endorses Gonzales as a wonderful place to open a business, raise a family and retire."

Breitschopf has been a member of numerous organizations and boards in Gonzales and started the First Shot Cook Off, which ran for 14 years and raised thousands of dollars for the Gonzales Elks Lodge and the Gonzales Junior High athletic program.

Baker said Kenny Hyden's dedication to volunteerism "is truly unparalleled, extending his helping hand to virtually every corner of our community."

"For over a decade, he has tirelessly overseen the safety and maintenance of our grounds and has embodied steadfast leadership and unwavering commitment," Baker said. "Beyond this pivotal role, he has seamlessly stepped into the role of the holiday cheer spreader without ever compromising the magic for anyone. His involvement in events such as



Above: Members of the Come and Take It Committee receive the Community Service Award from the Gonzales Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture during the annual banquet. Left: Chamber President Wayne Baker, right, presents the Community Service Award to Kenny Hyden at the annual Gonzales Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture banquet on Thursday, Feb. 22.

PHOTOS BY LEW K. COHN

Go Texan, stock shows and his steadfast support for churches, city and county entities reflect his boundless generosity and community spirit."

The Come and Take it Committee was recognized for growing the community's showcase festival into an event that attracts thousands of attendees and has a local economic impact to the tune of \$1.2 million annually.

"The committee has exhibited remarkable resilience, working collaboratively to ensure the continuity of the festival," Baker said, noting initiatives such as waving fees for non-profit organizations and increasing safety and security while working to keep the festival free of entrance

and parking fees that hamper a number of similar-sized events in other communities.

In his farewell remarks, Baker addressed the vacancy in the executive director position and said the Chamber board sees this period of transition as one to reassess the "organizational structure" of the Chamber.

"As many of you are aware, we are in a transition period right now regarding our Chamber leadership and the executive director," Baker said. "Despite this, we're focusing on the positive aspects of our journey forward. We've been diligently working to ensure benefits for all of our employees. Our strategic planning session provided valuable insights into the optimal opera-

tion of our Chamber.

"We as a board spent the day with an expert in the field and learned a lot about what we're doing right what we're doing wrong and we're just trying to make our organization a lot better. A lot of the changes have been brought on by COVID, so we're reassessing our organizational structure to ensure its effectiveness. We've conducted research and engaged with the community and other communities to explore various models and how they run their Chamber office. I'm optimistic that once we finalize our plans, the Chamber will flourish for years to come."

Incoming President Doug Durham said the mission before the Chamber and the community to preserve Gonzales' heritage and promote its future is "not about any single person."

"This is about us, all of us. It's about honoring the spirit that built this town, brick by brick, dream by dream," Durham said. "It's about cherishing the stories carved into our streets, historic architecture, through the work ethic inspired by agriculture, and as a rural community, and whispered within our centuries-old walls. But history isn't just a museum exhibit — it's a living tapestry, woven with the threads of collaboration and community, and that's exactly where the chamber comes in."

"We are the bridge between our cherished past and our thriving future. Together, we can breathe new life into our historic spaces, attracting visitors and supporting local businesses who tell our unique story. Empower entrepreneurs, answering the spirit of grit that continues to flourish on our historic lots. Cultivate a culture of growth, preserving our heritage, while embracing responsible growth and creating a thriving economy that benefits all. Championing the soul of our town, we will preserve our historic landmarks, celebrate local artisans, and keep the spirit of our ancestors alive through storytelling and community events."

Durham said the journey to accomplish this mission "won't be easy."

"It demands a collective effort to open minds and shared vision. Together we can build a future where history is not only of a bygone era, but of a vibrant, thriving community that honors its past while raising the possibilities of tomorrow," Durham said. "Let's listen to the whispers of our history, learn from its lessons and write the next chapter together — a chapter fulfilled with innovation, opportunities and the unwavering spirit that has always defined our talent."



Anton W. "Tony" MATIAS

Gonzales County Commissioner Pct. 1

Hello, my name is Anton W "Tony" Matias and I am running for the office of Gonzales County Commissioner Pct. 1. I am a lifelong resident of Gonzales. I have been married to my wife Nora for 11 years and together we have children, grandchildren, a great grandchild, and two fur babies. I also have a sister Donna Spahn married to Smokey Spahn.

I started working for Ehrig and Kapavik during my high school years and later worked as a foreman for Tommy Wilson for 26 years. I was offered an opportunity to work for Dell Whiddon Pct. 1 Road and Bridge and started working for Pct. 1 and have been there for 18 years. I have learned to operate heavy equipment, knowledge on road materials, and the county transitioning from hiring contractors to the purchase of equipment for the county to do the work saving the taxpayers money. I am currently the Foreman for Pct. 1 under Del Whiddon and have acquired managing skills working alongside my co-workers as well as the knowledge of the duties of being a County Commissioner.

I have been a volunteer for the Gonzales County ESD/EMS for 25 years and currently as a rescue captain under Eddie Callender Executive Director. As your County Commissioner I will work with the elected officers and officials to address issues, maintain the county infrastructure, attend training and conference classes, manage the county budget while overseeing the county taxes, approve county contracts, serve on county related boards, work with emergency management, work with our first responders and other entities. I have been committed to working for the citizens

of Gonzales County both as an employee of the county and a volunteer for EMS. With your vote I would like to continue working for the citizens as your Commissioner for Pct. 1. I am hard working, honest, and committed. My phone is always on and I will work with the citizens and their concerns. Early voting is Feb. 26th thru March 1st and election day is March 5th. Voting location is at the Randall Rather Building at 427 St. George.



Political Advertising for by Anton W. "Tony" Matias, Gonzales, TX 78629

WHERE TO VOTE ON ELECTION DAY

- 1 & 15 Randle-Rather Building
427 St. George St., Gonzales, TX 78629
- 2 Emmanuel Fellowship & School
1817 St. Lawrence St., Gonzales, TX 78629
- 3 City Hall Gonzales
820 St. Joseph, Gonzales, TX 78629
- 4&6 City Hall Nixon
302 E. Central, Nixon, TX 78140
- 5 Belmont Community Center
14335 HWY 90A W, Gonzales, TX 78629
- 7 Elks Hospital
1963 FM 1586
- 8 Harwood Community Center
101 CR 230 N, Harwood, TX 78632
- 9 Waelder Community Center
311 Hwy 90 W, Waelder, TX 78959
- 10 Smiley Fire Station
208 N FM 108, Smiley, TX 78159
- 11 Peach Valley Camp
582 CR 357, Gonzales, TX 78629
- 12 Riverside Community Center
200 St. Lawrence St., Gonzales, TX 78629
- 13 Leesville Cemetery Asso.
6077 CR 155, Leesville, TX 78122
- 14 Cheapside Community Center
18 CR 297A, Cheapside, TX

VOTE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

of the 12,889 registered voters in Gonzales County. That number includes 1,136 Republicans voting in person and 35 voting by mail, while 80 people have voted in person and 10 by mail in the Democratic primary.

The main location for early voting is the Randle Rather Building, 427 St. George St., Gonzales, with satellite locations at City of Nixon Building, 302 E. Central, Nixon, and Waelder City Hall, 300 Hwy 90 W, Waelder.

On Thursday, Feb. 29 and Friday, March 1, early voting will be from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The last day to apply for a ballot by mail (received and not postmarked) is Friday, Feb. 23.

Election day voting will be held from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 5, at a number of locations.

REPUBLICAN PRIMARY

There are three candidates running for Precinct 1 commissioner in March: David Janota of Gonzales, a data collector; Anton "Tony" Matias of Gonzales, a road foreman for Precinct

1; and Ryan W. Mills of Gonzales, a natural resource consultant.

The two candidates running for Precinct 3 commissioner are Thomas "Tommy" Barnick of Harwood and Roy A. Stoton of Gonzales. Both list their occupations as being in road and bridge.

Incumbent Precinct 1 County Constable Johnnie Hall faces a challenge from former Smiley City Marshall Scott Rhodes Sr., who ran against Hall in the 2020 GOP primary as well.

The race for U.S. Congress for House 27 has four candidates in the March GOP primary — incumbent Michael Cloud of Victoria and challengers Luis Espindola, a defense contractor; Scott Mandel of Corpus Christi, a corporate CEO; and Chris Mapp of Port Arthur, who is in marine manufacturing.

For state House 44, the incumbent Rep. John Kuempel has three GOP primary challengers in federal procurement employee David Freimarck of Cibolo, former state Rep. Alan Schoolcraft; and retired U.S. Marine Greg Switzer of Seguin.

Unopposed races locally include 25th District Judge (incumbent Bill Old); 2nd 25th District Judge (incumbent Jessica Richard Crawford); County Attorney (Eduardo "Eddie" Xavier Escobar); Sheriff (incumbent Keith A. Schmidt); Tax Assessor-Collector (incumbent Crystal Cedillo); Precinct 3 Constable (incumbent Derek Johnson); Precinct 4 Constable (incumbent John J. Moreno); and County Chair (incumbent Liz Hernandez).

There are also 13 propositions on the GOP ballot representing issues of importance to the state Republican Party.

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

The U.S. House District 27 race has two candidates on the ballot: teacher Tanya Loyd and tax preparer Anthony (A.J.) Tristan.

Meanwhile, running unopposed are candidates for Sheriff (Clay Allen); State Board of Education District 3 (incumbent Marisa Perez-Diaz); Texas House District 44 (Eric Norman) and County Chair (Yolanda Messman).

EMS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

ambulances were gradually added to the fleet as calls increased. The ambulances were parked next to City Hall under a metal cover, often referred to as "the barn." When a call was dispatched, the Gonzales Police Department dispatcher on duty would hurry outside to unlock and start the ambulance so it would be ready and warming up when the volunteers arrived.

For several years the city allowed the Ambulance Corps to have a storage cabinet in City Hall to store medical supplies. Eventually, a portable building was added next to the ambulances to hold supplies and training equipment.

Around 1986 the Ambulance Corps was able to build a small station in the 500 block of Saint Francis Street, on city property. That building could narrowly house three ambulances, a small dormitory for one person and a supply closet. Ambulances could be pulled out on the concrete drive and tables set up for classes and meetings.

In 1989, when training requirements had multiplied immensely and volunteer ranks were diminishing, the citizens and voters of Gonzales County elected, by a margin of 86 percent in favor, to create the Gonzales County Emergency Services District.

The purpose was to stabilize the funding and advance the level of care of prehospital emergency care in Gonzales County. The ESD legislation was passed in 1987. Gonzales County became only the seventh ESD in the state. (There are now approximately 375 ESDs covering one-third of Texas' fire and EMS needs.) The Gonzales Volunteer Ambulance Corps was 15 years old at that time.

About the same time, the GCESD Board of Directors asked the "Gonzales County Rescue & Recovery" team to join the Ambulance Corps. That arrangement has worked well ever since. The Rescue Team, still all volunteers, helps with auto crash disentanglements, swift

water rescues and drownings.

They also help protect other first responders by directing traffic at crash scenes and setting up helicopter landing zones when needed. They also assist EMTs and Paramedics with lifting and loading patients, assisting with treatment, and driving the ambulance if both medics are needed in the back of the ambulance. This group is now simply known as the Rescue Division of the EMS.

After the creation of the ESD, the ESD Board of Commissioners chose to contract the two then existing EMS agencies in Gonzales County: The Gonzales Volunteer Ambulance Corps and the Nixon-Smiley Volunteer Ambulance. The GVAC covered from the northern boundary of the county down to approximately Bebe across to Smiley. Gonzales covered about 80 percent and Nixon-Smiley the other 20 percent. Eventually the Nixon-Smiley organization closed and the ESD contracted solely with the Gonzales Volunteer Ambulance Corp, dba Gonzales County EMS & Rescue.

In the mid 1990s, the GVAC had outgrown the St. Francis Street Station. A building at 1703 St. Joseph St., next to the Whataburger, became the next building to be remodeled and adapted. Some years later, a lot behind the St. Joseph St. building was purchased and a metal building was built to house the ambulance and rescue assets.

While transitioning from the 501(c)(3) to the ESD operation, the ESD had to have a separate office location to get licensed by Medicare. Offices were built inside the Qualls Street ambulance building, which were inadequate but sufficient for temporary use. A location at 1724 Hickston was then purchased in March 2021 to house the ESD administrative offices, a meeting room, classroom, kitchen, restrooms and such for the crews. Living quarters for the em-

ployees then moved into the previous admin offices in the Qualls building.

When GVAC had reached 45 years of service, and the ESD, created in 1989, was 30 years old, the ESD Commissioners opted to take over the direct provision of EMS and Rescue. On March 20, 2020, the Gonzales County ESD No. 1 had their TEXAS EMERGENCY SERVICES PROVIDER LICENSE from the Texas Department of State Health Services, and just like when Seydler-Hill turned the ambulance service over to the volunteers 45 years earlier, the ESD was ready and never missed a beat.

As of March 2024, it will be 50 years since the handoff from Seydler-Hill. Of note is that over those 50 years, the sophistication and abilities of the local EMS have increased beyond measure. It is also noteworthy that local EMS responses have gone from the volunteer days when alerts were made by pager and volunteers had to drive to the "barn" to today. Now, crews are notified by radio and are one of four crews

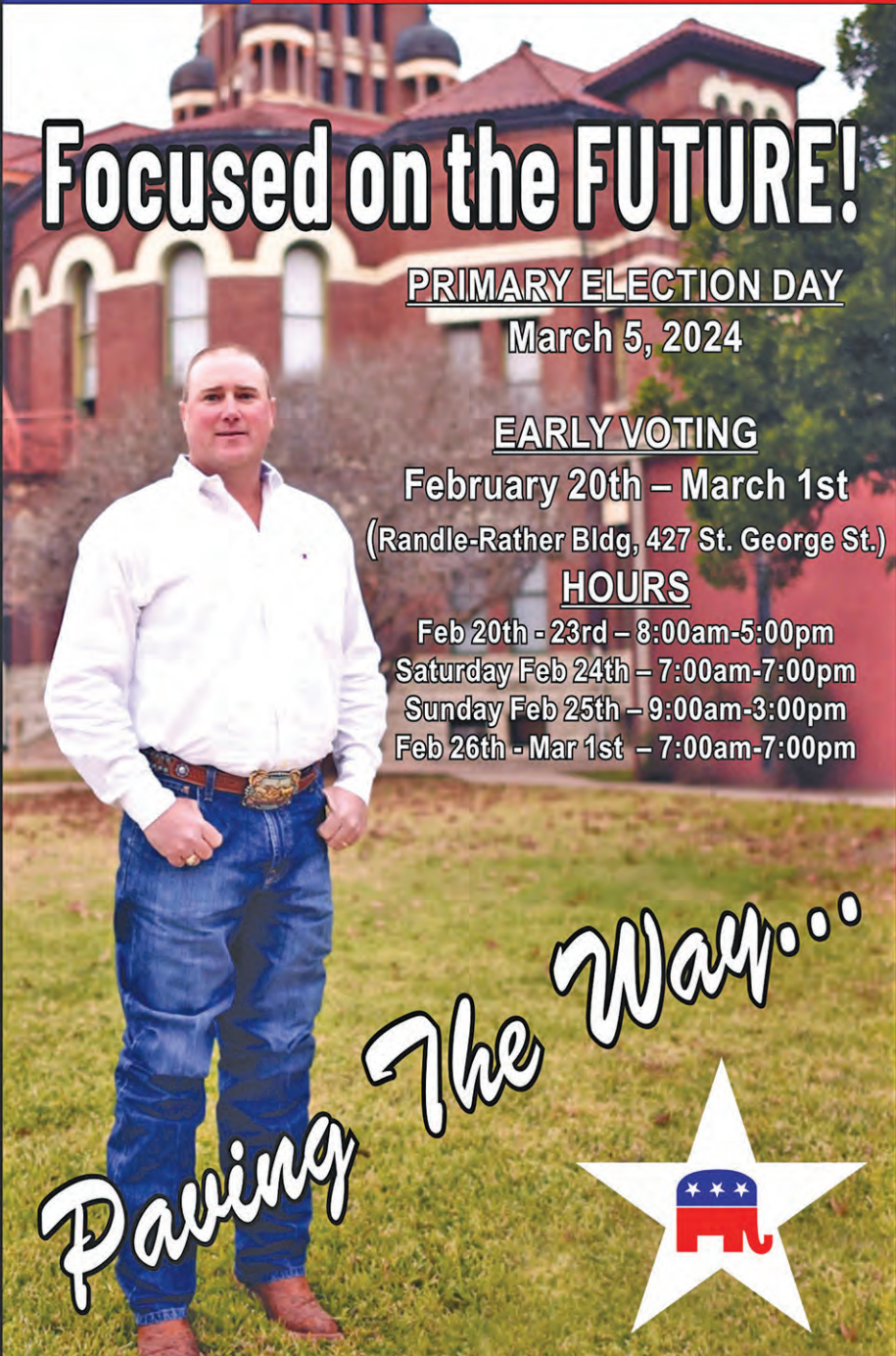
at three stations in the county where their response is almost immediate. The annual call volume has gone from about 300 to over 3,000 per year.

EMS in Gonzales County is about to begin its second half century. Thanks to the leadership of their ESD Commissioners and support from the citizens for the first fifty years, Gonzales County ESD #1 EMS & Rescue is poised to do even grander and more meaningful things in the future. With the new station — where EMS employees and Rescue volunteers will be more comfortable and better able to train and practice, and where citizens will have opportunities to learn CPR, First Aid, Stop the Bleed and other meaningful skills — prehospital emergency care will get better and more lives will be saved in the future than in the past.

The public is invited to come see the new EMS & Rescue station at 1700 Water St., Gonzales, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, March 21.

Vote **RYAN MILLS**

FOR GONZALES COUNTY COMMISSIONER PCT. #1



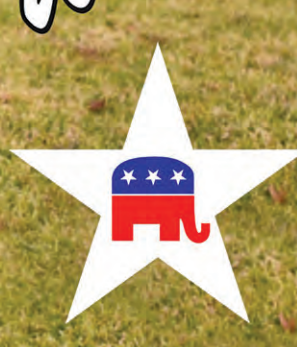
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March 5, 2024

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February 20th – March 1st
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Feb 20th - 23rd – 8:00am-5:00pm
Saturday Feb 24th – 7:00am-7:00pm
Sunday Feb 25th – 9:00am-3:00pm
Feb 26th - Mar 1st – 7:00am-7:00pm

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Gonzales High School OAP to perform 'Book of Dog'

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Gonzales High School proudly presents The Book of Dog. Local public performances are Sunday, March 3 at 2 p.m. and Saturday, March 23 at 7 p.m. at the Gonzales Jr. High Auditorium. Tickets are \$5 and sold online at <https://gonzalesisd.revtrak.net/high-school-one-act-play-the-book-of-dog-/#/list>.

The company directed by Leslie Buesing and Madi Pope head to their District OAP contest March 9 at Cuero ISD's Performing Arts Center. They perform first at 11 a.m.

Company members include: River VanKirk, Ainsley Pope, Emily Hull, Alejandro Orduna, Luhana Wells, Brett Needham, Jeslynn Vigil, Ryann Michalec, Austin Valenta, Hailey Garza, Autumn Hataway, Madsion Stewart, Anahi Meza, Nick Gonzales, Lily Reeves, Aubree Tovar and Paulina Venegas.



Gonzales Flying Lions hold enthusiastic meeting

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Gonzales Flying Lions club held a lively meeting on Saturday, Feb. 24, starting with a grand entrance as Lion Pilot Gordon Richardson arrived with his son Gordon and grandson Harry in a classic 1967 Bonanza V35.

The meeting kicked off with a delicious breakfast of egg sandwiches, which were enjoyed by all in attendance.

The discussion topics ranged from historical aircraft, particularly those from World War II, to upcoming air shows and opportunities for youth in aviation. Members also deliberated on fundraising initiatives for the Lions

Park in Gonzales and the Lions Camp, emphasizing their commitment to community service and youth development.

Dr. John Coale and Harry Richardson captivated the group with a demonstration using a bore scope, allowing them to peer into the manifolds of a Cessna 210. This hands-on experience provided valuable insights into aircraft mechanics and maintenance.

The meeting concluded on a high note, with members expressing their eagerness to continue their work in supporting the local community and fostering a love for aviation among youth.

VC to hold auditions for music scholarships March 30, April 6

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Victoria College is accepting appointments for music scholarship auditions for band, choir, and orchestra.

Auditions will take place from 10 a.m.–noon on Saturday, March 30 and Saturday, April 6 at the VC Fine Arts Building, Room 103.

Students who want to audition must make an appointment and audition during their assigned time. Appointments will be scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information about VC's music courses and scholarships, or to reserve an audition time, email Melissa Balli at Melissa.Balli@VictoriaCollege.edu.

The Fine Arts Building is located between Entrances 6 and 7 on VC's Main Campus at 2200 E. Red River Street.

CONTRIBUTED

VC's 2023-24 Music Scholarship Recipients (left to right) are, front row, Alana Mascorro, Kayla Plummer, Christal Martinez, and Jennifer Torres; middle row, Samantha Garza, Izabela DeLaRosa, Elisa Lopez, Lauren Anzaldúa, and Mollye Joslyn; and back, Kyle Raz.



ROY A STATON

Republican Candidate for Gonzales County Commissioner Pct. 3

I'm Roy A Staton, I'm Running for the office of Gonzales County Commissioner Pct 3.

I was born and raised in Gonzales, I'm a Member of the Gonzales High School Class of 1982.

I've been Married to my wife Kellie for 33 years.

We have two sons, Adam and Read Staton.

My Parents are the late Roy Edwin Staton and Peggy Adams Staton.

After Graduating from Gonzales High School, I went to work for GVEC in Gonzales. I worked with the electrical dept becoming a lineman. After my time at GVEC, I Accepted the position as Electrical/Line Superintendent for the city of Luling.

Ultimately, I decided Gonzales is where I wanted to be and took a position with Gonzales County Pct 3 Road & Bridge. I've been with Gonzales County Pct 3 for 19 Years. I also owned and operated Staton's Wild Hogs for nearly 15 years.

I'm a past member of the Gonzales Volunteer Fire Dept, Ottine Volunteer Fire Dept, and Gonzales County Area Go Texan, to name a few organizations I have worked with.

I feel I bring a special insight to this position with my experience working with Pct 3, I have the Knowledge of what it takes for this Pct to operate, and I have many new ideas of my own. I have had the honor of learning some of the ins and outs from current and former commissioners.

I have budget and management experience, and I can ensure you I have the county and taxpayers' best interest at heart. My #1 priority will be the appropriate allocation and



usage of all taxpayers' dollars in the precinct and county wide. I've attended and completed Advanced Management courses at Texas A&M.

I believe in transparency; I have included my phone number on my handouts. If at any time you have questions or concerns, I will communicate with you and will address any issue you may have. I work for you, and all the taxpayers of Gonzales County. I humbly and respectfully ask for your support in the upcoming election.

OBITUARIES

DORIS EILEEN SOEFJE HEWELL



Doris Eileen Soefje Hewell, age 95 of Seguin, passed away on February 22, 2024. Doris was born on April 27, 1928, in Leesville, Texas to Hilda (Grimm) and Dono Soefje.

Doris joined the Methodist Church in Leesville, Texas at 13 and regularly attended church and Sunday School. She attended school in Leesville for eleven years graduating as the Class Salutatorian. After graduation, she went to work for Southwestern Bell Company as a telephone operator.

On June 6, 1948, she married Clarence Alvin Hewell at the Methodist Church in Leesville. They were blessed with four children, Catherine Eileen Hewell Vorpahl, Sharon Esther Hewell, Patricia Ann Hewell, and Clarence Alvin Hewell, Jr.

After her son Al started school, she worked as a bookkeeper at Hewell Brothers Chevrolet in Nixon. The family moved to Seguin in 1967 where Doris worked as a Martin L. Steger Supply Company bookkeeper. She served on the Board of Directors and was the Board Secretary. After twenty-two years of service, she retired in 1989.

Doris enjoyed quilting, gardening, and working in the yard. Her most special times were spent among family and friends, especially at Soefje/ Grimm, Hewell/Hensley gatherings, or Leesville Homecoming Celebrations.

Doris and Alvin were active members of the First Methodist Church of Seguin, where she held a life membership in the United Methodist Women organization.

Doris is preceded in death by her loving

husband of 64 years, Alvin Hewell, daughter Patricia Ann Hewell, son-in-law, Earnest Vorpahl, parents and her mother-in-law and father-in-law, Ruby Esther (Hensley) and Thomas Coke Hewell, Sr., her brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Thomas and Frances Hewell and John Bird and Wildajean Hewell, and nieces Marian Sue Baenziger, Martha Jo Haas and husband Gary, and Peggy Hewell, and great-nephew Kenny Eshelman.

Survivors include her daughters, Cathy Vorpahl and Sharon Hewell and fiancé Mick Mikulenska; son, Al Hewell, and wife Kathy; sister, Carol Dodgen and husband Tom; grandchildren, Jeffery Jubela and fiancé Mary Just Buchholz, Kyle Jubela and wife Lisa, Kristopher Vorpahl, Kimberley Vorpahl, Dr. Valerie Hewell, and husband Jared Lundgren, and Brien Hewell and wife Elizabeth; great-grandchildren, Michael Vorpahl, Hunter Jubela, and wife Macey. Ryland Jubela, Reese Jubela, Emma Jubela, Gavin Vorpahl, Morgan Sekula and husband Austin, Caleb Kunde and wife Cassie, Max Kunde, Bailee Anderson, Emery Vorpahl, Laura Hewell, Blake Lundgren, Bali Buchholz, and Mason Buchholz;

great-great-grandchildren, Wyatt Jubela and Hudson Jubela; numerous nieces, nephews, other loving family members and many friends.

Visitation was held on Monday, February 26, 2024, from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at Tres Hewell Mortuary. Funeral services were held on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, at 10:30 a.m. at Nixon Methodist Church with the Reverend Audrey Hewell officiating. Interment followed in the Nixon Cemetery. A reception followed at the Richardson Center.

Pallbearers will be Jeffery Jubela, Kyle Jubela, Kristopher Vorpahl, Kimberley Vorpahl, Valerie Hewell, and Brien Hewell. Honorary pallbearers will be Tom Dodgen, Stephen Dodgen, Troy DePalermo, Colby DePalermo, Johnny Hewell, Joe Hewell, Tommy Hewell, Dean Eshelman, Mike Bond, Louis Soefje Jr., Stanley Burris, and K. John Odom.

Instead of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Leesville Cemetery, CR 155, Leesville, Texas 78122, or to the Nixon Cemetery Association, P.O. Box 427 Nixon, Texas 78140, or Nixon Methodist Church, 410 N Franklin Ave, Nixon, TX 78140.

The family would like to give special thanks to her caregiver and friend, Diana Montanez, along with Lynn Hancock and her staff at Willowbrook Personal Care Home.

You are invited to sign the guest book at www.treshewell.com. Arrangements are under the direction of Tres Hewell Mortuary, 165 Tor Dr., Seguin, Texas, 78155, 830-549-5912.

JENNIFER JONES HULL



Jennifer Jones Hull, 41, passed away on February 19th, 2024 in her home in Gonzales, TX after a brief but severe battle with cancer.

Jennifer is a 2001 graduate of Gonzales High School and spent her life in the area. She is survived by her husband Billy Hull of Gonzales, son's Blake (age 20), Matthew (age 15), daughter Mandy (age 13), her mother Millie Jones of Harwood, father

Mike and wife Marie Jones of Houston, aunt Jackie Ideus of Harwood, brother Travis and wife Melissa Jones, nephew Jackson and niece Sawyer Jones of Austin. The family will host a graveside service at Thomsonville Memorial Cemetery on March 9th, 2024 a/t 11 AM with a lunch will follow at the Thompsonville Community Center. David Mills of the Gonzales Church of Christ will be officiating.

Donations may be made to the future care of Mandy Hull at www.gofundme.com/mandy-hull

BENIGNO MARTINEZ VARGAS SR.



Benigno Martinez Vargas, Sr. "Bene" of Lubbock, Texas entered eternal rest on Monday, February 19, 2024, at 6:33 a.m., surrounded by his family. He lived to be 78 years, 6 months and 4 days.

Bene was born on August 13, 1945, in Moulton Texas. He and his parents would migrate for cotton season to Lubbock to work at Liberty Co-op Gin. When the season was over, they would then head home to Waelder, Texas. In 1964, while at the Liberty Co-op Gin in Lubbock a young lady by the name of Albina Reyna Alaniz caught Bene's eye. They courted for four years and on April 20, 1968, they joined together in marriage. Their union blessed them with four children.

Though he has left this world, his gentle spirit endures in the countless hearts he touched with warmth and kindness. Bene was a man of unwavering faith. His devotion to the Lord was evident in every aspect of his life. His gentle spirit left a lasting impact on everyone he encountered. He wasn't just a

provider; he was the heart and soul of his family, guiding them with wisdom and showering them with affection.

Those who knew Bene will always remember his love for "pan dulce" and "cafesito" and his heartfelt gratitude expressed with a simple yet sincere "thank you, thank you.". His contagious smile will be greatly missed. Bene found joy in spending time outdoors, especially seating outside on the porch. Early on he delighted in taking photos of his loved ones. Both Bene and Albina enjoyed visiting family and friends.

Bene is survived by his wife of 55 years, 9 months

and 30 days, Albina Alaniz Vargas.

Three daughters: Diana Cimental (Domingo), Lety Dulack (Chris), Veronica Vargas, and his son, Benny Vargas Jr. (Christina). His legacy lives on through his eight grandchildren: Nicole, Elijah (Ally), Elizabeth, Ethan, Amaya, Brianna, Quintin, and Melia, and two great-grandchildren, Ellie and Zoe. He now reunites with his dear mother, Hilaria Martinez Vargas (1904-1970), and father, Juan Lopez Vargas (1912-1996), who preceded him in death.

A visitation was held for family and friends on Monday, February 26, 2024, at Seydler - Hill Funeral Home in Gonzales, Tx from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. A Funeral Service was held on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, at Seydler - Hill Funeral Home at 10:00am. Interment followed at Waelder Cementerio Bautista in Waelder, Tx.

Donations in Bene's memory can be made to Meals on Wheels at 2304 34th St Lubbock TX 79411 or to their favorite organization.

OREN C. REMMERS



Oren C. "Buddy" Remmers, age 89, died Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at Seton Hospital in Kyle, Texas after a lengthy illness. He was born to Otto and Alice (Kasper) Remmers on March 10, 1934 on the family farm in Gonzales County, Texas, just southwest of Shiner.

He attended Mengers country school near Shiner, riding his horse to and from as his mode of transportation. He attended Shiner High School where he played on Shiner High's first varsity football team and later graduated as class valedictorian.

Oren or "Buddy" as his many friends called him, enrolled at Texas A&M University where he majored in

Agricultural Education. He was a member of Air Force ROTC in the Texas A&M University Corps of Cadets. He graduated in 1956 with a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Education and went to work interning for the United States Department of Agriculture (US

D.A.) Soil Conservation Service (S.C.S.) in Goldthwaite and Lampasas, Texas. Next he took positions as a Soil Conservationist working in San Saba, Llano, Alice and finally as District Conservationist for the Natural Resource Conservation Service (N.R.C.S.) for Gonzales County until his retirement after 40 plus years of service. During his career with N.R.C.S., Buddy received numerous awards for service.

Survivors are his sons, Jeff Remmers of Corpus Christ and Kirk Remmers and wife Gail of Shiner; grandson Austin Remmers (Jessica) of Shiner and great-grandchildren, Oren James Remmers and Gloria Ruth Remmers.

He is preceded in death by his parents and wife Gloria Ann (Kloesel) Remmers. Oren C. "Buddy" Remmers will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

Visitation 4 to 6 p.m. with Prayer Service at 6:30 p.m., Monday, February 26, 2024 at Thiele Cooper Funeral Home.

Funeral Service 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, February 27, 2024 At Shiner Luther UDML Church with Pastor Chris Heinold officiating. Burial to follow at Shiner Cemetery next to his wife.

Memorials may be given to Shiner Lutheran UDML Church.

Arrangements by Thiele Cooper Funeral Home, 361-293-5656.

BRITNEY JONES CAKA
LUTCF, FSCP, CLU
Agent

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ADDITIONAL OBITUARIES CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE A9

Gonzales Healthcare Systems
February 2024

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

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Amy Trost
Hearing Specialist
830-372-2237
- Chiropractic**
Jeff Echols, DC
512-799-6811
- Dermatology**
Vicente Quintero, MD
830-626-5551
- Nephrology**
Azhar M. Malik, MD
361-576-0011
Yong Du, MD
361-576-0011
- Obstetrics**
Alyson Kirchner, MD, OBGYN
830-379-1500
- Oncology**
DeTar Cancer Center
361-485-9600
- Pain Management**
Eric Miller, MD
830-272-7746
- Urology**
Robert Ryan, III, MD
830-379-8491
- Ophthalmology**
Joseph Kavanagh, MD
830-379-3937
- 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**
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Lady Apaches FC wins fourth game in a row

STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Apaches made a statement with their 3-0 win over the JFK Lady Rockets Tuesday, Feb. 27 at home.

The Lady Apaches extended their win streak to four in a row and have shut out all of their opponents in the last four games.

Gonzales sits in third place with a 4-2-1 record in District 27-4A and are eyeing second, where Yoakum sits with a 4-1-3 district record.

The Lady Apaches and Yoakum Lady Bulldogs will face each other at Apache Field Friday, March 1 with second place on the line and will host the Fox Tech Lady Buffaloes Tuesday, March 5.

All the games kick off at 5 p.m.



Apaches' Damian Orduna (13) chases the ball down field against the San Antonio JFK Rockets in a huge district match Tuesday, Feb. 27.

PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS

East Bernard hands Lady Apaches second loss of the season

STAFF REPORT

The No. 4-ranked Gonzales Lady Apaches (11-2) were handed a rare loss Tuesday, Feb. 27 in East Bernard.

The Lady Apaches fell to the Lady Brahmas, 7-2, and were handed their second loss of the season. Earlier in the season, Gonzales had beaten East Bernard, 6-3, at the Columbus tourney.

Gonzales recorded three hits in the loss; sophomore Ava Carrizales lead the team with two hits.

Freshman pitcher Dixie Rae Lester recorded six strikeouts, 12 walks, and zero hits in the loss; Lester, Haley Cantu and Sarah Padilla all combined allowed just three hits for the game.

The Lady Apaches will head back on the road to battle the No. 20 Smithville Lady Tigers Tuesday, March 5.

First pitch is set at 7 p.m.

Apaches FC earns big win over San Antonio JFK

BY VANDY VAN EPPS

Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales Apaches FC keep their playoff hopes alive with a 1-0 shutout road win over the San Antonio JFK Rockets.

The Apaches pressured their defense onto the Rockets and prevented them from scoring all game; goalies Miguel Moreno and Andres Govea earned multiple saves in the win.

"Saving the goals is amazing. Blocking everything. There was more communication. My mind was focused on making sure I was distributing right and doing everything that I possibly can from the back, making sure I'm running the de-



The Gonzales Apaches FC break out of the huddle to start the second half against San Antonio JFK at Edgewood Veterans Stadium.

See **SOCCER**, page A11



The Gonzales Lady Apaches at the Wimberly tournament Thursday, Feb. 22. Left to Right: Gyzelle Guevara (11), Dakota Schmidt (15), Peyton Springfield (22), head softball coach Michelle Uribe, Sarah Padilla (7) and Ava Carrizales (2).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Apaches compete in the Van Vleck Tournament

STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Apaches baseball team traveled on the road for their first tournament of the season in Van Vleck Thursday, Feb. 22.

The Apaches went 2-2 in the tournament; beating Louise, 18-2, and Wharton, 6-1; and falling to Bay City, 9-4, and Ganado, 12-1.

The Apaches came out of the tournament with a 3-2 record and will head to Karnes City Thursday, Feb. 29 for their second tournament of the season.

Gonzales will take on Refugio, Stockdale and Karnes City at the tournament.

The Apaches will head back on the road for their third tournament of the season in Cedar Creek on Thursday, March 7.

Apaches fall to Bulldogs in six innings on the road

STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Apaches traveled back on the road for a non-district match against the Flatonina Bulldogs Monday, Feb. 26.

The Apaches took a 5-1 lead entering the bottom of the second, but Flatonina scored the next 14 runs and shut out Gonzales for the last four innings.

Gonzales fell to Flatonina, 15-5, in six innings and dropped to 3-3 on the season.

The Apaches will return to the road for their second tournament of the season in Karnes City Thursday, Feb. 29 where they'll take on Refugio, Stockdale and Karnes City.

Gonzales will close out tournament play at Cedar Creek Thursday, March 7.

Lady Apaches add more to the win column at Wimberley tournament

STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Lady Apaches improved to 11-1 after their Wimberley Tournament trip Thursday, Feb. 22 to Saturday, Feb. 24.

The Lady Apaches finished 4-1 in the tournament with their only loss coming to Class 3A No. 3 Halletts-

ville, 10-0, in the first game of the tournament.

Gonzales went on a four-game winning streak, beating Wimberley, 12-2; Weimar, 6-2; Decatur, 12-5; and Little River Academy, 2-1.

The Lady Apaches will be on a four-game road trip against East Bernard (Tuesday, Feb. 27), Smith-

ville (Tuesday, March 5), Rice Consolidated (Friday, March 8) and Steele (Monday, March 11).

Gonzales will return home Tuesday, March 12 for the district opener against the La Vernia Lady Bears.

First pitch for the Smithville and Rice games are set for 6 p.m.



Nixon-Smiley junior catcher Hailee Houseton (2) at the Natalia tournament Friday, Feb. 23. Below: Nixon-Smiley infielder Emily Granados (10) at bat for the Lady Mustangs in the Natalia Tournament Friday, Feb. 23. PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS

Lady Mustangs compete in the Natalia softball tournament

STAFF REPORT

The Nixon-Smiley Lady Mustangs kicked off their season on the road at the Natalia softball tournament Thursday, Feb. 22 through Saturday, Feb. 24. The Lady Mustangs went 2-3 in the tournament, beating Jefferson, 9-3, and IDEA South Flores, 12-11; and lost to Somerset 15-1, Natalia, 11-1, and

Pleasanton 10-7.

Nixon-Smiley will travel to Seguin for the final tournament of the season Thursday, Feb. 29 through Saturday, March 2.

The Lady Mustangs will host back-to-back home games against Llano Tuesday, March 5 and Shiner Saturday, March 9.

The Llano game starts at 6:30 and the Shiner game starts at noon.



Lady Badgers beat Lady Mustangs in five innings

STAFF REPORT

The Nixon-Smiley Lady Mustangs hit the road again Monday, Feb. 26 for a match against the Karnes City Badgers. The Lady Mustangs fell to

Karnes City, 17-7, in five innings.

Nixon-Smiley was outscored 14-2 in the third inning, but scored five more runs to the close out the game.

The Lady Mustangs will travel for their final tournament of the sea-

son in Seguin Thursday, Feb. 29.

Nixon-Smiley will return home host back-to-back home games against Llano Tuesday, March 5 and Shiner Saturday, March 9.

Llano game starts at 6:30 p.m and the Shiner game is at noon.

Mustangs compete in final regional qualifier in Victoria

STAFF REPORT

The Nixon-Smiley Mustangs traveled to Victoria Saturday, Feb. 24 for the final regional qualifier meet at Victoria West High School.

The Mustangs finished sixth overall at the meet with 11 points and concluded the regular season with 14 lifters heading to the regional meet Thursday, March 8 in Colmesneil, Texas.

Cesar Vasquez finished second in the 114 weight class with 903 total pounds and John Garza finished third with 890 total pounds in the 132 class.

Vasquez, Garza, Andrew Meza, Eduardo Bentancourt, Khalu Jantes, Tyler Barrientez

Oscar Acosta, Jose Olvera, Adolfo Vazquez, Miguel Valerio, Omar Morales, Jesus Espino, Gavino Moreno and Noah Jenks have punched their tickets to the regional meet.

--RESULTS--

114 Weight Class: second place: C. Vasquez: 930 total pounds
123 Weight Class: A. Meza: 300 total pounds and A. Flores: 335 total pounds
132 Weight Class: third place: J. Garza: 890 total pounds
148 Weight Class: seventh place: Eric Rodriguez: 1,000 total pounds and 11th place: Jaydin Munoz: 850 total pounds
165 Weight Class: fifth place: M. Valerio: 1,105 total pounds
198 Weight Class: 13th place: Adan Zavala: 1,140 total pounds, 16th place: Alan Espino: 1,075 total pounds, and 17th place: Jaylun Rodriguez: 1,040 total pounds.
308 Weight Class: fourth place: Noah Jenks: 1,260 total pounds.

Mustangs baseball competes in the Three Rivers tournament

STAFF REPORT

The Nixon-Smiley Mustangs baseball team traveled to Three Rivers for the season opener and their first tournament Thursday, Feb. 22.

The Mustangs finished 0-2-2 at the tournament over the weekend; they tied with Stockdale, 3-3, and Luling, 10-10, and lost to Falls City, 7-5, and Comfort, 9-1.

The Mustangs will return for their home tournament Thursday, Feb. 29 through Saturday, March 2.

Nixon-Smiley will host back-to-back home games with Stockdale, Friday, March 8, and the district opener against Randolph Tuesday, March 11.

First pitch for the Stockdale and Randolph games is set for 7 p.m.

SOCCER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A10

fense and maybe the mid as well," Govea said.

Moreno filled in as goalie in the second half and for 40 minutes he and his defense had to stay focused on not allowing a goal.

"I feel the need to just stay focused and make sure to talk with my defense to know the situation and just keep my mind straight and not get too stressed out closing out the second half of the game, but I felt good overall," Moreno said.

The Apaches got through to the JFK side of the field and got multiple shot attempts on goal, but in the eight minute mark of the first half, the Apaches' Christopher Gonzalez got the score that won the game.

"I'm really excited. It was my first goal. And I love that that was my first goal of the season. I'm just really happy that I got to get the win for my team, and hopefully many more to come," Gonzalez said.

Apaches head soccer coach Shea Seip was proud of how his team performed and earned a must win to keep their playoff hopes alive.

"It was so important to our confidence and we could still go all the way and finish in second place. Our district is so tight right now. We did give the district tonight to La Vernia. And congratulations to them; they had they played one hell of a season and we'll see them again and we'll take some points off of them," Seip said.

Gonzales has two big matches coming up against Yoakum and Fox Tech; the Apaches beat Yoakum and tied Fox Tech and will mentally prepare for those teams, especially the rematch against Fox Tech.

"Our mindset is I think we can actually get the win at their home [Fox Tech]. We can bring it to ours. I think we can win these next couple of games. We've been getting better," Gonzalez said.

The Apaches host the Yoakum Bulldogs Friday, March 1 at 7 p.m. and will travel to San Antonio Monday, March 4 for round two against Fox Tech at 7 p.m.

Lady Apaches powerlifting competes at regional meet



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Gonzales Lady Apaches powerlifting team at the THSWPA regional powerlift meet in Edinburg, Texas Tuesday, Feb. 27. Number two ranked Madison Sampleton and Shelby Borjon will compete in the state powerlifting meet in Frisco, Texas Saturday, March 16. Left to Right: Serenity Perez, Denisse Navarro, Sampleton, Alize Miller, Borjon, Jazlin Juarez.



Gonzales' Shelby Borjon holds her third place medal in the 181 weight class at the regional meet.



Gonzales' Jazlin Juarez (third place) and Madison Sampleton (second places) stand on the podium with their medals in the 220 weight class at the regional meet.

STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Lady Apaches traveled to Edinburg for the THSWPA Regional Championship Tuesday, Feb. 27.

The Lady Apaches had six lifters competing at regionals; Madison Sampleton, Shelby Borjon, Jazlin Juarez, Alize Miller, Denisse Navarro and Serenity Perez.

Sampleton finished second with 1,060 total pounds in the 220 weight class. Borjon clinched third with 850 total pounds in the 181 weight class. Juarez finished third in the 220 weight class with 830 pounds and Miller finished ninth with 725 total pound in the 165 weight class.

"Proud of all six girls who qualified for regionals. In the toughest region for powerlifting, they competed hard all year, lifting new totals weekly and winning medals and team awards along the way," Lady Apaches head powerlifting coach Saul Hinojosa said.

Sampleton and Bojon both qualified for the state meet in Frisco and will compete at the meet Saturday, March 16.

Apaches powerlifting competes in final regional qualifier meet

STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Apaches finished fifth place with 20 points in their final powerlifting regional qualifying meet Thursday, Feb. 24 in Kenedy.

Landon Holub finished first in the 275 weight class with 1,610 total pounds; Jesus Maldonado and Gustavo Rodri-

quez finished second in their respective weight classes.

The Apaches are sending eight lifters to the regional meet Thursday, March 7 in Colmesneil, Texas; Maldonado, Holub, Rodriguez, Hector Reyna, Jessiah Barr, Kaden DeLeon, Gary Lewis III, and Omar Borjon are the eight lifters.

--RESULTS--

J. Maldonado second (114) with a total 595
Pedro Borjon (165) with a total 695
Roland Nino. (165) with a total 670
G. Lewis III fifth (242) with a total 1,275
L. Holub first (275) with a total 1,610
G. Rodriguez second (308) with a total 1,390
Leonel Tinajero fourth (308) with a total 930

Gonzales JV track competes in Ganado

STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales JV track teams traveled to Ganado for their second meet of the season Thursday, Feb. 22.

The JV Apaches finished seventh with 34 points and the JV Lady Apaches finished sixth with 49 points at the meet.

The Gonzales JV track teams will travel to La Grange Thursday, Feb. 29 for its third meet of the season.

—RESULT—

JV APACHES:

100M Dash: Jzyah Melancon (12th place), John Izaguirre (24th place), and Bryce Eleby (31st place)
 200M Dash: Marcus Izaguirre (10th place) and Hector Reyna (12th place)
 400M Dash: Enrique Reyna (fourth place) and Kevin Reyna (13th place)
 800M Run: Carlos Pedraza (sixth place) and E. Reyna (eighth place)
 1600M Run: Carlos Pedraza (fifth place) and E. Reyna (eighth place)
 4x200: Tavarus Ornales, Tommy Barnes, M. Izaguirre and H. Reyna (fourth place)
 Long Jump: T. Ornales (sixth place)
 Shot Put: Isaiyah Balderas (eighth place)
 Discus: Marcus Lampkin (second place)
 Triple Jump: H. Reyna (seventh place)
 High Jump: T. Barnes (first place)

JV LADY APACHES:

100M Dash: Makayla Smith (fourth place), Miley Pena (21st place), and Kendal McDow (27th place).
 200M Dash: Mikilah Jones (eighth place), Mariah Mendoza (26th place) and Vivian Galindo (28th place).
 400M Dash: Adalina Moreno (12th place) and McKenzie Gillette (17th place)
 800M Run: Jaelyn Ramos (seventh place)
 100M Hurdles: Kylee Bairrington (11th place), J. Ramos (13th place) and Anastasia Martinez (14th place)
 300M Hurdles: Kaitlyn Griffin (fifth place), Zniyah Washington (eighth place) and J. Ramos (11th place)
 4x100: M. Jones, Z. Washington, K. McDow, and Krysten Jones (eighth place)
 4x200: Zoey Barefield, M. Pena, Yesi Melchor, Kea'anna White (third place)
 4x400: Abrial Reyna, Jazlin Castillo, Z. Barefield, Y. Melchor (seventh place)
 Long Jump: K. McDow (13th place) and Kynleigh Schroeder (17th place)
 Shot Put: K. White (first place)
 Discus: K. White (second place) and Anayah Bolden (fifth place)
 Triple Jump: Kamryn Riojas (seventh place)
 High Jump: Tenly Matias (sixth place)



Above: Gonzales Junior High eighth graders Carsyn Carrizales, Joslynn Haywood, Jonalynn Hunt and Lainey Witzkoske took home first place in the 4x100 relays at the Lockhart meet Wednesday, Feb. 23. Left: Eighth graders Carsyn Carrizales and Vivana Barrientos at the Lockhart meet. Carrizales took home first place and Barrientos finished second in the 300m Hurdles.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Lady Apaches finish third at Ganado meet; Apaches finish sixth

STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales varsity track teams traveled to Ganado Thursday, Feb. 22 for their second meet of the season.

The Lady Apaches took home third place with 99 points and the Apaches finished in sixth place with 53 points.

The Gonzales track team will travel to La Grange Thursday, Feb. 29 for its third meet of the season.

—RESULTS—

APACHES:

100M Dash: Daevien Pitts (third place), Davonte Smith (fourth place), Jermame Upshaw (17th place)
 200M Dash: D. Pitts (third place), Damion Hunt (seventh place), and River VanKirk (16th place)
 110M Hurdles: Travis Malveaux (seventh place)
 300M Hurdles: T. Malveaux (third place) and Joshua Salinas (21st place)
 4X100: D. Hunt, D. Smith, Cole Duty, D. Pitts (third place)
 4x200: Keath White, C. Duty, T. Malveaux and D. Smith (10th place)
 4x400: D. Hunt, R. VanKirk, K. White, and J. Salinas (10th place)
 Long Jump: D. Pitts (18th place)
 Shot Put: J. Upshaw (fourth place), Omar Borjon (fifth place) and Rafael Rodriguez (sixth place)
 Discus: J. Upshaw (fifth place)
 Triple Jump: T. Malveaux (first place)

LADY APACHES:

100M Dash: Tiana Smith (first place), Malaiyah Mayo (eighth place), and Hailey Camarillo (15th place)
 200M Dash: Jayda Glass (first place) and Macy Pena (ninth place)
 400M Dash: J. Glass (second place), Kaylyn Gonzales (sixth place) and Kilee Schwausch (11th place)
 800M Run: K. Schwausch (third place) and Jordyn Gonzales (fifth place)
 1600M Run: J. Gonzales (third place)
 3200M Run: Marianelly Martinez (second place)
 100M Hurdles: M. Pena (seventh place)
 300M Hurdles: T. Smith (fifth place), Aubrey Lindemann (sixth place) and Alaina Valle (seventh place)
 4x100: J. Glass, T. Smith, K. Gonzales, M. Mayo (first place)
 4x200: M. Pena, H. Camarillo, Kaylie Ramirez and M. Mayo (seventh place)
 4x400: K. Gonzales, A. Lindemann, K. Ramirez and K. Schwausch (sixth place)
 Long Jump: M. Pena (eight place) and T. Smith (12th place)
 Shot Put: Macy Sample (third place) and Malory Clack (sixth place)
 Discus: M. Sample (third place), Serenity Smith (seventh place) and M. Clack (eighth place)
 Triple Jump: T. Smith (first place), A. Valle (seventh place) and Jayda Glass (12th place)
 High Jump: A. Lindemann (seventh place)
 Pole Vault: H. Camarillo (seventh place)

PREDATOR HUNT



Gonzales VFW Post 4817 held their 2024 Predator Hunt during the weekend of Feb. 24-25. Forty-one teams of one to four people each competed to have the heaviest stringer comprised of three coyotes and two bobcats. The winners were recognized for their success. This was the second year the VFW held this event.

CONTRIBUTED



Junior High Lady Apache take home gold at Lockhart meet

STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Lady Apaches seventh and eighth grade track teams competed in their first meet in Lockhart Wednesday, Feb. 21. The seventh and eighth grade teams took home first place at the meet and several Lady Apaches walked away with first place medals.

Eighth grader Sofia Castro finished first in the 2400m run; Bryanna Canales first place in the long jump; Kianni Rodriguez finished first in the shot put, Josslyn Haywood earned multiple first places in the high jump, 400m run and

800m run; Jonalynn Hunt finished first in the 100m dash; Carsyn Carrizales finished first in the 1600m and the 300m hurdles; and Haywood, Gabby Cobler, Viviana Barrientos and Hunt finished first in the 800m relay.

Seventh grader Ellie Lester took home first place in the 2400m run and the 1600m run; Lester, Emma Stewart, Riley Cantu and Maggie Ferrar first place in the 1600m relay; Kamari Smith first place in the triple jump; Amaris Johnson first place in the discus and shot put; and Abrianna Burton first place in the long jump.

—RESULTS—

SEVENTH GRADE:

2400M Run: Ellie Lester (first place), Maya Shoulders (second place), Julliana Salinus (fourth place), and Jasmine Delarosa (ninth place)
 Triple Jump: Kamari Smith (first place) and Abrianna Burton (sixth place)
 800m Run: Emma Stewart (first place), Maya Shoulders (fourth place) and Kamila Vivas (eighth grade)
 400M Run: M. Shoulders (fourth place), Zoey Juarez (fifth place) and Audree Hernandez (14th place)
 1600M Relays: Maggie Ferrar, E. Stewart, Riley Cantu and Ellie May Lester (first place)
 Discus: Amaris Johnson (first place), Avionna Houston (second place) Karleigh Reyes (fourth place)
 Long Jump: A. Burton (first place), K. Smith (fourth place), and R. Cantu (sixth place)
 100M Hurdles: Riley Kainer (sixth place)
 300M Hurdles: R. Kainer (fourth place)
 Shot Put: A. Johnson (first place), A. Houston (second place), and Jaiyah Jackson (sixth place)
 100M Dash: K. Smith (third place), A. Burton (fourth place) and M. Farrar (fifth place)
 400M Relay: M. Farrar, K. Smooth, L. Coke, and A. Burton (second place)
 800M Relay: L. Coke, R. Cantu, R. Kainer, and M. Farrar
 1600M Run: E. Lester (first place), E. Stewart (third place) and Juliana Salinas (sixth place)

EIGHT GRADE:

2400M Run: Sofia Castro (first place), Mardenis Suarez (fourth place), Kaylin Ratliff (fifth place) and Alexia

Kutschik (sixth place)
 Triple Jump: Carsyn Carrizales (first place), Jonalynn Hunt (second place) Lainey Witzkoski (fourth place)
 800M Run: Jazlynn Steemer (fourth place), Chloe Granados (seventh place), Jimena Grifaldo (ninth place) and Almira Nanez (eighth place)
 400M Run: J. Steemer (second place), Adrienne Rosas (fifth place), Olivia Wyatt (ninth grade) and Aline Zuniga (10th place)
 1600M Relays: C. Carrizales, Gabble Cobler, Vivanna Barrientos, and J. Steemer (first place)
 Discus: Marielyn Ramirez (fourth place), Kianni Rodriguez (sixth place) and Syrenity Condel (ninth place).
 Long Jump: Brianna Canales (first place) and Jonalynn Hunt (fifth place)
 100M Hurdles: Darianna Grifaldo (second place), Kaylee Zavala (fifth place), Lyndie Blackwell (eighth place), and Gabby Navac (11th place)
 300M Hurdles: C. Carrizales (first place), V. Barrientos (second place), and D. Grifaldo (third place)
 Shot Put: K. Rodriguez (first place), Ashlynn Clack (sixth place) and Jenesis Banda (seventh place)
 100M Dash: J. Hunt (first place), B. Canales (fourth place), L. Witzkoski (fifth place) and Jayla Dixon (eighth place)
 200M Dash: Josslyn Haywood (first place), L. Witzkoski (second place) and B. Canales (fifth place)
 High Jump: J. Haywood (first place), Parker Petras (second place), and Lyndie Blackwell (fifth place)
 400M Relay: J. Haywood, C. Carrizales, L. Witzkoski, and J. Hunt (first place)
 800M Relay: J. Haywood, G. Cobler, V. Barrientos, and J. Hunt (first place)
 1600M Run: S. Castro (fourth place), M. Suarez (fifth place), Mariah Ramos (sixth place) and Leslie Vega (eighth place)

Precinct 3 Commissioner candidates answer questions about roads, annex, county jail

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

Precinct 3 Commissioner candidates answered questions on a number of issues facing Gonzales County during the Republican candidate forum held Thursday, Feb. 15, at American Legion Post 40. The event was co-sponsored by the Gonzales Inquirer and the Gonzales County Republican Party.

Below is a transcript of four of the questions answered by the two candidates: Roy Staton and Thomas “Tommy” Barnick. The forum can be seen in its entirety on the Gonzales Inquirer Facebook page.

Gonzales County has nearly 690 centerline miles of certified county roads. Many are heavily used, especially due to large amounts of oil and gas traffic. As Commissioner, what can be done to better maintain and improve our county roads? Is paving more of them an option?

Barnick: I do not believe paving them is more of an option. I don’t feel like they can hold up under the heavy weights, the amount of traffic. I currently work in Precinct 2 and a lot of my roads I maintain are in the Shiner and Moulton area, and even with limestone built-up roads, they grind them to dust. I don’t know that there is a great answer. It’s just too much traffic and too heavy weights. I do feel like we should, by all means, try to make deals with these oil field companies and try to see if there’s some cost saving that they can do. They will donate gravel every now and then, but maybe they can do something on a more permanent basis.

Staton: We don’t have a whole lot of oil field traffic in Precinct 3. I have been over there for 18 and a half years, but I know what they’re talking about. The paving will not hold up to all the weight. You’ve got to have limestone pretty thick out there and it’s got to be put down right. Around Precinct 3, we don’t have any of this oil field traffic, so if we can get these grants, get this government help we got the last time over here on Harwood Road and get it paved. And if you put enough base down on it and do it right, it will be there for a long time and it will save you a bunch of money.

The deterioration of the Gonzales County Annex Building on Sarah DeWitt Drive appears to be worse than originally thought. Do you support repairing the current building, demolishing it and building a new structure on the same site, finding an existing building to buy or building a new building elsewhere and how should the county pay for your choice?

Staton: Well, I’ll look at like this. I think you need to fix one thing first before you go to the second thing. And that building, if you really put the money down on it, what it costs to repair that building would be way cheaper than building a new building, buying a new property and building a big old building. That thing’s got lot of footage in there. I don’t know what it is, but it’s a very big building and I’ll bet you could make the repairs and come out way ahead on that.

Barnick: I feel like the repair idea is probably the best option. It’s hard to make a decision without seeing exactly cost basis on what this, that and the other is going to do. But just for instance, if you just did demolition, if we decided to build a new building, just the demolition might come within a quarter of what a repair is going to cost. Plus, you’re going to start a completely new building. Or if we buy a

new property, what would we do with what’s there? That would still be sitting there. It’s needs to be fixed one way or the other, but I do feel like the repairing of the building is probably going to be the most cost-effective thing.

Another building that is in need of attention is the Gonzales County Jail, which was built in 2002. The county has outgrown the current jail, which is outdated and not up to standard. How should Gonzales handle the need for a new or improved jail facility and how should we pay for it?

Barnick: I agree that we’re running out of space in the county jail. And I feel like with the way that our border situation is, we’re just gonna keep getting more and more crime everywhere. I do feel like we probably will need to build a new county jail. As far as paying for it, I always feel like there’s ways to cut money in any organization. There are ways in whatever county government we’re in now, whatever office that some money could possibly be saved. It’s probably gonna be a tax increase to do this. I mean, there’s really no other option, you’re not going to save that much.

Staton: I agree with what he just said. And I know we need a new jailhouse down there, but you’re gonna have to pull it out of the tax roll. And it’s the only place you’re going to get it unless you get a grant or go to the government and get some help. But I think you really need to fix what you got broke now and you worry about that on another day. I mean, I know (the jail) is what the question is about, but I’m still thinking about the annex building and I think we need to fix that one before we fix this other deal.

Gonzales County is working on updating its subdivision ordinance for the first time in nearly 12 years. There are concerns about how development is allowed to take place within Gonzales County, especially when it comes to making sure there’s enough water to handle everyone’s needs. What changes would you like to see made in the subdivision ordinance?

Staton: I think we really need to have somebody out there watching over your code enforcer and go to the subdivisions and make these people have new rules on utilities. There’s a bunch of them who have lots out here that they’ve cut up and they can’t get water. They can get power but then they have to drill wells. And then we got people in the north side of town who can’t get well water to work because the water table is down. There ought to be a lot of rules for these subdivisions and make them pay for it.

Barnick: Well, it’s funny, we’re talking about this. This is one of my campaign platforms that I started out with. It’s been a concern of mine for a while. You’re right; 2012 was the last time that the subdivision rules and regulations were updated. We have our acreage rules on how much water there needs to be and to cover the septic, but I feel like if there’s county water available, then the developer should have to pay for the water to be piped into the subdivision and have a spot set for the meter. If the owner wants to drill a well later on, that’s fine, but I think that should be a part of the cost of Well, later on, that’s fine, but I think that ought to be part of the cost for the developer.

Editor’s Note: Due to space considerations, questions and answers from the Precinct 1 Commissioner candidates appeared in the Feb. 22 edition of the Gonzales Inquirer.

ARREST

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

“The warrant is in reference to an ongoing case pertaining to ‘Justice for Phoenix,’ Cantu said. “Phoenix is a small dog that weighs under 20 pounds.



Villanueva

She was located on the outskirts of Nixon where she was severely burned and tortured.” Cantu said after an extensive investigation, information gathered led to the arrest of Villanueva, who was served with the warrant at the Gonzales County Sheriff’s Office, where he was already awaiting a court date after being arrested Feb. 24 on an “on view” charge of assault of a family or house member impeding breath or circulation.

Villanueva’s bond had been set at \$50,000 surety on the



Phoenix (formerly known as Cutie)

assault charge when Nixon police delivered and served the warrant Tuesday for cruelty to non-livestock animal by killing, poisoning or causing serious bodily injury. He has not yet been magistered for this charge, so no bond has been set for that at this time.

“Thank you to the communities of Gonzales, San Antonio,

and Nixon for assisting in disseminating information about this heinous crime,” Cantu said.

Passion for Paws Memorial Animal Shelter, 4 Little Paws Rescue and other animal support groups in the Nixon area raised thousands of dollars to not only provide care for Phoenix, whose real name it turns out is “Cutie,” but also to fund a reward to find the person responsible for her injuries.

The rebranded Phoenix was discovered on Nixon Power Plant Road (10th Street), apparently having been doused with a flammable accelerant and deliberately set on fire. The dog had suffered other injuries, including ones from when she had tried to escape the blaze.

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

House District 44 candidates talk about border security, school choice, water

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

House District 44 candidates answered questions on a number of issues facing Gonzales County during the Republican candidate forum held Thursday, Feb. 15, at American Legion Post 40. The event was co-sponsored by the Gonzales Inquirer and the Gonzales County Republican Party.

Below is a transcript of three of the questions answered by three of the candidates: Greg Switzer, Alan Schoolcraft and the incumbent, John Kuempel. David Freimarck was not able to attend. The forum can be seen in its entirety on the Gonzales Inquirer Facebook page.

What is your top legislative priority if elected to represent House District 44 for the next term?

Schoolcraft: Just one, that is so hard. I can give you three, but I cannot do a single one. I’ll go border security above all else. If we don’t stop the invasion of our country, then I guess nothing really else matters. I’m of the opinion that it is no longer a question of if we’re going to have a terrorist attack. It’s just a question of when. There’s 1.9 million “gotaways.” We don’t even know. If they’re trying to avoid being brought in, there’s got to be a reason for it. That is an existential threat to us, and we have to put a stop to it.

Kuempel: I think the three of us may share priorities, but I agree. The number one priority is closing the border. We’ve seen it time and time again. I’m proud to say that I supported \$6.6 billion last session to go to the border and aid Governor Abbott and his efforts and I voted on legislation that would help him do that. We have people coming in that don’t like us. We know that as of January ... there were 151 terrorists caught in Texas on the terrorist watch list — and that’s the ones that we caught. It’s terrifying what it’s going to do to our way of life, what it’s going to do to our economy.

Switzer: Closing the border is the single most important act we can do right now. We have got to stop the bleeding. We’ve got to stop this invasion and we’ve got stopped also bleeding our tax dollars into funding them. Texas has an estimated of 17 million illegal aliens in Texas. That doesn’t include all the ones that have been shipped across the country. We’ve got 17 million, according to all the stats that you’ve read. Closing that border is very important for the protection of all Texas.

One of the most hotly contested topics at this time in the Texas Legislature is establishing an Education Savings Account or school voucher program that would allow public funds to be redeemable for tuition

fees or other educational related expenses at a private or parochial school of their choice. Do you support creating such a program in Texas and please explain the reason for your stance and where would the funds come from to support your stance?

Kuempel: I do not support ESAs and here’s why. In a rural district like Gonzales or Nixon or Waelder that money will come out of your property taxes. To begin with, it will cost you \$2 billion to pay for the kids that are already in private or parochial schools. That’ll come out of the historic tax decrease we just got. Number two, that money will leave without accountability. That money can go anywhere. They can go to illegal aliens, they can go to schools teaching Sharia law — it can go anywhere, and there has to be no sign of that student’s academic achievement. Once that money leaves, you’ll never see it again. But I am here to protect our rural schools.

Switzer: I’m for the school choice as long as you’re for school choice. My personal opinion, I believe, doesn’t really matter. This is a republic form of government. The position that I’m running for as a representative is to represent your voice — your voice. So whatever it is that you’ve decided that you want is what I will go to Austin to represent and what I will advocate for and that is the vote I will cast. As far as school choice and the money goes, there are some things that people don’t discuss about that you probably haven’t heard and that is we’ve got money going to the illegal aliens that needs to the end. You’ve also got creating a bureaucracy, a new level of unelected bureaucrats who will administer that money and the startup fee is approximately \$4 million.

Schoolcraft: I 100% wholeheartedly approve of, endorse, push for, advocate for school choice. We had a recent report from TEA that less than half of our children in our public schools are performing at grade level. Yet the same system, year after year after year after year, our only solution is throwing more money at it. School choice is the process of saying your tax dollars will follow your child. If you are happy with your local schools, great. If you want to put your child in another alternative that fits their needs better, your tax dollars will follow your child to that next school. They keep throwing out this illegal alien thing. That’s a red herring. The Supreme Court told us back in the 1980s we have to educate aliens, illegal aliens, and this is no different, so anyone who’s ever voted to fund schools has voted to send illegal aliens to public schools.

The population of Texas is expected to increase more than 70 percent between

2020 and 2070, from 29.5 million to 51 million and water demands are projected to grow from 17.7 million acre-feet per year now to 19.2 million acre-feet in 2070. The 2020 water supply was roughly 16.8 million acre-feet per year and is expected to decrease to roughly 13.8 million acre-feet per year by 2070. What solutions do you have to help overcome this water shortage and increase reliability of the state’s water supply?

Switzer: As I’ve driven across quite a bit of the counties, especially up in Guadalupe County, I see a great deal of development. When it comes to apartment buildings and rental homes or projects for rental homes, this is a big part of your water being taken away. One of the reasons that this is happening is an illegal usage of eminent domain where developers are coming from out of state or even out of the country to develop these properties under some guise that it’s supposed to be affordable housing. They’re taking your water and then they’re selling it back to you. Well, I come from a family of cotton farmers. And this is really near and dear to my heart. It’s very important, I understand exactly what it means to have your own water.

Schoolcraft: One of the most memorable debates I have from when I was in the legislature before was watching two representatives at the front mic and the back mic debating water. It has been contentious for probably 50 years and it’s never gonna go away. I think giving, for example, Gonzales County, more control over the water that you have under your ground here as opposed to having for example GBRA drilling here and selling off your water someplace else — that’s absolutely one of the first things we need to look into and say “What are you doing?” Local folks having control over the drilling, the use, the distribution, the sale of their water, I think, is paramount.

Kuempel: I can remember a constitutional item that incentivizes watering infrastructure to meet those growing needs that we have, whether it be for agriculture. I have worked closely and I am endorsed by the Farm Bureau and The Poultry Raisers Association, knowing what they need to go forward. For the energy, what we need to drill here, drill now. We’ve done that every session. Water will always be fought over — it always will — but we need to protect the Carrizo Wilcox, protect our local interests, try somehow to manage whether it be East Texas or West Texas, some of the water rich regions in the state — manage the growth to keep us prosperous as we go forward and those people move here.

ENERGY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

see the construction of an anaerobic digester — similar to ones seen in dairies in the Midwest — on land south of the Cal-Maine Foods Complex No. 2 near Interstate 10 at County Road 422.

The site would process poultry waste streams not only from the two Cal Maine sites in Waelder, but from six other Cal-Maine sites nearby, said Jeffrey Wright, vice president of product development for Oberon Fuels. Cal-Maine is currently the largest producer and distributor of shell eggs in the United States.

Wright explained an anaerobic digester as “basically the industrial version of what happens in inside of dairy cows.”

“So when you think about a dairy cow, it eats a bunch of grass and hay and a dairy cow has four chambers of its stomach and each one has different processes to break down what it’s eating,” Wright said. “When a cow is eating some grass, what comes out of the back of a cow? Two things happen — one is a gas comes out, and some solids come out. We take that gas and we harness that and we take that through our process at Oberon through a couple of different stages and it creates different kinds of renewable fuels. The solids that come out of the backside of a cow — that’s what we take, and we use it as fertilizer.”

Wright said his company has been working with Cal Maine for several years to determine “what their waste streams are and how we can help them to clean up some manure that’s coming out of their processes.”

Wright said the gas generated through the DVO Renewables anaerobic digester is used to create fuels onsite for Oberon Energy and will be either sent out on large trucks or put on train and shipped by rail to different sites.

Among the products created by Oberon are renewable dimethyl ether, or rDME, which gets blended with liquid propane gas.

“It’s very similar to propane and it blends with propane,” Wright said. “It’s a drop in fuel for the propane industry to try and help decarbonize their industry a bit. We also make other products like renewable (green) methanol, which a lot of companies use as backup fuel for power generation in Texas. It’s also being used in marine fuel for the shipping industry as they are looking to replace some of those dirtier fuels with something a bit more responsible.”

The organic byproduct is then turned into different fertilizer products, with some bagged and sold in local stores, while some is sold in bulk for industrial purposes.

“It’s a pretty in-demand



LEW K. COHN

Jeffrey Wright, vice president of production for Oberon Fuels, explains to Gonzales County commissioners how a proposed anaerobic digester facility will work on land near Cal-Maine Foods in Waelder. The plant will turn poultry waste into renewable fuels and fertilizer.

product where people are looking for more organic fertilizers as opposed to the ones that are made from other kinds of fossil fuels or imported,” Wright said. “Everything is going to be made in the United States with United States technology, United States products, United States components and making products to be sold here in the United States.”

Crouch said one of the greatest benefits of the anaerobic process is the creation of clean water in the Cal-Maine lagoons as well as odor reduction.

“The state of Texas is looking at this project as odor control,” Crouch said. “What goes into

our digester comes out cleaner, so we’re returning clean water and everything gets circulated in a closed circuit. Over time, we’re looking at about a five to eight year period, those lagoons that are currently placed out there will be clean. Within a couple years from now, there’ll be no noticeable odor.”

Wright said he expects there will be roughly 25-40 employees at the Waelder facility, which includes machine operators and truck drivers. During the construction phase, there are expected to be 200-250 jobs in all specialities during a period of about 18-24 months.

Crouch said the project is

currently in engineering and could be bid as soon as April or May and “we’d like to break ground this fall.”

“We’re going to spend close to \$200 million on the project,” Crouch said. “There’s a bond program that is through the state of Texas. We’re getting some federal funding from the state of Texas and it will need to be approved by the county, but the county has no liability whatsoever.”

Precinct 2 Commissioner Donnie Brzozowski gave the project his blessing and asked the court to vote to show its support for the facility, which it did unanimously.

SHOW

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

More than 140 exhibitors are expected to participate in one or more of the 15 project areas that include multiple animal projects, a bake show, and an agricultural mechanics show. Students have spent anywhere from eight weeks to a full calendar year on these projects and are ready to showcase them to the community.

For the past three years, the community has raised more than \$700,000 each year in scholarships for

exhibitors.

In order to take part in the county show, an exhibitor must be a FFA or 4-H member in Gonzales County as of 5 p.m. Nov. 1, 2023. The exhibitor also must have a homestead in Gonzales County or attend a school in Gonzales County at the time of club registration and the animals must be housed in Gonzales County unless permission is otherwise granted. An exhibitor must also be enrolled in

school and passing all subjects as of the most recent completed grading period and he or she may show in only one community/local/county show during the year.

Categories include steers, breeding heifers, market swine (barrow and gilts), breeding swine (gilts), market lambs (wethers and ewes), breeding lambs (ewes), market goats (wethers and does), breeding goats (does), market rabbits

(pen of three), breeding rabbits (does), market broilers (pen of three), bucket calves, baked goods and ag mechanics.

Gonzales County Youth Show Association officers include President Mitchell Hardcastle, Vice President Kate Richter, Secretary Renee Rathmann, Treasurer Rhonda Hand and Reporter Tracy

Reynolds.

Show superintendents include: Broilers — Dillon Brown, Cynthia Pape, Will Lamprecht; Rabbits — Dub Whitehead, Tracy Reynolds, Renee Rathmann, Liz Davis Zella; Steers/Heifers — Steven Evans, Will Lamprecht, Bubba Ehrig, Tracy Reynolds; Lambs/Goats — Tracy Reynolds, Dillon

Brown, and Steven Evans; Swine — Rhonda Hand, Kate Richter, Dillon Brown, and Bubba Ehrig; Commercial Heifers — All Directors; Baked Goods — Rhonda Hand and Tracy Reynolds; Agriculture Mechanics — All Directors and GCYSA Advisors; Bucket Calf Committee Representatives — Renee Rathmann.

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Gonzales County Youth Show 2024 Schedule of Events

Thursday, February 29th, 2024

Arrive - Check-In - Weigh-In
5:30 pm - 6:30 pm **Swine**
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm **Commercial Heifers** (health papers required at check-in)

Friday, March 1st, 2024

Arrive - Check-in - Weigh-in
7:00 am - 8:00 am **Goats and Lambs**
9:00 am - 10:00 am **Agriculture Mechanics**
10:00 am **Robotics Contest**
10:00 am - 11:00 am **Rabbits**
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm **Steers and Heifers**
(may be unloaded and stalled prior to weigh-in)

Judging
8:00 am **Swine**

9:00 am **Herdsmen Interviews** (in the predetermined order)

10:00 am **Commercial Heifers**
(exhibitors need not be present during judging)

10:00 am **LAMBS | GOATS | RABBITS**
Goats - will begin 10 minutes after completion of Lamb Show
Rabbits - will begin 10 minutes after completion of Goat Show

6:00 pm - **Commercial Heifer Awards with Sale to Follow (JB Wells Arena)**

Saturday, March 2nd, 2024

Arrive - Check-in
7:00 - 7:30 am **Broilers**
8:00 - 8:45 am **Baked Goods**
8:30 - 9:00 am **Bucket Calves**

Judging
8:00 am **Broilers**
9:00 am **Baked Goods**
9:00 am **Steers**; followed by **Halter Heifers**
Bucket Calves - will begin 20 minutes after completion of Cattle Show
9:00 am **Agriculture Mechanics**

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm (or when maximum bid is reached) **Silent Auction of Baked Goods**
SILENT AUCTION OF AGRICULTURE MECHANICS PROJECTS will end at 7:00 pm

4:30 - 6:00 pm - **Buyers Meal and Social Hour**
(Buyers, please be registered by 5:00 pm and have add-ons delivered to office by 5:30 pm)

6:00 pm - **Sale of Market Animals**

If anyone has questions feel free to contact a board member



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BANQUET & AWARDS





The Gonzales ISD Education Foundation held its annual Casino Night Fundraiser at JB Wells Expo Center on Saturday, Feb. 24. The event included delicious steaks prepared by members of the Come and Take It Cookers, a silent auction, live auction and table gaming (blackjack, roulette, craps and more). The event raised thousands of dollars for innovation grants for GISD teachers and the organization is also starting up a scholarship program for local students.

PHOTOS BY LEW K. COHN AND JUSTIN JIMENEZ



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

ERRORS

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

CALL TODAY

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050 GARAGE SALES

FAMILY GARAGE SALE. Friday & Saturday, March 1st & 2nd, 8am-?. 307 E. Wallace. Household goods, clothing, collectibles, etc.

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All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination.

We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.



850 HELP WANTED

VICTORIA COLLEGE
Est. 1925
Part-time ITV/WebEx Proctors needed to teach at Victoria College's Gonzales Center. For more information and to apply go to www.victoriacollege.edu and click on Jobs@VC. Victoria College is an Equal Opportunity Institution.

VICTORIA COLLEGE
Est. 1925
The Division of Allied Health is hiring part-time Adjunct Instructors for the for the clinical setting of the ADN and VN Nursing Programs. Adjunct Instructors are needed at our Victoria campus as well as in the Gonzales, Cuero, and Hallettsville locations. For more information and to apply go to www.victoriacollege.edu and click on Jobs@VC.
Victoria College is an Equal Opportunity Institution.

850 HELP WANTED

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

CLASSIFIEDS WORK! CALL TODAY! 830-672-2861

850 HELP WANTED

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.

850 HELP WANTED

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

850 HELP WANTED

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

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TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

EXAMPLE A

NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN AIR PERMIT (NORI) RENEWAL

PERMIT NUMBER 49153

APPLICATION. BYK USA Inc, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for renewal of Air Quality Permit Number 49153, which would authorize continued operation of the clay processing plant located at 1212 Church Street, Gonzales, Gonzales County, Texas 78629. **AVISO DE IDIOMA ALTERNATIVO.** El aviso de idioma alternativo en español está disponible en <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/air/newsourcereview/airpermits-pending-permit-apps>. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For exact location, refer to application. <https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-97.4475,29.51333&level=13>. The existing facility is authorized to emit the following air contaminants: carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, organic compounds, particulate matter including particulate matter with diameters of 10 microns or less and 2.5 microns or less and sulfur dioxide.

This application was submitted to the TCEQ on January 10, 2024. The application will be available for viewing and copying at the TCEQ central office, TCEQ Corpus Christi regional office, and the Gonzales Public Library, 415 St. Matthew Street, Gonzales, Gonzales County, Texas beginning the first day of publication of this notice. The facility's compliance file, if any exists, is available for public review in the Corpus Christi regional office of the TCEQ.

The executive director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. Information in the application indicates that this permit renewal would not result in an increase in allowable emissions and would not result in the emission of an air contaminant not previously emitted. **The TCEQ may act on this application without seeking further public comment or providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.**

PUBLIC COMMENT. You may submit public comments to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below. The TCEQ will consider all public comments in developing a final decision on the application and the executive director will prepare a response those comments. Issues such as property values, noise, traffic safety, and zoning are outside of the TCEQ's jurisdiction to address in the permit process.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. You may request a contested case hearing if you are a person who may be affected by emissions of air contaminants from the facility. If requesting a contested case hearing, you must submit the following: (1) your name (or for a group or association, an official representative), mailing address, daytime phone number; (2) applicant's name and permit number; (3) the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing;" (4) a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the application and air emissions from the facility in a way not common to the general public; (5) the location and distance of your property relative to the facility; (6) a description of how you use the property which may be impacted by the facility; and (7) a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period. If the request is made by a group or association, one or more members who have standing to request a hearing must be identified by name and physical address. The interests the group or association seeks to protect must also be identified. You may also submit your proposed adjustments to the application/permit which would satisfy your concerns.

The deadline to submit a request for a contested case hearing is 15 days after newspaper notice is published. If a request is timely filed, the deadline for requesting a contested case hearing will be extended to 30 days after mailing of the response to comments.

If any requests for a contested case hearing are timely filed, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for a contested case hearing to the Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting. Unless the application is directly referred to a contested case hearing, the executive director will mail the response to comments along with notification of Commission meeting to everyone who submitted comments or is on the mailing list for this application. The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material air quality concerns submitted during the comment period. Issues such as property values, noise, traffic safety, and zoning are outside of the Commission's jurisdiction to address in this proceeding.

MAILING LIST. In addition to submitting public comments, you may ask to be placed on a mailing list for this application by sending a request to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below. Those on the mailing list will receive copies of future public notices (if any) mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk for this application.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the Public Education Program toll free at 1 800 687 4040. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from BYK USA Inc, 1212 Church Street, Gonzales, Texas 78629-3008 or by calling Mr. Charles Frederick, Environmental Engineer at (830) 672-1907.

Notice Issuance Date: February 5, 2024

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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.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Occupations Code 2303 the following item has been impounded at:
 D & G AUTOMOTIVE & DIESEL, 134 HWY 90A WEST GONZALES, TX 78629
 TDLR VSF Lic. No.0002068VSF Ph# 830-672-6278
 16 STOUGH TRL 1DW1A5325GS642301
 Total \$20602.71
 Total charges cannot be assessed until vehicle is claimed. Storage charges will accrue daily until vehicle is released.

Gonzales Economic Development Corporation

In accordance with the Development Corporation Act, Section 505.160 of the Texas Local Government Code, the Gonzales Economic Development Corporation, a Type B economic development corporation, is publishing this notice of the intent to undertake the following projects: (1) provide economic development assistance to Next Concept Motorsports in an amount not to exceed Nineteen Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-Seven and 48/100 Dollars (\$19,997.48) for site improvements at 1839 St Lawrence Street, Gonzales, Texas and (2) provide economic development assistance to Gonzales Main Street Inc, in an amount not to exceed Seventy-Three Thousand and No/100 Dollars (\$73,000.00) for Quality of Life improvements in the Main Street District.

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Notice to Creditors

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Independent Executor for the Estate of IVA JANE KOSUB, Deceased, were issued on February 12, 2024, in Cause No. AD24-0320, pending in the County Court of Gonzales County, Texas, to: GLENN KOSUB, Independent Executor of the Estate of IVA JANE KOSUB.

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

GLENN KOSUB,
 Independent Executor, Estate of IVA JANE KOSUB, Deceased
 c/o CHRISTIE ORTMAN FULLILOVE
 403 St. George
 Gonzales, Texas 78620

Dated the 22 day of February, 2024.

CHRISTIE ORTMAN FULLILOVE
 Ortmann Fullilove Law, PLLC
 Attorney for: GLENN KOSUB
 Independent Executor, Estate of IVA JANE KOSUB, Deceased
 State Bar No.: 24084171
 403 St. George
 Gonzales, Texas 78629
 Telephone: (830) 672-9535
 Facsimile: (830) 672-8654

Request for Competitive Sealed Proposals

Gonzales Healthcare Systems will be accepting sealed proposals for the project listed below on the date and time indicated. Bid Documents will be available on March 1, 2024.

Gonzales Healthcare Expansion

Bids Due: April 10, 2024, 2:00pm

Scope includes the addition of a new Surgical Department Addition of approximately 12,000sf and remodel of patient rooms. A Non-Mandatory Preconstruction Conference will be held on April 2, 2024, 10:30 am at the below address:

Gonzales Healthcare Systems
 1110 N Sarah DeWitt Dr.
 Gonzales, Texas 78629

All proposals must be delivered to the above address on or before the due date and time. Proposals will be opened after receipt. Electronic bid documents are available at www.gonzaleshealthcare.com or by emailing construction@gonzaleshealthcare.com, and also at Virtual Builders Exchange. Construction budget is approx. \$13-16 Million. Contact Dan Haupt with AG|CM, Inc. at 361-537-6147 with additional questions.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Gonzales, Texas, is requesting public comment in regard to the submission of application to the Texas General Land Office (GLO) for Community Development Block Grant – Regional Mitigation Program (CDBG-MIT) funds for infrastructure improvements providing for flood mitigation. The application and proposed non-housing infrastructure project will allow the City to utilize grant funding to mitigate the impact of future flooding events:

1. Local Infrastructure Program Funding as Allocated by the Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission (GCPRC): \$2,999,400 with \$1,499,700 to benefit low-to-moderate income areas of the City

The City will request public comments for fifteen (15) days from Thursday, February 22, 2024 through Friday, March 8, 2024. The application will be available for review at Gonzales City Hall located at 820 St. Joseph Street, Gonzales, Texas, 78629 or on the website at: <https://www.gonzales.texas.gov/>. The public is encouraged to submit comments that will assist the City in defining and evaluating the proposed projects that will mitigate the devastating effects of natural disasters as well ensure the projects are in line with environmental regulations, affirmatively further fair housing activities, and, if applicable, minimizing displacement of persons by project activities. The proposed activities are not expected to result in the displacement of persons.

Allowable activities under this grant include but are not limited to: natural and green infrastructure, public facilities, housing, buyouts or acquisition, activities designed to relocate families outside of floodplains, and public service activities.

Upon the expiration of this comment period the City will review and address any public comments in the proposed application. The grant application will be submitted to City Council for a Public Hearing on March 14, 2024 at 6pm at City Hall located at 820 St. Joseph Street, Gonzales, Texas 78629. Please email your views and comments to citysecretary@gonzales.texas.gov, or mail your comments to:

City of Gonzales
 c/o City Secretary
 P.O. Box 547
 Gonzales, Texas
 78629-0547

AVISO PÚBLICO

La Ciudad de Gonzales, Texas, solicita los comentarios del público respecto de la presentación de una solicitud ante la Oficina de Tierras Públicas de Texas (GLO) para los fondos de la Subvención en Bloque para Desarrollo Comunitario – Mitigación (CDBG-MIT) para mejoras de infraestructura en preparación para la mitigación de inundaciones. La solicitud y el proyecto de infraestructura no residencial propuesto permitirán que la Ciudad utilice el financiamiento de la subvención para mitigar el impacto de inundaciones futuras:

1. Financiamiento del Programa de Infraestructura Local asignado por la Comisión de Planificación Regional Golden Crescent (GCPRC): \$2,999,400 con \$1,499,700 para el beneficio de zonas de la Ciudad con ingresos bajos a moderados.

La Ciudad solicitará los comentarios del público durante quince (15) días desde el jueves 22 de febrero de 2024 hasta el viernes 8 de marzo de 2024. La solicitud estará disponible para su revisión en el Ayuntamiento de la Ciudad de Gonzales, sito en 820 St. Joseph Street, Gonzales, Texas, 78629 o en el sitio web: <https://www.gonzales.texas.gov/>. Se anima al público a que presente comentarios que ayuden a la Ciudad a definir y evaluar los proyectos propuestos que mitigarán los efectos devastadores de los desastres naturales y que garantizarán que los proyectos se adecuen a las reglamentaciones medioambientales, promuevan afirmativamente las actividades de vivienda justa y, si corresponde, minimicen el desplazamiento de personas por las actividades del proyecto. No se espera que las actividades propuestas den lugar al desplazamiento de personas.

Las actividades permitidas en el marco de esta subvención incluyen, entre otras: infraestructuras naturales y verdes, instalaciones públicas, viviendas, compras o adquisiciones, actividades destinadas a reubicar a las familias fuera de las llanuras aluviales y actividades de servicios públicos.

Tras la finalización de este periodo de comentarios, la Ciudad revisará y abordará cualquier comentario público en la solicitud propuesta. La solicitud de la subvención se presentará ante el Consejo Municipal para una audiencia pública el 14 de marzo de 2024, a las 6 p.m., en el Ayuntamiento de la Ciudad de Gonzales, sito en 820 St. Joseph Street, Gonzales, Texas, 78629. Envíe sus opiniones y comentarios a citysecretary@gonzales.texas.gov o por correo postal a:

City of Gonzales
 c/o City Secretary
 P.O. Box 547
 Gonzales, Texas
 78629-0547

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 HOHMANN 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 1st day of April, 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 Hohmann and/or His Heirs, Known or Unknown*, wherein BAYTEX ENERGY USA, INC. is Plaintiff, and the said EDWARD ALBERT HOHMANN 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 16th day of February 2024, at Gonzales, Gonzales County, Texas.

Janice Sutton
 JANICE SUTTON,
 Clerk of the District Court of
 Gonzales County, Texas

By: K. Alarson, Deputy

February 22 Puzzle Answers

Last Puzzle Solution

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 EDGE
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S-1677

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950 PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SMILEY, TEXAS, REPEALING AND REPLACING ORDINANCE 06.04.08; PROVIDING FOR THE FOLLOWING: RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING OWNERSHIP, CARE, AND TRANSPORTATION OF ANIMALS WITHIN THE INCORPORATED AREA AND THE EXTRATERRITORIAL AREA OF THE CITY OF SMILEY, TEXAS; CERTAIN DEFINITIONS; DECLARING A NUISANCE; PROCEDURES FOR ENFORCEMENT INCLUDING CRIMINAL PENALTIES AND CIVIL FINES IN AN AMOUNT NOT LESS THAN ONE DOLLAR (\$1.00) AND NOT MORE THAN FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500.00) PER VIOLATION; REPEALER; SEVERABILITY; AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF KATHY LYNN KAHN, as Independent Executrix of the Estate of Robert William Perkins, Deceased.
Pending in the County Court of Gonzales County, TX, under Cause No. PW24-0315.
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ABOVE ESTATE:
WHEREAS, on the 12th day of February, 2024, in the County Court of Gonzales County, TX, the undersigned duly qualified as the Independent Executrix of the Estate of Robert William Perkins, Deceased.
Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary on this Estate were granted and this is to notify all persons having claims against said Estate to present the same to the undersigned within the time prescribed by law. Any person indebted to said Estate is hereby notified to pay same to the undersigned.
KATHY LYNN KAHN, Independent Executrix of the Estate of Robert William Perkins, Deceased.
Address: c/o Thomas G. Bassler, Thomas G. Bassler, P.C., 306 W. Sunset, #119, San Antonio, TX 78209.
Dated at Gonzales, Texas, February, 2024.

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
The City of Gonzales, Texas, is requesting public comment in regard to the submission of application to the Texas General Land Office (GLO) for Community Development Block Grant – Resilient Communities Program (TXGLO-RCP) grant funds the development and implementation of building codes, zoning ordinances, comprehensive plans, and other resilience-building initiatives. The updated City of Gonzales Comprehensive Plan will enable the City to create a more resilient community by mitigating the impact of future flooding events.
1. Resilient Communities Program (RCP) Comprehensive Plan grant funding in the amount of \$172,000 to provide low-to-moderate income area benefit
The City will request public comments for fifteen (15) days from Thursday, February 22, 2024 through Friday, March 8, 2024. The application will be available for review at Gonzales City Hall located at 820 St. Joseph Street, Gonzales, Texas, 78629 or on the website at: <https://www.gonzales.texas.gov/>. The public is encouraged to submit comments that will assist the City in with areas to be defined in the updated Comprehensive Plan. The elements of the plan will be in line with environmental regulations and affirmatively further fair housing activities. The proposed activities will not result in the displacement of persons.
Allowable activities under this grant include but are not limited to: the development and implementation of building codes, zoning ordinances, comprehensive plans, and other resilience-building initiatives.
Upon the expiration of this comment period the City will review and address any public comments in the proposed application. The grant application will be submitted to City Council for a Public Hearing on March 14, 2024 at 6pm at City Hall located at 820 St. Joseph Street, Gonzales, Texas 78629. Please email your views and comments to citysecretary@gonzales.texas.gov, or mail your comments to:
City of Gonzales
c/o City Secretary
P.O. Box 547
Gonzales, Texas
78629-0547

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

AVISO PÚBLICO
La Ciudad de Gonzales, Texas, solicita los comentarios del público respecto de la presentación de una solicitud ante la Oficina Tierras Públicas de Texas (GLO) para los fondos de la Subvención en Bloque para Desarrollo Comunitario - la subvención del Programa de Comunidades Resilientes (TXGLO-RCP) financia el desarrollo y la implementación de códigos de construcción, ordenanzas de zonificación, planes integrales y otras iniciativas de construcción resiliente. El Plan integral actualizado de la Ciudad de Gonzales permitirá que la Ciudad cree una comunidad más resiliente mediante la mitigación del impacto de inundaciones futuras.
1. El Plan integral del Programa de Comunidades Resilientes (RCP) otorga fondos en la cantidad de \$172,000 para proveer beneficios a zonas con ingresos de bajos a moderados.
La Ciudad solicitará los comentarios del público durante quince (15) días desde el jueves 22 de febrero de 2024 hasta el viernes 8 de marzo de 2024. La solicitud estará disponible para su revisión en el Ayuntamiento de la Ciudad de Gonzales, sito en 820 St. Joseph Street, Gonzales, Texas, 78629 o en el sitio web: <https://www.gonzales.texas.gov/>. Se anima al público a que presente comentarios que ayuden a la Ciudad con las zonas que se definirán en el Plan integral actualizado. Los elementos del plan cumplirán con las reglamentaciones medioambientales y promoverán afirmativamente actividades de vivienda justa. Las actividades propuestas no darán lugar al desplazamiento de personas.
Las actividades permitidas bajo esta subvención incluyen, entre otras: el desarrollo y la implementación de códigos de construcción, ordenanzas de zonificación, planes integrales y otras iniciativas de construcción resiliente.
Tras la finalización de este periodo de comentarios, la Ciudad revisará y abordará cualquier comentario público en la solicitud propuesta. La solicitud de la subvención se presentará ante el Consejo Municipal para una audiencia pública el 14 de marzo de 2024, a las 6 p.m., en el Ayuntamiento de la Ciudad de Gonzales, sito en 820 St. Joseph Street, Gonzales, Texas, 78629. Envíe sus opiniones y comentarios a citysecretary@gonzales.texas.gov o por correo postal a:
City of Gonzales
c/o City Secretary
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Gonzales, Texas
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900 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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900 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

THE STATE OF TEXAS CITATION BY PUBLICATION

CAUSE NO. AD24-0322
IN THE ESTATE OF EMILIO RODRIGUEZ, DECEASED
TO ALL UNKNOWN OR MISSING HEIRS OF THE ESTATE OF EMILIO RODRIGUEZ, DECEASED

Mary Williams, in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on February 8, 2024 an APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP AND FOR LETTERS OF INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION in the estate of Emilio Rodriguez, Deceased, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of Emilio Rodriguez, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in said estate, and appoint Mary Williams 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, Commissioners Courtroom, Gonzales, Texas, 78629** in Gonzales County, Texas.

You are hereby cited to appear before this 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 February 22, 2024.

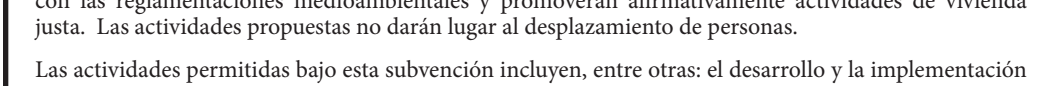
Lona Ackman, COUNTY CLERK
Gonzales County, Texas
427 St. George St, STEE 200
Gonzales, Texas 78629

By: *Margie Zapata*
Margie Zapata Deputy

Plaintiff(s) Attorney:
Kristen Davis
417 St. George Street, 2nd Floor
P.O. Box 887
Gonzales, Texas 78629
830-672-8773
830-857-1024



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COOKING WITH PARIND

Your eyes will 'glaze' over with this succulent ham dish

Hello everyone. My name is Parind Vora. I am the chef/owner of Gonzales Bistro at 320 Saint George Street right off the historic Independence square, www.gonzalesbistro.com. In this column we talk cooking, tricks to cooking, and sometimes eating.

We are just getting out of winter, so it's been rather wishy washy, but it has not been cold again. Easter is coming up fast so I thought we would make an interesting glazed ham.

For this recipe we will use a bone-in spiral cut ham that is already cooked. The only ham that would not be correct to use for this recipe is a salted country ham otherwise feel free to substitute but amend the recipe accordingly.

Get the ham ready by pulling it out of any plastic or oven ready packaging. I typically cook my ham at a lower than printed heat of 275° F for about 12-15 minutes PER pound. This prevents the ham from drying out.

So now let's get started.

Ingredients:

Toasted Rye - Dijon mustard & apple cider glazed spiral ham

1/2 cup unpasteurized apple juice

2 cups apple cider (Amish way is what I use but use whatever you like)

1/2 cup light brown sugar

1 cup Dijon mustard

1 cup of pumpernickel breadcrumbs (crust removed, oven dried overnight and pulsed into coarse breadcrumbs).

1/2 cup of rye breadcrumbs (crust removed, oven dried overnight and

pulsed into coarse breadcrumbs).

Salt & freshly ground pepper to taste

Washed Yukon gold potatoes and sweet potatoes cut into 1.5 inch slices

Small bunch of fresh French thyme

In a large roasting dish layer the bottom with the circles of Yukon gold potatoes and sweet potatoes and season with salt and pepper and fresh thyme. Top with the fully cooked ham and cook at 275° F for 12-15 minutes per pound.

In a big enough pot (double the liquid contents) bring the cider & water to a hard, rolling boil and reduce by half. Add both sugars and lower the heat to bring the mixture to a medium simmer, make sure that all of the sugars are dissolved and reduce by half again. Add 1/2 cup of the Dijon mustard, salt & the black pepper over medium low heat.

Turn off the heat, taste and season as needed.

When the Ham has 30 to 40 minutes left to cook, start basting it with the glaze.

Once there is only 10 minutes left to cook pull the ham out and let rest for 30 minutes.

Turn up the oven to 350° F while you get the ham crusted.

Now comes the interesting part. You will combine the mixed breadcrumbs and the 1/2 cup of the remaining Dijon mustard. Add just enough of the mix of ham juices and the glaze in the pan with the Dijon mustard/breadcrumbs mixture until you have a barely moist 'grout' like mixture.

Take the breadcrumbs mixture and crust the entire ham and put back



in the now hotter oven and cook for roughly 12-20 min until a knife at the center of the thickest part of the ham comes out very warm.

Let the ham rest uncovered for 20 minutes before carving.

I put all of the glaze juices in the roasting pan into a pot and swirl in 1/4 pound of butter to thicken and finish the glaze. Taste and season as needed.

Carve the crusty ham and serve with the Yukon gold potato/sweet potatoes that the ham was cooked over with a little of the butter finished ham glaze. I also like to serve French green beans with this dish.

For this dish I like a Syrah based wine like a village level Cotes du Rhône like a Gigondas or an interesting Basque white wine like a Txakoli.

Cheers!

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Today's the Day

Hey there folks, hope life's treating you well, or at least a little better than you probably deserve. I've always found it funny, especially within myself, how we can so easily get lost in our own pride and actually believe that we deserve every great thing life has to offer, even if others may not. Yep, been there, done that. I have to remind myself often, that as it says in Romans 3:23, "All" have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. So, when my arrogance (pride on steroids) monster rears its ugly head, I have to hit pause and remember that as I mount my high horse, that he's just a small mangy, shetland pony with no legs. Something that helped Eloise and I along the way was to start most mornings quoting Psalm 118:24, "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." You may want to give it a try, cause it sure helped us start our day on the right foot (as opposed to the wrong one).

Although it felt somewhat strange, being mid February and all, yesterday I took my mower out for a spin for the first time this year, pausing often to enjoy the wild flowers (some over two feet tall already), and hug my donkeys. For those of you that have never hugged a donkey, you don't know what you're missing, as they are very affectionate animals, and don't slobber much when they kiss you on the lips!

It was a beautiful day with beautiful weather, yep, truly a day the Lord had made. Gotta enjoy those simple pleasures at every opportunity, as they'll keep you humble, put a smile

on your face, and probably help to keep your blood pressure in check as well. While I may not be much of a real cowboy (more of a Walmart cowboy, if you know what I mean), I did wear my cowboy hat (bought at Walmart) while mowing, as I'd heard Greg Abbot had just passed a bill that if you didn't wear one while mowing at least once a month, there was a chance that you could be deported to somewhere up north, and after having lived twelve frozen years in Il-



"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Psalm 118:24

linois, let's just say, I bought a second hat in case the first one blew off.

Continuing with our fit for '24 series, I thought I'd share where I'm currently at. Exercising off and on (mostly off) until my late 30's, followed by a twenty year hiatus until my late 50's: now older, overweight



ERIC ESTES
Love, Eric and Eloise

and beat up, off to Academy sports I went. After some thought and research, I decided it would be wisest to invest in something that could allow me (and the family) to do most of the exercises a health club could offer, with less expense, not only financially, but in time and travel as well. I settled on the Marcy Diamond Elite Smith Cage Workout Machine, which is currently listed on Amazon for \$1299. Purchased at Academy in San Antonio ten years ago for \$600, I guess one has to allow for inflation. It doesn't come with weights, but I still had the set I'd used in my 30's from a similar set up. It's been a fantastic investment, a great machine, very ergonomic, and has served me well and still looks and works like brand new, very highly recommended. If you're at all interested, look it up on Amazon, it's the gray and brown version with the "V" on top. The thing I like the most is that the main bar rides on pistons, eliminating balance problems, which becomes a bigger factor with age. Next week I'll give my full review and start explaining how I use it to retain my youthful glow...woops, never mind, just sunburn!

Until next time, love you guys, Eric.

Gonzales Area Parkinson's Support Group meets

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Do you have Parkinson's Disease, or are you a caregiver for someone who has Parkinson's? Do you have questions or would like more information on this disease? Would you like to have someone you could share with in confidence about Parkinson's symptoms, medications, etc.?

Visit the Gonzales Area Parkinson's Support Group. They meet on the first Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the Presbyterian Church of Gonzales, 414 St. Louis St., Gonzales.

The next meeting will be March 7 at 6 p.m. and will be an open discussion time. If the members decide they would like to break into groups, caregivers would be in one area together and Parkinson's patients would gather in another area.

Light refreshments will be served. There are no fees involved and everyone is welcome to attend. Looking forward to seeing regular members and new visitors to share information, questions, and fellowship with others who understand.

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