

The **Gonzales** Inquirer

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BLUEBONNETS *in bloom*

It's that time of year again when the bluebonnets bloom across Texas. The bluebonnet is the state flower of Texas. There are reports of snakes being seen in fields of bluebonnets across Texas; they are drawn by movement.

PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS

TEXAS INDEPENDENCE RELAY

Relay returns to Gonzales

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

Gunsmoke isn't just a TV show that aired for 20 seasons on CBS. It's also what residents will see — and smell — plenty of this Saturday, March 23 when the annual Texas Independence Relay returns to its departure point in front of the Gonzales Memorial Museum.

The nearly 200-mile relay race sends off teams of runners with staggered cannon booms to commemorate and trace the path of Sam Houston and the Texian Army towards independence after the fall of the Alamo from

Gonzales to the Water Works at Buffalo Bayou Park, which provides a close-up view of the impressive Houston skyline.

Teams of up to 12 runners will be announced by their chosen theme song and a cannon blast beginning at 6 a.m. and continuing until 2:30 p.m. Saturday in this relay that was begun in 2008 by the husband-and-wife team of Jay and Joy Hilscher of Lone Star Relays LLC.

Team members run together twice during the race — once in Gonzales at the beginning and once

See RELAY, page 6



LEW K. COHN

The Lone Star flag marks the starting point of the 2024 Texas Independence Relays in front of the Gonzales Memorial Museum on Smith Street. The 36-leg, 200-mile relay race will begin Saturday, March 23, with team departures being announced by cannon blast. Gonzales has been the point of departure for every Texas Independence Relay since it began in 2008.

Husband, wife accused of misusing EMS funds could face April 1 trial

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The case against a husband and wife accused of misappropriating funds while serving as executive director and book-

keeper of the Gonzales County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) could go to trial as soon as April 1.

James and Carla Russell are expected to appear in 25th

District Judge William D. Old's court at 9 a.m. Monday, March 25, for an announcement hearing to determine if both the

See TRIAL, page 18

City Council, Chamber reach agreement on administrative services, tourism

BY VANDY VAN EPPS

Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales City Council met for its regular scheduled meeting Thursday, March 14,

at Gonzales City Hall.

One of the big agenda items that was discussed at the meeting was to execute an amended contract with the Chamber of Commerce for hosting and

operations of the Gonzales Visitor Information Center.

"This is an agreement between the city and the Cham-

See CHAMBER, page 18

Gonzales County EMS ribbon cutting set for March 21

BY BETTY COHN

Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales County Emergency Medical Services invites the community to join them for the ribbon cutting on the new EMS/Rescue Station this Thursday, March 21 from 4-6 p.m.

This event will be held at the location of the newly opened center, 1700 Water St., Gonzales.

Sponsored refreshments will be available to those in attendance and all are encouraged to show support, as a community, for those who support the entire community when it most needs support.

Pompa begins work as Nixon's new financial director

Resignation from council accepted at March 18 meeting

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Nixon City Council formally approved the March 1 resignation of Council Member Melissa Pompa at

the regular council meeting Monday, March 18 at City Hall.

Pompa resigned from council because she was hired to be the new City of

Nixon financial director, beginning her duties on Monday, March 11. Mayor Dorothy Riojas accepted her resignation when it was proffered, but the council had to take formal action on it to approve it for the record.

The council also set an application deadline of Tues-

day, March 26, for candidates interested in serving out the remainder of Pompa's term on the council, which ends in May 2025.

Because Nixon is a Type A general law city, state law allows the council to fill a

See POMPA, page 17

Gonzales Healthcare Systems Foundation Gala heading back to the Roaring Twenties

BY BETTY COHN

Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales Healthcare Systems Foundation invites one and all to dress in their best glad rags and join in on

the fun as they raise funds for future hospital projects. In what is billed as a swell night, and a sure to be hotsy totsy evening, the foundation are looking

See GALA, page 17

Unemployment rate increases to 3.7 percent in Gonzales County

BY BETTY COHN

Gonzales Inquirer

Unemployment in Gonzales County increased to 3.7 percent in January 2024, beginning the year with the county placing the third-highest of all seven counties which comprise the Golden Crescent Workforce Development Area.

See UNEMPLOYMENT, page 17



Gonzales Main Street celebrates Southwest Engineers as March Business of the Month

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Gonzales Main Street takes immense pride in spotlighting businesses that embody the spirit of our vibrant community. This month, we are thrilled to honor Southwest Engineers as our Main Street Business of the Month, a testament to their unwavering commitment to excellence and their deep-rooted connection to Gonzales County.

Since its humble beginnings as a family-owned enterprise in 1978, Southwest Engineers has flourished into a cornerstone of our local business landscape. Nestled at 307 Saint Lawrence St., this esteemed firm boasts close to 80 dedicated employees spread across three strategically located offices, including Buda, Bastrop, and its heart in Gonzales.

Specializing in civil engineering, water, and wastewater solutions, Southwest Engineers has left an indelible mark on our community through their stellar work in public infrastructure, private development, and right-of-way easement applications. Their commitment to innovation and excellence has not only transformed our

physical landscape but has also contributed significantly to the sustainable growth and development of Gonzales.

The legacy of Southwest Engineers is deeply intertwined with the rich tapestry of Gonzales County, with the Littlefield family tracing their roots back to 1853. John Littlefield, a visionary leader within the company, recognizes the boundless opportunities that Gonzales offers.

He remarks, "Gonzales is unique with the history of the community, two squares, and one of the biggest downtown areas of a small town in the state."

His optimism and forward-thinking approach underscore Southwest Engineers' dedication to driving economic development and revitalizing our downtown core.

Patriarch Clarence Littlefield echoes his sentiments, emphasizing the pivotal role that small businesses play in fostering community growth. He believes that by supporting local enterprises and nurturing the downtown revitalization efforts spearheaded by the Main Street Program, we can cultivate a dynamic and thriving ecosystem



CONTRIBUTED

Southwest Engineers has been honored as the Gonzales Main Street Business of the Month for March. The company, located at 307 Saint Lawrence St., has been a family-owned enterprise since 1978 with 80 dedicated employees spread across three strategically located offices, including Buda, Bastrop, and its heart in Gonzales. The firm specializes in civil engineering, water, and wastewater solutions.

where businesses and residents alike can flourish.

As Gonzales Main Street celebrates Southwest Engineers as our Business of the Month, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for their invaluable contributions to our community. Their

unwavering dedication to excellence, coupled with their deep-seated commitment to Gonzales, exemplifies the spirit of entrepreneurship and community stewardship that defines our Main Street businesses.

Join us in congratulating Southwest Engineers on this well-deserved accolade and continue to support the vibrant tapestry of small businesses that make Gonzales the extraordinary community that it is today.

WHO DUMPED THE JUKE BOX?



CONTRIBUTED

Precinct 3 Deputy Constable Allen Taylor is seeking assistance in finding the person or persons responsible for dumping a jukebox on County Road 422, about a quarter to half mile east of County Road 424, west of Waelder. The jukebox was left there sometime between Tuesday, Feb. 27 and Monday, March 4. The driver appears to have been driving a 2006 to 2008 model Toyota 4-Runner. Anyone with information about who this jukebox belongs to should contact Taylor at 830-788-7176 or by cell at 830-857-1764.



Mar 4, 2024 at 10:53:31 AM 648-768 County Road 422 Waelder TX 78959 United States

GPAC to hold free pet microchip clinic

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Gonzales County pet owners can get their cat or dog microchipped for free during a special Come and Chip It microchip clinic to be held at the Gonzales Pet Adoption Center-GPAC, 505 Saint Francis St., Gonzales.

The event, co-sponsored by Friends of the Gonzales Animal Shelter and Kingdom Rescue, will take place Sunday, March 24, from noon to 4 p.m. This is also a chance

to meet the amazing volunteers dedicated to the life-saving mission of the adoption center.

Microchips provide a reliable and long lasting form of identification to help your lost pet safely return home. The GPAC team will be on hand to register your microchip, too!

Spots were made available for the first 75 pets who registered and so far, nine cats and 52 dogs have been registered as of March 18, leaving space for another 14 pets.

Cat owners are encouraged to sign up for a free microchip at www.tinyurl.com/comeandchipit.

There is a maximum of three animals per household and cats and dogs must be at least eight week fo age. All pets must be up-to-date on their rabies vaccine and must stay in the car during the event until notified. Cats must be in a carrier and dogs must be on a leash.

For information, please call 830-333-9006 and choose option 2.

Stockdale resident claims \$17.5M Lotto Texas prize

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

A Stockdale resident claimed a Lotto Texas® jackpot prize worth an estimated annuitized \$17.5 million for the drawing held on March 9. The cash value option was selected at the time of purchase and the claimant received \$10,081,454.18 before taxes.

The winning ticket with player-chosen numbers matched all six of the numbers drawn (17-23-26-32-38-45). The ticket was purchased at Heifer's N Convenience Store, located at 6301 N. Dixie Blvd., in Odessa. The claimant elected to remain anonymous.

Lotto Texas is played by picking six numbers from one to 54 and offers multimillion-dollar jackpots. Drawings are held every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday at 10:12 p.m. CT. For \$1 more per Play, a player can select the Extra! add-on feature and win up to \$10,000 more on non-jackpot prizes.

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Celebrations Birthdays

<p>March 21st Tyler Harvey Lillie Heins Brittany Law</p> <p>March 22nd Pat Schurig Gerald D. Ticken</p> <p>March 23rd Ryan Noelle</p> <p>March 24th Shane Malatek Shawn Malatek Tenley Matias Ernestine Sutherland Julie Winton</p> <p>March 25th Todd Bright Lydia Hope Burleson</p>	<p>Randy Harkey Jr. Sandra Ara Johnston Tommy Dale Schellenberg Ronnie Zella</p> <p>March 26th Charles Aleman Barbara Crozier Adriane Hastings Skyler Head Carolyn Pfuhl Pauler Kobe Schwausch</p> <p>March 27th Bubba Akers Christa Benitez Trevor Joseph Michael Meyer Jennifer Roberts Natalie Tatsch</p>
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Gonzales Weather

Watch for strong morning thunderstorms; warmer with more clouds than sun
63% chance of rain • RealFeel 77

March 21
76°/55°

March 22
75°/54°
Mostly cloudy
1% chance of rain • RealFeel 79

March 23
76°/54°
Partly sunny
0% chance of rain • RealFeel 82

March 24
77°/53°
Times of clouds and sun
1% chance of rain • RealFeel 80

March 25
73°/55°
A morning shower in spots; otherwise, sunshine and patchy clouds
40% chance of rain • RealFeel 77

March 26
80°/54°
Mostly cloudy
0% chance of rain • RealFeel 82

March 27
79°/57°
Partial sunshine
1% chance of rain • RealFeel 82

Upcoming Events at J.B. Wells Park in Gonzales

March 21st – South Texas Tour

March 23rd-24th – TYRA

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Garden Q&A with CALVIN FINCH



Q. The cyclamen is so expensive. Is there anyway to preserve them over the summer to rebloom next winter?

A. In years past there were many discussions about keeping them alive. The main theory was that you might be able to treat them like bulbs and let them go dormant and then begin watering them in early winter for a new bloom period. Sometimes they lived through the summer, but they did not recover to bloom fast enough.

Q. We have sand burs already growing and producing stickers. What is a treatment option for this early in the season? Does it do any good to apply a preemergent this late?

A. Some gardeners apply a preemergent for sand burs this late because their growing season is so long. It might be effective if you combine the normal tactic of cutting the existing plants out of the ground with a hoe or spade. Be sure you collect the popped plants, so the seed is removed.

Q. Is the kale, Swiss chard, and collards still good to eat now? It looks okay and I don't detect any special bitterness.

A. Yes, I am still eating all three along with Brussels sprouts and spinach. They may maintain good taste for at least another month if the weather doesn't get to warm.

Q. How long do you keep feeding the birds into the summer?

A. I provide sugar water for the hummingbirds and thistle for the lesser goldfinches all year. Most years I stop feeding suet, sunflower seed, safflower seed and other seeds on May 1. I believe it is important to reduce rodent pressure.

LIVESTOCK SHOW DONATIONS



GVEC's Bobby Joe Mendez, Nixon-Smiley Livestock Show Board Member Jaci Wheat and Jay Mendez accept a \$1,225 donation to the Nixon-Smiley Livestock Show. Brothers Bobby and Jay both had projects in Individual Ag Mechanics for the Nixon-Smiley Livestock Show for a brother vs. brother contest! They are the sons of Bobby & Marlinda Mendez of Nixon.

CONTRIBUTED



Gonzales County Youth Show Association Reporter Tracy Reynolds, Member Cynthia Pape and Treasurer Rhonda Hand accept a \$1,225 donation for the Gonzales County Youth Show in Gonzales.

CONTRIBUTED



GVEC's Community Relations Representative Christine Presley presents Waelder Livestock Show Secretary/Treasurer and 4-H Co-Leader Dora Noyola with a \$1,225 donation to the Waelder Livestock Show.

CONTRIBUTED

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LIVESTOCK WEEKLY REPORTS

GONZALES LIVESTOCK MARKET

March 16th
 Cattle – 630
 Compared to our last sale: Number 1 choice calves and yearlings sold fully steady. Less quality calves and yearlings sold steady. Packer cows sold steady & bulls sold 2.00-4.00 higher.
 Stocker-feeder Steers: Medium and large-frame No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 375-405; 300-400 lbs., 345-410; 400-500 lbs., 265-395; 500-600 lbs., 255-315; 600-700 lbs., 230-272; 700-800 lbs., 198-250.
 Bull Yearlings: 700-900 lbs., 90-155.
 Stocker-feeder heifers: Medium and large-frame No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 325-330; 300-400 lbs., 300-355; 400-500 lbs., 275-295; 500-600 lbs., 242-285; 600-700 lbs., 225-260.
 Packer Cows: Good lean utility and commercial, 94-121; Cutters, 126-134; Canners, 85-92; High yielding fat cows, 110-124.
 Packer Bulls: Yield grade 1 & 2, good heavy bulls, 128-150; Light

weights and medium quality bulls, 110-126.
 Stocker Cows: \$900 to \$1,900.
 Pairs: \$1,400 to \$2,100.

NIXON LIVESTOCK

March 19th
 Cattle – 552
 Steers:
 200-300 lbs - \$287-380
 300-400 lbs - \$290-435
 400-500 lbs - \$284-365
 500-600 lbs - \$257-305
 600-700 lbs - \$241-258
 700-800 lbs - \$211-248
 Heifers:
 200-300 lbs - \$274-325
 300-400 lbs - \$277-325
 400-500 lbs - \$255-298
 500-600 lbs - \$235-278
 600-700 lbs - \$225-280
 700-800 lbs - \$202-224
 Slaughter Cows - \$65-138
 Slaughter Bulls - \$100-156
 Stocker Cows – \$750-1900
 Pairs: \$1252-2950

HALLETTVILLE LIVESTOCK COMMISSION CO., INC.
 Sale date: March 12th
 Cattle on hand: 1439
 Packer Cows:

High Dressing: \$98-135
 Medium Dressing: \$88-122
 Low Dressing: \$70-88
 Poor/Weak Cows: \$60-72
 Packer Bulls:
 High Dressing Bulls: \$128-148
 Medium Dressing Bulls: \$110-127
 Low Dressing Bulls: \$100-112
 Stocker Cows:
 Good Stocker/Cows & Heifers: \$1650-2700
 Medium Stocker Cows & Heifers: \$1200-1600
 Good Cow & Calf Pairs: NONE
 Medium Cow & Calf Pairs: \$1425-1850
 Stocker & Feeder Calves & Yearlings:
 Number 1 steer & bull calves:
 Under 200 lbs.: \$330-460
 200-300 lbs.: \$325-420
 300-400 lbs.: \$310-395
 400-500 lbs.: \$285-355
 500-600 lbs.: \$255-330
 600-700 lbs.: \$230-290
 700-800 lbs.: \$215-265
 Number 1 heifer calves:
 Under 200 lbs.: \$310-420
 200-300 lbs.: \$280-390
 300-400 lbs.: \$265-375
 400-500 lbs.: \$250-325
 500-600 lbs.: \$230-285
 600-700 lbs.: \$215-255
 700-800 lbs.: \$190-235
 Replacement Heifers:
 350-700 lbs.: \$250-315
 The calf market continues super strong. Better quality & flesh conditioned classes selling with great demand. Starting to see some fleshy new crop calves which are less desirable. Packer cow & bull market was strong again on a supply of 250 head.

SEGUIN CATTLE CO.

March 13th
 Quality good overall. No changes on stocker cattle with packer cows & bulls steady.
 Cattle – 654
 Sheep & goats – 746
 Medium & large frame #1 Steers:
 200-300 lb. 1.70-2.98-4.00
 300-400 lb. 1.00-2.74-3.85
 400-500 lb. 1.15-2.93-3.65
 500-600 lb. .90-2.34-3.10
 600-700 lb. 1.17-2.18-2.74
 700-850 lb. 1.20-1.85-2.30
 Medium & large frame #1 Heifers:
 200-300 lb. .65-2.50-4.30
 300-400 lb. .28-2.54-3.95
 400-500 lb. .90-2.44-3.70
 500-600 lb. .80-2.28-2.73
 600-750 lb. 1.05-1.89-2.38
 Cows:
 Utility & commercial – 1.00-1.14-1.29
 Cutters – .86-.91-.97
 Canners – .76-.80-.85
 Palpated cows – 925-1650
 Cow/Calf Pairs – 2150-3000

Bulls:
 Heavy High Yielding – 1.20-1.44
 Light & Low Yielding – 1.10-1.20
 Sheep & Goats:
 Nannies – 80-280
 Kid Goats (Fat) – 2.20-3.70
 Wethers -1.40-3.15
 Billies – 1.05-2.40
 Dorp. Ewes - 60-170
 Dorp. Lambs (Fat) – 2.10-3.35
 Woolled Ewes – NONE
 Woolled Bucks – 1.20-1.61
 Lambs – 1.35-1.75
 Barb. Bucks – 200-310

CUERO LIVESTOCK MARKET

March 15, 2024
 Number of head 1216
 There were 154 cows and 18 bulls. Top packer bull was up \$5/cwt to \$152/cwt, while the top packer cows was up to \$77/cwt at \$137/cwt. Prices continue to climb higher as demand continues to be very strong, resulting in record highs on packer bulls and cows.
 The calf market was fully steady with last week's levels. Demand remains incredibly strong across the board. Calves were \$6.63/cwt higher on 24 pounds less weight.
 Packer bulls:
 All weights 120.00-152.00
 Packer cows:
 canners & cutters 85.00-137.00
 poor & weak 30.00-60.00
 Palpated: 9 BRED 900.00-1,200.00
 PAIRS: 3 2,400 - 2,500
 Steer Calves:
 Under 250 lbs 366.00-400.00
 250-299 lbs. 330.00-370.00
 300-350 lbs. 334.00-382.00
 350-400 lbs. 333.00-375.00
 400-450 lbs. 315.00-385.00
 450-500 lbs. 294.00-335.00
 500-550 lbs. 287.00-314.00
 550-600 lbs. 268.00-308.00
 600-700 lbs. 243.00-270.00
 700-800 lbs. 226.00-265.00
 Bull Calves: (AVG-HIGH)
 Under 250lbs 330.00-407.50
 250-300 lbs. 330.00-400.00
 300-350 lbs. 335.00-400.00
 350-400 lbs. 309.00-380.00
 400-450 lbs. 296.00-358.00
 450-500 lbs. 289.00-338.00
 500-550 lbs. 277.00-315.00
 550-600 lbs. 289.00-304.00
 600-700 lbs. 245.00-300.00
 Over 700 lbs. 220.00-238.00
 Heifer Calves: (AVG-HIGH)
 under 200 lbs. 292.00-390.00
 200-250 lbs. 310.00-350.00
 250-300 lbs. 300.00-345.00
 300-350 lbs. 284.00-385.00
 350-400 lbs. 293.00-350.00
 400-450 lbs. 273.00-360.00
 450-500 lbs. 268.00-300.00
 500-550 lbs. 254.00-306.00
 550-600 lbs. 244.00-270.00
 600-700 lbs. 224.00-260.00
 Over 700 lbs 192.00-265.00

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Pain of loss highlights rising trend of pedestrian, bicycle crashes

TxDOT urges drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists to follow state laws and save lives

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

AUSTIN — Katie Parker still gets nervous just crossing the street. Eight years ago, a careless driver plowed into her and her dog, Riley, while they were out for a jog. Parker was hit with such force that she was thrown more than 60 feet. Riley, a Great Dane, was killed on what was supposed to be a pleasant morning jog.

The mental and physical toll from the 2016 crash continues for Parker. The physical scars have mostly healed, but she doesn't feel safe while walking or driving. Her story is an example of the impact crashes can have on survivors.

"The crash changed my life," Parker said. "I lost my dog, and my sense of safety when crossing the street."

Parker is joining TxDOT this spring during its Be Safe. Drive Smart. campaign to remind Texans why it's important to follow traffic laws to keep pedestrians and cyclists safe.

"Too many people are killed or seriously injured every year in Texas walking, jogging or biking in their communities," TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams said. "We want all Texans—whether you're behind the wheel, on foot or on a bike—to watch out for each other and follow the rules of the road so everyone gets where they're going safely."

In 2022, 922 people died in traffic crashes involving pedestrians and bicyclists in Texas, accounting for one out of every five fatalities on the state's roadways. It's a part of a rising trend in recent years as pedestrian fatalities increased 30% and bicyclist fatalities increased 28% in the five years from 2018 to 2022.

Be Safe. Drive Smart. urges all Texans to learn and follow the laws for safe driving, walking and biking. As part of this effort, TxDOT is sending teams of walking billboards to cities around the state to put key safety reminders in front of drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists in crash-prone areas.

If you're driving in Texas, state law requires you to:

- Stop and yield for pedestrians, bicyclists and other vulnerable road users in crosswalks.
- When turning, yield the right of way to pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Pass bikes at a safe distance and give bicyclists room to ride.
- Always follow the speed limit and drive at a safe speed.

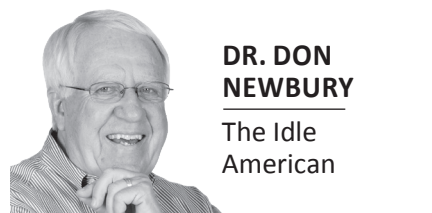
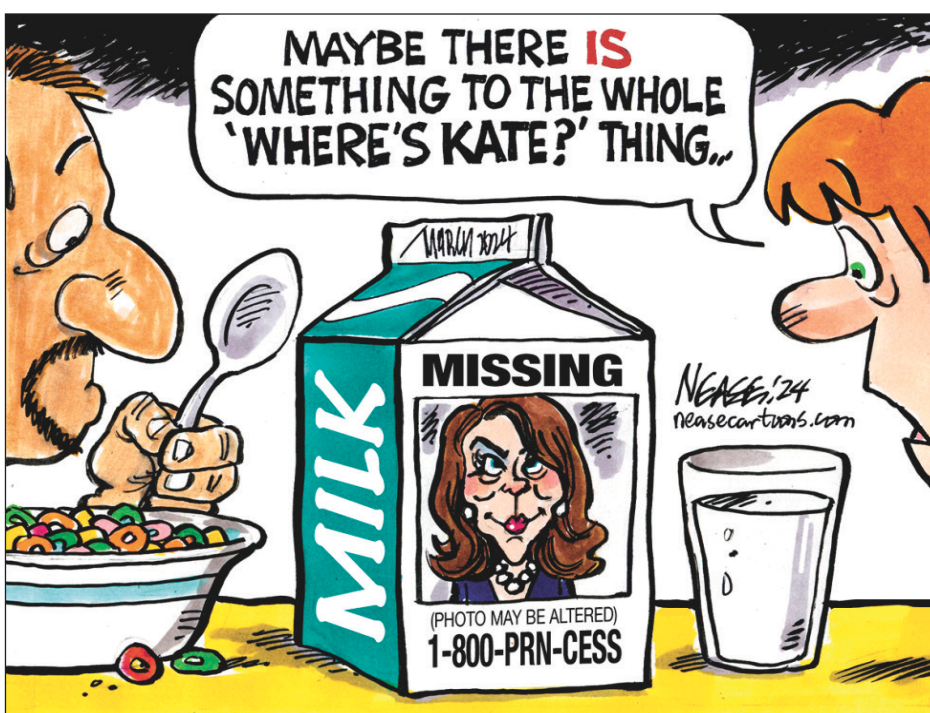
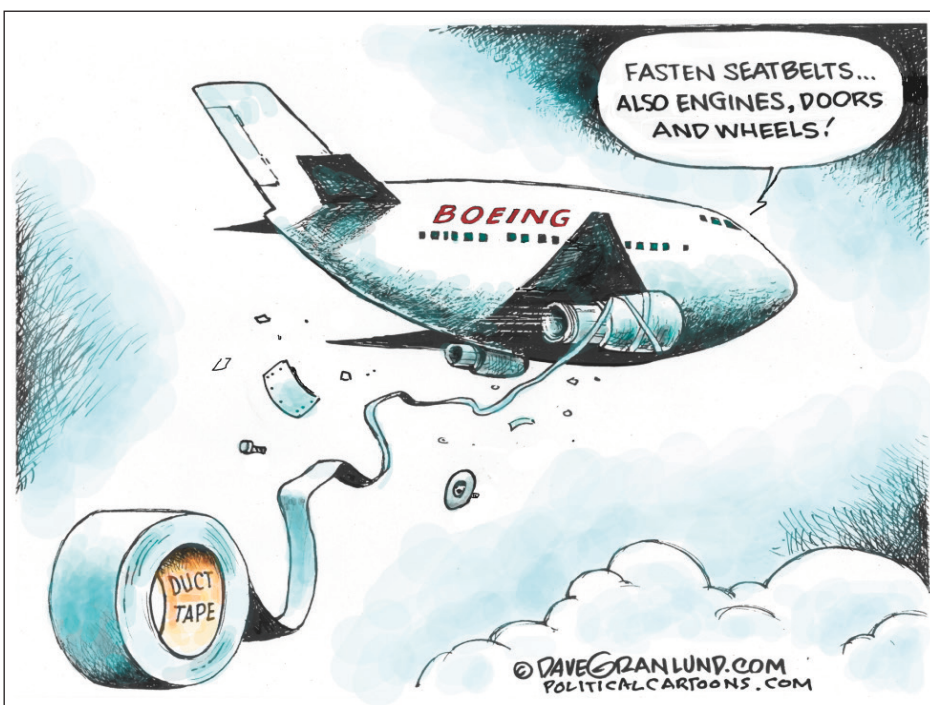
If you're walking:

- Cross the street only at intersections and crosswalks.
- Obey all traffic signs and signals, including at crosswalks.
- Use sidewalks. If there's no sidewalk, walk on the left side of the road, facing oncoming traffic, unless the left side is obstructed or unsafe.

If you're riding a bike:

- Always stop at red lights and stop signs.
- Ride in the same direction as traffic and use bike lanes or ride as near as possible to the right-hand curb.
- Use hand signals when turning or stopping.
- At night, ensure your bike has a white light on the front and a red light or reflector on the back.

TxDOT's Be Safe. Drive Smart. campaign and pedestrian and bicyclist safety initiative are key components of #EndTheStreakTX, a broader social media and word-of-mouth effort that encourages drivers to make safer choices while behind the wheel to help end the streak of daily deaths. Nov. 7, 2000, was the last deathless day on Texas roadways.



DR. DON NEWBURY
The Idle American

Life's ups and downs...

To most mortals--mere or otherwise--the thought of jumping rope 30,660,000 times causes hair to stand on end, eyes to cross and regimens to crumble.

Not so to a preacher man named Van Minter, whose morning routine is vital to each day. He has kept this commitment for almost 12,800 days, having begun his 36th year on "leap year," February 29. He made the pledge to himself upon completing his collegiate basketball career in 1989....

Van Minter

"I remember the time and place clearly," he said. "After my final game, I realized that I needed a plan to stay in shape without playing basketball."

Those who know him best have long regarded him to be "the man with a plan."

Thus his routine of jumping rope 2,400 times daily--mostly in his garage, but sometimes on hotel rooftops and in parking garages--began, and he hasn't missed a single day....

Claiming that he never feels quite right until after his 30-minute workout, Rev. Minter brushes his teeth, dons his size 14 training shoes and amps up his favorite 80s music for his "ups and downs."

His eyes are focused on 24 signs painted on his garage wall, numbered one through twenty-four. Silently, he counts to 100 while staring at each sign, mentally counting jumps he makes at 150-170 spins per minute. Over the years, his wife, Leslie, and three daughters--Holli, Halee and Hattie--have "let him be" during his workout. Only emergency messages interrupt.

"When I began, I prayed to be able to jump rope daily for at least 40 years, and by God's grace, I'm getting close," said the pastor whose intent in college and seminary was to train to be a youth minister, a post he held for 22 years. Associated with Lake Ridge Bible Church in Mesquite for almost 21 years, he is a lead pastor there now, commonly preaching twice on Sundays....

His wife is likewise committed to fitness, has reached admirable heights with Optavia, a wellness program.

"Van has jumped rope through college, our honeymoon and helping guide three daughters through life, so why should he stop jumping now? It has worked so far," Leslie laughed.

Point taken....

Van has heard all the jokes and bromides about his height. He towers to 6'8", weighing around 250 pounds since college.

From his youth in Saudi Arabia, during his Blinn Jr. College/HPU days and since, he's dealt with all the "how's-the-weather-up-there" questions.

See **NEWBURY**, page 10

The Gonzales Inquirer

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Lew Cohn

STAFF WRITER
Vandy Van Epps

CONTRIBUTING
Betty Cohn

BOOKKEEPER
Sanya Simmons

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Hello!
I am taking time to say thank you for providing me with all the latest community news. I am far to be honest, even though I have far away from home, when I read the Inquirer and I have my ear buds in, I am reminded of how much my hometown means to me.
Through the Inquirer, I am inspired to be a better citizen and a better role model. Thanks to all the staff at the Gonzales Inquirer. See y'all soon.

Abraham J. Ramos #2396452
TDCJ (Lopez Unit)
Edinburg, TX

HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW & RODEO



CONTRIBUTED/KELLY RATHMANN

The Santa Gertrudis steer shown by Karsyn Rathmann of Gonzales won fourth place out of 70 steers in the Light Heavyweight Division of the Junior Market Steer Show (Other Cross) at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo on Friday, March 15, and made the sale. Karsyn follows in her brother Cash's footsteps with both "branding" in their second year of showing in Houston. Cash placed and sold his animal at the 2021 Livestock Show. Karsyn also won fifth place Santa Gertrudis at the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo, but didn't make the sale as only the top three steers advanced. She also won second place in the Gonzales County Youth Show with her steer and took Grand Champion Open Commercial Heifers at the Gonzales County Show. Karsyn is the daughter of Cass and Kelly Rathmann of Gonzales.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Randy Torres, center, recently won election to the District 17 seat in the Arkansas House of Representatives. He is pictured here with his wife, Molly, left, and fellow Rep. Robin Lundstrum, who endorsed Torres in the March 5 primary. Torres is a 1989 graduate of Gonzales High School and the son of Robert and Mary Torres of Gonzales.

GHS alum Torres elected to Arkansas House seat

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Gonzales High School alumnus Randy Torres recently was elected the new District 17 representative in the Arkansas House of Representatives.

Torres, who won the Republican primary, does not have a Democratic opponent in the November general election. He succeeds Delia Haak, who did not see re-election after serving two terms as the District 17 representative.

In the March 5 primary, Torres received 1,242 of the 1,849 votes cast, or 67.2 percent, while his opponent, Jeremy Criner, received 607 votes, or 32.8 percent.

Torres is a 1989 graduate of Gonzales High School and he is a 1993 graduate of Texas A&M University. He also earned a master's degree in ministry in 2003 followed by a master's degree in business administration in 2012, both from John Brown University in Siloam Springs, Ark.

His parents are Robert and Mary Torres of Gonzales, who are retired from Illusions Studio, and he has three brothers: Kenny, Donny and Ronny. Randy Torres was the first of the four sons to obtain his college degree and chose to run for politics out of a passion to serve.

He is the market president for Generations Bank in Siloam Springs and has experience in commercial lending, treasury management and private banking. Prior to being a banker, his experience includes owning and operating businesses in the service, manufacturing, ranching, and real estate industries. He has also worked in the areas of hospitality, teaching, higher education, ministry, and human resources.

Randy has devoted many years in community leadership and currently serves the Siloam Springs Public School Foundation, the Illinois River Watershed Partnership, Hope Cancer Resources, Western Benton County Partnership, and is the 2024 Board Chair for the Siloam Springs Chamber of Commerce. He was the recipient of the 2017 Outstanding Civic Leadership Award by the Siloam Springs Chamber of Commerce.

Randy and Molly have been married 30 years and have two children, daughter Allison Torres Gooderl (wife of Robert and mother of Graham) and son Christian Torres.

JUST IN TIME

Rodeo rider Marty Yates made national news when he rode his mare Cyndy through backed-up traffic on I-610 near Fannin Street to NRG Stadium so he could make it in time for his semifinal in tie-down roping on Wednesday, March 13. The video was captured by his wife, Loni Kay Yates, and posted to Facebook and then went viral. Yates won his semifinal and ended up finishing third overall in the event so his hustle definitely ensured a good payday for his family. Loni Kay is the daughter of Ricky and Kelly Lester of Gonzales. Pictured are Cyndy, Marty Yates and Loni Kay holding their daughter Miley Grace.

COURTESY PHOTO



2024 Gonzales County Livestock Show Champions Keepsake Edition

Including photos, names of grand champions and reserve grand champions from Gonzales, Nixon & Waelder



Don't miss this opportunity to congratulate all of the participants for their hard work at the 2024 Livestock Show.

Publication Date: Thursday, April 4, 2024

Advertising Deadline: Monday, March 25, 2024, 5 p.m.

FULL PAGE	HALF PAGE	QUARTER PAGE
10"x9.5"	4.95"x9.5" or 10"x4.69"	4.95"x4.69"
\$475 Color	\$250 Color	\$175 Color
\$375 B&W	\$200 B&W	\$125 B&W



Contact Sanya Simmons:
sanya.simmons@gonzalesinquirer.com
(830) 672-2861



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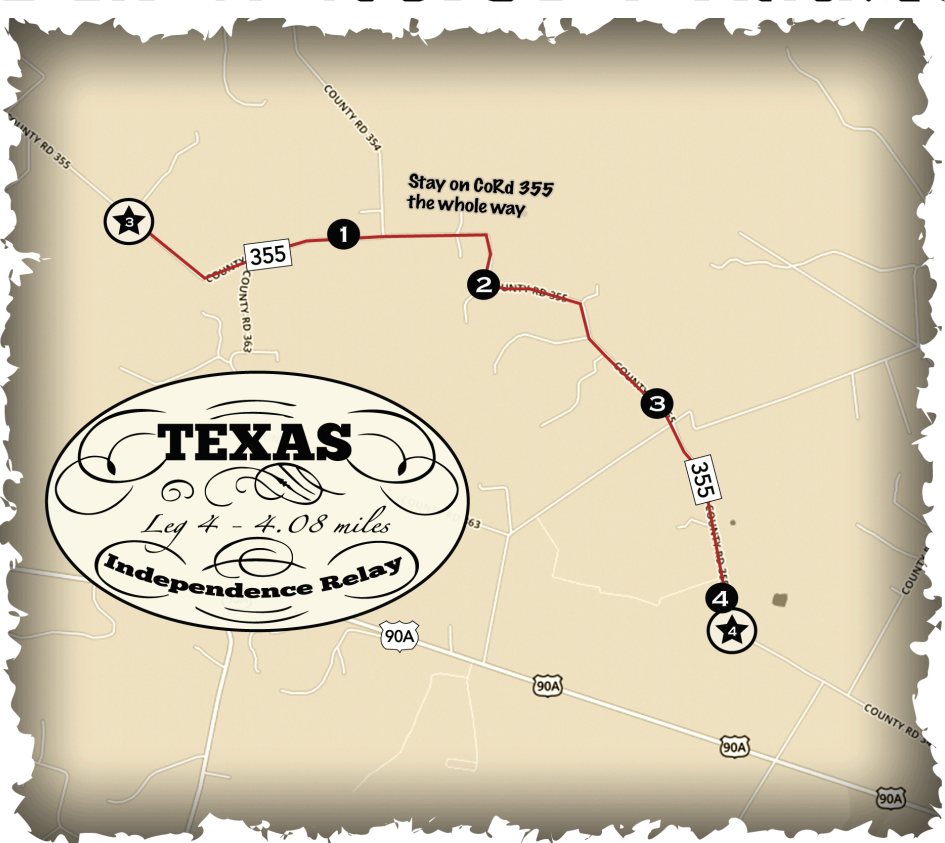
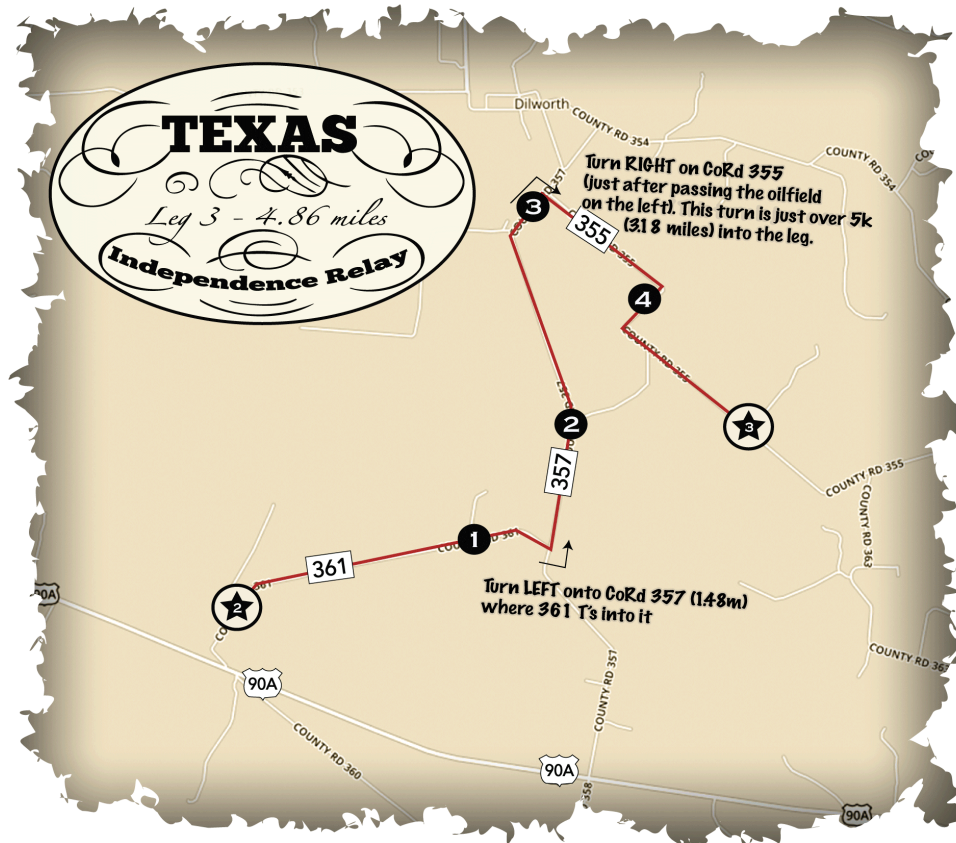
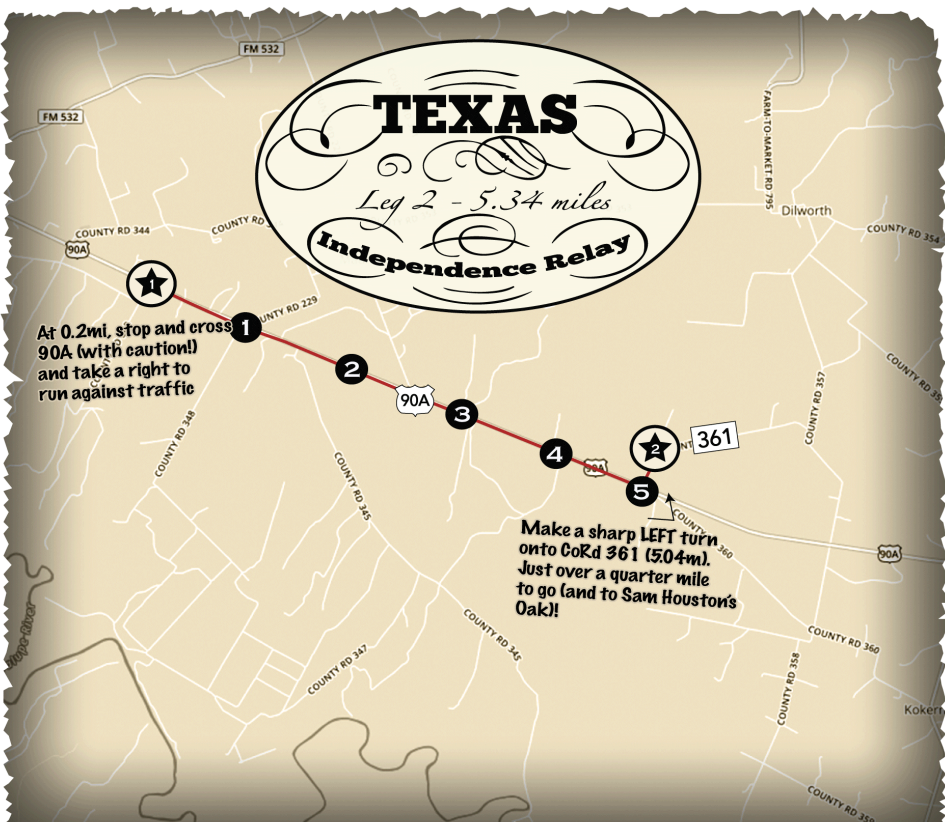
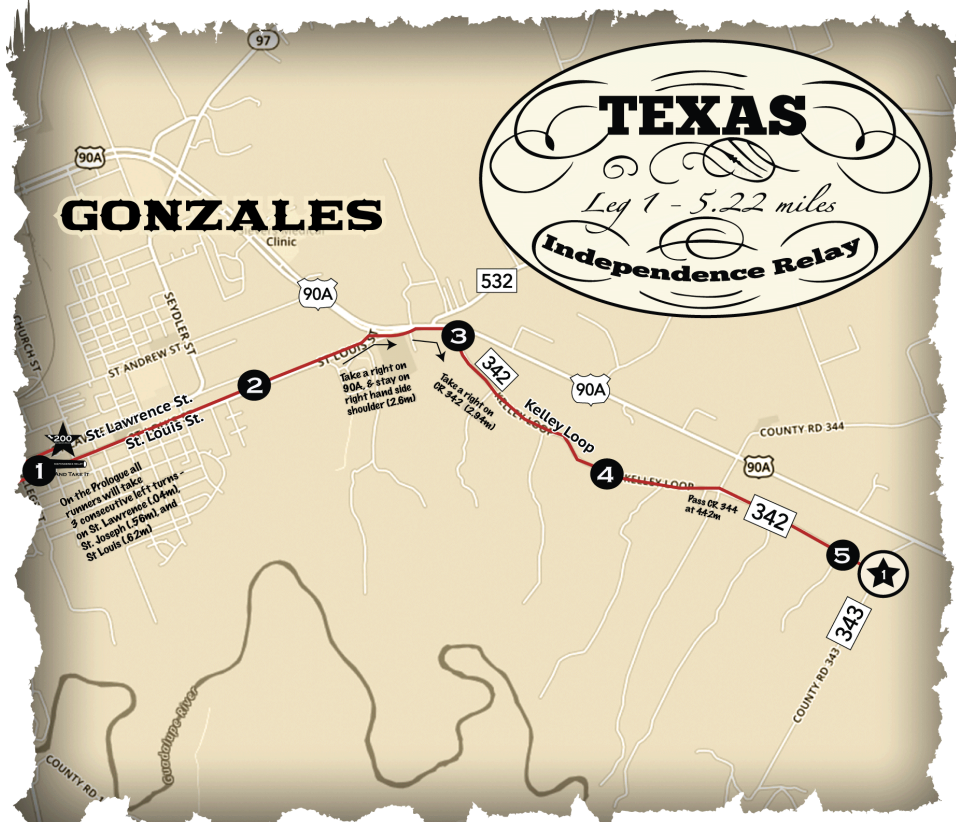
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RELAY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

approaching the Water Works — but otherwise the 36 legs of the journey are assigned to individual runners and team vans shuttle team members to designated points for pickup and drop-off and the exchange of team wristbands. These legs vary by length and elevation.

Completing a Texas Independence Relay becomes not only a physical test for runners, but also a strategic test for team and race organizers as well. It is also not uncommon for residents in the towns along the way to come out to cheer on racers and show them some hospitality during their brief stops in their communities.

The Friday before race day (March 22) is the TIPP (Texas Independence Pajama Party), which includes registration and allows competitors to get to know each other before the official event start.

The race begins Saturday morning with a 1.15 mile prologue run that all team members run that takes them from the Gon-

zales Memorial Museum around the Courthouse in a loop and back towards the Museum until going on their way to the first checkpoint, located on County Road 342 (Kelley Loop).

The second leg ends at the Sam Houston Oak, where the Texian leader was camped when news came of the loss of the Alamo. The first four legs of the race — a total of 19.5 miles — are located entirely in Gonzales County.

The race continues to Shiner, Moulton, Flatonia, Schulenburg, Weimar, Columbus, Altair, Eagle Lake, Wallis, Fulshear, and Katy before finishing up in downtown Houston.

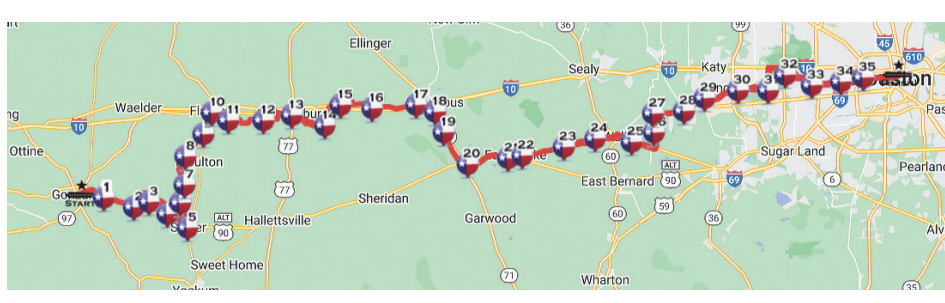
It takes the majority of teams between 27 to 32 hours to completely finish the Texas Independence Relay. The fastest teams — some comprised of collegiate runners — do not depart until after 1 p.m. Saturday, but will overtake the slower runners around Fulshear and may finish the race around 9 a.m. Sunday, while the slow-

est teams may not finish until 4:30 p.m. or 5 p.m. Sunday.

Participating teams hail from at least 32 of the 50 states and there is one runner from England taking part in the race. The vast majority are from Texas. The 2023 winning team was the Good Guys Run Club, who set a new TIR record with an overall pace of 5:40 per mile.

The race itself traces the route Sam Houston and the Texian army took during the “Runaway Scrape” as they burned down and moved from Gonzales following the losses at the Alamo and Goliad and eventually ended up at the site of the Battle of San Jacinto, where the Texans surprised and routed the Mexican Army, captured Santa Anna and gained their independence.

Of course, the cannon blast is reminiscent of the scene in Gonzales from Oct. 1, 1835, when a ragtag group of Texans dared the Mexican Army to “come and take” their six-pound cast-iron swivel cannon used for defense.



THE REAL TEXAS GUN SHOW

GONZALES, TX
J.B. Wells Expo Building
2301 Co. Rd. 197
MARCH 23RD & 24TH
Sat. 9am-5pm • Sun. 10am-4pm
FOR INFO 713-724-8881
Aubrey Sanders Jr. • Promoter



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 For info, **713-724-8881**
 Persons Under 18 Must Be Accompanied By Parent
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Bring this ad in for \$1.00 off admission

BEWARE!!

Soon the Slithering Snakes and Sneaky Scorpions, along with other creepy crawlers will be out and about.

Come see us at Fehner & Son Grain for your needs to get rid of these pesky creepy crawlers. We have Snake Repellent, Scorpion Traps, Scorpion Killer among other items!

830-672-3710
 1922 Co. Road 197, Gonzales, TX 78629
 Hours: Mon – Fri. 7 a.m. – 6 p.m. / Sat. 7 a.m. – 1 p.m. / Closed Sunday
 For your Firearms needs contact Brandon or Stephanie
 Fehner Firearms is closed on Mondays

CLASSIFIEDS

HOW TO PLACE AN AD

You can place ads online at www.gonzalesinquirer.com or call

(830) 672-2861

and/or email ads@gonzalesinquirer.com

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

622 St. Paul or PO Box 616, Gonzales, TX 78629
(830)672-2861 • (800)210-5909 • Fax (830)217-8924

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\$15.00 Garage Sale Packages

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

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

ERRORS

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

CALL TODAY

830-672-2861

050 GARAGE SALES

HUGE YARD SALE: Friday and Saturday, 8-4, 310 Middlebuster Rd., Lot #5, Gonzales, TX. Dining room table, kitchen table, TV stands, couch, QS headboard, clothes, dishes, knick-knacks. Something for everyone.

050 GARAGE SALES

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670 APARTMENTS FOR RENT OR LEASE

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

Apartments For Elderly, Low Income

Rent based on Income
Water, Sewer, and Trash Paid
Country Village Square
1800 Waelder Rd.
Gonzales, TX 78629
830.672.2877
countryvillagesquare@voatz.org
www.voatz.org

740 WANTED TO RENT

LOOKING FOR PROPERTY or place to lease to catch rattlesnakes. Contact David at 830-370-4391.

850 HELP WANTED

The Gonzales County Tax Office is currently accepting applications for a full time Deputy Clerk.

Position requires:

HS education or equivalent – Ability to manage time effectively – be able to multi-task, handle high stress situations such as heavy workloads in a fast paced environment – adhere to mandatory deadlines – must be able to work closely with others and the general public while maintaining confidentiality in the performance of duties – general office skills – phone etiquette – data entry – some heavy lifting of file boxes and license plates up to 50 pounds with help – Must pass all of the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles eLearning modules during probation period – Must be bondable.

Applications may be obtained at the Gonzales County Tax Office, located at 427 Saint George, Suite 100, Gonzales, Texas or at www.co.gonzales.tx.us. Only complete applications will be considered. A drug and alcohol test and physical will be required. Gonzales County does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age and handicapped status in employment or the provision of services.

850 HELP WANTED

Gonzales County Election's Office is now accepting applications for the full time position of:

Deputy Elections Clerk

Gonzales County Election's Office is requesting applications for the position of Deputy Elections Clerk. High School Graduation is required. This position requires the clerk to work well under pressure in a high-volume multi-task office. Must work closely with others and maintain confidentiality in the performance of duties. The candidate must have general office skills, phone etiquette, data entry skills, knowledge of basic mathematical principal and the ability to deal with the public. Election experience is preferred. There will also be lifting of election machines over 50lbs and election boxes over 40lbs. During the election cycles extended hours and weekend hours will be required for various aspects of this position.

The Election Office is required to be completely neutral to any and all elections/candidates.

Applications may be obtained at the Gonzales County Election's Office located at 427 St. George, Suite 306, Gonzales, Texas, between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 4:45 P.M. or on the web at <https://www.co.gonzales.tx.us> Only complete applications will be considered. Applications must be received by April 5, 2024. A drug and alcohol test and physical will be required. Gonzales County does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age and handicap status in employment or the provision of services.

Come and Organize It March PopUp Sale

Saturday 3/23 & Sunday 3/24 from 9am to 3pm
608 Water Street in Gonzales, TX 78629

No early birds, prices given prior OR presales!

Follow:

www.Facebook.com/ComeandOrganizeIt for updates and photos

Our March COI PopUp Sale will consist of 6 client consignments that we have brought together for your shopping fun! We have ALOT of EVERYTHING - Antique & Modern Furniture Pieces, What Not Chairs and Tables, Vintage Kitchen Items, Kitchen Island, Kitchen Decor, Wall Art, Crosses, Electronics, Medical Equipment, File Cabinets, GARFIELD & Looney Tunes, Bedding, Children's Items, Books, Holiday, Outdoor Furniture, Ford 3/4 Ton Rims, Farm Trailer, Cargo Hitch, Filing Cabinets and so much more!

190 LAWN, GARDEN

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

LAWN SERVICES. SMALL, Medium, Large Yards. Tree Trimming. Junk Removal. Serving Gonzales, Luling and surrounding areas. Free Estimates. James, 512-698-1385.

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

210 MISC. SERVICES

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

470 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

FOR SALE: HYDRAULIC Brush Shear- up to 9" trees. Quick Attach for skid steer or front end loader. \$1800.00 firm. Ph: 830-339-1657.

560 WANT TO BUY

WANT TO BUY: Need scooter. Good condition. Will pay cash. Please call Ellen. 830-203-2368.

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.



670 APARTMENTS FOR RENT OR LEASE

PARKWOOD APARTMENTS
114 West 10th
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OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays - 9:00am to 3:00pm
PHONE: 830-582-1343
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ENERGY EFFICIENT
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HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE UNITS
Individuals with a disability wishing to request a reasonable accommodation to complete the application process should contact the apartment manager at 830-582-1343.
Para solicitar un apartamento favor llamar a manager al siguiente numero 830-582-1343. Para solicitar una adaptacion o modificacion razonable, favor llamar manager al siguiente numero 830-582-1343.
Personas que hablan espanol y requieren un interprete, favor llamar a manager al siguiente numero 830-582-1343.
This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

850 HELP WANTED

DRIVER NEEDED AT Ingram Ready Mix. CDL required. Apply in person at 307 Theo St. 830-625-9156, ext. 253.

SEEKING AN EXPERIENCED legal secretary or litigation paralegal to work from home - part or full time - set your own hours M-F. Pay negotiable. Computer skills, solid internet connection and litigation experience required. Respond to robert@robertcollinslaw.com.

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

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

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

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.

Now Hiring!

Loss & Inventory Control Manager

Apply within
1034 CR 348
Gonzales, TX 78629

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.

Part-Time Help Wanted!

Retail Customers Service Cashier

Looking for someone to join our team!

- Provide excellent customer service, greet, and assist customers.
- Ability to work during the day. Thursday is a must.
- Some nights and rotation on weekends.
- Operating a point-of-sale system, provide general housekeeping.
- Capability to lift cases of liquor and stock shelves.

Applications can be picked up and returned at 102 W Wallace.

102 W Wallace St. | (830) 672-9477

W.B. FARM AND RANCH SUPPLY

Is now hiring for Yard Hand

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Apply in Person
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Class A CDL required. Local region. Out and back on same shift to area delivery routes. We offer a competitive wage along with 401k, Vacation, Medical, Dental, Vision and Life Insurance. Apply at Kitchen Pride Mushroom Farms, Inc., 1034 County Road 348, Gonzales, TX. 830.540.4516. KPMF is an EOE

www.kitchenpride.com

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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2601 TANDY AVE. FORT WORTH, TX

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CLASSIFIEDS

950 PUBLIC NOTICES 950 PUBLIC NOTICES 950 PUBLIC NOTICES 950 PUBLIC NOTICES 950 PUBLIC NOTICES 950 PUBLIC NOTICES 950 PUBLIC NOTICES 950 PUBLIC NOTICES 950 PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS WAELDER ISD'S INTENT TO APPLY FOR THE 2024-2025 ESSA FEDERAL GRANT FUNDING

Waelder ISD will hold a PUBLIC MEETING - at 6:00 p.m. on March 25, 2024 in the Cafeteria, 109 N. Ave. C., Waelder, TX. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss WISD's Intent to Apply for the 2024-2025 ESSA Federal Grant Funding.

LEGAL NOTICE:

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine & Malt Beverage Retailer's Off-Premise Permit (BQ) by Eula's Crossvine Market & BBQ LLC dba Crossvine, to be located at 419 Hwy. 90, Waelder, TX 78959 in Gonzales County Texas. The limited liability corporation is owner and member-managed by Robbie L. Lewis.

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.

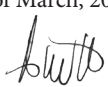
Notice to Creditors

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Willie Marie Howell, Deceased, were issued on March 14, 2024, in Cause No. PW24-0331, pending in the County Court of Gonzales County, Texas, to: Georgia Nell Pergrem.

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.

c/o: Robert W. Bland
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 119
GONZALES, TX 78629

Dated the 14th day of March, 2024.



Robert W. Bland
Attorney for Georgia Nell Pergrem
State Bar No: 24044756
P.O. Box 119
GONZALES, TX 78629
Telephone: (830) 672-2437
Facsimile: (830) 672-2439
E-mail: rbland@gvec.net

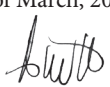
Notice to Creditors

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Steven Adams Turner, Deceased, were issued on March 14, 2024, in Cause No. PW24-0330, pending in the County Court of Gonzales County, Texas, to: Cheryl Lynn Turner.

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.

c/o: Robert W. Bland
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 119
GONZALES, TX 78629

Dated the 14th day of March, 2024.



Robert W. Bland
Attorney for Cheryl Lynn Turner
State Bar No: 24044756
P.O. Box 119
GONZALES, TX 78629
Telephone: (830) 672-2437
Facsimile: (830) 672-2439
E-mail: rbland@gvec.net

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The Gonzales Inquirer

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District Clerk, Gonzales County Texas
414 St. Joseph Street, Ste. 300
Gonzales, TX 78629

Andrew M. Abrameit
Abrameit Law Firm, PLLC
P.O. Box 192
Cuero, Texas 77954
Attorney for Plaintiff

THE STATE OF TEXAS

Cause No. 27,851; *Truitt Land Holdings LLC, Plaintiff v. Sustrein Goode, I. Kelly Goode, Jr., Kareem Goode, Melvin Goode, Alvin Goode, Gloria Jackson, Jo Nell Miller, Eural Walker, Jr., Larry Goode, Jr., Tyrone Loving, Lionel Loving, Terry Clark, Susan Johnson, Stephanie Goode, Evonn L. Walker, Euralene Walker, Vangie Adams, Frances C. Goode, Carol White, Bambi Alford, Alfred Gene Goode, Jr., Verline Celestine, Anthony Goode, Theris Goode, Reginald Pierce, The Unknown Heirs of Latasha Loving Manuel, and The Unknown Heirs of Janice Johnson, Defendants*; in the 2nd 25th Judicial District Court, Gonzales County, Texas.


TO: STEPHANIE GOODE

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 you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. In addition to filing a written answer with the clerk, you may be required to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file your answer with the clerk. Find out more at TexasLawHelp.org."

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the PLAINTIFF'S FIRST AMENDED PETITION AND APPLICATION FOR TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER, TEMPORARY INJUNCTION, PERMANENT INJUNCTION, AND FOR IN-KIND PARTITION AND TO HAVE IMPROVEMENTS ISOLATED FOR THE BENEFIT OF PLAINTIFF at or before 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance of this citation, the same being Monday the 29th day of April, 2024 at or before 10:00 a.m., before the Honorable 2nd 25th District Court of Gonzales County, Texas, at the Courthouse in Gonzales County, Texas. Said Plaintiff's First Amended Petition was filed on the 7th day of September 2023 in this case, numbered 27,851 on the docket of said court, and styled: *Truitt Land Holdings LLC, Plaintiff v. Sustrein Goode, I. Kelly Goode, Jr., Kareem Goode, Melvin Goode, Alvin Goode, Gloria Jackson, Jo Nell Miller, Eural Walker, Jr., Larry Goode Jr., Tyrone Loving, Lionel Loving, Terry Clark, Susan Johnson, Stephanie Goode, Evonn L. Walker, Euralene Walker, Vangie Adams, Frances C. Goode, Carol White, Bambi Alford, Alfred Gene Goode, Jr., Verline Celestine, Anthony Goode, Theris Goode, Reginald Pierce, The Unknown Heirs of Latasha Loving Manuel, and the Unknown Heirs of Janice Johnson, Defendants*.

A brief statement of the nature of the suit and a description of the real property is as follows, to-wit: Declaratory Relief, Application for Temporary Restraining Order, Temporary Injunction, Permanent Injunction, and for an In-Kind Partition of the surface estate of a tract of land containing 57.33 acres, more or less, located in the Prosper Hope Survey, Abstract 252, Gonzales County, Texas, and being the same land partitioned to Frances Allen in that certain Partition deed dated May 30, 1942, between Susan Allen and Frances Allen, recorded in Volume 198, Page 424 of the Deed Records of Gonzales County, Texas. The nature of the suit is more fully shown in said Plaintiff's First Amended Petition on file in this suit.

ISSUED AND GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at Gonzales, Texas, on this 15th day of March, 2024.



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

By: K. Alarcon Deputy

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The County of Gonzales will receive bids for Gonzales County Radio Communications System Improvements GLO Contract No. 22-085-052-D305 until 2:00 pm on April 15, 2024, at the **County Judge's Office, 414 St. Joseph Street, Gonzales, Texas 78629**. Bids must be addressed to: The **Gonzales County Commissioners Court**. The bids will be publicly opened and read aloud on April 15, 2024, at 2:00 pm at 414 St. Joseph Street, Gonzales, Texas 78629.

The project consists of a P25 Phase 2 standards-based 700/800 MHz trunked radio system to provide greater county-wide communications coverage and message capacity. Components include: 3 new towers, 2 new shelters and 3 emergency backup generators, trunked radio network with geographically-redundant central control systems, interface with, or replacement of existing dispatch console equipment, and redundant IP-based microwave backhaul.

Bid and Contract documents, including Drawings and Technical Specifications are on file and available for inspection at the County Judge's Office, 414 St. Joseph Street, Gonzales, Texas 78629. A pre-bid conference will be held on **March 26, 2024**, at the Gonzales Sheriff's Office Tower Site at 11:00 am at 202 FM 532, Gonzales Texas 78629. The pre-bid conference is not mandatory.

Electronic copies of the Bid/Contract documents including drawings and technical specifications may be obtained at no charge via the internet at: <http://www.civcastusa.com/>. The project can be located on civcastusa.com by the bid date, the state (Texas) or the City/County (Fulton/Aransas County). Bidders will be required to register through CivCastUSA. There is no charge for registering or downloading the plans. Hard copies of plans may also be purchased through CivCastUSA at the bidder's expense.

A bid bond in the amount of 5 percent of the bid issued by an acceptable surety shall be submitted with each bid [for those contracts that exceed \$100,000]. A certified check or bank draft payable to **County of Gonzales** or negotiable U.S. Government Bonds (as par value) may be submitted in lieu of the Bid Bond.

The project to be constructed will be financed with assistance from the General Land Office (GLO) under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant - Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) program and is subject to all applicable Federal and State laws and regulations. Attention is called to the fact that not less than, the federally determined prevailing Davis-Bacon and Related Acts wage rate, as issued by the Department of Labor and contained in the contract documents, must be paid on this project. In addition, the successful bidder must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin.

All contractors and subcontractors must be cleared (not suspended or debarred) prior to any formal action authorizing the award of a contract to the contractor. Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises, Women Business Enterprises, and labor surplus area firms are encouraged to submit bids.

The County of Gonzales reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding. Bids may be held by the County of Gonzales for a period not to exceed 90 days from the date of the bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the bidder's qualifications prior to the contract award.

Honorable Patrick C. Davis, Gonzales County Judge March 14, 2024

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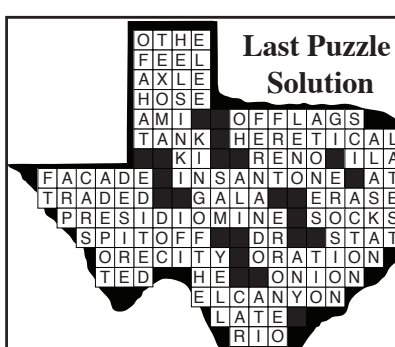
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The Gonzales Inquirer

March 14 Puzzle Answers

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

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NOTICE OF RATE CHANGE REQUEST

AEP Texas Inc. (AEP Texas) publishes this notice that on February 29, 2024, AEP Texas filed with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) its Petition and Statement of Intent to Change Rates (the Petition), a copy of which is kept at AEP Texas' office at 400 W. 15th Street, Suite 1500, Austin, Texas, 78701. The Petition has been assigned Docket No. 56165. This notice is being published in accordance with 16 Tex. Admin. Code § 22.51(a)(1).

AEP Texas' Petition is based on the system-wide financial results for a 12-month test year ending on September 30, 2023, adjusted for known and measurable changes. Related to its distribution cost of service, the Company requests a rate increase of approximately \$100.4 million over its adjusted test year revenues. This net change is a 13.1% increase over net present distribution revenues. When expected annualized Transmission Cost Recovery Factor revenues are included in the comparison to present revenues, the net increase to distribution cost-of-service is 8.4%. Related to its transmission cost of service, the Company requests a rate increase of \$63.1 million above its adjusted test year revenues, an increase of 9.29%.

In addition to new rates, AEP Texas requests a prudence determination on all capital investment made to its system for the period from January 1, 2019, through September 30, 2023.

AEP Texas' Petition requests Commission approval to continue its offering of facilities rental services, as described in tariff schedules 6.1.2.3.6, 6.1.3.3.6, and 6.1.4.3.6, and a good-cause exception to the Commission's rule requiring AEP Texas to obtain the Commission's approval to provide these services every three years. If approved, the requested good-cause exception will allow the Company to extend the effective date of its existing tariff schedules through the effective date of the tariffs approved in its next comprehensive rate case.

Finally, AEP Texas requests recovery of its reasonable rate-case expenses associated with this proceeding and certain prior rate proceedings, including those expenses paid to reimburse municipalities for their participation.

If approved, the increased rates will be charged to AEP Texas' direct customers, all retail electric providers (REPs) in AEP Texas' service area, as well as the retail electric customers of those REPs. The extent to which the REPs pass along to their customers the increased retail rates is a function of the competitive market. In addition, AEP Texas' petition affects customers taking service under the Company's wholesale transmission rates.

AEP Texas has requested its proposed rate change become effective 35 days after the filing its Petition.

Persons who wish to intervene in or comment upon these proceedings, in Docket No. 56165, *Application of AEP Texas Inc. for Authority to Change Rates*, should notify the Commission as soon as possible, as an intervention deadline will be imposed. A request to intervene or for further information should be mailed to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, P. O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326. Further information may also be obtained by calling the Commission at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the Commission at (512) 936-7136. The deadline for intervention in the proceeding is 45 days after the date the Petition was filed with the Commission.

AVISO DE MODIFICACIÓN DE TARIFA

AEP Texas Inc. (AEP Texas) publica este aviso de que el 29 de febrero de 2024, AEP Texas presentó ante la Comisión de Servicios Públicos de Texas (Comisión) su Petición y Declaración de Intención de Cambiar las Tarifas (la Petición), una copia de la cual se encuentra en la oficina de AEP Texas en 400 W. 15th Street, Suite 1500, Austin, Texas, 78701. A la Petición se le ha asignado el Número de Expediente 56165. Este aviso se publica de conformidad con 16 Tex. Admin. Code § 22.51(a)(1).

La Petición de AEP Texas se basa en los resultados financieros de todo el sistema para un año de prueba de 12 meses que finaliza el 30 de septiembre de 2023, ajustados por cambios conocidos y medibles. En relación con su coste de servicio de distribución, la Compañía solicita un aumento de tarifas de aproximadamente \$100.4 millones de dólares sobre sus ingresos ajustados del año de prueba. Este cambio neto supone un incremento del 13.1% sobre los ingresos netos actuales de distribución. Si se incluyen los ingresos anualizados previstos del Factor de Recuperación de Costes de Transmisión en la comparación con los ingresos actuales, el aumento neto del coste del servicio de distribución es del 8,4%. En relación con el coste del servicio de transporte, la Compañía solicita una subida de tarifas de 63,1 millones de dólares por encima de los ingresos ajustados del año de referencia, lo que supone un incremento del 9,29%.

Además de las nuevas tarifas, AEP Texas solicita una determinación de prudencia sobre toda la inversión de capital realizada en su sistema para el período comprendido entre el 1 de enero de 2019 y el 30 de septiembre de 2023.

La Petición de AEP Texas solicita la aprobación de la Comisión para continuar con su oferta de servicios de alquiler de instalaciones, tal y como se describe en los programas de tarifas 6.1.2.3.6, 6.1.3.3.6 y 6.1.4.3.6, y una excepción de causa justificada a la norma de la Comisión que exige a AEP Texas obtener la aprobación de la Comisión para prestar estos servicios cada tres años. Si se aprueba, la excepción de causa justificada solicitada permitirá a la Compañía ampliar la fecha de entrada en vigor de sus programas de tarifas existentes hasta la fecha de entrada en vigor de las tarifas aprobadas en su próximo caso tarifario global.

Por último, AEP Texas solicita la recuperación de sus gastos razonables relacionados con este procedimiento y algunos procedimientos tarifarios anteriores, incluidos los gastos pagados para reembolsar a los municipios por su participación.

Si se aprueban, las tarifas incrementadas se cobrarán a los clientes directos de AEP Texas, a todos los proveedores minoristas de electricidad (REP) en el área de servicio de AEP Texas, así como a los clientes minoristas de electricidad de esos REP. La medida en que los REP repercutan a sus clientes el aumento de las tarifas minoristas depende del mercado competitivo. Además, la petición de AEP Texas afecta a los clientes que contratan el servicio según las tarifas de transmisión al por mayor de la empresa.

AEP Texas ha solicitado que el cambio de tarifa propuesta entre en vigor 35 días después de la presentación de su Petición.

Las personas que deseen intervenir o hacer comentarios sobre este procedimiento, en el expediente N° 56165, *Aplicación de AEP Texas Inc. de Autoridad para Cambiar las Tarifas*, deben notificarlo a la Comisión lo antes posible, ya que se impondrá un plazo de intervención. Las solicitudes de intervención o de información adicional deben enviarse por correo a Public Utility Commission of Texas, P. O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326. También puede obtenerse más información llamando a la Comisión al (512) 936-7120 o al (888) 782-8477. Las personas con discapacidad auditiva o del habla que dispongan de teléfonos de texto (TTY) pueden ponerse en contacto con la Comisión en el número (512) 936-7136. El plazo para intervenir en el procedimiento es de 45 días a partir de la fecha de presentación de la petición a la Comisión.

Texas' new immigration law blocked again

BY ALEJANDRO SERRANO AND URIEL J. GARCÍA
Texas Tribune
Special to the Inquirer

A federal appeals court late Tuesday night stopped a state law allowing Texas police to arrest people suspected of illegally crossing the Texas-Mexico border — hours after the U.S. Supreme Court had allowed it to go into effect.

Earlier in the day, the high court had allowed the law to go into effect after it sent the case back to the appeals court, urging it to issue a ruling promptly. The appeals court soon scheduled a hearing for Wednesday morning. And on the night before hearing oral arguments the appeals court issued an order to let a lower court's earlier injunction stopping Senate Bill 4 stand, according to a filing.

The Supreme Court earlier Tuesday let SB 4 go into effect but stopped short of ruling on the law's constitutionality, which has been challenged by the Biden administration.

of Texas at Austin law professor, said the back-and-forth is "indefensibly chaotic."

"Even if that means SB 4 remains paused indefinitely, hopefully everyone can agree that this kind of judicial whiplash is bad for everyone," he said.

SB 4 seeks to make illegally crossing the border a Class B misdemeanor, carrying a punishment of up to six months in jail. Repeat offenders could face a second-degree felony with a punishment of two to 20 years in prison.

The law also requires state judges to order migrants returned to Mexico if they are convicted; local law enforcement would be responsible for transporting migrants to the border. A judge could drop the charges if a migrant agrees to return to Mexico voluntarily.

The high court's move drew a swift denouncement from some Mexican officials, praise from Texas Republicans who counted it as a victory, albeit temporary, and concern from immigrant rights advocates. The reactions

were dated by 10 p.m. Tuesday when the appellate court issued its order, marking the latest development in a whirlwind 24 hours since the Supreme Court had extended a temporary block of SB 4 only to reverse course.

The Biden administration and immigrant rights organizations, have sued Texas, claiming SB 4 is unconstitutional because it interferes with federal immigration laws, a role federal courts have said falls under the federal government's purview.

In February, U.S. District Judge David Ezra in Austin blocked SB 4, saying the law "threatens the fundamental notion that the United States must regulate immigration with one voice." Attorney General Ken Paxton's office immediately appealed the ruling to the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, which reversed Ezra's ruling.

The Biden administration then appealed to the Supreme Court, which temporarily blocked the law until March 18 as it considered the federal government's request to stop the law from going into effect.

NEWBURY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

I am reminded of a "seven-footer-plus" encountered at a vacation spot in Arizona. Dressed in western attire, he, too, was good-natured about constant height references. "When folks ask me if I play basketball, I ask them if they play miniature golf," he joked....

The Rev. Minter has "tips" for anyone with questions about Christianity and rope-jumping.

He identifies with country music artist Roy Clark's sentiments in his song "Thank God and Greyhound You're Gone." He, too, is thankful to God, but his sadness concerns Nike's decision to leave the custom jump rope market. Early on, Van's ordinary ropes were reduced to shreds in about three weeks. Thankfully, his "Nikes"—used for some three decades—have held up for about 18 months each.

"Luckily, I've got eight of 'em stashed away," he says....

His health is excellent, and most hospital visits are made to see members of his flock.

He has landed there as a patient three times, however, always for kidney stones that have troubled him 30 times to date. "My hospital stays have been over-nighters," he remarked, "So I have been able to get home in time to jump rope."

His resolve is remarkable, and his integrity and commitment have been evident since I met him during my presidency at Howard Payne upon his arrival there in 1988. He was a "class act" student, always focused on Christian service. That he is beloved by his church and all who know him is no surprise. Surely his name should appear in the Guinness World Records....

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

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Noted archaeologist to speak at Emmanuel Fellowship

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Emmanuel Fellowship is pleased to announce that Scott Stripling, noted Bible teacher and Biblical archaeologist, will be speaking at the morning service on Easter Sunday, March 31.

Dr. Stripling is a world-renown archaeologist, and is currently leading in the excavation at Shiloh, the site of the first Tabernacle in Israel. Dr. Stripling also led the excavation of Biblical Ai, and he gained much recognition when he discovered a curse tablet from Mount Ebal in 2019.

Finding the tablet has helped scholars understand that the Israelites were using written language hundreds of years before previously thought. In addition to his

knowledge and understanding of archaeology, Dr. Stripling is an excellent Bible teacher. Because of his knowledge of Israeli history, he is able to make the Bible even more interesting by including historical information not specifically mentioned in Scripture.

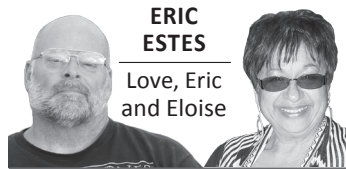
Dr. Stripling speaks at conferences and churches all over the world and it is a true honor for Emmanuel to have the privilege of hosting him on Easter Sunday. Everyone is invited to come and participate in the service as we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and enjoy the presentation of the Word of God by this gifted teacher. Emmanuel is located at 1817 St. Lawrence St., Gonzales. The service will begin at 10:30 a.m.

Humble pie, anyone?

So, how are we doing this week? Well as for me, you may have figured out by today's title that I'm still trying to settle in to early senior citizenship, While definitely noticing some physical limitations, it seems to be more of a mindset issue than anything else. I've written about learning to enjoy the stages of life as we travel through them countless times, but the reality is that it's an ongoing process that we constantly have to be mindful of. If we fail to get our head in the game, many will begin to slowly (both physically and mentally) check out, leaving the only option of sliding into the abyss. I've found that a robust sense of humor about the whole ordeal (life) to be priceless, definitely helping to overcome some of the frustrations of growing older. So, whether young or old, when things get tough just repeat this to yourself: "We have to learn to laugh at life, cause it's definitely laughing at us!"

Seeing as we're getting an early start on spring this year, coupled with the fact that last year got away from me a little bit, I've recently started to repaint the exterior of my house. After finishing the interior remodel (mostly) a year and a half ago, the outside needed a little TLC. While not that physically taxing, I've noticed that I've become even more mindful of every step and movement I make, especially when working on a ladder 20' in the air. Yep, just don't bounce the way I used to, but no worries, I've got the Mary Poppins magic umbrella strapped to my back just in case. Gotta say, I am enjoying being outside with the wildflowers, bees, and butterflies 'cause spring is my favorite time of year, so get out and get you some while it's here!

It's times like this that you can really feel the effects that mindful eating and regular exercise has on, not only your improved physical ability, but also the



ERIC ESTES

Love, Eric and Eloise

ability to enjoy the journey even that much more. When starting this series I focused on easy beginner exercises to help get back up and running, whether new to exercise, returning after a layoff, recovering from injury or illness, or just getting up in years. I started with them as well, but since have slowly progressed as I've grown stronger. I've described my workout room in past articles, a smith machine unit, small dumbbell rack, power tower for ab work, and a treadmill for warmups and light aerobic walks. Today I'll start explaining how I use this equipment to retain my youthful glow, as someone recently found out that while I'm now 66 years old, would've guessed I was surely not a day over 65 1/2!

In my younger years I would typically work with heavier weights, doing six to ten reps per set. Today, with many years and much physical labor behind me, those type of workouts would pummel my joints, leave me exhausted, and risk serious injury. Instead I've opted for lighter weights, more controlled movements, plenty of warmups (half of my sessions), and higher repetitions, pushing a bit on my actual working sets. Today I split my workouts into thirds: abs & legs, chest & back, shoulders & arms, considering this one cycle. My goal is one cycle per week (four a month), sometimes adding or subtracting one per month as life deems necessary. At this stage of the game I find stretching and multiple warmup sets absolutely mandatory as not to strain or injure myself. I've also found that, whether young or old, life has a mind of it's own and each day is its own adventure. Making adjustments is paramount to long-term success and sustainability, so don't be afraid to change things up as required. I'll get into the actual exercises next week, so stay tuned...

Love you guys, Eric.

St. Joseph Easter picnic to be held in Moulton

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Moulton, Texas will host an Easter picnic on Sunday, March 31.

The Easter picnic has been a Moulton tradition. The event will be held on Easter Sunday at the St. Joseph's Social Center. The day begins with Mass at 10 a.m. in the church followed by the blessing of Easter baskets and an Easter egg hunt for the children.

Beginning at 10:30 a.m., the famous Moulton fried chicken dinner with all the trimmings will be served, \$14 a plate. Plates-to-go and fried chicken-to-go will be available. Shuttle service from the church parking lot to and from the

Social Center will be provided.

Activities inside the Social Center will include a Cake Walk and Bingo. There will be a live auction beginning at 1 p.m. featuring quilts, wood-crafted and metal-crafted items, plants, antiques and more. Music will be provided from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. by Ken Brothers and from 1:30 - 6 p.m. by the Fender Bender Band.

Other outdoor fun will include a country store, a plant walk, ball throw, and other games. Plenty of refreshments, snow cones, popcorn and hamburgers will be on hand all afternoon. Please mark your calendar and come join us for a good time Easter Sunday, March 31.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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PLACES OF WORSHIP

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| ASSEMBLIES OF GOD
Gateway Fellowship Church
320 St. Andrew | Providence Missionary Baptist Church
1020 St. Andrew, Gonzales | EVANGELICAL
La Vos del Evangelio, Mision Capilla del Pueblo
W. Central at Hwy. 87, Nixon | Cowboy Church of Gonzales County
J.B. Wells Show Barn |
| First Assembly of God
509 E. 3rd St., Nixon | Stratton Primitive Baptist
FM 1447,
9 miles east of Cuero | FULL GOSPEL
Camp Valley Full Gospel
Hwy 80, 7 mi. north of Nixon | El Centro Cristiano "Agua Viva"
403 Highway 90 W, Waelder |
| BAPTIST
Clark Baptist Church
FM 794, Gonzales | St. James Baptist Church
Hwy 80, north of Belmont. | Full Gospel Church
1426 Fisher, Gonzales | Emmanuel Fellowship
1817 St. Lawrence, Gonzales |
| Country Baptist Church
Highway 87, Smiley | St. Paul Baptist Church
SE 2nd Street, Waelder | JEWISH
Adat Haderech, a Messianic shul
HashemYeshua1@yahoo.com | Encouraging Word Christian Fellowship
Highway 80, Leesville |
| Eastside Baptist Church
Seydler Street, Gonzales | Shiner Baptist Church | LUTHERAN
First Evangelical Lutheran
1206 St. Joseph, Gonzales | Lighthouse Church of Our Lord
1805 Weimar, Gonzales |
| Efeso Iglesia Bautista
Highway 87, Smiley | Union Lea Baptist Church
St. Andrew St., Gonzales | Abiding Word Lutheran Church LCMS
1020 St. Louis St., Gonzales | New Life Temple for Jesus Christ
16214 US 90 W, Harwood |
| Elm Grove Baptist Church
4337 FM 1115
Waelder, TX, 78959 | Union Valley Baptist Church
FM 1681, NW of Nixon | Belmont Methodist
Highway 90A, Belmont | River of Life Christian Fellowship
207 Steele St., Smiley |
| First Baptist Church
422 St. Paul, Gonzales | CATHOLIC
St. James Catholic Church
417 N. College, Gonzales | Dewville United Methodist
West of FM 1117 on CR 121 | Thompsonville Community Church
CR 423, Thompsonville
Between Harwood & Waelder off old Hwy. 90 |
| First Baptist Church
403 N. Texas, Nixon | Sacred Heart Catholic Church
St. John St., Gonzales | First Methodist
426 St. Paul, Gonzales | Two Rivers Bible Church
1600 Sarah DeWitt Dr., Suite 210, Gonzales |
| First Baptist Church
Highway 108 N., Smiley | St. Joseph Catholic Church
207 S. Washington, Nixon | First United Methodist
410 N. Franklin, Nixon | INTER-DENOMINATIONAL
Faith Family Church
1812 Cartwheel Dr., Gonzales |
| First Baptist Church
406 N. Avenue E, Waelder | St. Patrick Catholic Church
Waelder | Flatonina United Methodist
Harris Chapel United Methodist
S. Liberty St., Nixon | Living Waters Fellowship
306 St. Paul, Gonzales |
| Greater Palestine Baptist Church
S. of 90A (sign on Hwy 80) | St. Phillip Catholic Church
Highway 87, Smiley | Harwood Methodist Church
Harwood | Holy Temple of Jesus Christ No. 2
1515 Dallas, Gonzales |
| Greater Rising Star Baptist Church | CHRISTIAN
First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
712 Crockett, Luling | Henson Chapel United Methodist
1113 St. Andrew, Gonzales | Iglesia Pentecostes Filadelfia
893 S. Magnolia Ave., Luling |
| Harwood Baptist Church
North of Post Office, Harwood | CHURCHES OF CHRIST
Church of Christ
1323 Seydler St., Gonzales | Monthalia Methodist
CR 112 off Highway 97 | Temple Bethel Pentecostal
1104 S. Paul, Gonzales |
| Iglesia Bautista Macedonia
201 S. Congress, Nixon | Church of Christ (Iglesia de Cristo)
201 E. Second St. Nixon | Smiley Methodist Church
1 blk. S. of Hwy. 87, Smiley | Life Changing Church of Gonzales
3.3 miles north on Hwy 183, right on CR 235, then right on CR 236 |
| Iglesia Bautista Memorial
Highway 97, Waelder | Church of Christ
E. 3rd & Texas, Nixon | Webster Chapel A.M.E.
1027 Church St., Gonzales | PRESBYTERIAN
Pilgrim Presbyterian Church
CR 210 off FM 1116 |
| Leesville Baptist Church
E. of Highway 80 on CR 121 | Church of Christ, Belmont | NON-DENOMINATIONAL
Agape Ministries
512 St. James, Gonzales
Bread of Life Ministries
613 St. Joseph, Gonzales | Presbyterian Church of Gonzales
414 St. Louis, Gonzales |
| Memorial Heights Baptist Church
1330 N. College, Gonzales | CHURCHES OF GOD
Community Church of God
1020 St. Louis, Gonzales | Christ the King Church
1262 U.S. Highway 77 South
Hallettsville | Cheapside Presbyterian Church, Cuero |
| Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church
100 Capes, Gonzales | Gonzales Memorial Church of God in Christ
1113 Hastings, Gonzales | | |
| Oak Valley Baptist Church
Highway 97, Bebe | Church of God in Christ
1113 Hastings, Gonzales | | |
| Old Moulton Baptist Church
1121 N. College, Gonzales | New Beginnings
1020 St. Louis, Gonzales | | |
| | Episcopal Episcopal Church of the Messiah
721 S. Louis, Gonzales | | |

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OBITUARIES

PEGGY CHRISTIAN SHULER



Peggy Christian Shuler, devoted daughter, wife, and mother went home to her Heavenly Father March 2, 2024. Peggy was a native of Gonzales, having been born February 15, 1931, to Olive Elizabeth Moore and Byron Edward Christian. Her parents, "Tootsie" and "Butch" instilled her with the love of God, the value of hard work, and the joy of generosity.

Peggy graduated from Gonzales High School in 1949 and attended Baylor University to study music. She married John James Shuler, Jr, her high school sweetheart, June 27, 1950. Together they built a rich and full life filled with their faith, family, friends, and civic involvement.

Peggy was a member of the First Baptist Church of Gonzales her entire life. She and Tootsie started Girls in Action (GA) in Gonzales, an organization designed to help girls grow spiritually. She was blessed with a beautiful voice and was a gifted musician. Peggy shared that talent as a member of the church choir, performing many solos, duets, and cantatas. She also played the piano, violin, and cello and was a part of the Baptist Church Joy Bells.

Her talent was not confined to music. Peggy had an eye for style and design and used that gift in a myriad of media—interior design, flower arranging, landscaping, clothing seamstress, and pattern-maker. Whether styling apparel or designing rooms in her family's home, Peggy excelled in creating fashionable ensembles and beautiful spaces.

She was a member of the Spade and Trowel Garden Club which provided an outlet to express her love and talent for horticulture. Her home always had a lush variety of shrubs and flowers that reflected her "green" thumb.

As an accomplished cook and a skilled baker, Peggy loved hosting family and friends for the

holidays or impromptu gatherings and was the consummate hostess. It was no wonder she and Johnny were members of Gonzales Supper Club, and group that met every month for decades.

Peggy was also a member of Mother's Study Club, a group that met to discuss and exchange ideas that fostered healthy relationships among its members and with their children. Her devotion to children extended beyond her family and church youth, as she worked as librarian at Gonzales High School for seven years.

Her love of travel coupled with her outgoing personality garnered her countless acquaintances that often visited and discovered the gem of Gonzales that she frequently boasted of. Peggy never shied away from imparting words of wisdom or engaging in lively conversation be it with a child on the playground or the lonely widow confined to four beige walls.

Her infectious smile, compassionate nature, and spirited personality will be missed.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her beloved husband Johnny. Survivors include her daughter Cathy Shuler Fulton and her husband Joe Gwiz; son Chris T. Shuler; and grandson Samuel Lyle Shuler and his wife Christy.

Visitation and a celebration of Peggy's life will be Monday, April 15 at 10 am at the First Baptist Church. A memorial service will follow at 11 am.

NANCY ANN CAMPBELL HOLMES

On Thursday, March 14, 2024, Nancy Ann Campbell Holmes of Nixon, Texas went to be with her Lord and Savior at the age of 86. Nancy was born in Nixon on September 3, 1937, the daughter of Charles and Elois Campbell, who have preceded her in death along with her husband of 63 years, William A. "Bill" Holmes of 63 years.

Nancy was very active in the community. She was a founding member of Lifegate Church in Seguin, Texas and Methodist Church in Nixon, Texas and served the Lord fervently, The Nixon Bridge Club for over 50 years, Shakespeare Club, Garden Club (Geraniums and Begonias were her favorite) and the President of the Nixon Chamber of Commerce for 4 years. Nancy loved her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren who affectionately called her Nanny. Nancy will be deeply missed by her children, Steve Holmes (Carla), Sheri Holmes Wood (Mike), and Dr. Clayton Holmes (Sherry); grandchildren, Cory Wootton (Tracy), Josh Holmes (Kimberly), Courtney Dean (Stephen), Katie Smith (Thomas), Billy Holmes, and Hannah Holmes Vassion (Jacob), Byron Wood, Elizabeth Padier (Chris), Kelly Stisser (Jason), Daniel Wood (Daisy); great-grandchildren, Cole Wootton, Brodie Wootton, Emma Smith, Leah Smith, Tyler Smith, Citlali Wood, Campbell Dean, Reese Smith, Lily Holmes, Emily Holmes, Jensen Vassion and Arabelle Vassion, Baby Vassion, Mirabeau Callaghan and Clara Stisser; as well as many cousins and friends who loved her dearly. A visitation will be held on Tuesday, March 19, 2024, from 9:00am-10:00am

at Finch Funeral Chapel in Nixon.

FUNERAL SERVICE

Tuesday, March 19, 2024, 10:00 a.m. at Finch Funeral Chapel, Nixon

Burial will follow at Nixon Cemetery. Pastor Bob Odom and Pastor Audrey Hewell will be officiants of the services.

Memorial contributions can be made in her name to The Nixon Cemetery Association.

You may sign the online guestbook at www.finchfuneralchapels.com

GMH Auxiliary holds several meetings, remembers McGill

BY ELIZABETH B RELSFORD BENNETT
Special to the Inquirer

The Gonzales Memorial Hospital Auxiliary met Jan. 30, 2024 at Thrive at 2 p.m. Ten members were present. President Neubauer called the meeting to order. The Treasurer's report was given. The Scholarship Report was given. It was announced that Auxiliary member Linda McGill passed away. She will be greatly missed; she added so much to the Auxiliary.

The next meeting will be Feb. 27 at 2 p.m.

A motion to adjourn was made. Door prizes was won by Barbara K., Betty Fink and Irene Oakes.

The Auxiliary began in 1975. It has done so much good for the community. As you see reports are short. It takes a full house to accomplish a full effort. Consider checking us out. It's fun and does leave a Good Mark.

The Hospital Auxiliary then met Feb. 27, 2024 at Thrive. There were eight members present. President Betty Neubauer called the meeting to order. The January minutes were read and approved.

Treasurer's report was read and approved. Vice President, Irene Oakes, reported 71 hours worked for the month.

The Scholarship Fund was discussed. Applications for scholarship by Shelia Sampleton, who has been accepted by Galen Col-

lege. We hope and wish for Shelia all the best.

Betty Fink made the motion to sponsor her, seconded by Barbara Koricanek, motion passed.

A Memorial Service for Volunteer Linda McGill was attended by Betty Neubauer, Dyna DuBose and Betty Fink. Linda added so much to the Auxiliary.

The Hospital Gala is planned for April 27, 2024 with a "Roaring 20s" theme. It will be dressy attire, and lots of fun.

The next meeting is March 26, 2024 at 11:30 a.m. It will be a salad luncheon.

A motion to adjourn was made and passed. Door prizes were won by Barbara K., Sylvia Mercer and Jo Ann Hajovsky.

LAW ENFORCEMENT WEEKLY REPORTS

Gonzales County Sheriff's Office

03/10/24 – 03/16/24

03/108/24

• Lopez, Alfredo, Jr, 06/1996, Austin: Warrantless/On-View – Driving While Intoxicated, Requires \$3,500 Bond; Warrantless/On-View – Unl Carrying Weapon, Requires \$4,000 Bond; Released

03/11/24

• Green, Cody Layne, 01/1998, Gonzales: Other Agency Hold-Assault Causes Bodily Injury Family Member, Released – Transfer Colorado Co.

• Bivins, Don Wesley, 03/1989, Gonzales: Local Warrant – Criminal Mischief >=\$2,500<\$30K, Requires \$75,000 Bond, Remains in Custody

• Todd, Deon Michael, 05/1991, San Antonio: Other Agency Hold – Unl Carrying Weapon, Requires \$25,000 Bond; Other Agency Hold – Fail to Identify Giving False/Fictitious Info, Requires \$15,000 Bond; Other Agency Hold – Driving While Intoxicated, Requires \$60,000 Bond; Released

03/12/24

• Banda, Jose Antonio, 05/1992, Gonzales: Warrantless/On-View – Poss Marij <2oz, Released \$500 Bond

• Zetka, Hunter James, 11/1988, BeBe: Local Warrant – Parole Violation, Remains in Custody

• Taylor, Walter Marion, JR, 02/1983, Gonzales: Warrantless/On-View – Poss Marij <2oz, Released \$500 Bond

03/14/24

• Irle, Cody Dale, 04/1991, Gonzales: Local Warrant – Fail to Comply Sex off Duty to Reg Life/Annual, Requires \$50,000 Bond, Remains in Custody

03/15/24

• Dilworth, Johnny Ray, 10/1984, Yoakum: Commitment/Sentence – Poss CS PG 1>=1G<4G, Released – Weekender

• Almaguer, Manuel, JR, 08/1982, Gonzales: Commitment Sentence – Arson Intend Damage Habita/Place of Worship, Commitment Sentence – Arson Intend Damage Habita/Place of Worship, Released – Weekender

• Riojas, Coty John, 06/1987, Nixon: Commitment Sentence – Criminal Mischief>\$100<\$750, Released – Weekender

• Hodge, Rozaun Demont, 12/1984, Cedar Park: Commitment Sentence – Assault Causes Bodily Injury Family Member, Released – Weekender

• Fullilove, Jonathan Bobby,

03/2000, Gonzales: Commitment/Sentence – Poss Marij <2oz, Released – Weekender

• Saucedo, Faustino Estrada, 02/1971, Houston: Commitment/Sentence – Driving While Intoxicated 3rd or more IAT, Released – Weekender

• Hyatt, Becky Estell, 10/1995, Gillett: Commitment/Sentence – Robbery, Released – Weekender

03/18/24

• Siptak, Gianna Corryn, 03/2001, Gonzales: Commitment/Sentence – Poss Marij <2oz, Remains in Custody

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

GCSO	16
DPS	04
GPD	01
WPD	00
NPD	01
GISD	00
SMO	00
Constable 1	00
Constable 3	00
Constable 4	00
DWCSO	00
DEA	00
TPW	00
GCAI	00
Rangers	00
Other	00

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Austin MFM Dr. Malik Dr. Desai	Dr. Echols Dr. Quintero	Dr. Quebedeaux Dr. Twitero	Dr. Ryan Dr. Echols	Dr. Bui
Austin MFM	Dr. Echols	Dr. Quebedeaux Dr. Miller	Dr. Ryan Dr. Malik Dr. Echols	
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Chiropractic Jeff Echols, DC 512-799-6811	Urology Robert Ryan, III, MD 830-379-8491
Dermatology Vicente Quintero, MD 830-626-5551	Ophthalmology Joseph Kavanagh, MD 830-379-3937
Nephrology Azhar M. Malik, MD 361-576-0011 Yong Du, MD 361-576-0011	Orthopedics Trent Twitero, MD 830-625-0009
Obstetrics Alyson Kirchner, MD, OBGYN 830-379-1500	Podiatry Terri Quebedeaux, DPM, PA 830-303-0005 Charles White, DPM 830-303-0005
	Austin Maternal Fetal Medicine 512-821-2540

Blues legend to perform at VC's Welder Center

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Grammy Award-winning guitarist Jimmie Vaughan will return to Victoria this summer for a performance at Victoria College's Leo J. Welder Center for the Performing Arts on Thursday, July 11.

Vaughan, known for his contributions to blues and roots music, will be joined by his band, The Tilt-A-Whirl Band. A four-time Grammy winner, Vaughan has helped breathe new life into the music that has

been his lifeline for decades, becoming a hero to those who cherish America's real gift to musical history.

"When I talk about country and blues, they're the same thing," said Vaughan. "Muddy Waters and Hank Williams, Webb Pierce and Jimmy Reed. When I was a kid, I didn't understand the difference. Everybody was always asking me, 'Why do you want to play blues? Why don't you play country?' But I would listen to the country guys and they

would be doing a Jimmy Reed song. They're playing the same lick. And Ray Charles, Little Milton, Guitar Junior, Lonnie Brooks, B.B. King - they all did country blues or jazz? And the answer is, it's American music. I'm tired of trying to pigeon-hole everything. I want to bring it together; it comes from the same place."

Vaughan performed at the Welder Center for the first time last year.

"We are thrilled to welcome

Jimmie Vaughan back to the Welder Center stage," said Sue Prudhomme, VC's Executive Director of Cultural Affairs. "When he performed here last year, he loved the amazing energy of the Victoria audience. Performers and audience members appreciate our intimate atmosphere. There's no bad seat in the Welder Center!"

Tickets go on sale Friday, March 8, starting at \$50 for standard seats and \$65 for premium seating. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and the concert

starts at 7:30 p.m.

The Welder Center Box Office is the only authorized ticket seller, with tickets available online at WelderCenter.org or in person at the box office. A limited number of student seats are available for \$20 each at the box office. All sales are final, and no refunds or exchanges are offered.

Box office hours are Tuesday-Friday from 12:30-5:30 p.m.

For more information, contact the Welder Center at (361) 570-TKTS.

State financial aid priority deadline extended to April 15

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) has extended the state financial aid application priority deadline to April 15 due to continued technical challenges related to completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

In July 2023, the Board amended the rules regarding the financial aid priority deadline, providing Commissioner Harrison Keller with the authority to delay the priority deadline for a specific aid cycle. The original January deadline was previously extended to March 15.

The priority deadline

is neither a guarantee to receive funding if a student applies by the applicable date for the academic year, nor is it a restriction to those that apply beyond the date. It is meant to encourage students to complete their application promptly to increase the likelihood of receiving state funding.

Comptroller announces \$25 million grant for naloxone distribution

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar announced a notice of funding availability for a \$25 million grant through the Opioid Abatement Fund Council (O AFC or the Council) to distribute naloxone, a medication designed to rapidly reverse opioid overdoses, to communities hit by the opioid crisis.

Texas governmental entities, nonprofit organizations and entities conducting business in Texas are eligible to apply for this funding. A grant will be awarded to one applicant to implement the program statewide, and applicants may use qualified subcontractors or subgrantees to help implement the program regionally. The O AFC will accept applications for funding through its grant management system from April 10 through May 7. An informational webinar will be hosted on March 14.

"I encourage eligible entities to apply for this crucial funding to help the state of Texas respond to the opioid crisis," said Hegar, chair of the O AFC. "With fentanyl continuing to flow across our southern border and the federal government working against Texas efforts to secure that border, making naloxone available in areas

with greatest need while balancing the Council's regional and targeted requirements has significant potential to prevent opioid-related overdoses. Given the tragic trend of fentanyl poisonings occurring across Texas, especially among school-aged youth, wide availability of naloxone can literally save lives."

The Texas Legislature formed the O AFC in 2021 to ensure money recovered through the joint efforts of the state and its political subdivisions from statewide opioid settlement agreements is allocated fairly and spent to remediate the opioid crisis using efficient, cost-effective methods. The O AFC is made up of 13 appointed experts and Hegar as the non-voting presiding officer.

Last year, Hegar announced a first-round payment of \$47.1 million to political subdivisions from the Opioid Abatement Trust Fund to address opioid-related harms in their communities. Additionally, Hegar transferred \$5 million to the Texas Access to Justice Foundation to provide civil legal aid to Texans personally harmed by the opioid crisis.

Go to the Comptroller's website (PDF) for more information on the naloxone distribution grant funding opportunity.

'Umbraphiles' plan trip to view total solar eclipse

BY ROZ BROWN

Texas News Service
Special to the Inquirer

In 18 days, thousands of eclipse-chasers will travel to Texas for a dimming of the sun. And one city is making the most of the rare event.

Kerrville — population 25,000 — will dismiss kids from school to attend a festival in the city park, hear speakers from NASA, and enjoy live music and children's programming.

Associate Professor in the University of Texas at Austin Department of Astronomy Keely Finkelstein said a solar eclipse occurs when the Moon passes between Earth and the Sun, thereby obscuring the view of the Sun — either by a little or a lot.

"A good chunk of Texas is in the path of totality," said Finkelstein, "so having

a total solar eclipse like at a specific location is more rare."

Kerrville was one of only three U.S. cities chosen by NASA to livestream the eclipse.

The Festival on April 8 will occur in Louise Hays Park, with the city predicted to have a total solar eclipse that lasts 4:23 minutes.

Gonzales is expected to have 98.3 percent solar obscuration at the maximum. The eclipse will begin at 12:15 p.m. Monday, April 8, with a peak at 1:36 p.m., with the eclipse ending at 2:57 p.m.

The Gonzales Chamber of Commerce is encouraging people to stroll around town viewing various monuments in Gonzales, but you must do so with eclipse glasses, solar viewers or another indirect viewing method.

A judge in Bell County has

issued a disaster declaration ahead of the event, noting it will take "extraordinary measures" to keep residents and visitors safe.

He said officials are expecting Bell County's population of 400,000 to double, if not triple, in the days leading up to April 8.

At a recent news conference, Police Chief Chris McCall said Kerrville is not going that far, but is taking precautions.

"We are going to make a request through our law-enforcement partners in the region that are outside of the event area for a number of personnel," said McCall. "Part of our issue is not only our event in our park, but also the traffic post-event."

This will be the second solar eclipse in Texas in six months — an annular "ring of fire" eclipse was visible last October 14.



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ACROSS

- Nicholas of film "Mom and Dad" with TX Anne Winters
- spoken, not written
- Lucy had title role in this 1974 film
- poetic "appearance"
- mustang or bronco (2 wds.)
- TX Laura Bush, ___ Welch
- boll weevil once caused this to Texas cotton (2 wds.)
- DL or SSN, e.g.
- "don't ___ your feet" (get it done)
- newspaper VIP
- horrified
- TX ZZ Top album: "___ Hombres"
- TX Lupe Ontiveros had a part in "As Good ___ Gets"
- Texas-based film: "Hell ___ High Water"
- most areas of Texas have a ___ library
- "___ facto" (by that very fact)
- 2012 film starring TX Amy Acker: "Much ___ About Nothing"
- where Jimmy and Jerry went to college
- largest continent
- boot smell?
- a tied game: "___ ___ your sister"
- wrestling matches "tween two schools
- ___ Boston, TX

- the cowboy ___ against the hitchin' post
- TX Hyer film: "The Sons of ___ Elder"
- biblical donkey
- TXism: "___ a spell" (stay and visit)
- apple drink
- resided in a certain place
- TXism: "fits like ugly ___ ape"

DOWN

- with "The," newspaper covering East Parker County (2 wds.)
- TXism: "mad as ___ on rooster"
- reproductive cell in an organism
- TX Buddy's widow: Maria ___ Holly
- this TX Lisa was a host of "Good Morning America"
- historical periods
- TXism: "that ___ won't hunt" (differ)
- U.S. operations of this printer co. are based in Houston

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
Copyright 2024 by Orbison Bros.

- Ector County seat
- Texas-based Tandy's 20th century retailer: "___ Shack"
- Scottish for stain, tarnish
- TXism: "table graze"
- TXism: "___ boy" (trustworthy)
- mistakes by Astros or Rangers
- TWU has a collection of these that were worn by Texas first ladies
- Texas summer necessity (abbr.)
- "___ long way" (travel a distance)
- throw
- rare cattle breed
- TXism: "pull up ___" (relocate)
- 96-mile path: "Lone Star Hiking ___"
- TXism: "I bought ___ in a poke"
- he wrote the nat'l anthem (init.)
- TXism: "ain't"
- Texas oil well fire-fighter, "Red"
- TXism: "___ two-bits" (crummy)
- made public what was secret
- "you ___ a mouthful" (good point)
- Florida's "hanging chad" county
- pottery oven
- noted espionage novelist, Tom
- WWII atomic bomber, "___ Gay"

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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

Answers found in next week's Classifieds.

Mustangs' late rally falls short against Randolph



Nixon-Smiley pitcher Nehemiah Alvarez (17) throws a pitch against the Randolph Ro Hawks in the district opener Thursday, March 19.

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The Nixon-Smiley Mustangs hosted the Randolph Ro Hawks for the district opener Tuesday, March 19.

The Mustangs put themselves in an 8-3 deficit entering the bottom of the fifth, but quickly rallied to tie the game at 8-8 in the sixth inning.

After Randolph scored the eventual game winner in the top of the seventh, Nixon-Smiley's late rally in the seventh came up short in the 9-8 loss to Randolph.

Despite coming up short, Mustangs head baseball coach Daniel Pierce was proud of his players for not giving up to the very end.

"Very proud of these guys. They, in a good way, surprised me. I know they can do great things. I know they're starting to show it. We're moving along in the right direction. I mean it's things we were able to put on the field tonight and the guys working together. Good stuff is happening and great stuff is about to happen for us," Pierce said.



Nixon-Smiley head baseball coach Daniel Pierce speaks in the huddle with his players in the, 9-8, loss to Randolph Tuesday, March 19.

Randolph took advantage of errors by the Mustangs early in the game, and Pierce said that's part of baseball.

"Whoever makes the least amount of errors is gonna win. These guys have brought down their error count. And as the season progresses, they're getting less and less. So I mean, again, it showed what they can do," Pierce said.

The Mustangs will go on the road to Marion Friday, March 22 for their second district match of the season, and Pierce and his team will learn from the Randolph game, he said.

District play has just begun, and Pierce is excited for the next set of district games.

"We're looking forward to See **MUSTANGS**, page 15

Apaches baseball falls to Cole

STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Apaches traveled to San Antonio for a non-district match against the Cole Cougars Tuesday, March 12. The Apaches fell to the

Cougars, 17-7, and dropped to 6-12 on the season.

Gonzales played its last non-district game Tuesday, March 19 against the La Grange Leopards and will head back on the road again

Friday, March 22 for the district opener against Navarro for a two-game series.

First pitch for the Navarro game is set for 7 p.m. and game two is set for Tuesday, March 26 at the same time.



Shelby Borjon at the THSWPA state powerlifting meet in Frisco Friday, March 15. Borjon finished her powerlifting season in the top 10 of the 181-pound division with a seventh place finish at 880 total pounds.



Madison Sampleton holds her state runner up medal for the 220-pound division at the THSWPA state powerlifting meet in Frisco Friday, March 15. Sampleton completed her powerlifting season at 1070 total pounds in her weight division.



(From left) Ashly Garcia and Zulema Rodriguez hold their medals from the THSWPA state powerlifting meet Thursday, March 14. Garcia finished third in state and Rodriguez took home fourth.

Lady Apaches finish strong at state powerlifting meet

STAFF REPORT

Lady Apaches' Madison Sampleton and Shelby Borjon competed in the THSWPA State championship Friday, March 15 in Frisco, Texas.

Sampleton finished as state runner up in the 220-pound division and completed her personal best in all three categories (squat, bench press and deadlift) with 1,070 total pounds; this is the highest finish for any Lady Apache

since 2016.

Borjon finished in the top 10 in seventh place in the 181-pound division and beat her personal record in all three categories with 880 total pounds.

First year head Lady Apaches powerlifting coach Saul Hinojosa was very proud of how his two lifters performed at state.

"I am extremely proud of both girls for their amazing effort in competing at the

State Championships. It is not an easy thing to do (going to the state championships) but these girls sacrificed, competed, and fought to make their goals a reality and they did that," Hinojosa said.

The Lady Apaches capped off their powerlifting season with six regional qualifiers, two state qualifiers and a state runner-up.

The Lady Apaches powerlifting team will return for the 2025 season.

Lady Mustangs place 10th in state powerlifting meet

STAFF REPORT

The Nixon-Smiley Lady Mustangs compete in the THSWPA State Championships in Frisco, Texas, on Thursday, March 14, and finished 10th overall out of 40 teams, surpassing expectations.

Grace Gomez, Kaylie Morin, Zulema Rodriguez, and Ashly Garcia made history and became the first girls from

Nixon-Smiley High School to compete at the THSWPA State Championships. While both Kaylie Morin and Gracie Gomez placed sixth in their respective classes, Zulema Rodriguez and Ashly Garcia both made history by being the first two Nixon-Smiley girls to ever receive a medal at the THSWPA state meet!

See **LIFTING**, page 15



The Nixon-Smiley Powerlifting teams together at the THSWPA state powerlifting meet in Frisco Thursday, March 14. Both powerlifting teams are coached under Eliseo Cano.

La Grange blows out Apaches, 18-1

STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Apaches baseball team concluded the non-district part of the season with an 18-1 road loss to the La Grange Leopards Tuesday, March 19.

The Apaches finish their non-district matches with a 6-13 record for the 2024 baseball season.

Gonzales opens up district play with a two-game series against the Navarro Panthers Friday, March 22 in Navarro

and at home Tuesday, March 25.

The Apaches last season finished district with a 3-7 district record and looking to improve from last season.

First pitch for the Navarro game is set for 7 p.m.

Lady Apaches blow out Memorial, stay undefeated in district

STAFF REPORT

The No. 23-ranked Gonzales Lady Apaches softball team improved to 2-0 in district with a 16-4 road win Tuesday, March 19 over San Antonio Memorial.

The Lady Apaches moved to 14-5 on the season and will return home for a district match against the Navarro Lady Panthers Friday, March 22.

Gonzales and Navarro went into extra innings in the first meeting of the 2023 season and the Lady Panthers beat the Lady Apaches in a 9-8 walkoff. Gonzales will be looking for a little payback and the chance to move to 3-0 in district play.

First pitch for the Navarro match is set for 7 p.m. at the Lady Apaches Softball Field.



Left: Gonzales catcher Sydney McCray (3) catches the ball from pitcher Haley Cantu in the district match against San Antonio Memorial Tuesday, March 19. Far left: Lady Apaches pitcher Haley Cantu (4) pitches in the second district match of the season against San Antonio Memorial Tuesday, March 19.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO BY ERIN SAMPLE MCCRAY



The Gonzales Lady Apaches in the huddle during the Weimar match Thursday, March 14.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO BY ERIN SAMPLE MCCRAY

Weimar beats Lady Apaches in close match

STAFF REPORT

The No. 23-ranked Gonzales Lady Apaches traveled on the road Thursday, March 14 for their last non-district match against the Weimar Lady Wildcats.

This was a rematch from early in the season when the Lady Apaches beat Weimar, 6-2, in a tournament match.

The Lady Apaches fell to the Lady Wildcats, 3-2, handing them their fourth loss of the season.

Gonzales will resume district play on the road against San Antonio Memorial Tuesday, March 19 and will take on Navarro at home Friday, March 22.

First pitch for the Navarro match is set for 7 p.m.

Mustangs, Lady Mustangs basketball players earn all-district recognition

STAFF REPORT

The Nixon-Smiley Mustangs and Lady Mustangs took home all-district recognitions for their 2023-24 season.

MUSTANGS

The Mustangs finished the season with 14-17 record and finished fifth in District 26-3A with a 2-8 record.

• First team all-district:

Senior Carl White (academic all-district) and senior Kade Dixon (academic all-district)

• Second team all-district:

Senior Luke Moses (aca-

demic all-district)

• Honorable mentions:

Junior Ryan Paez, sophomore Omar Abundis (academic all-district), junior Tristen Mikesh, and junior Aiden Flores

• Academic all-district:

Junior Eduardo Betancourt and sophomore Zechariah Munoz

LADY MUSTANGS

The Lady Mustangs finished their season with a 9-26 record and finished third in District 26-3A with a 4-6 record.

Nixon-Smiley finished the season as bi-district finalist

in the 3A UIL girls basketball playoffs.

• Co-district newcomer of the year:

freshman Grace Gomez

• Co-district sixth man:

Junior Madisen Yanes (academic all-district)

• First team all-district:

Senior Kendall Amaya and junior Janaelyn White,

• Second team all-district:

Senior Emmersyn Stone (academic all-district) and junior Ashly Garcia (academic all-district),

• Honorable mentions:

Junior Kaylie Morin (academic all-district), sophomore Alize Davila and junior Juliana Kendrick

Lady Mustangs win district opener over Randolph, 28-18

STAFF REPORT

The Nixon-Smiley Lady Mustangs softball team took home a 28-18 district opening win over the Randolph Lady Ro Hawk Tuesday, March 19.

The Lady Mustangs scored their highest total of runs for the 2024 season with 28; Nixon-

Smiley scored 10 runs in the top of the seventh and secured their first district win of the season.

Nixon-Smiley will head back on the road Friday, March 22 for a district match against the Marion Lady Bulldogs.

First pitch for the Marion match is set for 7 p.m.

GOLF SCRAMBLE WINNERS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

The winning team from the March 13 Golf Scramble at Independence Golf Course in Gonzales were, from left, Will Ruddock, Bill Kessler, Brian Sample, Mike Higginbotham and Ronnie DuBose.



The second-place team from the March 13 Golf Scramble at Independence Golf Course in Gonzales were, from left, Mike Turk, Jarid Boehm, Jackie Waldrip, Gasper Lekgega and Astrit Lekgega.

CUERO TRACK MEET RESULTS

Junior Varsity Boys
JV Boys 100m dash:
14th place: Marcus Izaguirre
22nd place: John Izaguirre

JV Boys 200m dash:
Sixth place: M. Izaguirre
23rd place: J. Izaguirre

JV Boys 400m dash:
12th place: M. Izaguirre
22nd place: Adrian Russell

JV Boys 1600m run:
16th place: Jude Hataway

JV Boys 3200m run:
Ninth place: J. Hataway

JV Boys 300m hurdles:
18th place: Tyler Pendley

JV shot put:
10th place: Isaiah Balderas

JV discus:
Eighth place: Kevin Veliz

Junior Varsity Girls
JV Girls 100m dash:
19th place: Shakayden Clack
20th place: Kendal McDow
21st place: Lyanette Rios

JV Girls 400m dash:
16th place: McKenzie Gillette

JV Girls 800m run:
Eighth place: Jaelyn Ramos
13th place: Kylee Bairrington

JV 300m hurdles:
10th place: J. Ramos
11th place: K. Bairrington

JV Girls 4x100 relay:
Fourth place: Gonzales High School

JV Girls 4x200 relay:
Fifth place: Gonzales High School

JV Girls 4x400 relay:
Sixth place: Gonzales High School

JV Girls Long Jump:
11th place: Makayla Smith
13th place: S. Clack

JV Girls shot put:
second place: Kea'anna White
seventh place: Anyanh Browne

JV Girls discus:
Fourth place: K. White
Sixth place: Anayah Bolden
10th place: A. Browne

JV high jump:
Third place: Gabriela Torres

Varsity Boys
Varsity Boys 100m dash:
Third place: Davonte Smith
Fifth place: Daevien Pitts
22nd place: Jermane Upshaw

Varsity Boys 200m dash:
Seventh place: Rocky Gallegos
24th place: Keath White

Varsity Boys 400m dash:
12th place: River VanKirk
24th place: K. White
26th place: Ckristofer Ramos

Varsity Boys 1600m run:
Eighth place: C. Ramos

Varsity Boys 3200m run:
Seventh place: C. Ramos

Varsity Boys 300m hurdles:
First place: Travis Malveaux

Varsity Boys 4x100 relay:
Seventh place: Gonzales High School

Varsity Boys 4x200 relay:
Eighth place: Gonzales High School

Varsity Boys 4x400 relay:
Ninth place: Gonzales High School

Varsity Boys shot put:
12th place: Dylan Hunt

Varsity Boys triple jump:
Fifth place: R. Gallegos

Varsity Girls
Varsity Girls 110m dash:
Second place: Tiana Smith

Varsity Girls 200m dash:
13th place: Kaylie Ramirez

Varsity Girls 400m dash:
14th place: Kilee Schwausch

Varsity Girls 800m run:
11th place: K. Schwausch

Varsity Girls 1600m run:
Fourth place: Yaritza Angel
Eighth place: Marianelly Martinez,
Ninth place: Serenity Reyes

Varsity Girls 3200m run:
Second place: Y. Angel
Fifth place: Jordyn Gonzales
Sixth place: M. Martinez

Varsity Girls 300m hurdles:
12th place: Alaina Valle
14th place: Hailey Camarillo

Varsity Girls 4x100m relay:
Fourth place: Gonzales High School

Varsity Girls 4x200m relay:
Fifth place: Gonzales High School

Varsity Girls 4x400m relay:
Ninth place: Gonzales High School

Varsity Girls long jump:
16th place: A. Valle
17th place: T. Smith
18th place: Macy Pena

Varsity Girls shot put:
Seventh place: Mallory Clack
Eighth place: Macy Sample

Varsity Girls discus:
Fourth place: M. Sample
Ninth place: Syrenity Smith

Varsity Girls triple jump:
Eighth place: Jayda Glass
10th place: T. Smith

LIFTING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

Zulema Rodriguez placed fourth in her class, while Ashly Garcia Lady Mustangs at State Power placed third in hers.

“With the girls powerlifting season coming to an end, what can I say that I haven’t said before about these amazing young ladies I had to honor and privilege of coaching!” said Coach Eliseo Cano. “Every single girl in powerlifting did an amazing job representing Nixon-Smiley High School and the community!”

“These young ladies helped put the Nixon-Smiley Mustangs Girls Powerlifting Team on the map. Thank you to all the girls and parents for allowing me to

coach them! They will be a force to reckon with in the THSWPA for years to come!”

Team members include Grace Gomez, Olivia Jackson, Kaylie Morin, Mariela Castillo-Limon, Gabriela Castillo-Limon, Kendra Savoie, Zulema Rodriguez, Katelyn Fernandez, Janice White, Ashly Garcia, Jaylee Bustos, Frida Casas, Anahi Hernandez and Gabriella Villalobos.

Managers for the team were Madisen Yanes and Juliana Kendrick, while Cano also expressed gratitude to Tyler Barrientez, Oscar Acosta, and Jesus Espino for helping out as well.

MUSTANGS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

get every team that we can. We’re looking to be as productive and as successful as possible. But we want to go in and win every ball game that we play,” Pierce said.

“And these kids are starting to believe that they can. At the beginning of the season this is

new group of kids and I am very happy to be here to coaching with them and they are making me excited to be part of baseball and I can’t wait how we finish the season,” Pierce said.

First pitch for the Marion match is set for 7 p.m.

Voigt completes TMCEC municipal court seminar

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Gonzales Municipal Court Presiding Judge Deidra D. Voigt recently attended a judicial education conference in Austin along with municipal court judges and clerks from across Texas.

Judicial education is required annually and set forth in the Texas Government Code for judges and clerks. The Texas Municipal Court Education Center administers the curriculum and classes which are approved and underwritten by a grant from the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals.



to-date information concerning case law, legislation and procedures applicable to all

municipal courts. The legislature made several changes during the 88th legislative session including family violence, procedures for disposition of aged cases, fines minimum increases on certain traffic violations and dangerous dog cases among many others.

“Our seminars are high-intensive two and a half-days of training by senior Texas municipal judges and TMCEC staff. We covered various methods in handling mental health, juveniles, truancy, indigency and special-needs defendants,” stated Judge Voigt.

“Since my appointment to the Gonzales Municipal

Court in June 2011, my court has worked to streamline the public’s ability to handle their citations. We provide for a customer-friendly approach and work to provide options to efficiently dispose of cases. I am a people person and know that courts can be intimidating to those not familiar with the judicial process.”

“Municipal courts handle over eight times the number of cases in county or district courts and in much less time. My goal continues to be to follow the law, be fair to each party, allow each side a chance to state the facts and hope each person can leave my court

knowing they were treated with fairness according to the law and our citizens know we have justice for the community as a whole. I enjoy helping people walk through this process, as the law allows, and know their government is working for them,” Voigt added.

Municipal courts have jurisdiction over Class C misdemeanor (fine only) offenses and ordinances passed by the local governing body. Judge Voigt was elected as Gonzales County Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1 since January 1, 2011 and appointed as Nixon municipal judge in January 2024.

Emmanuel Christian School to host open house

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Emmanuel Christian School proudly invites the citizens of Gonzales and surrounding counties to join in celebrating their new facilities, located at 533 Seydler St., at a March 28 open house.

Emmanuel Christian has been educating children from kindergarten to graduation since 1976. Although their student body is small, they have touched the lives of many students and their families.

Using the Accelerated Christian Education curriculum, students

learn at their own pace and develop a thorough understanding of every step of each subject before going on to the next step. This ensures a total understanding of the processes being taught.

Graduates of ECS who have chosen to go to college have had no difficulty enrolling and have excelled in their studies. Emmanuel Christian is not accredited by the state or federal government, and therefore they are not tied to an imposed curriculum that does not include spiritual training. Because they are independently accredited,

they are able to teach a Christian curriculum, including Biblical precepts, at every grade level.

Their educational goal at ECS is to not only instill the education necessary for students to thrive in this modern world, but to also help each student develop a Godly outlook and a Biblical moral standard which will guide them throughout their lives.

Drop by for the open house between the hours of 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Thursday, March 28. They would be happy to meet you and show you their new facilities.

THE BOOK OF DOG



CONTRIBUTED

The Apache Theatre Arts department proudly presents The Book of Dog on Saturday, March 23 at 7 p.m. at the Gonzales Junior High Auditorium. Tickets are \$5 and sold online. The Apaches received alternate to bi-district on March 9. Hailey Garza got All-Star Tech, River VanKirk and Alejandro Ordunez got Honorable Mention All-Star cast, and Ainsley Pope got All-Star cast. Mrs. Buesing and Miss Pope are extremely proud of the whole company and their performance at the contest. Company members include Hailey Garza, Ryann Michalec, Emily Hull, Jeslynn Vigil, Ainsley Pope, River VanKirk, Luhana Wells, Aubree Tovar, Paulina Venegas, Austin Valenta, Autumn Hataway, Alejandro Ordunez, Brett Needham, Nick Gonzales, Anahi Meza, and Lily Reeves.



‘IRON SPOON’ TEAM WINS FIFTH PLACE IN FOOD CHALLENGE

Congratulations to the Gonzales County Junior Food Challenge team “Iron Spoon” who won fifth place Wednesday, March 13. Team members are Jayden Cheatham, Ahren Hattenbach, and Christopher Burgess.

CONTRIBUTED

GISD Superintendent Dr. A to receive award from Boy Scouts

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Gonzales ISD Superintendent Dr. Elmer Avellaneda will receive the Elbert K. Fretwell Outstanding Educator Award from the Capitol Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America this Saturday, March 23.

Avellaneda will be honored along with other top leaders and outstanding volunteers during a 2 p.m. ceremony at the Frank Fickett Scout Training and Service Center, 12500 North IH 35, Austin.

This award is presented to teachers, educational support staff and school administrators who instill

Scouting values in their students. It recognizes a person’s work for students in his or her professional role — not for what the person does directly for Scouting.

Dr. Avellaneda has served as the superintendent for Gonzales ISD since June 2022 and is making a strategic academic impact in the school district. During his first year, he developed a week-long community strategic needs assessment for GISD devised of students, teachers, administrators, community leaders, business owners, and parents. The superintendent was able to push forward a bond to build facilities to support

non-traditional university studies and careers for students such as welding, cosmetology, plumbing, electrical, HVAC, and nursing.

Dr. Avellaneda has also partnered with GISD and YMCA, which will offer a variety of programs and services for children, youth, and families such as after-school care, summer camps, health and wellness programs, and social responsibilities classes.

Academic excellence and a commitment to moral success are the cornerstones of his career as well as life. He is a progressive thinker who uses creativity to meet the challenges facing

today’s public-school systems. Dr. Avellaneda’s leadership qualities have and will undoubtedly raise the level of quality in any educational setting. He enables those around him to excel beyond expectations as he continuously strives to bring out the best in people.



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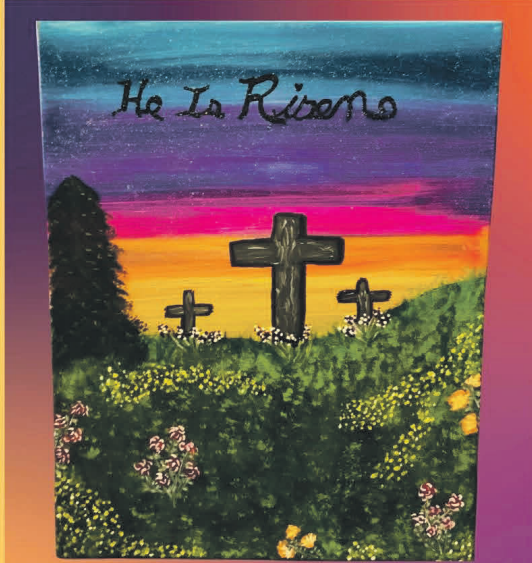
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Egg prices increase ahead of Easter holiday

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Egg prices are on the rise as Easter approaches, according to a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service expert, but they are lower than what consumers may have paid at the grocery store earlier in the year.

Consumers — and the Easter bunny — may have noticed the price of eggs increasing recently but that has mostly to do with demand, said David Anderson, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension economist, Bryan-College Station. Anderson said he expects that trend to continue leading up to the Easter holiday.

“We’re actually producing more eggs than we did a year ago, but eggs have a seasonal pattern to them,” he said, “And with Easter being earlier than usual this year, we’re also seeing prices rise earlier than we typically would.”

Producers saw wholesale prices for cartons of shell eggs strengthening through this past week with the increasing demand.

Holidays tend to drive demand up as consumers purchase more eggs than usual for eating and baking. The Easter holiday demand also includes the purchase of eggs to dye and hide.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor, in February the Consumer Price Index for eggs increased 5.8%, which was 17% below the level of 2023, with an average price of \$3 per dozen. This price was 47 cents per dozen higher than in January.

Egg prices peaked in February at \$3.29 per dozen according to some weekly U.S. Department of Agriculture, USDA - Agriculture Marketing Service retail grocery store data, Anderson said.

Last year around the Easter holiday, the USDA reported retail eggs nationally were \$2.74 per dozen. Anderson



MICHAEL MILLER/TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE

Egg prices are up which is typical for the period prior to the Easter holiday, but still lower than what consumers paid in February.

said consumers can expect them to be around \$2.99 per dozen this year.

Anderson expects the cost of a dozen eggs will decline around Texas after the holiday, which is typical, however stores may drop prices closer to Easter if demand isn’t as strong as expected.

“But I don’t think I’d wait until right before Easter to buy your eggs, just in case the demand is stronger than expected,” he said. “You probably don’t want to wait too long to get eggs, especially if you’re planning on using real ones for your Easter egg hunt.”

Avian influenza, which has devastated commercial and backyard flocks in the U.S. since the outbreak began in 2022, has been on the decline so far. Only one flock in the state has been infected to date, and that was a backyard flock in the Texas Panhandle, said Greg Archer, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension poultry specialist and associate professor in the Texas A&M Department of Poultry Science, Bryan-College Station.

“Knock on wood we’ll continue to see those fatality numbers drop,” he said. “Since it hasn’t been as bad this year, I wouldn’t expect egg prices to be as affected by that as much as in past years.”

2ND 25TH DISTRICT COURT SENTENCINGS

FEB. 27, 2024

Jorge Antonio Zuniga Aguilar, possession of a controlled substance penalty group 1, greater than or equal to 1 gram but less than 4 grams, 270 days

state jail with 266 days credit.

Mike Lee Rodriguez, assault of a family or house member with previous conviction, PSI waived, five years TDCJ with 179 days credit.

GALA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

forward to hosting their “Roaring Into The Future” Gala.

The Foundation invites community members to join in their endeavor to raise funds for the community hospital, funding equipment, systems and upgrades for the entire facility.

Gonzales Healthcare Systems prides themselves on providing quality healthcare close to home and with community support will continue to guarantee doing exactly that, with help from sponsors and members of the community just like you.

Sponsorship and attendance is being made available in a variety of levels, and sponsorship rates.

Individual tickets are available for \$150 per person, with sponsorship starting at \$5,000 for the Cat’s Meow, with those choosing this level receiving 10 event tickets, 10 raffles tickets, 10 drink tickets and a commemorative event tumbler.

For those wanting a slightly higher level of sponsorship the Bee’s Knees package is available at \$15,000 with those in this level of sponsorship receiving

10 event tickets, 30 raffle tickets, 30 drink tickets and a commemorative event tumbler. The highest available level of sponsorship, Puttin’ on the Ritz, is available for \$25,000 and includes 20 event tickets, 60 raffle tickets, 60 drink tickets, and the commemorative event tumbler.

For further information, questions or inquiries regarding sponsorship please visit the Gonzales Healthcare Foundation Systems online: gonzaleshealthcare.com/services/gonzales-healthcare-systems-foundation.

POMPA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

single vacancy by appointment of the majority of remaining members until the next regular city election, at which time the office will go on the ballot for any unexpired term remaining. The filing period has already passed for the next city election on May 4, so the next regular city election will be May 3, 2025.

Candidates must have resided at least one year in Texas (and six months in the city limits) prior to the filing deadline. They must be 18 years old, a registered voter in the city and not have been

determined to be mentally incapacitated or finally convicted of a felony from which the person has not been pardoned.

Pompa, who was previously employed with Third Coast Bank as a Treasury Management Public Funds product specialist, has been a board member for the Nixon-Smiley Little League and has served on the Nixon Housing Authority and Nixon-Smiley Head Start Parent Council.

She also was added Monday to the city’s financial accounts at Third

Coast Bank as an authorized signatory.

In other action, council members voted to surplus a Bulldog RTV belonging to the Utility Department and purchase a new RTV/ATV from Scherrer Kubota on a buy board government rate.

Council members heard a report about work being done around town by the city to improve the Little League fields, including new awnings on the dugouts, as well as concrete being poured next to the splash pad at the park.

Romberg House Easter egg hunt

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Romberg House Assisted Living Center in Gonzales will have an Easter egg hunt for kids at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, March 30 at the center, 210 Qualls St., Gonzales. Come out and see the Easter bunny!

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UNEMPLOYMENT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

This increase ended a trend of unemployment rates dropping for the county for a previous four months in a row, according to state Labor Market Information (LMI) figures released by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC).

For the entire Golden Crescent Workforce Development Area, the unemployment rate for January 2024 was 3.8 percent, lower than the state average of 4.1 percent. This represented a total of 3,489 residents in Gonzales, Calhoun, DeWitt, Goliad, Jackson, Lavaca and Victoria counties seeking employment out of a total workforce of 91,051 people.

The counties reporting

in lower than Gonzales County are Lavaca County, with the lowest unemployment rate at 3.2 percent, followed by Calhoun County at 3.4 percent, with Jackson and Dewitt Counties at 3.5 percent. Gonzales follows with 3.7 percent, with Goliad at 3.9 percent, Victoria closes in the highest position at 4.3 percent.

For January 2024, there were 345 individuals in Gonzales County seeking employment out of a workforce of 9,360 with 9,015 reported as employed. In December 2023, there were 280 people seeking work in Gonzales County out of an employment force of 9,430 for a total unem-

ployment rate of 3.0 percent.

In January 2023, Gonzales County had an unemployment rate of 3.7 percent. The 3.2 percent unadjusted unemployment rate for April 2023 was the lowest seen in Gonzales County since it was reported at 2.7 percent in March 2022.

Unemployment rates since February 2022 for Gonzales County are:

- Feb. 2022, 3.4 percent
- March 2022, 2.7 percent
- April 2022, 2.6 percent
- May 2022, 2.7 percent
- June 2022, 3.5 percent
- July 2022, 3.2 percent
- Aug. 2022, 3.2 percent
- Sept. 2022, 3.1 percent
- Oct. 2022, 3.1 percent
- Nov. 2022, 3.1 percent
- Dec. 2022, 2.7 percent
- Jan. 2023, 3.7 percent
- Feb. 2023, 4.0 percent
- March 2023, 3.5 percent
- April 2023, 3.2 percent
- May 2023, 3.5 percent
- June 2023, 3.7 percent
- July 2023, 4.0 percent
- Aug. 2023, 4.0 percent
- Sept. 2023, 3.5 percent
- Oct. 2023, 3.3 percent
- Nov. 2023, 3.1 percent
- Jan. 2024, 3.7 percent

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CHAMBER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ber of Commerce, which would be giving an opportunity for the Chamber employees to fall under the city employment where they can receive benefits," Gonzales City Manager Tim Crow said. "We believe this would be a great benefit to the community, because those employees having benefits would possibly stay in employment longer, which when people stay longer, their company's competencies build and their service opportunity enhances."

"In the past months, the Chamber board's focus has been on not merely hiring yet another new Chamber director, but we've been concerned in finding ways to bring lasting stability to the Chamber," Chamber officials said in a statement. "We recognize that without doing this first, the prospect of strengthening and solidifying the Chamber's administrative leadership would be less than it could be to best serve the future of Gonzales."

Chamber officials met with a former director of the New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce last year and determined a partnership with the city "would bring a great advantage to our community."

The city will provide administrative services to the Chamber and serve as "the employer of record for employees including payroll disbursement, retirement, medical, and life insurance options." The Chamber will then reimburse the city for its personnel costs "much in the same way the City has reimbursed the Chamber for hosting the Tourism Coordinator's position for the last couple of years." "Governing responsibilities of the Chamber's Board of Directors, consisting of member-elected representatives, will remain the same," the Chamber statement continued. "This strategic collaboration between the Chamber and the City ushers in an exciting time for our future! We foresee this partnership providing the stability it's been lacking to better benefit its members, staff, and the community!"

Councilwoman Ronda Miller expressed concerns about the agenda item and asked the council to postpone it for another meeting.

Miller said she had spoken to the Chamber president, who had

"In the past months, the Chamber board's focus has been on not merely hiring yet another new Chamber director, but we've been concerned in finding ways to bring lasting stability to the Chamber. We recognize that without doing this first, the prospect of strengthening and solidifying the Chamber's administrative leadership would be less than it could be to best serve the future of Gonzales."

—Gonzales Area Chamber of Commerce

told her that he had not seen the contract.

"There are some some issues, I think it has not been presented to the members. And there's an issue and may not apply to the chamber, but I know some groups that have paid membership and whenever you change their bylaws and regulations, you have to send out those to each of the members," Miller said.

Crow said he had a discussion with the Chamber and that they wanted to bring their employees under the same umbrella and provide them benefits and that the Chamber would reimburse the city for the cost.

"The city can't take on more employees without a revenue sources and we're not getting any revenue out of this, it just would be more another expense for the city if they weren't reimbursing it. And I'm concerned about the financial integrity of the Chamber," Miller said.

The council approved the agenda item by a 3-1 vote with Miller voting against and Mayor Steve Sucher and Councilman Poochy Kridler and Councilwoman Sherri Koepp voting in favor. Councilman Lorenzo Hernandez was not present at the meeting.

The Chamber board had approved the amended agreement at a meeting in January.

In other business, the council approved or table the following agenda items:

- approved to table Authorizing the City Manager to Solicit Proposals for Municipal Solid Waste Collection, Disposal and Recycling services in the manner most advantageous to the City of Gonzales for the April meeting.

- approved Authorizing the appointments to the Gonzales Convention & Visitors Bureau and Main Street Advisory Board; Keith Berger and Del de los Santos to Gonzales Main Street BOD, and Don Page Jr.

to the Gonzales Convention & Visitors Bureau BOD.

- approved accepting the Proposal and Awarding the Contract to LSPS Solutions, LLC. to Develop an Inventory of Water Service Lines and Compiling Data to comply with the USEPA's Lead and Copper Rule Revisions issued on January 15, 2021.

- approved Work Order #75 in the amount of \$69,750 for Engineering, Surveying, CMT and Construction Administration Services for the 2024 Street Improvement Projects.

- approved Authorizing the City Manager to submit, and accept if awarded, an application and associated documents to the Office of the Governor, for up to \$80,000 in Operation Lone Star Grant Funds, for the Purchase of License Plate Readers and overtime for the Gonzales Police Department Officers and Dispatchers.

- approved Authorizing the City Manager to Submit, and Accept if Awarded, an Application and Associated Documents to the Texas General Land Office (GLO) for \$2,999,400 in CDBG-MIT grant funds for Infrastructure Improvements to Mitigate the Impact of Future Flooding Events.

- approved Authorizing the City Manager to Submit, and Accept if Awarded, an Application and Associated Documents to the Texas General Land Office (GLO) for grant funding, not to exceed \$200,000, to the Resilient Communities Program (RCP) for the update of the City of Gonzales Comprehensive Plan.

- approved Amending Chapter 2 Animal Control of the City of Gonzales Code of Ordinances.

- approved Authorizing amendments to the City of Gonzales Code of Ordinances Sections 4.401, 14.201, 14.403, 14.404, 14.604, and Sections 6.701 through 6.710 regarding mobile food vending and mobile food vending courts.

TRIAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

prosecution and defense are ready to go to trial. The case has been given top preferential setting, so if they are ready to proceed, jury selection will likely begin one week later on Monday, April 1.

The Russells, who are being represented by attorney Robert Bland, are charged with misapplication of fiduciary property or property of a financial institution. The couple are accused of embezzling thousands of dollars from the Gonzales County Emergency Medical Services. They are being tried by the Texas Attorney General's office after the case was referring to them by County Attorney Paul Watkins. They have pleaded not guilty.

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

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

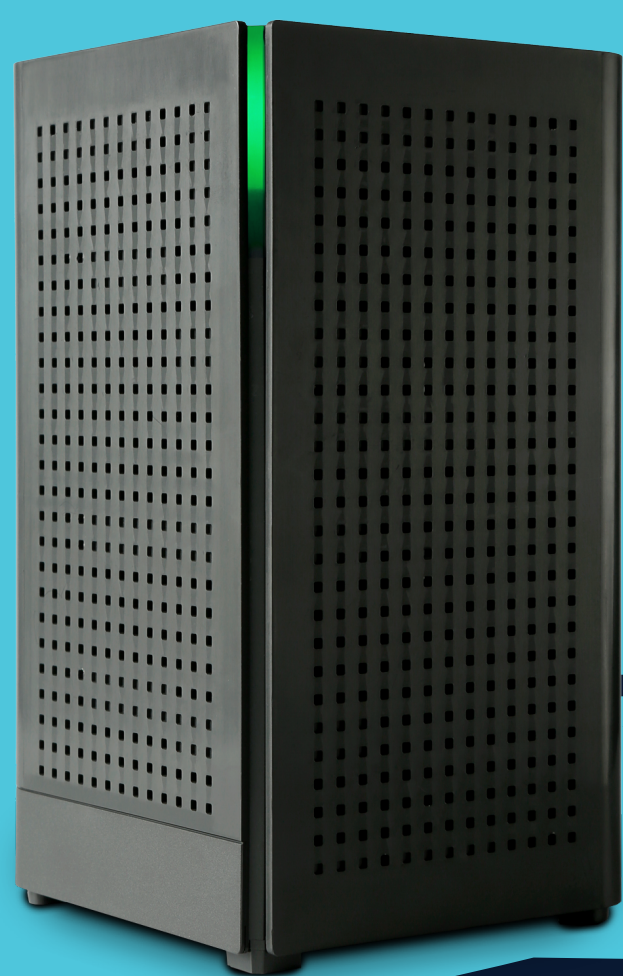
While Jim Russell was under investigation by several law enforcement agencies in January 2018, the EMS board placed him on administrative leave without pay. When his arrest became public, he was terminated by the board on June 26, 2018. The board requested that Carla Russell resign from her position following her arrest and she obliged.

The indictment alleges that between January 2011 to June 2018 the Russells misapplied EMS funds —over which they had responsibility — for their own benefit. This occurred by depositing money meant for the EMS and CPR classes into their own personal bank accounts, overpaying themselves or other employees for unworked hours, being paid by other entities while simultaneously being paid by the EMS and mishandling donations to the EMS.

Another case which soon could go to trial involves a Gonzales woman who is accused of fatally shooting her ex-husband during a domestic dispute in August 2022. Carol Hunt Russell — no relation to James or Carla Russell — is accused by Gonzales police of killing Jesse Russell Jr., 53, of Gonzales, at a residence in the 400 block of Village Drive on Aug. 2, 2022, and wounding Jacqueline Marlene Mathis, 58, of Gonzales, at a residence in the 1100 block of Hastings Street.

Carol Russell's case is also on the announcement docket for Monday, March 25. She has remained in the Gonzales County Jail since her arrest in lieu of \$750,000 bond. She is being defended by Eduardo "Eddie" Escobar.

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



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