



The **Gonzales** Inquirer

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Daylight savings ends Nov. 1. Remember to set your clocks back.

COVID active cases at 15

STAFF REPORT

In Gonzales County, 15 new cases of COVID-19 were reported on Wednesday, Oct. 21. This is the largest single-day spike in reported cases since Aug. 22.

Another case was reported on Tuesday, Oct. 27. This brings the total of new cases reported from Oct. 21 through 27 to 16. The total number of confirmed cases in the county is up to 1,148, with 15 being active, 1,124 recovered, and nine deaths reported.

In Trauma Service Area P, an oversight region which extends from Val Verde County in the east to Gonzales County in the west, 6.1% (283) of all hospitalizations are for lab-confirmed cases of COVID-19. This is a 0.4% increase from this time last week, when 5.7% of all hospitalizations in the region were due to COVID-19. As long as this count remains under 15% of all hospitalizations in

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OBITUARIES

- Hilda "Susy" Parker
- Agnes Ann Benedict
- John Edward Basquez
- Rebecca (Rosas) Rodriguez
- Gregory Scott Pagel



County sees strong voter turnout

By BROOKE SJOBERG
Inquirer Reporter

Across the country, early voter turnout is higher than usual, and Gonzales County is no exception.

As of Oct. 26, there were 4,257 early voters in Gonzales County for the general election. That represents 33.60% of registered voters in the county. With four days of early voting and the Nov. 3 election day still remaining, the current total is already 69% of total votes cast in the 2016 General Election.

County Clerk Lona Ack-

man said the turnout has been "way above average," compared to recent elections.

"In the primary election in March of 2020 there was a total of 4,054 voters," Ackman said. "In the runoff in July of 2020 there was a total of 2,364 voters."

In 2016, early voter turnout made up a significant amount of the total vote. A total of 3,778 ballots were cast early, with 204 cast by mail. On Election Day, 2,187 ballots were cast, bringing the total number of votes in Gonzales County to 6,169 for the 2016 General Election.

Local races

In addition to the national election for president, the state-wide race for U.S. Senator, and district races for U.S. House, state senate and state house of representatives, Gonzales County will elect a new sheriff, while Gonzales votes will choose two new members to the city council.

The Sheriff's race has no incumbent, with Democrat Floyd Toliver facing Republican Robert Ynclan.

In Gonzales City Council District 3, incumbent Bobby O'Neal faces challenger Jace Opiela.

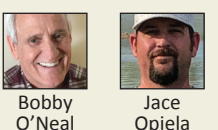
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LOCAL RACES

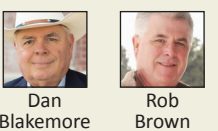
GONZALES COUNTY SHERIFF
Floyd Toliver (D)
Robert Ynclan



GONZALES CITY COUNCIL
DISTRICT 3
Bobby O'Neal
Jace Opiela



DISTRICT 4
Dan Blakemore
Rob Brown



CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION



A centennial celebration was held on Wednesday Oct. 21 at SouthStar Bank headquarters in Moulton. Tours of the newly renovated building were given, and the event included live music, food and games. (Brooke Sjoberg)

SouthStar Bank remodels headquarters

By BROOKE SJOBERG
Inquirer Reporter

SouthStar Bank welcomed community members to its newly renovated corporate headquarters in celebration of the bank's centennial on Wednesday, Oct. 21 in Moulton.

The independently owned bank operates 17 locations, including 1609 N. Sarah Dewitt Dr. in Gonzales, which hosted its own centennial celebration a week earlier.

President and CEO David Kapavik, who is from Gonzales, said the renovations had finished just the day before, with many antiques and fixtures sourced from local shops and sellers.

"The fixtures, except for the lobby fixture, all the antiques were bought in Gonzales and Discoveries From The Past," Kapavik said. "We tried to do everything local. Local craftsmen, local architects, local furniture. Most of them are our customers and former founders, they really took pride in doing this, it's their work and they're

part of a building that's gonna be here hoping another hundred years."

The building, which was originally constructed in 1887, was renovated from March through October, with some delays relating to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Leah Wagner, an English teacher at St. Paul High School in Shiner who also tutors independently for reading, was in charge of the design

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