

The **Gonzales Inquirer**

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Commissioners propose lowering tax rate

County sees \$643 million increase in mineral values alone

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

Gonzales County commissioners voted unanimously Monday, Aug. 7, to propose a

tax rate of 24.2 cents per \$100 valuation for the upcoming fiscal year — a decrease of more than 6.5 cents below last year's tax rate of 30.71 cents. The court will hold a spe-

cial called meeting at 9 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 5, for a public hearing before formally adopting the tax rate.

Commissioners also voted to give all county employees

a \$1.50 per hour raise and increased salaries for two positions in the county attorney's office, but voted down — by

See **TAX**, page 6

GISD staff gets ready for new school year with convocation

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales ISD staff gathered at the J.B. Wells Expo Center for the annual 2023 GISD Convocation Wednesday, Aug. 2.

This year's event kicked off strong and full of energy with two energetic guest

speakers: former professional football player Keith Davis and former UTEP Miner Germard Reed, who gave the staff a fantastic pep talk.

Davis, a former USC Trojan, New York Giant, and current president of Winner's Organization, spoke to

See **SCHOOL**, page 7



PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS
The Gonzales Apaches football team and cheerleaders celebrate the kick off of the 2023-24 Apache Athletics season.

STAAR tests illustrate improvement, areas of concern for local schools

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

Results for the spring 2023 end-of-course (EOC) State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) have shown improvement for all three of the Gonzales County school districts as they try to return to pre-pandemic levels, but also reveal areas where they have fallen behind the state average.

Testing results include assessments from five course areas — Algebra I, English I, English II, Biology, and U.S. History. Results place students in one of four categories based upon

performance — Did Not Meet, Approaches, Meets and Masters. Students must obtain an Approaches grade level score (or higher) on EOCs or equivalent exams as part of graduation requirements in Texas.

Statewide, EOC results show the number of students achieving Approaches grade level or above increased in all five subject areas tested and they have now eclipsed pre-pandemic levels in all areas but Algebra I, showing progress and "continued academic recovery among Texas pub-

See **STAAR**, page 17

Main Street, Apaches Athletics celebrate Back-to-School Bash

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

Independence Square was packed Saturday, Aug. 5 with Gonzales residents to celebrate the new school year for Gonzales ISD — and to get a first peek at this year's participants in fall extracurricular activities.

Gonzales Main Street collaborated with Apache Athletics to host the second annual Back-to-School Bash and Meet the Apaches Night.

Event organizer Adriane Hastings said it was a "splendorous" turnout this year. She added it is Main Street's goal is to do something with the children of Gonzales and their mission is "to provide something to them to

See **BASH**, page 17



Gonzales Athletic Director and head football coach Joey Rivera speaks to the community for Meet the Apaches Night at Independence Square Saturday, Aug. 5.

UF-Whoa!

SpaceX Starlink satellites fly over Texas, causing bewilderment

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Gonzales County Sheriff's dispatchers received several calls from bewildered residents regarding strange lights in the sky above Waelder Wednesday, Aug. 2.

The lights in the sky were flying in a straight line sometime after 9

See **LIGHTS**, page 18



Gonzales ISD Superintendent Dr. Elmer Avellaneda speaks to community members of the potential bond election in November Thursday, Aug. 3.
GROWING GREATNESS
WANDY VAN EPPS

Community gives input on GISD bond

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

Community members and Gonzales ISD staff members gathered for a special called meeting Thursday, Aug. 3 at the administration building regarding a potential bond election.

GISD is proposing a November bond

election for a new Gonzales High School, new athletic complex and safety and security.

Superintendent Dr. Elmer Avellaneda and the GISD school board have been livestreaming their bond meetings on Facebook and going over the bond process.

See **BOND**, page 18

GISD approves new GISDPD vehicles and bond payment

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales ISD School Board met for a special called meeting Monday, Aug. 7 at the district's administration building.

One of the main agenda items was regarding purchasing three new out-fitted police vehicles for the Gonzales ISD Police Department.

GISDPD Chief Gregory Brooks presented the agenda item to the board and explained how tough it is to buy a new vehicle.

Brooks said the preferred choice is a Chevy Tahoe, which makes it easier when trying to go out in rural areas, but they can't buy any.

"So one of the big problems that I found is every place that I would call

See **GISD**, page 17



Sievers Medical Clinic celebrates 30 years of service

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Sievers Medical Clinic celebrated 30 years of service to the Gonzales community on Aug. 2, 2023 – exactly 30 years from the date the clinic first opened on Aug. 2, 1993.

The clinic held an anniversary celebration to mark the occasion. Guests enjoyed music by Brandi Behlen, sweets from Sweets on the Street food truck, and appetizers prepared by the GHS kitchen staff.

In honor of the anniversary, a tree was planted by Gonzales Healthcare CEO Brandon Anzaldua, Chief of Staff Commie Hisey, and GHS Board President Kenneth Gottwald.



Gonzales Healthcare Systems looks forward to seeing this tree grow as our clinic

continues to grow. Thank you to everyone who came out and celebrated with us. Here's to another 30 years!



SHINER HERITAGE QUILTERS GIVE BACK



Shiner Heritage Quilters Guild has donated 10 lap quilts to the residents at The Heights in Gonzales. Seated from left are residents Bradley Avant and Irene Ginmaldo. Back row are guild members Bernadette Kresta and Linda Rigby.

CONTRIBUTED

VC Board proposes lowest property tax rate since 2016-17

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

During a special meeting on Monday, Aug. 7, Victoria College's Board of Trustees proposed a 2023-24 property tax rate of 17.22 cents per \$100 of taxable value, a decrease of twelve percent from the current tax rate. If adopted, it will be the college's lowest property tax rate since 2016-17.

"On behalf of the Victoria College Board of Trustees, I commend the college for preparing a budget that exemplifies fiscal responsibility while remaining committed to its vital work of improving lives and strengthening communities," said Bland Proctor, VC Board Chair.

Based on the Victoria County Appraisal District's certified property tax values for 2023, a homeowner who lives within Victoria College's taxing district would pay \$172.20 for a home valued at \$100,000, before exemptions, compared to \$195.90 last year.

The proposed rate includes the first payment on the \$10 million bond approved by Victoria County voters in May for the construction of a new Student Success Center. The bond was sold on July 24.

Victoria College applied \$200,000 from its debt service reserves (savings) to reduce the amount of the bond payment and minimize the impact on taxpayers.

As a result, VC's Interest & Sinking (I&S) or debt service tax rate used to repay debt for

"When asking Victoria County voters to consider a \$10 million bond for the construction of a Student Success Center, we shared our goal of keeping the debt service tax rate below 3.41 cents per \$100 valuation. ...we are proud that we exceeded our goal with a new debt service tax rate of 2.96 cents per \$100 valuation, an 8 percent decrease."

—Dr. Jennifer Kent, VC President

major capital improvements decreased nearly 8 percent – from 3.2 cents to 2.96 cents per \$100 of valuation.

"When asking Victoria County voters to consider a \$10 million bond for the construction of a Student Success Center, we shared our goal of keeping the debt service tax rate below 3.41 cents per \$100 valuation," said Dr. Jennifer Kent, VC President. "We initially projected an increase of 0.21 cents per \$100 of valuation, but we are proud that we exceeded our goal with a new debt service tax rate of 2.96 cents per \$100 valuation, an 8 percent decrease."

If the lower 2023-24 proposed tax rate is adopted, VC's maintenance and operations (M&O) tax rate used for day-to-day operations would decrease from 16.39 cents to 14.26 cents per \$100 of valuation.

The board will host a public hearing on the proposed tax rate during a special meeting on Monday, Aug. 14 in Room 101 of the Academic Building at VC's Main Campus, located at 2200 E. Red River Street. After the public hearing,

the board will vote to adopt a 2023-24 tax rate and operating budget.

The agenda for the special meeting will be posted Thursday, Aug. 10 at VictoriaCollege.edu/BoardOfTrustees.

Knibbe steps down as chair of GVTC after 27 years

Swindall elected to lead board

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

GVTC Communications announced the resignation of Chuck Knibbe as chairman of the GVTC Board of Directors. He will continue to serve as a director on the GVTC Board. Knibbe has served on the GVTC Board since 1992 and has held the esteemed position of chairman since 1996.

As chairman of the board, Knibbe has been instrumental in leading the cooperative through transformative phases, propelling it to become a fiber broadband-centric communications company and achieving remarkable growth. Under Knibbe's guidance, GVTC's annualized revenue grew from \$17 million in 1992 to over \$135 million today. Knibbe helped the company achieve over a \$118 million increase in operating revenue during his 27 years as chairman.

A longtime Spring Branch resident and GVTC member, Knibbe and his family were part of the creation of GVTC. His father, Lawrence Knibbe, was one of the incorporating members of the cooperative, helping develop the Hill Country area by providing a vital service. From population growth to new competition to the arrival and implementation of the latest technologies, Knibbe takes pride in the important role that he and his family have played in GVTC's history.

Reflecting on his resignation, Chuck Knibbe shared, "My journey with GVTC has been im-



Knibbe



Swindall

mensely fulfilling, and I am proud to have been part of a dedicated team that transformed a telephone-centric cooperative into a leading communications provider. It's been an honor to serve this community and work alongside passionate individuals who strive for excellence. I extend my deepest gratitude to everyone who has been part of this journey, and I am confident that GVTC will continue to thrive under the leadership of Clint Swindall."

Clint Swindall, the current chairman of the Governance Committee on the GVTC Board of Directors, has been elected as the new chairman of the board. Swindall's

background in leadership development and his extensive experience on the GVTC board make him an ideal candidate to lead the cooperative into the future.

"I am deeply honored to be elected as the new Chairman of the Board for GVTC Communications," said Clint Swindall. "I have witnessed firsthand the tremendous impact that GVTC has made under the leadership of Chuck Knibbe, and I am committed to building upon the legacy of excellence he leaves behind. As we continue to embrace technological advancements and focus on delivering exceptional services to our customers and communities, I am excited to work alongside the talented team at GVTC to shape a bright future for the cooperative. Together, we will uphold our core values and drive GVTC's growth, ensuring that we remain at the forefront of innovation in the telecommunications industry."

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Celebrations

Birthdays

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|---|--|--|
| August 10th
Bob Burchard
Louis Lopez
Matthew Schramm
Christi Venegas | Crystal Sepeda | Joshua David Haynes
Debbie Schmidt
Tony Vega Sr |
| August 11th
Linda Coffin
Ryan Fridrich
Agnes Gast
Mary Irl
Miguel Maldonado
Zamian Martinez | Florene Braune
Christopher Brzozowski
Craig DeBerry
Kasey Reese Floyd
Blake Noahubi
Mia Schauer
Donnie Tenberg
Sarah Thomas | Halea Heiman
Krista Keefe
Lawren Kridler
Nick Skipper |
| August 12th
Jennifer Casares
Lisa Green
John Henderson
Tyler Howell
Gavin Ivey
Donna Kuchynka
Bailey Petras | August 13th
Scott Barfield
Sue Behlen
Slayden Boehm | August 15th
Bill Davis
Gwen Lamprecht
Craig
Holly Danz
Roger Gonzales
Audrey Irl
Erika James
Reese Lester
Bradley Stampport
Virgie Vega |
| August 14th
Peggy Barnett
Wendy Barthels
Kyle Day
Cheryl DuBose
James Hamilton | | |

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Gonzales Weather

	August 10 104°/79°	Partly sunny and hot 6% chance of rain • RealFeel 108
	August 11 103°/78°	Mostly sunny, very warm and humid 10% chance of rain • RealFeel 109
	August 12 102°/77°	Sunny and very warm 10% chance of rain • RealFeel 106
	August 13 100°/78°	Mostly sunny and very warm 10% chance of rain • RealFeel 109
	August 14 101°/76°	Sunny to partly cloudy and very warm 20% chance of rain • RealFeel 108
	August 15 100°/77°	Very warm with sunshine 10% chance of rain • RealFeel 108
	August 16 99°/76°	Mostly sunny and very warm 10% chance of rain • RealFeel 107

Upcoming Events at J.B. Wells Park in Gonzales

August 11th – 2 Dumb Blondes

August 12th – 13th – South Texas Tour

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Garden
Q&A
with CALVIN FINCH



Look to roses, sweet pea and phlox for fragrance

Q I have purchased two “Bubba Desert Willow” in 5-gallon containers. I was planning on planting them now but a friend of mine who is a Master Naturalist said it would be better to wait to plant them for two months into November. What do you recommend.?

A. If you have the time to keep them watered, I would go ahead and plant them. Your friend is right in that the Desert Willow, even if it is heat tolerant is vulnerable to stress from the heat but I am not convinced that the plant in a small container is not any more vulnerable than the plant placed in its permanent location and well cared for. Dig the hole as deep as the container; soak the hole and then plant the Desert Willow. Water it twice per week this summer and once per week for the first two growing seasons.

Q. What are some fragrant flowers we can plant in our garden and landscape?

A. In the winter plant alyssum, sweet peas, and stock. Also find some Fanick’s phlox



if possible. It is a perennial that blooms in spring and summer with a lilac like fragrance. I am not sure which of the roses are fragrant but there is a relatively long list. Seek a list in a gardening book or on the internet.

Q. What can I spray to control the leaf-footed bugs on my tomatoes? They are so large and mobile.

A. I have had success with malathion. If you use it follow the label instructions. Another gardener that I know uses a hand operated battery powered vacuum to collect them.

Q. Our lawn has been fried to a crisp by the heat and lack of rain. We want to replace it with new sod, what do you recommend? The lawn is mostly in full sun.

A. Before you replace a lawn with new sod make sure you understand why the last grass didn’t survive. It sounds like there is enough sun. Will you have access to enough water? One option is to use groundcovers such as Asiatic jasmine or dwarf ruellia. They require less water and tolerate shade than lawn grass.

NOV. 7 GENERAL ELECTION

Right to farm and ranch set as Prop 1 on ballot

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The right to farm and ranch in Texas is set as Proposition 1 on the Nov. 7 General Election ballot.

The proposition is supported by Texas Farm Bureau (TFB).

“It’s great to have a proposition number for the right to farm and ranch constitutional amendment. There are 14 propositions on the ballot, so it is very helpful to remind voters which proposition is the right to farm and ranch constitutional amendment,” TFB President Russell Boening said. “The proposition number will be an important part of messaging going forward as we promote this monumental opportunity to protect the future of Texas family farms and ranches.”

On the ballot, Prop 1 will read:

“The constitutional amendment protecting the right to engage in farming, ranching, timber production, horticulture, and wildlife management.”

The constitutional amend-

ment is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to protect farming and ranching and the future of food security in the state.

“Prop 1 isn’t about protecting the past. It’s about ensuring Texans’ access to safe and affordable food in the future,” Boening said.

In Texas, about 97% of farms and ranches are owned and operated by families, and one in seven Texans has a job related to agriculture. That shows how vital farming and ranching are to a healthy Texas.

“The amendment protects all farmers and ranchers—large and small. Only responsible, normal day-to-day agricultural practices are protected, not practices employed by bad actors,” Boening said.

But the state loses over 240,000 acres of agricultural land each year to development, according to a recent study, making Prop 1 even more important. It ensures the land, natural resources, livestock, and wildlife are protected, too.

The proposition needs a majority vote to pass.

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LIVESTOCK WEEKLY REPORTS

GONZALES LIVESTOCK MARKET

August 5th
Cattle - 1640
Compared to our last sale: Number 1 choice calves and yearlings sold steady to 2.00-3.00 higher on the very active ones. Less quality calves and yearlings sold steady. Packer cows sold steady & bulls sold steady to 2.00 higher.
Stocker-feeder Steers: Medium and large-frame No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 315-320; 300-400 lbs., 282-300; 400-500 lbs., 277-280; 500-600 lbs., 245-267; 600-700 lbs., 222-235; 700-800 lbs., 217-221.
Bull Yearlings: 700-900 lbs., 95-185.
Stocker-feeder heifers: Medium and large-frame No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 265-285; 300-400 lbs., 257-255; 400-500 lbs., 235-241; 500-600 lbs., 221-228; 600-700 lbs., 197-215.
Packer Cows: Good lean utility and commercial, 84-97; Cutters, 102-119; Canners, 52-77; High yielding fat cows, 91-104.
Packer Bulls: Yield grade 1 & 2, good heavy bulls, 121-126; Light weights and medium quality bulls, 100-118.
Stocker Cows: \$750 to \$1,700. Pairs: \$1,100 to \$1,800.

HALLETTSVILLE LIVESTOCK COMMISSION CO., INC.

Sale date: August 1st
Cattle on hand: 1847
Packer Cows:
Canner and Cutter Cows: \$83-109
Utility & Fat Cows: \$80-103
Light Weight Canner Cows: \$58-83
Poor/Weak: \$48-60

Packer Bulls:

Heavyweight Bulls: \$117-127
Utility & Cutter Bulls: \$105-118
Lightweight Canner Bulls: \$93-110
Stocker Cows:
Good Stocker/Cows & Heifers: \$1300-1475
Medium Stocker Cows & Heifers: \$1025-1275
Good Cow & Calf Pairs: NONE
Medium Cow & Calf Pairs: \$1200-1600
Stocker & Feeder Calves & Yearlings:
Number 1 steer & bull calves:
Under 200 lbs.: \$240-310
200-300 lbs.: \$235-320
300-400 lbs.: \$235-310
400-500 lbs.: \$225-290
500-600 lbs.: \$220-257.50
600-700 lbs.: \$205-247.50
700-800 lbs.: \$190-232.50
Number 1 heifer calves:
Under 200 lbs: \$220-285
200-300 lbs.: \$205-290
300-400 lbs.: \$220-285
400-500 lbs.: \$210-255
500-600 lbs.: \$200-240
600-700 lbs.: \$190-220
700-800 lbs: \$175-215
Replacement Heifers:
350-700 lbs.: \$235-285
The calf market remains strong. #1 quality calves sold steady in all weight brackets. #2 and plainer kinds sold \$2 to \$4 lower. Overall a good active sale. Pastures burning fast. Packer cows & bulls sold \$2 higher on a supply of 300 head.

SEGUIN CATTLE CO.

August 2nd
Market steady on all classes. Packer cows and bulls 2-3 better.
Cattle - 867

Sheep & goats - 568

Medium & large frame #1 Steers: 200-300 lb. .80-2.03-2.73
300-400 lb. .60-2.27-2.75
400-500 lb. .50-1.98-2.76
500-600 lb. .55-1.80-2.54
600-700 lb. .70-1.59-2.32
700-850 lb. 1.20-1.70-2.07
Medium & large frame #1 Heifers:
200-300 lb. 1.25-2.18-2.75
300-400 lb. .55-2.03-2.72
400-500 lb. .60-1.87-2.36
500-600 lb. .60-1.73-2.15
600-750 lb. .70-1.75-2.21
Cows:
Utility & commercial - 70-95-128
Cutters - 64-73-82
Cannors - 60-70-80
Palpated cows - 650-1275
Cow/Calf Pairs - 625-1000
Heavy High Yielding - 1.20-1.33
Light & Low Yielding - .90-1.19
Sheep & Goats:
Nannies - 60-240
Kid Goats (Fat) - 1.80-2.90
Wethers - 2.65-3.25
Billies - 1.10-1.90
Dorp. Ewes - 60-135
Dorp. Lambs (Fat) - 1.60-2.30
Wooled Ewes - 90-120
Wooled Bucks - 1.02-1.40
Lambs - 1.45-2.05
Barb. Bucks - NONE

CUERO LIVESTOCK MARKET

August 4, 2023
Number of head 1,535
There were 145 cows and 20 bulls. The packer market on cows and bulls continued its strong run with both packer cows and bulls a little higher. Top packer bull was at \$130/cwt while top packer cows were at \$110.00. The calf market was over \$2.50/

cwt higher than last week on 13.5 pounds more weight per head for over \$42/head more value. It was another strong and solid market on all classes of calves.

Packer bulls:	110.00-130.00
Packer cows:	cannors & cutters 91.00-110.00
poor & weak	30.00-50.00
Palpated: 13 BRED	107.00-166.00
PAIRS:	one \$1,550
Steer Calves:	(AVG-HIGH)
Under 200 lbs.	NONE
200-249 lbs.	256.00-280.00
250-299 lbs.	265.00-304.00
300-350 lbs.	268.00-312.00
350-400 lbs.	240.00-280.00
400-450 lbs.	245.00-300.00
450-500 lbs.	232.00-260.00
500-550 lbs.	234.00-270.00
550-600 lbs.	232.00-265.00
600-700 lbs.	220.00-252.00
700-800 lbs.	206.00-232.00
Bull Calves:	(AVG-HIGH)
Under 250lbs	270.00-302.00
250-300 lbs.	267.00-316.00
300-350 lbs.	250.00-302.00
350-400 lbs.	258.00-310.00
400-450 lbs.	238.00-288.00
450-500 lbs.	230.00-268.00
500-550 lbs.	229.00-256.00
550-600 lbs.	217.00-252.00
600-700 lbs.	205.00-219.00
Over 700 lbs.	179.00-216.00
Heifer Calves:	(AVG-HIGH)
under 200 lbs.	248.00-300.00
200-250 lbs.	226.00-300.00
250-300 lbs.	238.00-304.00
300-350 lbs.	235.00-306.00
350-400 lbs.	218.00-290.00
400-450 lbs.	124.00-258.00
450-500 lbs.	210.00-246.00
500-550 lbs.	209.00-264.00
550-600 lbs.	207.00-223.00
600-700 lbs.	199.00-252.00
Over 700 lbs.	183.00-210.00



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How to make the housing market work for everyone

BY KENNY PARCELL

More than a quarter of Americans have a disability of some kind. Yet less than 5% of housing in this country is accessible for people with moderately limited mobility. And less than 1% is accessible to those who use wheelchairs.

These are big problems for prospective homebuyers who are disabled. But the market is beginning to change for the better, thanks, in part, to the efforts of real estate agents who are Realtors®.

Everyone deserves access to affordable, livable homes. The Fair Housing Act explicitly prohibits disability-based discrimination in the rental, sale, or financing of residential property. The Americans with Disabilities Act prohibits discrimination in other areas, like access to business, jobs, and public transportation.

Despite these legal protections, many people with disabilities remain at a disadvantage in the real estate market.

Part of the problem is financial. People with disabilities face systemic hurdles that make saving for a down payment harder. Full-time workers with a disability earn just 87 cents for every dollar that people without disabilities earn, according to the U.S. Census. A person with a severe disability risks losing supplemental Social Security income if they earn more than \$2,000 every month.

Securing transportation to an open house or home visit can prove challenging, too. People with disabilities are less likely to have access to a car and more likely to rely on someone else to drive them.

In recent years, members of the National Association of Realtors® have made dismantling barriers like these a nationwide priority.

The National Association of Realtors® has launched educational initiatives including the At Home with Diversity® certification, which is designed to educate NAR members on the subtleties of fair housing laws while promoting best practices for serving clients with disabilities. In addition, the association has worked to teach its members how to more effectively and efficiently ensure that their offices and websites are ADA-compliant.

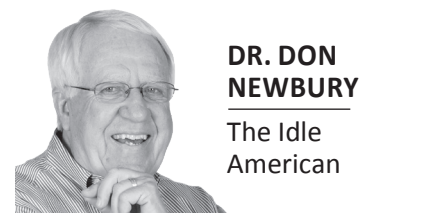
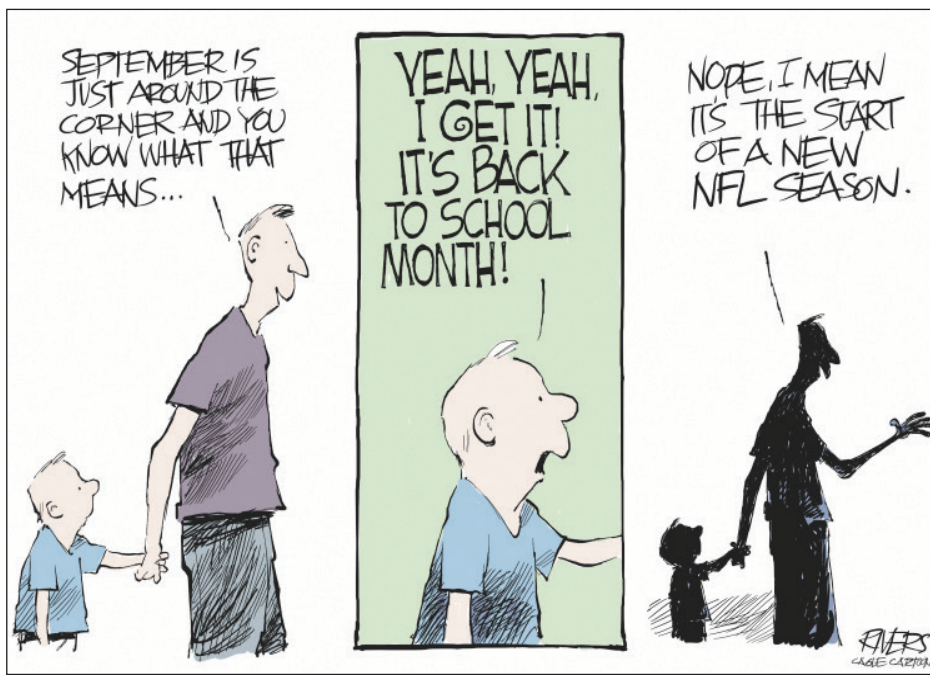
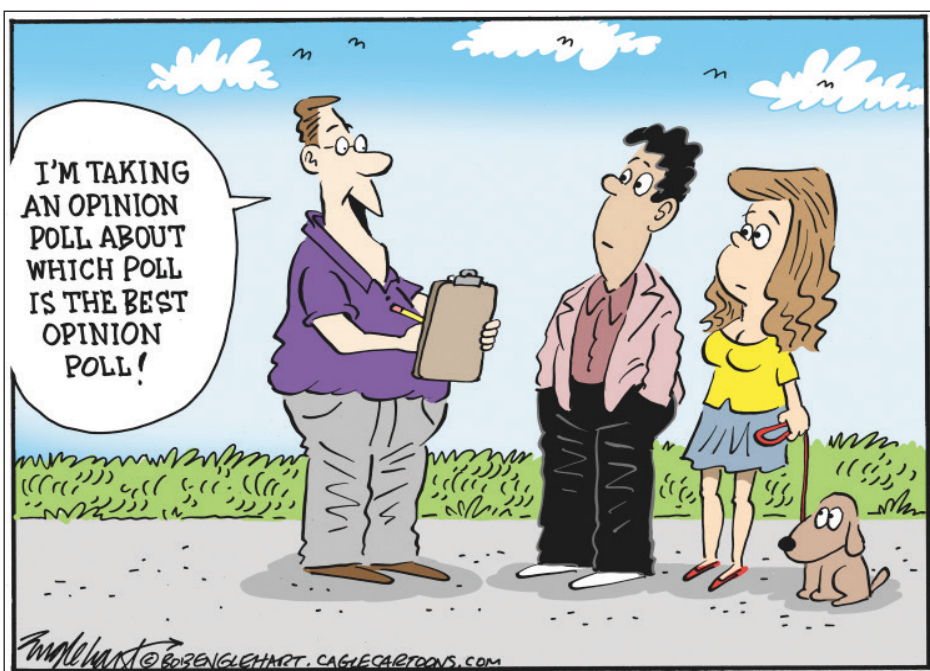
NAR members are also advocating for policy changes that would make homeownership more attainable for people with disabilities -- like the adoption of more accessible building codes and new tax incentives for accessibility renovations.

Some states have already heeded that advocacy -- by offering loans and grants to help people with disabilities fund a down payment or pay for accessibility modifications. States have also created tax-advantaged savings programs that can empower people with disabilities to set aside money for qualified disability expenses.

Ensuring that people with disabilities have access to this wealth-building tool on equal terms with their non-disabled peers is essential. Making the housing market more equitable -- across all demographic categories, including disability status -- is not just right but beneficial to all Americans.

Realtors® are members of the National Association of Realtors®.

Kenny Parcell is 2023 President of the National Association of Realtors® and a Realtor® from Spanish Fork, Utah. He is broker-owner of Equity Real Estate Utah.



DR. DON NEWBURY
The Idle American

About birds and bees...

If the headline for this piece doesn't elicit at least minimal interest of most readers, perhaps I should find the goose, select the spot with a paucity of plumage and stick my quill back in.

My intent is far removed from the topic of human reproduction. I focus instead on this pair of topics broached on the 499th consecutive telecast of "CBS Saturday Morning" aired recently. Stories about birds--and another about bees--were about an hour apart, further divided by several other segments....

Hosts Michelle Miller, Dana Jackson and Jeff Glor seem to be relaxed to the max. Thus, they help TV audiences to loosen up, highlighting who we were, who we are and who we are becoming. They leave the "gloom and doom" newscasts to other purveyors, too many of whom seem to lean toward cutting the world off at the knees, with little prospect of ever standing again....

Most newscasts seem tailored to appeal to the likes of Tarzan in his final days.

To set the stage, Tarzan is swinging toward his treehouse, barely able to hang on as he grapples from vine to vine. Upon reaching his treehouse on this maddening, late Friday afternoon, he crawls meekly into a corner, asking Jane for a glass of warm milk. She asks, "Tarzan, whatever is the matter? You don't seem to be yourself these days." Barely able to whisper, he answers, "Jane, you don't understand. It's a jungle out there."

I digress. Let's get back to those two segments, dealing first with birds....

The slant on our feathery friends could be negative, to be sure. Hard facts--supported by the Smithsonian in Washington--reveal that hundreds of millions of birds are killed each year as they fly into glass that adorns growing numbers of buildings in America. (Some authorities think the figure likely is closer to a billion.)

This admitted, the CBS personalities outline ways that bird fatalities can be reduced....

They recommend artistic adornment on the glass panes, geometrically positioned in ways to help birds realize that they're heading toward objects that don't budge.

Architects, artists and little children are challenged to help with pictures, drawings and designs on sliding glass doors and windows in homes, as well as plate glass in commercial buildings.

They emphasize that when birds see reflections in glass, they may believe that the trees they think they see are inviting. Immediate thought: And a little child shall lead them....

Most of us remember childhood expressions tossed carelessly around: "None of your beeswax!" We joked in this manner, of course, to make sure that whatever current discussion was none of their business.

Well, we've learned in recent years that bees are critical to life, here and around the world. Who would guess that bees pollinate more than a third of the plants of the world, and more than three-fourths of the flowers?

Their numbers, threatened annually, are up from the drastically low number some 15 years ago, when more than half of America's bees perished. Agencies in Washington, DC, as well as other federal agencies around the country, are now maintaining beehives and deeply involved in telling of bees' value. Bee populations are creeping upward. Beekeepers are learning how to rebound from losses. Let's hear it for rebounding, across the board!

Maybe bees will help to sweeten up Washington, DC. We can hope, right? Finally, this "thank-you" to the crew at CBS Saturday Morning. Please never grow weary in well-doing. Your spirit, balance and delivery help to keep us going!

Dr. Newbury, longtime university president, has written weekly columns since 2003. He's "putting down his quill" until September, when his columns will resume. He and wife Brenda will spend a few days in the cool mountains of New Mexico. He repeats a line used annually by the late Elston Brooks, for four decades amusements editor of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. Elston said, "I'm taking vacation now. You notice I didn't say 'well-deserved' vacation!".... Newbury contact: Phone: 817-447-3872. Email: newbury@sspeakerdoc.com.

The Gonzalez Inquirer

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Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

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Kindness

A little act of kindness can go a long way toward making someone have a better day. Can you draw a smile on each of these faces?



Do you remember a time someone was kind to you?

Who was it?

What did they do that was kind?

How did it make you feel?

Draw a picture or write about that memory. →

Do you remember a time you were kind to someone else?

Who was it?

What did you do that was kind?

How did it make you feel?

Draw a picture or write about that memory. →

Standards Link: Language Arts: Discuss/write about a personal experience in detail.

Kindness Bingo

Read each of the acts of kindness on this Bingo card.

Try to do each of these simple acts of kindness in the coming week. Color in a box every time you do one. Can you color in the entire Kindness Bingo card in a week?

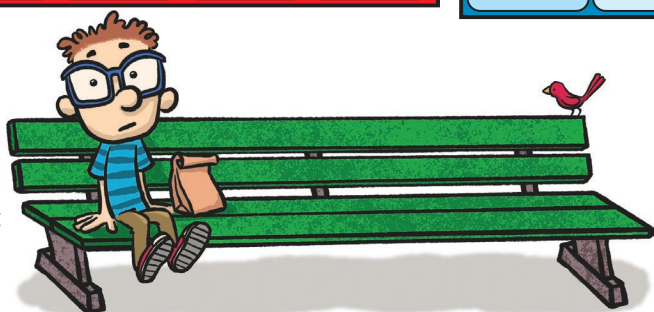
Send a cheerful letter to a family member	Help pick up litter at school	Read a story to a younger kid	Say "Thank You" to at least three people
Share your favorite book with a friend	Help clean up at home	Draw a picture for an elderly neighbor	Clear the table after a meal
Compliment a friend or family member	Thank your teacher for all they do	Be a good sport, no matter if you win or lose	Help set the table for dinner
Invite a younger kid to play a game with you and your friends	Compliment your school custodian	Pick up your toys without being asked	Listen to a friend who seems sad or upset
Talk to a child who seems lonely	High-five your principal at school	Make a list of five great things about a friend	Make a list of five good things about you

Create Your Own Kindness Bingo Card!

Buddy Bench

This is Trevor. He is new at school. He's eating lunch all alone because he doesn't know anyone yet.

Draw some new friends sitting with Trevor on the bench. It's kind to introduce yourself and your friends to someone new!

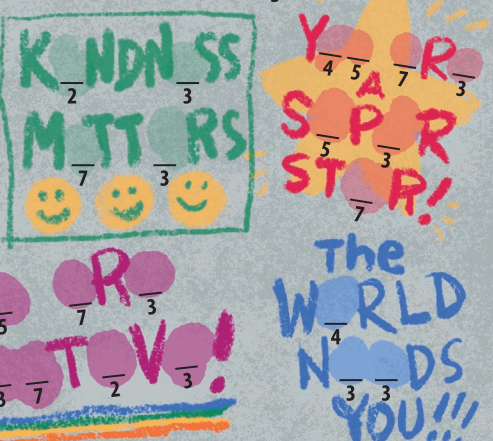


Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Ms. McAmity's students wrote messages of kindness in chalk on the playground. But a little rain washed away some of the letters. Use the code to fill in the missing vowels.

- CODE
- 7 = A
- 3 = E
- 2 = I
- 4 = O
- 5 = U



Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

- BINGO
- CLEAN
- DRAW
- FAMILY
- FRIENDS
- KIND
- MEMORY
- NEW
- SCHOOL
- SPORT
- STORY
- TEACHER
- THANK
- TOYS
- YOU

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

T	Q	D	N	I	K	U	O	Y	L
R	E	R	X	N	T	V	B	R	M
O	N	A	E	L	C	O	X	O	E
P	F	W	C	Z	T	J	Y	T	M
S	B	A	L	H	G	H	K	S	O
C	T	U	M	F	E	P	A	G	R
H	Q	J	P	I	X	R	N	N	Y
O	E	R	N	C	L	I	H	W	K
O	S	T	E	Z	B	Y	O	S	D
L	H	I	S	D	N	E	I	R	F

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

Kid Scoop Together

Kids' Messages Cheer Up Millions

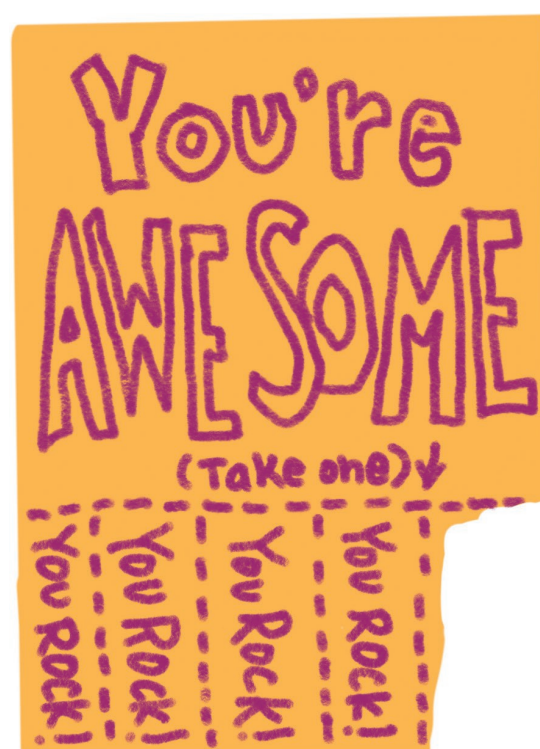
In March of 2022, the kindergartners of West Side School in Healdsburg, California recorded laughter and messages they wrote to cheer people up. They set up a phone number where people could call and listen to these happy messages.

Their Peptok line received more than 11 million calls in a year!

Posters That Cheer Up Your Community

The teachers came up with another good idea. They asked students to make posters with positive messages and hang them around their communities.

Posters are posted on telephone poles, in store windows, and on walls.



Send Your Poster Photos to Kid Scoop!

Once you display your poster, take a picture of it and send it to: Woodward@kidscoop.com Include your first name, age and state. Some will be shared on our Instagram page.

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YOUR WAY.

The Gonzales Inquirer

f GONZALESINQUIRER

Local health center celebrates 57 years, will soon expand

BY DANIEL DE LA BARREDA
Special to the Inquirer

As health centers across the country celebrate National Community Health Center Week from Aug. 6-12, we want to shine a spotlight on a vital community resource located in 8 locations in Central Texas, the network of clinics known as Community Health Centers of South Central Texas, Inc. (CHCSCT).

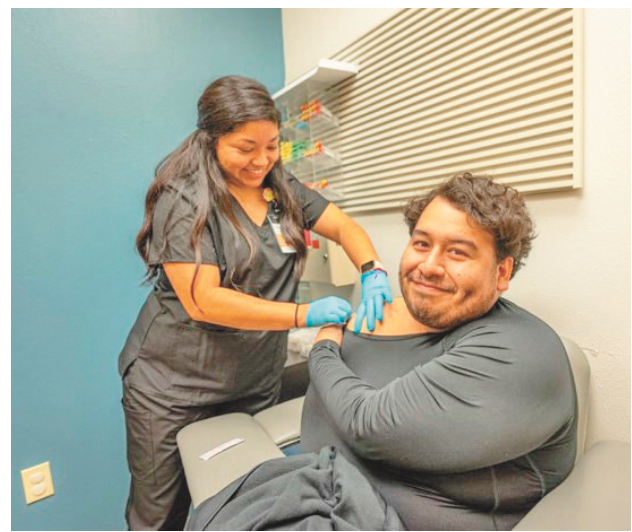
As a network of community-based health clinics, CHCSCT currently serves nearly 20,000 patients per year in Bastrop, Elgin, Gonzales, Lockhart, Luling, Seguin, and Victoria, Texas with comprehensive medical, dental, and mental health services for all ages.

CHCSCT stands apart from other clinics because of their commitment to ensuring access to care for anyone who walks through their doors – regardless of age, income, insurance status, language, or other circumstance. The centers have a range of programs to assist families who struggle to make ends meet or who lack insurance with getting the care they need. Programs include:

- A sliding fee scale discount program
- Navigation for other public assistance programs including SNAP, WIC, Women’s Health Program, Medicaid, Medicare, Children’s Health Insurance Program, Veteran’s programs, and the health insurance marketplace
- Free COVID-19 vaccines and other vaccine discount programs
- Partnerships to access free mammograms and other services

NATIONAL HEALTH CENTER WEEK

This week from Aug. 6-12, the organization celebrates



Left: Nurse Practitioner Patrick Caldwell visits with a patient in Gonzales. Above: CHCSCT hopes to raise awareness for COVID-19 vaccines for individuals ages 6 months and up.

National Community Health Center Week and hopes to raise awareness about the importance of health and wellness across the lifecycle. As a Community Health Center, CHCSCT has a unique model that ensures everyone who walks through their doors can access the healthcare, dental, and mental health services they need—regardless of age, income, insurance status, language, or circumstance.

“We want our community members to know that we are here for them during all stages of life—no matter their ability to pay, their health situation, or if they haven’t seen a doctor in years. We are here for them no matter what,” said Rafael De La Paz, CEO.

CHCSCT HISTORY

CHCSCT originated in its first form in 1966, as a small health center known as the “Migrant Clinic” in Gonzales, Texas. Born from a growing need for health care for migrant workers and other low-income workers who needed services, the clinic quickly grew to become a char-

tered health center in 1974.

Starting in Gonzales County, CHCSCT’s service area has grown to include Gonzales, Caldwell, Bastrop, Guadalupe, and Victoria Counties. Serving over 20,000 patients each year, CHCSCT has become an emblem of healthcare excellence in a region designated as a Medically Underserved Area.

From being chartered in 1974 to its transformation into a Federally Qualified Health Center, the organization has evolved and grown, always staying true to its mission to promote community health through accessible, comprehensive, and quality healthcare services.

COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH SERVICES IN HIGH NEED AREAS

Since its humble beginnings, CHCSCT has expanded to offer a wide range of services to individuals of all ages. These include:

- Primary Care
- Sick Visits
- Chronic Disease Management
- Dental Care

- Mental Health Visits
- WIC Nutrition services
- Diagnostic Labs and Vaccines

- Prenatal Care
- Family Planning and Contraception
- Referrals for specialists, mammograms, and other needs

RESILIENCE IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY

The COVID-19 pandemic brought unprecedented challenges to our community and organization. Together with our partners, our staff banded together with resilience and adaptability to quickly adapt and rise to meet the needs of a community in strife.

In less than two weeks from the onset of the pandemic, 66% of the visits were transformed into telehealth consultations. Curbside visits and testing were also introduced, and the health center became a regional leader in organizing and conducting COVID-19 vaccine clinics.

Currently, CHCSCT offers free COVID vaccines for ages 6 months of age and up and has a

dedicated website with relevant updates and information about COVID-19.

WHAT COMES NEXT

In the next few months plans to activate a variety of efforts to reach their community in new ways, including a new website, promotional items to raise awareness about COVID-19 vaccines, adding new dental services in Elgin, and participation in a variety of community events such as fall festivals, parades, and back to school fairs.

“We want more people in the area to know about us and for our current patients to help us spread the word to their neighbors, family members, colleagues, and friends,” said Rafael De La Paz. “We will do our part to continue to improve and expand on our excellent quality of care and rise to the growing demand for services in our fast-changing service area.”

CHCSCT encourages area residents to call 1-800 343-1577 to learn more about available services and make an appointment.

TAX

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

a 3-2 margin — additional \$1 per hour increases in salaries for the county’s three constables and three justices of the peace.

TAX RATE

The proposed tax rate of 24.20 cents — or \$0.2420 — is equal to what is called the “no-new-revenue tax rate,” a calculated rate that would provide the county with about the same amount of revenue it received in the year before on properties that is taxed in both years. When property values rise, the no-new-revenue tax rate goes down, while if values decline, the no-new-revenue tax rate goes up.

As of the end of June 2023, the 2022 adjusted value for Gonzales County was \$4,833,219,605. According to the Gonzales Central Appraisal District, Gonzales County had real/personal market value of \$5,867,476,410 and mineral, industrial, utility and personal property (MIUP) value of \$4,315,458,590 for a total market value of \$10,182,935,000. This includes new real estate

value of \$49,963,110 and a whopping \$643,245,530 in new MIUP values.

The certified net taxable value from GCAD was \$6,112,768,140. After taking into account protested values and tax ceilings for those elderly or disabled, the adjusted taxable value is \$5,821,080,500 — an increase of nearly \$988 million in taxable value.

County Auditor Becky Weston said the most recent draft of the budget for the county is based upon an assumption the court would adopt the no-new-revenue tax rate.

“Your auditor thinks it’s very doable if that’s what you’re asking,” Weston said. “The budget has within it the numbers from our last meeting, which includes the \$1.50 raise, the adjustments for constables and JPs, the corporals and all the approved adjustments for the Sheriff’s Office and any of the other clerk movement changes that you’re approved — one of which was for the county clerk’s office and one was for the extension office.

“It has everything in your

original budgets as you submitted them, using that 0.2420 tax rate, and it also has, of course, the raises in there for the elected officials.”

Weston said she budgets anticipating just 95 percent of tax collections and looked to make sure the Road & Bridge fund ends the fiscal year with a \$2 million fund balance, while she estimates the general fund will have a \$6.7 million fund balance at the end of the next fiscal year.

“I’m always very conservative — you know that — and we always end the year higher, thanks to the tax assessor and your treasurer, because investments are awesome right now,” Weston said. “So that’s where we’re at and your auditor’s two cents is the 0.2420 is a good, solid rate.”

BUDGET FINE TUNING

Working with Weston to go over the budget in a workshop, commissioners agreed to increase the salary of the first assistant county attorney to \$110,000 (not including the proposed \$1.50 per hour raise for all county employees) and

the second county attorney position — which is currently vacant — to \$100,000 to hopefully attract a good candidate, as there is a need due to a case backlog.

However, three of the five court members — Precinct 1 Commissioner Dell Whiddon, Precinct 2 Commissioner Donnie Brzozowski and Precinct 3 Commissioner Kevin La Fleur — all voted against giving an additional \$1 per hour increase to the constables and JPs on top of the recommended \$1.50 per hour raise for county employees.

“Of the 34 surrounding counties, our constables and JPs are some of the highest paid and they are not much under Guadalupe County,” Whiddon said. “You’ve got some elected officials who are over a whole county and some are just over a precinct and it’s not fair for the ones who cover the whole county to get paid the same as the ones who cover just a precinct.

“I would love for everybody to be able to make all the money in the world, but we can’t do that. I mean, our

taxpayers would run us out of the county.”

“When you start moving the salaries around like this, it throws them out of whack with everything else,” Brzozowski added.

County Judge Pat Davis told the court the constables “are no different than any other law enforcement officer and they have the authority.”

“They work in the court system and they do civil paperwork,” Davis said. “I know the thing about the JPS is they are on call, 24-7, and they magistrate and they get no compensation for any of that. They cover for me an ungodly amount and they do a large number of inquests.

“In DeWitt County, they pay all of their elected officials the same straight across the board and there’s no difference in what a commissioner is paid or a constable or JP, whatever the case may be.”

Davis and Precinct 4 Commissioner Collie Boatright both supported giving the extra increase to the constables and JPs, but the motion failed, 3-2.

Praha Picnic

168th Pražská Pout

Tuesday, August 15, 2023

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Holy Mass, 10:00 a.m.

DINNER Serving Begins at 11:00 a.m. Featuring Praha Stew & Fried Chicken Dine In - \$14.00 Plates To Go - \$14.00		
☆ Cake Walk ☆ ☆ Country Store ☆ ☆ Fish Pond ☆	Ice Cream	☆ Ring Toss ☆ ☆ Souvenirs ☆ ☆ Toy Box ☆
Bingo 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Auction 1:00 p.m.	
BAND SCHEDULE		
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. & 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Praha Bros. 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Red Ravens 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Mark Halata and Texavia		
Food available throughout the afternoon & evening * Hamburgers available after 4:00 p.m. 61st Anniversary Veterans Memorial Service - Sunday, November 5, 2023 All roads lead to Matica Praha on August 15 th ... where old friends meet and new friends are made! For more information: Parish Office (361) 596-4674 www.stmaryspraha.org Facebook: St Joseph's & St Mary's - Moulton/Praha, TX		

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Left to right: Board Vice President Justin Schwausch with Superintendent Dr. Elmer Avellaneda and Gonzales Mayor Steve Sucher.



The Gonzales Apaches mascot, cheerleaders and Flames kick off the 2023 Gonzales ISD Convocation at J.B. Well Expo Wednesday, Aug. 2.

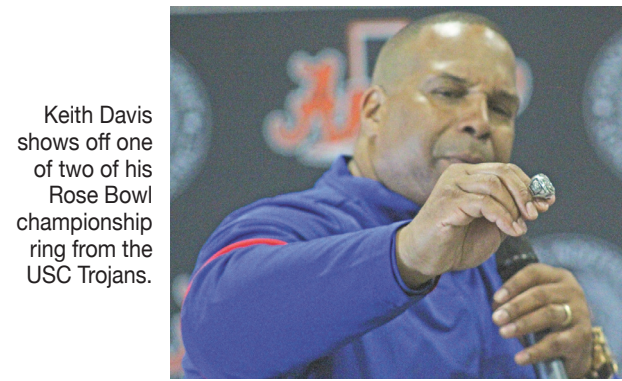
Gonzales ISD welcomes back teachers, staff



Gonzales ISD Superintendent Dr. Elmer Avellaneda greets the teachers and staff of the district in celebration of the new school year.



The Gonzales ISD School board. Left to right: Superintendent Dr. Elmer Avellaneda, Board President Ross Hendershot III, Board Vice President Justin Schwausch, Board Secretary Josie Smith-Wright, Board Member Gloria Torres, Board Member Ashley Molina, Board Member Sandra Gorden, and Board Member D'Anna Robinson.



Keith Davis shows off one of two of his Rose Bowl championship ring from the USC Trojans.



School board member Sandra Gordon puts on Keith Davis's Rose Bowl rings and his New York Giants jersey and Gernard Reed's UTEP ring.



GISD teachers and staff puts up the number one finger to single the district is one team that works together.

SCHOOL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to the teachers and staff of GISD about the importance of teamwork and filling in the gap.

"There is a generation that is coming to school with gaps. Family gaps, homes are in turmoil, kids with emotional gaps, educational gaps," Davis said. "And we talked about every staff member having the privilege and opportunity to show each kid that no matter what's happened in the first half, they can have a great second half."

Davis's NFL career was brief, playing only three preseason games with the Giants, but his former defensive coordinator — current New England Patriots head coach Bill Belichick — told Davis to do one job: to fill in the gap in children's lives.

"I share that because no matter what the position here at the district may be — cafeteria worker, bus driver, superintendent or teacher — every

child, every child should have every gap filled (in their lives), because we have a love and a passion for them," Davis said.

Reed spoke in the second half of the convocation, and he talked about the importance of teachers helping students out.

Reed said sometimes students may not have anything that they need at home, and he added that school gives the teachers the opportunity to help the students be the best that they can be.

"As always, we continue to push towards giving them the best opportunity to be the best version themselves. That's what it's all about so I'm so grateful for every teacher and staff in the nation," Reed said.

Reed had a message to the teachers and staff.

"My motto is don't be average. Don't be good. Be great, push yourself and be

the best version of yourself — every time, every day, every chance you get, because everybody is meant to be great, but sometimes we have to be shown how to be great," Reed said.

Davis also had a message to the GISD as well.

"Remember, you could have more if you don't settle for less. There's got to be more dreams, more hopes, more impact. We're not going to settle for less. We're going to work together to make sure this next generation has a phenomenal future that God has a great plan for their life," Davis said.

GISD staff members doing a team exercise with Keith Davis (New York Giants long sleeve) and Gernard Reed (Seattle Seahawks hoodie).

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

Last Puzzle Solution

S-1648



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950 PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

Belmont VFD is accepting Sealed Bids for 1999 F350 4WD Dually Cab Chassis, V10 Gasoline, Vin# 1FDWF37S8XED05904, Miles: 11,000.

Mail Bids to:
BVFD
PO Box 945
Belmont, TX 78604

Bids must be received by EOB: August 22, 2023. Bids opened August 22, 2023, 7:00 pm Meeting. Available for viewing at BVFD. Questions: 830-857-3616.

Small Taxing Unit Notice

The CITY OF NIXON will hold a meeting at 5:30 PM on August 21, 2023 at City Hall, 302 E Central Ave, Nixon, Texas to consider adopting a proposed tax rate for tax year 2023. The proposed tax rate is \$0.3300 per \$100 of value.

The proposed tax rate would increase total taxes in CITY OF NIXON by 56.03%.

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Independent Administratrix for the Estate of DELTON HUBACH, Deceased, were issued on August 1, 2023, in Cause No. PW23-0283, pending in the County Court of Gonzales County, Texas, to: NOVA HUBACH, Independent Administrator of the Estate of DELTON HUBACH.

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.

NOVA HUBACH,
Independent Administratrix, Estate of DELTON HUBACH, Deceased
c/o CHRISTIE ORTMAN FULLILOVE
403 St. George
Gonzales, Texas 78629

Dated the 7 day of August, 2023.

CHRISTIE ORTMAN FULLILOVE
Ortman Fullilove Law, PLLC
Attorney for NOVA HUBACH
Independent Administratrix, Estate of DELTON HUBACH, Deceased
State Bar No.: 24084171
403 St. George
Gonzales, Texas 78629
Telephone: (830) 672-9535
Facsimile: (830) 672-8654

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

Click on the Classifieds tab at www.gonzalesinquirer.com

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Notice to Creditors

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the ESTATE OF MARY JEAN NEUSE, Deceased, were issued on August 1, 2023, in Cause No. PW23-0281, pending in the County Court of Gonzales County, Texas, to: PAUL EDWARD NEUSE.

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 JEAN PETEREK BURNS
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 827
1606 N. Sarah DeWitt Drive
Gonzales, TX 78629

Dated the 4th day of August, 2023.

JEAN PETEREK BURNS
Attorney for PAUL EDWARD NEUSE
State Bar No.: 00792756
P.O. Box 827
1606 N. Sarah DeWitt Drive
Gonzales, Texas 78629
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AUCTION

Estate Sale – Lifetime Antique Collection, Aug. 10-12, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., 6170 CR 332, Jourdan. Top Hat Emporium, 830-251-3288. Visit Top Hat on Facebook for photos! Market Day Aug. 19, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. DAY

EMPLOYMENT

PRESSMAN NEEDED – Day shift: M-T-W-F – GOSS COMMUNITY - COMPETITIVE SALARY. The Mexia News. Contact Richard Nelson, publisher@themexianews.com.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF APPLICATIONS BY THE CANYON REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY (CRWA) TO THE GONZALES COUNTY UNDERGROUND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT TO RE-EQUIP AN EXISTING WELL, AND FOR PERMIT AMENDMENTS TO INCREASE CRWA'S TOTAL ANNUAL PRODUCTION AND TRANSPORT RIGHTS BY 920.05 ACRE-FEET PER YEAR FROM THE CARRIZO AQUIFER FOR PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY PURPOSES

Canyon Regional Water Authority (CRWA) submitted permit amendment applications to the Gonzales County Underground Water Conservation District (GCUWCD) to re-equip an existing well, and increase the production rate for one of its existing permitted wells in the Carrizo aquifer, "Well 14 - Christian West," from 495 gallons per minute (gpm) to 1,065 gpm. The proposed pumping rate increase of 570 gpm equates to an increase in production of 920.05 acre-feet per year (ac-ft/year). If the permit amendment is granted, CRWA's total annual production and transport rights would increase from 7,400 ac-ft/year to 8,320.05 ac-ft/year. All of CRWA's wells are used for public water supply purposes. CRWA's wellfield is located approximately 13 miles southeast of Seguin, Texas, and "Well 14 - Christian West" is located approximately 160 feet from County Road 102. Additional information regarding the application is available online at: <https://www.gcuwcd.org/recent-news-and-legislative-updates>

The GCUWCD Rules in effect at the time of this permit application submittal are the April 14, 2020 Rules. Permit notice and hearing procedures are included in Rule 24. Copies of the GCUWCD's April 14, 2020 rules are available at the GCUWCD office or online at the GCUWCD website at www.gcuwcd.org.

Interested persons may submit comments on the application to the District and/or to request a contested case hearing. All public comments and requests for contested case hearing must be received by the GCUWCD before 5:00 P.M. on September 12, 2023.

Contact information for the CRWA and the GCUWCD is below:

Canyon Regional Water Authority (CRWA) 850 Lakeside Pass New Braunfels, Texas 78130-8233 (830) 609-0543 www.crwa.com	Gonzales County Underground Conservation District (GCUWCD) 522 Saint Matthew St. or PO Box 1919 Gonzales, TX 78629 (830) 672-1047 www.gcuwcd.org
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Advertisement and Invitation for Bids

The City of Nixon will receive bids for the Portable Emergency Generator Project (HMGP DR 4332-0063) until 10:00 a.m. on Friday, August 25, 2023 at City Hall, 302 E. Central Ave., Nixon, Texas 78140. The bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, August 25, 2023 at said office.

Bids are invited for the Portable Emergency Generator Project (HMGP DR 4332-0063) as described in the plans and specifications, project includes additions and alterations to electrical infrastructure at five (5) lift stations and one (1) water plant and delivery of a trailer mounted portable generator.

Bid/Documents, including Drawings and Technical Specifications, are on file at BEFCO Engineering, Inc., 485 N. Jefferson (P.O. Box 615), La Grange, Texas 78945 (979) 968-6474.

Copies of the Bid/Contract Documents may be obtained by contacting BEFCO Engineering, Inc. via email at office@befcoengineering.com. Electronic copies may be obtained at no charge; hard copies may be obtained by payment of a non-refundable deposit of \$75.00 per set.

A bid bond in the amount of 5% of the bid issued by an acceptable surety shall be submitted with each bid. A certified check or bank draft payable to the City of Nixon may be submitted in lieu of the Bid Bond.

The successful bidder may not discriminate against its employees or applicants for employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age or national origin.

The City of Nixon reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any minor informalities in the bid documents. **The Contract will be awarded to the lowest responsive bidder.**

Bids may be held by the City of Nixon for a period not to exceed 60 days from the date of the bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the bidders qualifications prior to the contract award.

All qualified applicants shall receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Bidders will be required to comply with the President's Executive Order No. 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375, and as supplemented in Department of Labor regulations 41 CFR Part 60.

The successful Bidder shall furnish Performance and Payment Bonds on the forms furnished with the Proposal, in the amount of 100% of the total Contract price, from a surety company holding a permit from the State of Texas to act as surety. The surety company must have a minimum Best Key Rating of "B", or the surety company must be eligible to participate in the surety bond guarantee program of the Small Business Administration and must be an approved surety listed in the current U.S. Department of Treasury Circular 570 and must meet all of the related rules and regulations of the Treasury Department. The surety company and the agency or agent issuing the Payment and Performance Bonds must be authorized to issue and sign Payment and Performance Bonds in Texas in an amount equal to or greater than the total Contract price.

All contractor/subcontractors that are debarred, suspended or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation on federal assistance programs may not undertake any activity in part or in full under this project.

The project does not have a HUB goal requirement; however, HUB participation is encouraged.

Harold Rice, City Manager
City of Nixon

8/7/2023
Date

COOKING WITH PARIND

Portuguese-style fried fish easy to master, delicious to eat

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

We are full tilt into the hot days of summer, so we keep our time short in the kitchen so we don't heat up the house. We will be doing a quick whole fried fish Portuguese style.

This recipe may seem complex, but it will become quite easy to master by making it just a few times.

The type of fish is one of the most important components for the dish. We want a scaled, white fleshed flaky fish that is not oily like mackerel or bluefish. Using poultry shears cut all of the fins off the fish including the tail or have your fish monger do so.

Just some thoughts regarding the dish. We will use a little butter for the flavor and richness. Also, get a big red bell pepper from the store and we will add some paprika to give it the classic taste.

Whole fried fish is actually a traditional dish especially for a quick dish throughout the world. So we should get started.

This recipe requires a good blender, a spider/metal flipping spatula & a large pan with high sides to fry the fish so

please plan accordingly.

Ingredients:

For 2 people I would do a 3+/- pound of a super-fresh, scaled & finned fish of your choice.

- 1 teaspoon of picked oregano, thyme and parsley and set aside
- 6 cloves of garlic
- Zest of 1 lemon and the reserved juice
- 1 teaspoon Spanish smoked paprika
- 2 cups whole mild red bell pepper coarsely chopped
- 2 tablespoons of red wine vinegar
- 4 cups high temp variety of cooking oil (peanut is best).
- 1 cup plain fine ground breadcrumb mixed with 1 cup of all-purpose flour seasoned with salt & pepper
- crushed red pepper
- tabasco hot sauce
- 3 slices of white sandwich bread
- ½ stick (4 oz) unsalted butter mixed with ¼ cup bacon fat (optional)
- 1 medium Spanish onion peeled and roughly chopped (about 1 cup)
- Salt to taste
- Cracked black pepper
- 1 cup white rice cooked with lemon zest

and the juice of 1 lemon. Keep warm.

Sliced green onions.

Rinse the fish thoroughly in cold water. Pat dry with paper towels. Slice 3 deep vertical cuts into the side of the fish down to the bone.

Transfer to a plate and season the whole fish heavily with salt.

Season the cuts and the cavity of the fish with a mixture of salt, crushed red pepper and herbs and put in the refrigerator until chilled completely (about an hour).

In the meantime, sauté the diced onions, whole garlic and diced red bell pepper the mixture of bacon fat and butter without coloring the vegetables over medium low heat. Add a teaspoon of smoked paprika and season to taste with salt, pepper, crushed red pepper &/or Tabasco.

Add the vinegar, 3 slices of white sandwich bread and enough water to blend to a smooth puree as thick as pancake batter. Pour into a pot and bring to a low simmer. Keep warm.

Remove the fish from the fridge. Pat dry once again. Dredge in flour- breadcrumb mixture paying attention to coat the cavity and the deep slits we cut.

The main issue when frying is to have

a pan that has high enough sides that the hot oil does not boil over.

We are looking for just enough oil to come up a little less than halfway up the sides of the fish. I would guess about 1-2" of oil.

Heat oil over medium heat until it is between 325-350 degrees F.

Add the fish slowly in the hot oil starting with the head and lowering it with the fin away from you until the entire fish is in the pan. Keep the oil between 325-350 degrees F as best as you can and fry the fish for about 4-6 minutes per side. Turn slowly using a spider or a long flipping spatula until each side is GB&D (golden, brown and delicious)

If frying more than one fish, do not crowd while frying.

Let rest on a rack in a sheet pan/cookie sheet. After 10 minutes of resting, transfer to a serving platter and top with the red bell pepper sauce and garnish with green onions and lemon/lime slices.

Serve with lemon rice.

Enjoy with your favorite white or red Rioja or even an aged Oregon chardonnay.

Bon appetite from all of us at Gonzales Bistro!

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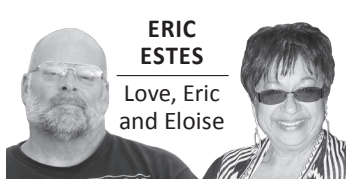
Summer at B-Pops

Hello everyone. I hope you're squeezing the last bit of fun out of summer 2023 as it winds down. As for me, this last week has definitely been the highlight of mine. My youngest son and his family came for a visit, with our oldest son and his wife joining in for most of the festivities as well. As many of you know, preparing for company, especially when small children are involved, can be somewhat intense to say the least.

After just completing my roof re-coat, something I'd planned as part of this year's maintenance program, and that I wasn't particularly looking forward to, I finished with just enough time to get things ready for the kiddos visit with grandpa (now known as B-Pop). I generally keep my house in pretty good shape throughout the year, but things were overdue for a first class refreshing. My goal being to make everyone's experience pleasant, while sanitizing things for the kids. Long story short; after weed eating, mowing, scrubbing porches, windows and outdoor furniture, emptying out, cleaning, and refilling the pond, filling bird feeders and setting up baby pools outside, followed by washing loads of sheets, blankets, pillows and comforters, sweeping and steam cleaning indoor floors and furniture, grocery shopping, securing cabinets etc., this old boy resembled

the main attraction from zombieland to say the least. While I've never shied away from hard work, gotta say, hard work and senior citizenship don't always go hand in hand. The first couple of days of the visit was racked with intermittent quiverdom for ole grandpa, nonetheless, fun and good quality family time was had by all.

Proverbs 17:6 says that "Grandchildren are the crown of the aged; parents are the pride of their children", and I can surely attest to that. My granddaughter (3 1/2) and grandson (1 1/2) absolutely love mom & dad, and as for the aged, not sure if I more resemble fine wine or limburger on a hot muffler, but they seem to love me too. Proverbs 22:6 (NLT) says to "Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it." These fine young Christian parents are following that advice, and will forever be glad they did. Unfortunately, in my humble opinion, so many of the problems we're encountering within our society today are directly related to the fact that we have unwisely let God's teachings fall through the cracks in recent decades, and are now reaping what we've sown. After spending a good portion of my adult life on both sides of the fence, I've



ERIC ESTES
Love, Eric and Eloise

come to the conclusion that the grass is definitely greener when following Christ.

I affectionately refer to this visit as "Attack of the Dimple People, as the cuteness level was even higher than the activity level. My grand-daughter, being currently obsessed with the color pink, after learning that I built this house myself, says that I now need to build her a pink door, and next trip make the spaghetti with grapes and strawberries...I'll do my best. Gotta say, I did enjoy the automatic bubble machine filling the kitchen, with a few reaching the full fourteen foot height before settling on our heads and being popped like bubble wrap. The nights spent exploring the colors of my galaxy projector and feeding my herd of racoons was enjoyed by all. The crew has now moved on to the beach, and the house is quiet once again. While I'm sad to seem them go, as blowing bubbles by yourself isn't nearly as much fun, I guess it's time to get started on that pink door! I encourage everyone to enjoy the simple moments of life, because I've found that the saying "Time waits for no man" to be more than absolutely true.

Until next time, have a great week, Love you guys, Eric.



IOOF selling tickets for annual raffle

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Gonzales International Order of Odd Fellows Lodge #38 will hold their 18th annual raffle drawing on Tuesday, Sept. 5, and tickets are on sale now.

The Odd Fellows Lodge is located at 1405 Conway St., Gonzales, and the drawing will be supervised by local officials. All winners will be notified as to the prize they won and information to collect the prize. You need not be present to win!

There are 12 prizes available with a total MSRP of \$13,835 and proceeds will benefit the building fund and other local projects, including youth programs and the Gonzales County Veterans Memorial. Grand prize is a \$1,000 Cabela's gift card while second prize is a \$700 three-person bay fishing trip.

Tickets are available at Fehner Firearms, Texas Poultry Supply, E-Barr Feeds, Guadalupe Valley Veterinary Clinic or from any Lodge member.

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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
BAPTIST Clark Baptist Church FM 794, Gonzales	St. James Baptist Church Hwy 80, north of Belmont.	Full Gospel Church 1426 Fisher, Gonzales
Country Baptist Church Highway 87, Smiley	St. Paul Baptist Church SE 2nd Street, Waelder	JEWISH Adat Haderech, a Messianic shul HashemYeshua1 @yahoo.com
Eastside Baptist Church Seydler Street, Gonzales	Shiner Baptist Church	LUTHERAN First Evangelical Lutheran 1206 St. Joseph, Gonzales
Efeso Iglesia Bautista Highway 87, Smiley	Union Lea Baptist Church St. Andrew St., Gonzales	River of Life Christian Fellowship 207 Steele St., Smiley
Elm Grove Baptist Church 4337 FM 1115 Waelder, TX, 78959	Union Valley Baptist Church FM 1681, NW of Nixon	Thompsonville Community Church CR 423, Thompsonville Between Harwood & Waelder off old Hwy. 90
First Baptist Church 422 St. Paul, Gonzales	CATHOLIC St. James Catholic Church 417 N. College, Gonzales	Two Rivers Bible Church 1600 Sarah DeWitt Dr., Suite 210, Gonzales
First Baptist Church 403 N. Texas, Nixon	Sacred Heart Catholic Church St. John St., Gonzales	INTER-DENOMINATIONAL Faith Family Church 1812 Cartwheel Dr., Gonzales
First Baptist Church Highway 108 N., Smiley	St. Joseph Catholic Church 207 S. Washington, Nixon	Living Waters Fellowship 306 St. Paul, Gonzales
First Baptist Church 406 N. Avenue E, Waelder	St. Patrick Catholic Church Waelder	PENTECOSTAL Faith Temple Hwy. 80 (N. Nixon Ave.), Nixon
Greater Palestine Baptist Church S. of 90A (sign on Hwy 80)	St. Phillip Catholic Church Highway 87, Smiley	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	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	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	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	PRESBYTERIAN Pilgrim Presbyterian Church CR 210 off FM 1116
Leesville Baptist Church E. of Highway 80 on CR 121	Church of Christ, Belmont	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	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	New Beginnings 1020 St. Louis, Gonzales	
Old Moulton Baptist Church 1121 N. College, Gonzales	Episcopal Episcopal Church of the Messiah 721 S. Louis, Gonzales	

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OBITUARIES

STACEY JAMES



and really enjoyed singing.

Stacey attended Gonzales High School and was employed at Guadalupe Valley, Twin Cedars, What-a-Burger, and Dairy Queen. She enjoyed dancing, singing, cooking, cleaning and being the family's comedian. She considered herself the family "General" - being in charge. She enjoyed being around her nieces and nephews and taking them on field trips.

Stacey was preceded in death by her mother, Janie Mae James; father, Roy James; daughter, Tamisha Smith; grandmothers, Mary Roxie Russell and Lillie Mae James; grandfathers, Tommie Russell and Thomas James; sister, Tina James; brother, Rory

Thomas James; aunts, Frankie Williams and Faye Henderson; and uncles, Jesse Russell and Tommie Russell, Jr.

Stacey leaves to cherish her memories two loving daughters, Samantha Bonds (Willie) and Antoinette James; four sisters, Tracy Curtis (Clinton), Melissa James, Erica James and Linda Ann Jefferson; brother, Shane James; three aunts, Sherry Russell, Lillian Vaughner and Betty Jefferson; one uncle, Charles Russell; two special sisters, Lisa Johnson and LouAnn Johnson; special friend, Douglas Ivey; a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

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Viewing: Saturday, August 12, 2023

Harris Funeral Home 127 Highway 90a, Gonzales, Texas 78629

Time: 4:00 - 6:00 PM

Services: Sunday, August 13, 2023 Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church

209 Capes St, Gonzales, Texas 78629

Time: 11:30 AM

CAROLYN KARRER



Carolyn Karrer, of Paris, Texas, died on July 30, 2023, just shy of her 83rd birthday. She was a lifelong student and teacher, a lifelong Democrat and United Methodist, and a proud wife and mother.

The only child of Monroe and Myrtle Tolle, she grew up in La Grange, TX, listening to ghost stories with her friend, Helen, and the sound of rain on the metal roof of her parents' two-story house. She loved playing in the yard next to the old Methodist church or inside on its piano and organ. She played Alto Sax in band and helped teach her own high school math class.

While at Southwest Texas State, she participated in the Campus Christian Community.

There, she met Ray Karrer. They married in 1962 and grew more in love every year.

They taught in Odessa and Brownwood. In between, Carolyn earned

a Master's Degree in History at North Texas State. In 1969, she and Ray accepted jobs at Paris Junior College and retired from PJC after 33 years. Carolyn made sure her students knew the fascinating stories of U.S. and Texas history. She even contributed to peace in the Middle East (really!).

She was heavily involved at Calvary United Methodist Church (Paris, TX) in missions, music, the United Methodist Women, the local campus ministry, and regional

prison ministries.

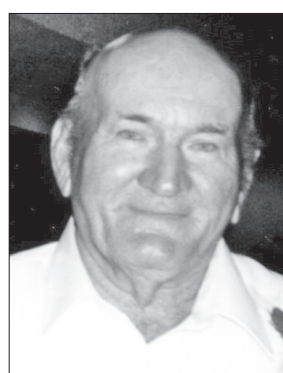
She and Ray enjoyed traveling with friends and family and eventually their son, Clayton, who was born in 1975. In 2007, they welcomed daughter-in-law Cynthia to their family's journey.

Heart problems slowed but didn't stop her. Even after Ray's death in 2013, she continued traveling and serving God through her church, making new friends and keeping up with the old.

On Monday, August 7, at 11 a.m., there will be a service at Monthalia Methodist Church in Cost, TX, immediately followed by burial next to her husband and parents.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, memorials be given to Calvary UMC, the Wesley Campus Ministry at PJC in care of Calvary UMC, the Scholarship Fund in memory of Carolyn Karrer at PJC, or the organization or charity of the donor's choice.

JOE VALENTA



Joe Valenta, 91, of Gonzales, passed away Wednesday, August 2, 2023 at home surrounded by family. He was born October 9, 1931 in Gonzales the son of Bohus and Rozena Grossman Valenta. He graduated from Gonzales High School Class of 1949. He joined the United States Air Force and while stationed in Honolulu, Hawaii he met Siava Tina Maaele and they were married December 13, 1952. He was active duty during the Korean War and often spoke of his time in Korea and Hawaii.

Joe and Siava settled in Gonzales in the Pilgrim community on FM 1116 where he was born and raised. He was a house painter with Louis Decker for 30 years. After retirement he spent more time on the farm with his brother Charlie until his passing. He was a great dad, grandpa "Papa Joe".

He is survived by four daughters: Mary Ann West, Rose Kistler, Tina Shannon and husband Clay all of Gonzales and Eva Iakopo of Carson California; son Michael Iakopo of Gonzales. Also surviving are 21 grandchildren, 35 great-grandchildren and

11 great-great-grandchildren and numerous nieces, nephews, friends and neighbors. He was preceded in death by his parents, wife, son Larry Valenta, siblings Henrietta Zbraneck and husband Laddie, Albina Lehman and husband Walter, Stella Mudd and husband Joe, Hattie McElfresh, Frank Valenta and wife Evelyn and Charlie Valenta and wife Opal, son-in-law Charles Kistler, granddaughters Sierra Valenta and Lillian Iakopo.

The family wishes to give a special thank you to Agnes Gast who visited daily

and spoke Czech with him, Hospice of South Texas, Dr. Kody Selzer, our local HEB pharmacy and Advanced Home Health.

Visitation will be held Monday, August 7, 2023 from 9 a.m. until 10 a.m. at Seydler-Hill Funeral Home. Graveside services will be 10 a.m. Monday at the Gonzales Memorial Park Cemetery with Reverend Christina Aschenbeck officiating. Pallbearers include Joey West, Chase West, Rick Kistler, Jeremiah Valenta, Zack Valenta and Jody Shannon. Serving as an honorary pallbearer is Danny Aschenbeck.

Memorials in memory of Joe may be made to Hospice of South Texas or Advanced Home Health.

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

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

LAW ENFORCEMENT WEEKLY REPORTS

Gonzales County Sheriff's Office

07/23/23 - 07/29/23

07/23/23

Borrego-Arreola, Mario Enrique, 05/1990, Seguin: Warrantless/On-View - Driving While Intoxicated, Released - \$3,500 Bond

Zamorano, Sabrina, 10/1998, Gonzales: Warrantless/On-View - Assault Causes Bodily Injury Family Member, Released - \$4,000 Bond

07/24/23

Gubanche, Justine Taylor, 12/1996, San Antonio: Local Warrant - Poss Marij <2 oz, Requires \$20,000, Remains in Custody

07/25/23

Nguyen, James Van, 09/1990, Port Arthur, Local Warrant - Poss Marij <2oz: Requires \$10,000 Bond, Remains in Custody

Pavlicek, Bryan Scott, 07/1972, Schulenburg: Warrantless/On-View - Poss CS PG 1 => 4G < 200G, Released - \$10,000 Bond

Mayberry, Trevor Brazille, 04/2003, Gonzales: Warrantless/On-View - Agg Assault Date/Family/House w/ Weapon, Released - \$50,000 Bond

Miranda-Cardenas, Gerardo, 01/1988, Houston: Warrantless/On-View - Smuggling of Persons; Other Agency Hold - Immigration Detainer; Released - \$10,000 Bond/Picked up by ICE

07/26/23

Willis, Travis Neil, 07/1989, Austin: Warrantless/On-View-Poss Marij <2 oz, Released - \$500 Bond

Hunt, Douglas Wayne, 01/1966, Gonzales: Commitment/Sentence - Fail to Comply Sex Off. Duty to Reg. Life/90 Day, Remains in Custody

Tokola, Devin Michael, 08/1991, Midland: Local Warrant - Assault Fam/House Mem Impede Breath/Circulat, Requires \$50,000 Bond, Remains in Custody

07/28/23

Broadhead, Adam Dale, 11/1989, Seguin: Local Warrant - Theft Prop >=\$2,500 <\$30K, Requires \$100,000 Bond, Remains in Custody

Campos, Manuel Gonzales, 02/1960, Seguin: Local Warrant - Driving While License Invalid, Fine Set or Paid of \$434.10; Local Warrant - Theft Prop >\$50 <\$500, Requires \$2,000 Bond; Other Agency Hold - Theft Prop >+\$50 <\$500; Remains in Custody

Thome, Colby Wayne, 11/2001, Waelder: Commitment/Sentence - Burglary of Habitation; Commitment/Sentence - Proh Substance/Item in Correctional Facility, Remains in Custody

Clark, Saxstin Bowers, 02/2003, Shiner: Warrantless/On-View - Driving While Intoxicated, Released - \$3,500 Cash Bond

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

GCSO	12
DPS	04
GPD	05
WPD	03
NPD	03
GISD	00
SMO	00
Constable 1	00
Constable 3	00
Constable 4	00
DWCSO	00
DEA	00
TPW	00
GCAI	00
Rangers	00
Other	00
Total	27



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7 Austin MFM	8 Dr Echols Dr Quintero	9 Dr Quebedeaux Dr Twitero	10 Dr Ryan Dr Echols	11 Amy Trost Dr Miller
14 Austin MFM Dr Malik Dr Desai	15 Dr Echols	16 Dr Quebedeaux Dr Miller	17 Dr Ryan Dr Malik Dr Echols	18 Dr Bui
21 Austin MFM	22 Dr Echols	23 Dr Quebedeaux	24 Dr Ryan Dr Kirchner Dr Echols	25
28 Austin MFM	29 Dr Echols	30 Dr Quebedeaux Dr Miller	31 Dr Ryan Dr Echols	

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State Wildfire Preparedness Level raised to Level 4

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Texas A&M Forest Service has raised the State Wildfire Preparedness Level to Level 4 due to the recent increase in wildfire activity across the state and the growing potential for wildfires to become more severe, making them harder to control.

"The decision to move to a Preparedness Level 4 indicates that the complexity of wildfires across Texas is increasing to where they require more time, personnel and equipment to contain and put out," said Wes Moorehead, Texas A&M Forest Service Fire Chief.



ers' suppression efforts and may impact citizens within the identified areas of concern.

Over the past week, state and local firefighters have responded to 119 wildfires that burned 9,012 acres.

"I continue to be impressed by the dedication and selfless service of firefighters across the state," said Moorehead. "Every single day, they work in some of the hottest and most challenging conditions. These responders do a tremendous job protecting lives and property from destructive wildfires."

It is crucial that everyone in Texas take care to prevent wildfires and be cautious of any outdoor activity that may cause a spark. If a wildfire is spotted, immediately contact local authorities. A quick response can help save lives and property.

For more information about summer wildfire prevention, visit <https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/summerwildfires>.

For information on the current wildfire situation in Texas, visit <https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/CurrentSituation>.



Shiner Heritage Quilters program chair, Nola Bohuslav, (left) is pictured with Karen Greer from Victoria, who presented a talk about the history of quilts at the Tuesday, Aug. 1 meeting.

Greer discusses history of quilts

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Karen Greer from Victoria presented a talk about the history of quilts at the Tuesday, Aug. 1 meeting of the Shiner Heritage Quilters.

Research shows that quilting started in ancient times. The Egyptian soldiers wore quilted linen garments to shield themselves in battle. The Middle Age knights wore quilted shirts under their coats of mail for comfort and protection.

The first fabric looms were rather narrow and quilts were

made by sewing long strips of fabric together. The invention of the steam engine brought about wider looms and quicker fabric production. Quilting became popular and various patterns were designed.

In 1979, the rotary cutter for fabric was invented and it changed the quilting world forever! Special rulers and cutting boards were designed. No more tracing cardboard cutouts and then cutting squares with scissors. Accuracy was assured. Quilt shops opened, quilt guilds formed and quilt shows became

popular. "The Square Quilter" shop in Shiner offers classes, a helpful staff, lots of tools and gorgeous fabric.

A short business meeting followed the presentation. Hostesses who provided refreshments and door prizes were Linda Parr, Gladys Muehlstein and Marilyn Schroeder. The next meeting is Tuesday, Sept. 5 at the Shiner Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. Visitors and new members are always welcome.

For more information, go to www.shinerheritagequilters.org or email shinerquilts@gmail.com

VC offering Basic Telecommunicator course

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Victoria College offers a Basic Telecommunicator Course. This training course will introduce students to a variety of practical aspects associated with emer-

gency call-taker services.

This 2-week course will be held Monday, Oct. 2-Friday, Oct. 13 from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at VC's Emerging Technology Complex located at 7403 Lone Tree Road in Victoria. Students must be at least 18

years old, a U.S. citizen, obtained a high school diploma or GED, and have a CPR Certification.

For more information or to register contact, Tracy Edwards at (361) 573-3291 or email Tracy.Edwards@VictoriaCollege.edu.

Application period for Community Wildfire Defense Grant open

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Texas communities at risk of wildfires can now apply for a federal grant administered by Texas A&M Forest Service. Available funding is intended to help at-risk communities plan for and reduce the risk of wildfire.

The Community Wildfire Defense Grant provides funding for two primary objectives: the development and revision of Community Wildfire Protection Plans, and the implementation of projects outlined in a plan that is less than 10 years old.

Preparation in advance of a wildfire event is one of the most important things communities can do to reduce their risk," said Wes Moorehead, Texas A&M Forest Service Fire Chief. "Ensuring that Texas communities have the right tools and resources to act in the

best interest of their residents is important to our agency. This is a service we provide to communities across the state every day."

Entities eligible to apply for funding under the Community Wildfire Defense Grant are:

- Local governments representing communities at risk of wildfires,
- Native American tribes,
- Non-profit organizations, including

homeowner associations assisting such communities, and

- State forestry agencies.

To assist potential applicants, Community Wildfire Defense Grant Webinars will be held on Aug. 4, 9, 10 and 15 at 1 p.m. CST. Details for registration can be found at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/fire/grants>.

The closing date for grant applications is Oct. 31, 2023.

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TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

1 ___ Lavaca, TX

5 "Hill Country State Natural ___"

6 "The King and I" country

7 bottom of a boot

8 he went on a killing spree in Houston area, 1983 (2 wds.)

17 "war on drugs" agcy. reductions

21 TX Robert Benton directed this Streep in 1979 film "Kramer vs. Kramer" (init.)

22 kinda like PTAs

23 TXism: "got ___ my plate than I can say grace over" (overextended)

24 "just ___"

29 what a "legal eagle" charges (2 wds.)

30 TXism: "that's a ___ pill to swallow" (difficult to accept)

31 TX Jim Reeves hit: "He'll Have to ___"

32 TX Stormie Jones got first ___-transplant

34 TX Larry Hagman's mom, Martin

35 respectful response to a man: "Yes ___"

36 a Texan, in a national sense

37 this Estrada was in "Midway" with TX Dabney Coleman

38 "___ a nice day"

39 TXism: "lower than a ___"

41 provide food at an event

42 TXism: "fits like ugly on an ___"

43 TXism: "worn to a frazzle"

44 oldest Polish town in the nation: Panna ____, TX

45 "yes" in Mexico

46 Texas river fish

47 TX Pride's "Is Anybody Goin' ___ Antone"

48 TXism: "let ___ be bygones" (make peace)

12 first half of the Bible (abbr.)

13 make a comment

14 Rains County seat

15 dork or geek

16 TXism: "___-horse town" (small)

19 TXism: "looks good enough ___ sermon" (dressed up)

20 a noisy sleeper

22 a German monetary unit before the euro

24 Gov. Hogg's only daughter (init.)

25 nat'l teacher union

26 photographic devices, for short

27 Spurs' AT&T Center

35 glossy fabric

37 Texas-born Sly Stone sang "___ Is a Star"

38 TX Keyes book: "Scarlett O'___ Younger Sister"

40 a Bedouin

41 "in ___ of"

44 TX Helmond was ___ Robinson on "Who's the Boss?"

47 TXism: "works from can't see ___ see" (hard worker)

49 in Knox County on U.S. 277

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

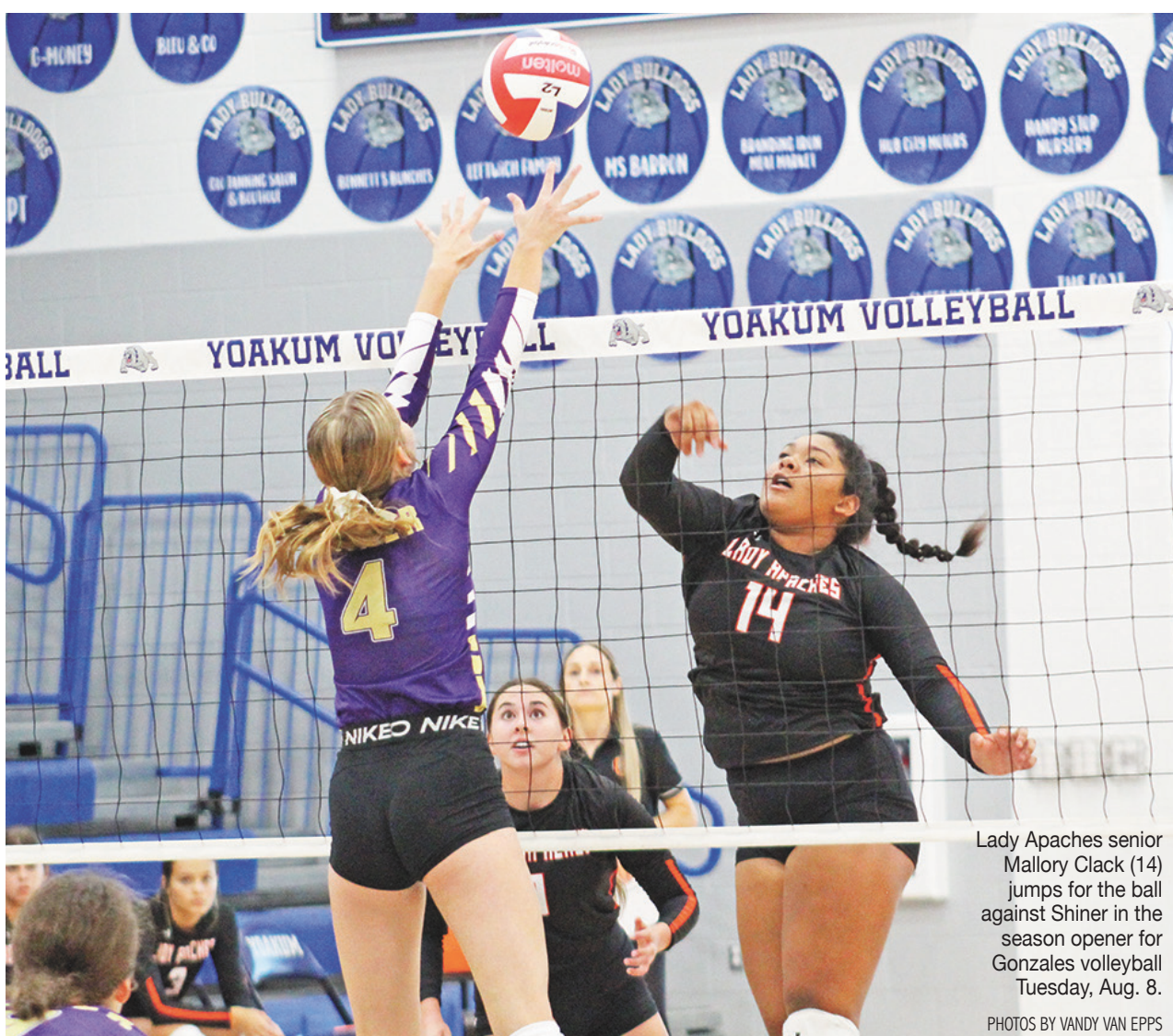
Fun By The Numbers

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.



Lady Apaches senior Mallory Clack (14) jumps for the ball against Shiner in the season opener for Gonzales volleyball Tuesday, Aug. 8.

PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS

Gonzales County teams prepare for football scrimmages

STAFF REPORT

The official kickoff of the 2023 Texas high school football season starts this week in Gonzales County with scrimmages this Thursday, Aug. 10.

The Gonzales Apaches kick off their first scrimmage against the Beeville A.C. Jones Trojans at Apache Field Friday, Aug. 11.

The Apaches varsity will play at 6:30 p.m. and the JV/freshmen will play at 5 p.m.

On Thursday, Aug. 10, the Nixon-Smile Mustangs will host the Shiner St. Paul Cardinals for their first scrimmage of the season.

The Mustangs' and the Cardinals' varsity teams will face each other at 6 p.m. at Mustangs Stadium; and the JV teams will play at 5 p.m.



CONTRIBUTED

The Nixon-Smile Lady Mustangs celebrate in the huddle after a score on Yorktown Tuesday, Aug. 8.

Lady Apaches fall in first two matches of season

BY VANDY VAN EPPS

Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales Lady Apaches are officially back on the volleyball court for the 2023 season.

The Lady Apaches kicked off their season on the road in Yoakum Tuesday, Aug. 8 with a dual match against the Yoakum Lady Bulldogs and the Shiner Lady Comanches.

Gonzales lost both matches in a combined seven sets, and Lady Apaches head volleyball coach Jillian Gonzales said her team played a little hesitant in the opener, but started communicating more in the second match.

Despite the losses, the Lady Apaches showed good moments in the season opener with multiple kills and blocks from their front and continued to fight to the very end.

"One thing that I told the girls is we are not going to be a team

See **VOLLEYBALL**, page 16



Lady Apaches Tara Lester (11) and Dakota Schmidt (20) battle Yoakum in the first of two games in the season opener.

Lady Mustangs lose season opener

STAFF REPORT

The Nixon-Smile Lady Mustangs kicked off their season on the road Tuesday, Aug. 8 against the Yorktown Lady Wildcats.

The Lady Mustangs fell to Yorktown in three sets. Nixon-Smile lost the first set by 10 points, but quickly rebounded and made final two sets close, losing them by two and three points.

The Lady Mustangs will get a rematch against the Lady Wildcats in the Yorktown Tournament Thursday, Aug. 10.

Nixon-Smile will face Falls City, Fayetteville, Weimar, and Waelder in day one of the tournament.

The Lady Mustangs will travel to Falls City Tuesday, Aug. 15 to take on the Lady Beavers in a non-district contest.

Tuesday's game kicks off at 7 p.m.

GONZALES ALUMNI VOLLEYBALL GAME



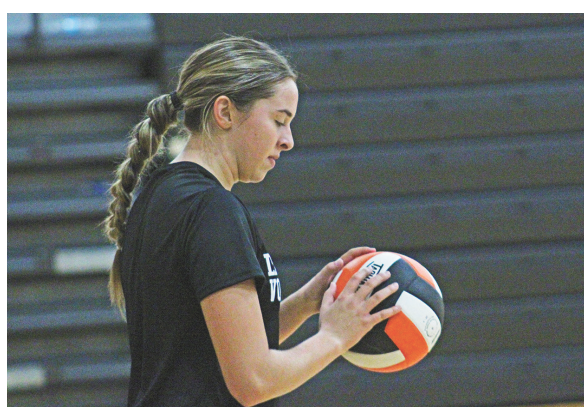
The 2023 Gonzales Lady Apaches and Gonzales Lady Apaches Alumni team: Back row Left to Right: Sam Baker, Isabella Ikard, Mallory Clack, Aubrey Lindemann, Joelee Lester, Dakota Schmidt, Sydney McCray, Macy Sample, Tara Lester, Kelly Breitschopf, and Hannah Avant. Front Row Left to Right: McKenzie Hodges, Peyton Ruddock, Hayley Sample, Madison Pirkle, Sam Barnick, Lillie Coplin, Jenae Cantu, Jenna Lamb, Jessica Cantu and Kristyn Baker.



Senior Hannah Avant jumps in the air to spike the ball against the Lady Apaches alumni team.



The Gonzales Lady Apaches square off against the Gonzales Lady Apaches Alumni team for the annual alumni game Saturday, Aug. 5.



Above: Senior Hannah Avant gets ready to serve for the Lady Apaches in the alumni game Saturday, Aug. 5. Below: Lady Apaches Alumni Kristyn Baker gives the sideline double high fives.



Gonzales Lady Apaches head volleyball coach and GHS alumni Jill Gonzales in the huddle with her team in the alumni game.

The 2024 Gonzales High School seniors. The community of Gonzales gathered at Independence Square for the second annual Back-to-School bash and Meet the Apache night Saturday, Aug. 5.



MEET THE APACHES



Main Street board member Adriane Hastings draws out names for the backpack giveaway for the Back-to-School bash.



The Gonzales High School color guard performs at the Meet the Apache night at Independence Square.



The Gonzales Apaches' mascot pumps up the crowd at the Meet the Apaches night at Independence Square Saturday, Aug. 5.



The Gonzales Lady Apaches volleyball team.



The Gonzales Apaches Athletic Booster Club selling merchandise at the Back-to-School bash event Saturday, Aug. 5.



Above: The Gonzales Apaches football teams on a trailer for the Meet the Apache Night. Left: Parents of the GISD students gather at Independence for the introductions of the football, volleyball, cross country, band, cheerleaders and flames. Below: The Gonzales ISD School board. Left to right: Dr. Elmer Avellaneda, D'Anna Robinson, Josie Smith-Wright, Ashley Molina, Gloria Torres, and Justin Schwausch.



Parents in line to put their child's name into a drawing for new backpack at the Gonzales Main Street's Back-to-School bash.



Wild Spirit Ranch returns with their petting zoo to the Back-to-School bash.



The 2023 Gonzales Apaches varsity football team.



Senior Hannah Avant sets up the ball for teammate and fellow senior Mallory Clack in the match against Flatonia.

LADY APACHES SCRIMMAGE WITH FLATONIA



PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS

The Lady Apaches took on Flatonia in their first scrimmage of the season Friday, Aug. 4.



Above left: The Lady Apaches celebrate after scoring on Flatonia in their scrimmage. Above right: Lady Apaches Isabella Ikard, Hannah Avant and Kelly Breitschopf focuses on the match against the Lady Bulldogs of Flatonia.

GOLF SCRAMBLE WINNERS



CONTRIBUTED

The winning team from the Aug. 2 Golf Scramble at Independence Golf Course in Gonzales were, from left, Mark Lipton, Riley Lipton, Carmen Pivoda, Clay Pivoda and Kraig Zimmerhanzel.



The second-place team from the Aug. 2 Golf Scramble at Independence Golf Course in Gonzales were, from left, Blake Cox, Will Ruddock, Jake Barnick, Brian Sample and Brant Philippus.

GCYFL CHEERLEADING CAMP



CONTRIBUTED

The Gonzales County Youth Football League held a cheerleading camp on July 17-21. Putting on the camp to get ready for the 2023-24 football season were head coach Martha Calderon and assistant coach Cora Brown.

VOLLEYBALL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

that gives up on the ball, no matter what the score was, we're going to play every point. And I am proud of them for that. We didn't give up any points in that last set, even though it didn't go our way. Continue to play and we're going to be a team that hustles and fights for every point," Gonzales said.

The Lady Apaches battled in the last set against Shiner and got out of the single digits and scored seven of the last 11 points.

"I called a timeout. I told them, we've got to fix the score. We're gonna push for the next point. And then when we get to that point, we're gonna push to the next point, we're gonna push to the next point, we got to 24 to

11. And I said, push for 12 No matter what, push to the next point," Gonzales said.

The Lady Apaches will travel to Shiner for their first tournament of the season Friday, Aug. 11, and Gonzales hopes her team can learn from the losses in the opener and get a rematch against the Lady Comanches.

"I'm hoping that in the Shiner tournament, we'll get games, rest, and then we'll come back and get them," Gonzales said.

The Lady Apaches will travel to Smithville Tuesday, Aug. 15 to take on the Lady Tigers in a non-district match.

Tuesday's match starts at 6:30 p.m.

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2023 FALL SPORTS PREVIEW!

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STAAR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

lic school students who endured multiple years of pandemic-induced disruptions to learning," according to the Texas Education Agency.

In U.S. History, 95 percent of all students assessed in Texas reached Approaches level, while 89 percent of all students tested reached Approaches level in Biology.

Results in Biology Seventy-eight percent of test takers approached grade level in Algebra I, six percentage points below the 2019, pre-pandemic high water mark of 84% but representing a 4% increase over 2022.

"I appreciate the dedication and skill of Texas educators as they work to meet the needs of their students every day," said Texas Education Commissioner, Mike Morath. "STAAR is designed to provide parents and teachers with a clear understanding of how well students learned this year's academic material and whether they are prepared for the next grade level and for life after graduation," he said.

GONZALES ISD

Gonzales ISD saw massive improvements in Approaches scores for Algebra I, English I and Biology from 2022 to 2023. In Algebra I alone, the score went up from 40 percent making Approaches in 2022 to 71 percent making Approaches in 2023.

"We are pleased to announce that all our EOC assessments at Gonzales High School showed improvement from the previous year," GISD Superintendent Dr. Elmer Avellaneda said. "Our Algebra 1 assessment showed a 21% increase. Our English 1 assessment

showed an 18% increase. Our Biology assessment showed a 13% increase. Our United States History assessment showed a 5% increase and our English 2 assessment showed a 2% increase.

"We continued with a great graduation rate and the highest College, Career, and Military Readiness score yet. While we are pleased with our improvements, our teachers, administrators, and support staff will continue working hard to grow greatness in Gonzales ISD."

There is still a lot of room to grow greatness, however. Gonzales ISD fell below the state average in all five areas, although the gap has been closed to within 7 percent or less in three areas: Algebra I, Biology and U.S. History, where GISD students scored the best.

English II scores remain 11 percentage points behind the state average, while English I scores are 12 percentage points behind the state average.

NIXON-SMILEY CISD

Nixon-Smiley CISD students saw their scores eclipse the state average in every subject area except Algebra I, where the school saw scores drop inexplicably by nine percentage points from 86 percent Approaches in 2022 to 77 percent Approaches in 2023.

However, English I scores improved by 11 percentage points from 71 to 82 percent Approaches and U.S. History scores improved by six percentage points from 90 to 96 percent Approaches, with the number of students hitting the Meets level increasing both years as well.

"Current Nixon-Smiley

STAAR EOC scores are a tribute to how hard not only teachers are working, but students as well," Nixon-Smiley CISD Superintendent Jeff VanAuker said. "With 100% of students moving to an online testing format combined with brand new question types, we are pleased with the exceptional results.

"This is a direct result of teachers adapting instruction, so all students can continue to achieve academic goals. We will continue to grow math, reading, and writing skills across all content areas in order to meet students on their level, supporting continuous growth."

WAEOLDER ISD

Waelder ISD saw scores drop in English I, as they went from 79 percent Approaches in 2022 to just 68 percent in 2023. But the school saw a huge increase in Algebra I as they improved from 68 percent Approaches to 87 percent in 2023, a mark that exceeded the state average.

Waelder ISD also saw an eight percentage point jump in Biology from 88 percent Approaches in 2022 to 96 percent in 2023, again exceeding state average, while in English II, scores went up by 13 percentage points from 71 percent to 84 percent — again, bettering the state median. Waelder ISD had the highest percentage of students hit Approaches in Algebra I, Biology and English II.

U.S. History scores went up by 10 percentage points from 86 percent to 96 percent to tie Nixon-Smiley for the best percentage in the county for that subject area.

"I believe these scores

are indicative of the excellent work our teachers are doing here in Waelder," Waelder ISD Superintendent Ron Lillie said. "The scores across the board are right in line with the other schools in Gonzales County. I know my fellow superintendents are working diligently in the areas we all would like to improve, but I also believe these score reflect the success of Texas public schools.

"For Waelder, we will be focusing on Algebra and English I. We have been able to maintain high scores in US History and Biology. The district soon hopes to provide facilities that will support the outstanding efforts of our students and faculty."

STAAR CHANGES

In 2023, the STAAR test was redesigned to better align with classroom instruction, which necessitated re-setting of standards and scales from 2022 to 2023. With updates put in place by House Bill (HB) 3906 (86-R in 2019), TEA engaged in a multi-year, collaborative effort with a wide range of Texas teachers, educator advisory committees, students, parents, and community members to redesign the STAAR.

Students took a series of redesigned assessments this year that were better aligned with classroom instruction, emphasized writing, and incorporated a 75% cap on multiple choice questions. HB 3906 from 2019 also included a transition period for schools to prepare students for testing online. While more than 80% of test takers took STAAR online last year, 2023 marked the first year the tests were administered almost exclusively online, with exceptions made for students requiring paper accommodations and students with special education accommodations.

"Working with the input of many Texas teachers, we have redesigned the STAAR test to look more like how students learn in the classroom. We celebrate these results, and also recognize they provide objective information for parents and educators for the year to come," Morath said.

GISD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

about vehicles, they are like, 'We don't have anything on the ground, but I can give you a quote,'" Brooks said.

GISPD went with the two Dodge Chargers and a Chevy Silverado that were available at the dealership, and Brooks plans on taking the new vehicles to Personal Impressions for decal work.

"They did the decals in the past, so it didn't make any sense to reinvent the wheel. They told me they could do it, so we're using them for the decals," Brooks said.

The board approved a budget amendment in the amount of \$193,807 from functional level to function 52 for the purchase of three outfitted police vehicles.

In other board business, the board approved an order for the defeasance and reduction of a portion of the district's outstanding bonds and approved an escrow

agreement and other related matters as presented.

GISD Chief Financial Officer Amanda Smith said this item is related to previous agenda item from the June 20 meeting.

"So in June, this is what was authorized that we would pay off an additional \$705,000 this coming fiscal year, which would save our taxpayers almost \$444,000 in interest over the life of the loan," Smith said.

"Our certified property values that we received in July were roughly 16 percent higher than the APR estimated property values that we use to arrive at that number. We now have an opportunity to pay off \$1 million extra next fiscal year and save our taxpayers almost \$640,000 in interest savings," Smith added.

The next school board meeting is set for Mon-

BASH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

get ready for school."

"We also want to collaborate with the athletics department and introduce all of the teams and the cheerleaders, the Flames and all of that. So it actually was a great turnout," Hastings said.

More than 30 backpacks with supplies were donated to the event to be passed out to the children.

The event closed out with the introductions of the Gonzales High School and Gonzales Junior High football, volleyball, cross country, cheerleaders, Flames and the Mighty Apache Band.

Athletic director and head football coach Joey Rivera was excited seeing the community come together for the students.

"This is a special community that backs our extracurricular athletes and kids that do it because they just back them no matter what, win or lose.... such a close knit com-

munity. I love getting them together. And I know they love getting downtown down here and having reasons to celebrate kicking off the 2023 school year and this season is definitely a reason to celebrate," Rivera said.

Hastings is looking forward to the new school year and the football season.

"I love football. Just the intensity, just to see these kids thrive and focus. My goal is to enhance these children to be able to keep going, keep striving for what they can get to," Hastings said.

Sponsors of the Back to School Bash included Schmidt Ranches & Realty, Sgt. TFO Hastings, Roadway Specialties Inc., Tejas Environmental Solutions, Elite Supply, 321 PopUp, Persons Flower Shop, Kashes Bourbon Barn, Stripes, VES, West Motors, Come & Crepe It, Councilwoman Rhonda Miller and Janie Guevara.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

A tax rate of \$0.0191 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of GONZALES COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #2.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.0191 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.0177 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.0191 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2023 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for GONZALES COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #2 from the same properties in both the 2022 tax year and the 2023 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that GONZALES COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #2 may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that GONZALES COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #2 is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2023 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON August 23, 2023 AT 6:00 PM AT the Gonzales County Courthouse, 414 Saint Joseph, Gonzales, Texas.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, GONZALES COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #2 is not required to hold an election at which voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the Board of Commissioners of GONZALES COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #2 at their offices or by attending the public hearing mentioned above.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE TAX RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

$$\text{Property tax amount} = (\text{tax rate}) \times (\text{taxable value of your property}) / 100$$

FOR the proposal:

- Gilbert Philippus, President
- Brian Schauer, Vice-President
- Jason Whiddon, Secretary/Treasurer
- Morgan Barry Boothe, Asst Treasurer

AGAINST the proposal:

None

PRESENT and not voting:

None

ABSENT:

Jason Torres

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by GONZALES COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #2 last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by GONZALES COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #2 this year.

	2022	2023	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.0223	\$0.0191	decrease of -0.0032, or -14.35%
Average homestead taxable value	\$132,149	\$143,678	increase of 11,529, or 8.72%
Tax on average homestead	\$29.47	\$24.44	decrease of -2.03, or -6.89%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$1,076,886	\$1,166,502	increase of 89,616, or 8.32%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for GONZALES COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #2 at 830-672-2841 or tac@co.gonzales.tx.us, or visit www.co.gonzales.tx.us for more information.

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BOND

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Avellaneda wanted to get input from the community about the bond issue and added the importance of this meeting.

"This community has to speak, these schools or the community schools, these children are the community's children. And as taxpayers, you not only have the right to speak up, you must speak up," Avellaneda said.

GISD has 100 acres of land across from GHS on 239A that was purchased before Avellaneda became the superintendent of the district.

"That is a gift to us. They had the vision, they had the foresight way back when to purchase close to 100 acres for future development. And as you can tell, the prices of everything — groceries, land — has gone up. Back then we got a steal for those close to 100 acres," Avellaneda said.

The cost of the projects will cost the district more than \$205 million: \$144 million for the new high school, \$41 million for the new athletic complex, \$16 million for safety, security and renovations, and \$2.8 million for infrastructure.

The old Gonzales High School would become the new Gonzales Junior High and the old Junior High would then house the intermediate students from North Avenue, which would be phased out and returned to the city of Gonzales.

GISD Financial Officer Amanda Smith went over how the tax rate will be impacted on a potential bond and wanted to make sure the community understands that impact.

"We think it's really important that you all have a common language to use and an understanding of how the school district's tax rate structure looks," Smith said.

The current tax rate for the 22-23 fiscal year is at 0.9883 and it has gone down 19.27 pennies since 2018.

Smith focused on the Interest and Sinking (I&S) part of the tax rate, and she said that part of the tax rate is what district

uses to pay for voter-authorized debt.

"If we decided to proceed with a bond and it passed in November by voters, when we got ready to sell those bonds, again, we're going to talk about the I&S portion of the tax rate. So if you're going to add debt, just like when you take out a mortgage, if you take out a mortgage your bill goes up so you need more money to pay that bill. Same is true for the district," Smith said.

Smith went over a Senate bill that would impact the maintenance and operations (M&O) tax rate, and she said the Texas House and Senate voted on a "tax compression" bill (Senate Bill 2).

"Senate Bill 2 will actually take pennies out of this M&O bucket, so we started with six pennies in our tax rate before the bond and the bond passed. Now we have eight pennies. But with Senate Bill 2, we're going to be taking pennies out of that M&O bucket," Smith said.

The SB2 is not in law and Smith said in the November election, voters are required to vote on the tax compression and homestead exemptions.

"In addition to compressing our tax rate or taking pennies out of that in the M&O bucket, they increase the homestead exemption so the taxable value on your home is actually going to decrease," Smith said.

"So the taxable value on your home is actually going to decrease ... When voters approve the increased homestead exemption in November, your taxable value of your property is going to go down," Smith added.

SB2 is currently being fine-tuned and being sorted through, Smith said, and she told everyone to read SB2.

"Read Senate Bill 2, as though that tax compression could take place every single year, for nine years. And every single year, we're being compressed by 10.7 pennies [out of the M&O bucket]. Our current I&S tax rate going into this year, we're looking at about nine pennies. So in

one year, our total tax rate could actually be lower than it is right now without a bond election," Smith said.

"I'm not telling you this to try to persuade you to do one thing or another. I am a voter here. I'm a taxpayer, I have one vote, so do you. But I think this is important when you're thinking about what could be a very intimidating number, and trying to decide how you want to move forward," Smith said.

Several community members expressed their support for the bond election for the new high school and new athletic complex.

"Facts are Gonzales is due for something great, because Gonzales is due for greatness, Gonzales is also due for something wonderful," Gonzales resident Isaac Anzaldua said. "Our kids deserve this. Our children, your grandchildren relying on you in this room today — they're relying on you right now to make the vote to put them ahead."

GHS teacher Billy Holifield agreed with Anzaldua that this not just for the district, or the people attending the meeting, but it is for the children of Gonzales.

"If we don't put our focus on those kids, then we've missed the boat completely. It's all about them. It's not about the board members, I love them. They do a great job. It's not about that man sitting right there, or any of the teachers or administrators in here," Holifield said.

Holifield added that the high school principal Jonathan Basha has developed a mantra and it is said in every announcement.

"The one thing that you will hear every day, the last words that you'll hear in every announcement is 'guys remember, we love you. We love you. We love you.' Bunch of those kids don't hear that at home, but they hear it at the high school every day," Holifield said.

"And I see a bunch of people in here shaking their heads, like you kind of believe that, too. Well, if you believe it, then

put up. It's the only way to go," Holifield added.

Holifield closed it out, saying the children have "hopes and the dreams and the desires," but community has to do everything else for them.

One of the big concerns is space within the high school, said CTE Coordinator Jennifer Ervin, who oversees culinary, Ag programs, cosmetology and graphic design. She expressed concerns of not having enough room for students.

"We have exploded, mainly in our Ag building. Those of us that went to school here, it hasn't changed. We are currently, literally, every day, I'm working with my two welding instructors trying to figure out how are we going to serve 95 students a day in that welding building," Ervin said.

Ervin added they are not going to kick out students, nor change the schedule, and are trying to figure it out.

"We have managed to do great things through CTE in the past few years but we are running out of room. At some point, we will have to turn students away," Ervin said.

Retired educator Dwight MacAlister said of the current spaces in the current high school that when he arrived in 2004, the high school was out of room.

"We've been in portable buildings since that time, Dr. Strozier. And the board, in the past, have done all they can with what money that was available. We've got to quit thinking about it's either academics or athletics. We've waited long enough, we need to do a whole thing and get on with it," MacAlister said.

GHS alumni Kasey Butler had a different approach for the bond — instead of focusing on both the high school and athletic complex, the district should prioritize on the school first, then later the athletic complex.

"Not that we don't need the athletic complex, but it would be wonderful and great. And I do think that it reflects our town and Gonzales. But as Miss

Ervin said, we have added so many different opportunities for kids to use these skills after high school, they can go to cosmetology school, they can get welding," Butler said.

Butler mentioned the Ag building and suggested people go see it.

"While I do think that the athletic portion of it is important, personally, I feel like the education should take priority and that should be our number one goal," Butler concluded.

Gonzales resident Carney Zambrano expressed one concern about the November bond election is the timeline.

"Most bonds failed because they're done too quick and too fast. I'm just wondering if we have enough time to communicate our message of building a new school by November for the voters to really appreciate what's going to happen here if they vote yes," Zambrano said.

Former school board member Glenn Menking also added his concerns about the timing of the election to address the needs for the district.

One of the most critical points Menking mentioned was the safety and security renovations, and he added that \$16 million is not enough for renovations.

"We have kids and teachers in rooms right now that are not adequate. There are leaking roofs leaking windows, lights don't work. That's unfortunate. We can't continue in that capacity," Menking said. "I think the athletic complex may not be a need, but it's definitely a want. It's an affordable want. But I'm not sure at the expense of all of the renovations that we might not be able to do if the high school at this point is going to be what we need to do if we cannot do the other stuff as well."

Menking added the district need to have everything coded and figured out how much it is going to cost to fix the campus the way it needs to be.

The school board will discuss more about the bond election in the Monday, Aug. 14.

LIGHTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

p.m., prompting some to think it may have been a UFO. However, according to Gonzales County chief dispatcher Megan Thomas, the department was told that it was SpaceX's Starlink satellites.

And there is proof online to back that up. According to the website www.find-starlink.com, users can determine when Starlink will be visible to the naked eye by inputting their city name or, for rural users, their latitudinal and longitudinal coordinates.

The latitude and longitude for Waelder is 29.6952° N, 97.2986° W. When that is put into the website, it shows that the new Starlink-95 (G6-7) chain of satellites was expected to be dimly visible for a five-minute window around 9:21 p.m. Aug. 2 from northwest to southeast in the sky from a starting elevation of 11° up to a maximum of 81° and ending at 33°.

What is Starlink? According to its website, "Starlink is the world's first and largest satellite constellation using a low Earth orbit to deliver broadband internet capable of supporting streaming, online gaming, video calls and more. Leveraging advanced satellites and user hardware

coupled with our deep experience with both spacecraft and on-orbit operations, Starlink delivers high-speed, low-latency internet to users all over the world."

The plan calls for there to eventually be as many as 12,000 small satellites in orbit at varying altitudes and to achieve this, SpaceX — which is owned by Texas-based billionaire Elon Musk — launches satellites into space aboard the Falcon 9 rocket from Cape Canaveral, Florida. The most recent launch carrying a payload of 22 satellites was just after midnight EDT Friday, July 28.

SpaceX has launched 4,859 Starlink satellites to date, and the number of Starlink satellites currently in orbit is 4,519. While orbiting, the constellation can appear as a moving train of lights in the sky which can startle those not familiar with its appearance.

There have been 10 Starlink launches since June 4 to add satellites to the constellation. Similar sightings to those in Waelder were reported in North Texas on Wednesday, July 12, according to Fox 4 KDFW.

SpaceX Starlink missions can be seen online at www.spacex.com/launches.

NOTICE OF MEETING TO VOTE ON TAX RATE

A tax rate of \$0.2420 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of COUNTY OF GONZALES.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.2420 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.2420 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.2570 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2023 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for COUNTY OF GONZALES from the same properties in both the 2022 tax year and the 2023 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that COUNTY OF GONZALES may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that COUNTY OF GONZALES is not proposing to increase property taxes for the 2023 tax year.

A PUBLIC MEETING TO VOTE ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON September 5, 2023 AT 9:00 AM AT the Gonzales County Courthouse, 414 Saint Joseph, Gonzales, Texas.

The proposed tax rate is also not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, COUNTY OF GONZALES is not required to hold an election to seek voter approval of the rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the Commissioner's Court of COUNTY OF GONZALES at their offices or by attending the public meeting mentioned above.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE TAX RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

$$\text{Property tax amount} = (\text{tax rate}) \times (\text{taxable value of your property}) / 100$$

FOR the proposal:	KO Dell Whiddon, Pct 1	Donnie R Brzozowski, Pct 2
	Kevin T LaFleur, Pct 3	Collie Boatright Jr, Pct 4
	Patrick C Davis County Judge	

AGAINST the proposal:
PRESENT and not voting:
ABSENT:

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by COUNTY OF GONZALES last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by COUNTY OF GONZALES this year.

	2022	2023	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.3071	\$0.2420	decrease of -0.0651, or -21.20%
Average homestead taxable value	\$132,149	\$157,545	increase of 25,396, or 19.22%
Tax on average homestead	\$405.83	\$381.26	decrease of -24.57, or -6.05%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$13,972,697	\$14,087,015	increase of 114,318, or 0.82%

No-New-Revenue Maintenance and Operations Rate Adjustments

State Criminal Justice Mandate

The COUNTY OF GONZALES County Auditor certifies that COUNTY OF GONZALES County has spent \$163,127 in the previous 12 months for the maintenance and operations cost of keeping inmates sentenced to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. COUNTY OF GONZALES County Sheriff has provided COUNTY OF GONZALES information on these costs, minus the state revenues received for reimbursement of such costs. This increased the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate by \$0.0006/\$100.

Indigent Defense Compensation Expenditures

The COUNTY OF GONZALES spent \$250,197 from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 to provide appointed counsel for indigent individuals in criminal or civil proceedings in accordance with the schedule of fees adopted under Article 26.05, Code of Criminal Procedure and to fund the operations of a public defender's office under Article 26.044, Code of Criminal Procedure, less the amount of any state grants received. For the current tax year, the amount of increase above last year's indigent defense compensation expenditures is \$21,879. This increased the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate by \$0.0001/\$100.

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for COUNTY OF GONZALES at 830-672-2841 or tac@co.gonzales.tx.us, or visit www.co.gonzales.tx.us for more information

Fehner & Son Grain has different types of Milk Replacer for young animals.

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830-672-3710
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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