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Thursday, August 17, 2023

The Gonzales Inquirer

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Gonzales ISD board approves bond election

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales Independent School District Board of Trustees set in motion a \$95 million November bond election with their vote at the Monday, Aug. 14 regular meeting.

The board approved two proposi-

tions that'll be voted on in November; Proposition A is for safety and security enhancements, general renovations and improving of aging buildings (Gonzales High School, Junior High School, North Avenue, Elementary School, Maintenance and Administration Building), and construction of a new Career Technology Education building and a new

Agricultural Barn.

Proposition B is the construction of a new athletic complex which details a 7,000-seat artificial turf soccer/football stadium, eight tennis courts, baseball field, softball field, and an eight-lane track and field events.

GISD Superintendent Dr. Elmer Avellaneda said this bond election was two

years in the making since he became the superintendent of schools at GISD.

Avellaneda said he wanted to focus on academics first before discussing a bond for the school district and accomplished that with 18 out of 22 assessments showing improvement.

See **BOND**, page 19

Gonzales City Council OKs voter approval tax rate

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

By a split 3-2 vote, the Gonzales City Council will propose what is called the "voter approval" tax rate of 29.38 cents per \$100 valuation for fiscal year 2023-24.

The voter approval rate is the maximum ad valorem tax rate the council can set without triggering an automatic tax rate election. It is 0.28 cents above the no-new-revenue tax rate of 29.10 cents, which is a calculated rate that would provide the city with about the same amount of revenue it received in the year before on properties that is taxed in both years.

The Gonzales City Council was in a deadlock when it came time to set the preliminary maximum ad valorem tax rate and schedule a public hearing on Thursday, Aug. 10, as the council only had four voters present with Councilman Joseph Kridler absent.

Gonzales Director of Finance Laura Zella said the council has met several times and as of that meeting the city has balanced the budget. She recommended the council go with the voter approval rate.

See **RATE**, page 20



GONZALES COUNTY STUDENTS RETURN TO SCHOOL

Above: Gonzales Elementary Principal Nikki Nerada hugs some of her students who are excited about the first day of school for the 2023-24 school year. Right: GISD Superintendent Dr. Elmer Avellaneda welcomes students to Gonzales Primary Academy on the first day of school Tuesday, Aug. 15.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



County judge files \$24.8M budget for fiscal 2024

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

Gonzales County Judge Pat Davis has filed a budget for fiscal year 2024 which calls for more than \$24.8 million in expenditures against revenues of more than \$19.8 million.

The county has a projected fiscal year 2023 ending fund balance of nearly \$21.94 million from which it will pay for the difference, which will allow the county to drop the tax rate from \$0.3071 per \$100 valuation last year to \$0.2420 this fall, a decrease of 6.51 cents from last year's tax rate.

The proposed tax rate is equal to the no-new-revenue rate, which essentially a tax rate that would produce the same amount of taxes if applied to the same properties taxed in the current and prior fiscal year, without taking any new improvements into consideration.

The average homestead went up in value from \$132,149 in 2022 to \$157,545, an increase of 25,396, or 19.22 percent, but the tax on the average homestead is expected to go down from \$405.83 last year to \$381.26 this year, a decrease of

See **BUDGET**, page 19

Chamber parts ways with executive director Henderson

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

The Gonzales Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture has parted ways with executive director Melissa Henderson, whose last day of employment was Thursday, Aug. 10, Chamber president Wayne Baker announced.

Henderson worked for the Chamber for a little more than 13 months after she was hired to succeed former executive director Brad Cox. Her departure means the Chamber will be looking for a new executive director for the third time since June 2021.

Henderson



See **CHAMBER**, page 20

MEMORIAL DONATION TO VC SCHOLARSHIP FUND



The family of Evelyn Kridler recently presented a memorial donation to the Victoria College Gonzales Center Scholarship fund. Accepting the donation was Vince Ortiz, Center Manager. Mrs. Kridler passed away in 2010, and the memorial donation of \$52,000 was made possible by a family friend, who wished to honor Mrs. Kridler's past commitment to education and the Gonzales community. Mrs. Kridler was the 1950 Valedictorian of Gonzales High School, a long-time employee of Gonzales ISD, and a dedicated volunteer at the Gonzales Center during it's early years. Presenting the check were, L-R, Mrs. Kridler's Great-grandchildren, Lyndon, Lincoln, Lynnox and Elyna Leal (Manda and Jacob Leal) and Emelia Mikesh (Elizabeth and Blake Mikesh). Also presenting the check, but not pictured, were Jacquelyn Kridler Mikesh and Lynda Kridler Frazier, Mrs. Kridler's daughters. The scholarship money will be used to provide tuition to students in the Gonzales community. VC Gonzales opened in 2007 and provides a wide-array of courses and services to area students.

VANDY VAN EPPS

Sales tax allocations for Gonzales increase in August

Waelder sets new single-year record with four months to go

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

Sales tax allocations for the city of Gonzales for August

increased by 2.57 percent above the amount the city received for August 2022, according to Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar's office.

Meanwhile, Waelder set a new record for sales tax collection in a single year — and there

See **TAX**, page 20

1 SECTION
20 PAGES



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Edwards Furniture named Main Street Business of the Month



VANDY VAN EPPS

Gonzales Main Street board names Edwards Furniture as the Main Street Business of the Month.

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Gonzales Main Street is pleased to recognize Edwards Furniture Co. as our Main Street Business of the Month.

Edwards Furniture, located at 703 St. Paul Street, has been a Gonzales staple since 1986. Edwards Furniture is family-owned and operated. Patriarch Billy Edwards started the business more than 60 years ago in Alice, Texas. Today they have locations in Alice, Gonzales and Uvalde, all owned and operated by the Edwards family.

The Gonzales store has served the community for 37 years and is blessed to have four long-time, exceptional employees with Maria Martinez holding the longest tenure at 24 years. Larry Edwards' favorite thing about this business is the people.

"Gonzales has some of the friendliest people you can

meet" says Larry. "Most of our customers are local to Gonzales and the surrounding areas. They are what makes this business a success. It is a place where you know and care about your neighbor, a place where we can greet our customers and enjoy having long conversations with them. Business is great because of the community."

Edwards Furniture caters to their customers. They offer special orders, delivery, and in-store financing. Their selection is vast and their customer service top notch. From living rooms to bedrooms, appliances to mattresses, whatever your home furnishing needs may be, Edwards Furniture can get it for you. "We'll do what we can to get what you want."

Follow them on Facebook @ Edwardsfurnituregonzales or watch for their ads in the Gonzales Inquirer.

Gonzales ISD strengthens, enhances school safety measures

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

As the new school year approaches, Gonzales Independent School District (GISD) is committed to providing the safest learning environment possible for its students and staff.

The district has invested in several measures to enhance the safety and security of its campuses, including fencing, police officers, and the Guardian program. The multi-tiered approach is evolving as GISD continually works to increase safety measures.

FENCING

Gonzales ISD purchased fencing for the high school and junior high campuses to create a more secure perimeter and limit unauthorized access. The fencing will be completed at the high school before the first day of class, Aug. 10. The junior high campus will have its fencing installed by the end of September. The district will share more information on the changes and procedures next week.

POLICE OFFICERS

GISD's police department is fully staffed with experienced and trained officers who will be assigned to each campus.



The officers have previous experience working in schools and interacting with teachers, students, and administration. They will be responsible for enforcing the law, preventing crime, responding to emergencies, and building positive relationships with the school community.

GUARDIAN PROGRAM

GISD implemented the Guardian program which allows selected staff members to carry concealed firearms on campuses. Guardians will receive extensive training and background checks. The program is designed to provide an additional layer of protection if necessary.

The identities of the 14 guardians are confidential and only known to the district administration and police department. In addition to a GISD police officer, a

guardian will also be at each campus.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SUITE

This tool will allow GISD to access critical information that has lifesaving consequences. In the event of a reunification or evacuation, teachers and campus administrators will have the ability to alert and connect to first responders and account for students in real-time.

GISD believes that safety is a top priority and a shared responsibility among all stakeholders. A number of our safety efforts will be visible, and others not so much. The district will continue to promote its partnership with parents, guardians and students. Safety is the responsibility of our entire community. Together, we can make our schools a safe place to learn and grow.



GEDC, Main Street celebrate Dilworth Inn improvements

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

On Friday, Aug. 11, the Gonzales Economic Development Corporation (GEDC) and Gonzales Main Street held a BIG check ceremony to celebrate the completion of the improvements made to The Dilworth Inn under the Main Street Business Incentive Grant (BIG) Program.

The GEDC and Main Street approved a reimbursable Business

Incentive Grant in the amount of \$49,297.50 for the improvements that would be made to the Dilworth Inn. With the help of this grant, the Dilworth Inn was able to replace the roof and further protect this historic building from water damage and provide sustainability for years to come.

The GEDC and Main Street are grateful to have such a vibrant downtown atmosphere that provides lodging, entertainment, shopping, and dining options to its residents and visitors.

Meeting set for CWD rules

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Texas Parks & Wildlife Department will host an informational meeting on Chronic Wasting Disease in deer from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 24, at the Waelder Community Center, 311 US-90 W, Waelder.

During the meeting, speakers will go over the rules and regulations or a CWD surveillance zone in Gonzales County.

Gonzales looking for board, commission applicants

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The City of Gonzales is now accepting applications to serve on the various city boards and commissions for terms beginning Oct. 1, 2023.

A list of the current boards and com-

missions and their responsibilities are posted on the City of Gonzales website at <https://www.gonzales.texas.gov/p/government/boards-commissions>.

For questions please contact City Secretary, Kristina Vega at citysecretary@gonzales.texas.gov or 830-672-2815.

Nixon-Smiley Community Fest scheduled for Sept. 9

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Nixon Area Chamber of Commerce and the Smiley Bantam Activity Group have joined forces to create Nixon-Smiley Community Fest — a free, fun, family-friendly event.

The festivities will take place from noon to 1 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 9, at the intersection of North Congress Avenue and West Third Street in Nixon as well as at the Nixon Social, 120 W. Third St.

The event will include live music from the Logan Ryan Band, Brandon Ford, Chad Anderson, Sonic Soul, Josh Evans, Felix Pompa, Jeremy Alvarez and Tiffany Dawn. It will also feature ven-



dors, kids games, a silent auction, food and fun. The Nixon-Smiley High School band is also expected to perform, along with the Nixon-Smiley little, middle school and high school cheerleaders.

For more information, email nixonchambercommerce@gmail.com or check out the Nixon-Smiley Community Fest Facebook page.

Celebrations

Birthdays

August 17th Stephanie Hill James Padgett JR. Robert Scheske Amanda Sepeda LeeAnn Weathermon	Eunice Hanke Daniel Maldonado Minnie O'Neal Stacy Scott	Stewart Frazier III Tyler Mason Hendershot Rebecca Hindman Natalie Tenberg
August 18th Paul Canales Jan Dunkin Jake Irving Wade Miller Bobby Pakebusch Ainsley Ann Riojas Helen Rodriguez	August 20th Candace Ball Condel Tim Decker Jr Laurie Johnson Ruth Johnson W.L. Johnson Martha L. Melchor Myrtle Nichols James Taylor Erlene Zavadi	August 22nd Missy Collura Marvin Heinemeyer Jenna Mills Lance Totschen Sami Jo Warren Brian Wilkerson
August 19th Travis Burleson Gary Clack W.C. "Bill" Crandall	August 21st Aurora Bastien Mike Cosper Stacey Dawson Scott Dierlam	August 23rd Todd DuBose Kristina Bowers Chad Miller Melissa Marie Rodriguez

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Gonzales Weather

	August 17 106°/77°	Hot with plenty of sunshine 7% chance of rain • RealFeel 107
	August 18 98°/76°	Very warm and humid with a blend of sun and clouds 25% chance of rain • RealFeel 113
	August 19 92°/76°	Humid with considerable clouds; a couple of afternoon showers 65% chance of rain • RealFeel 102
	August 20 95°/76°	Sunshine and humid 10% chance of rain • RealFeel 110
	August 21 96°/75°	Intervals of clouds and sunshine with a couple of showers and a thunderstorm; very warm and humid 60% chance of rain • RealFeel 106
	August 22 94°/76°	Abundant sunshine 5% chance of rain • RealFeel 107
	August 23 96°/75°	Very warm and humid with brilliant sunshine 10% chance of rain • RealFeel 114

Upcoming Events at J.B. Wells Park in Gonzales

August 17th – South Texas Tour

August 19th-20th – J and K Productions

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LIVESTOCK WEEKLY REPORTS

GONZALES LIVESTOCK MARKET

August 12th
Cattle – 1487

Compared to our last sale: Number 1 choice calves and yearlings sold steady to very active market. Less quality calves and yearlings sold steady. Packer cows sold steady & bulls sold steady.

Stocker-feeder Steers: Medium and large-frame No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 335-340; 300-400 lbs., 302-315; 400-500 lbs., 277-290; 500-600 lbs., 235-267; 600-700 lbs., 225-230; 700-800 lbs., 217-221. Bull Yearlings: 700-900 lbs., 95-185.

Stocker-feeder heifers: Medium and large-frame No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 275-285; 300-400 lbs., 259-265; 400-500 lbs., 235-245; 500-600 lbs., 221-228; 600-700 lbs., 200-215.

Packer Cows: Good lean utility and commercial, 84-97; Cutters, 102-110; Canners, 52-77; High yielding fat cows, 91-103. **Packer Bulls:** Yield grade 1 & 2, good heavy bulls, 121-124; Light weights and medium quality bulls, 100-118. **Stocker Cows:** \$750 to \$1,700. Pairs: \$1,100 to \$1,800.

NIXON LIVESTOCK

August 14th
Cattle – 1501

Steers:
200-300 lbs - \$226-320
300-400 lbs - \$236-320
400-500 lbs - \$222-305
500-600 lbs - \$212-263
600-700 lbs - \$204-260
700-800 lbs - \$189-229
Heifers:
200-300 lbs - \$194-270
300-400 lbs - \$209-275
400-500 lbs - \$204-271

500-600 lbs - \$200-235
600-700 lbs - \$196-220
700-800 lbs - \$183-200
Slaughter Cows - \$69-110
Slaughter Bulls - \$100-131
Stocker Cows - \$650-1100
Pairs: \$1010-1700

HALLETTVILLE LIVESTOCK COMMISSION CO., INC.

Sale date: August 8th
Cattle on hand: 2372

Packer Cows:
Canner and Cutter Cows: \$83-112
Utility & Fat Cows: \$82-106
Light Weight Canner Cows: \$58-83
Poor/Weak: \$48-60

Packer Bulls:
Heavyweight Bulls: \$118-129
Utility & Cutter Bulls: \$107-121
Lightweight Canner Bulls: \$98-110

Stocker Cows:
Good Stocker/Cows & Heifers: \$1325-1575
Medium Stocker Cows & Heifers: \$1025-1300

Good Cow & Calf Pairs: \$1700- \$2100
Medium Cow & Calf Pairs: \$1100-1500

Stocker & Feeder Calves & Yearlings:
Number 1 steer & bull calves: Under 200 lbs.: \$250-320
200-300 lbs.: \$245-325
300-400 lbs.: \$250-335
400-500 lbs.: \$235-315
500-600 lbs.: \$225-270
600-700 lbs.: \$205-257.50
700-800 lbs.: \$190-230

Number 1 heifer calves:
Under 200 lbs.: \$230-310
200-300 lbs.: \$215-300
300-400 lbs.: \$220-290
400-500 lbs.: \$215-265
500-600 lbs.: \$205-252.50
600-700 lbs.: \$190-220
700-800 lbs.: \$175-218

Replacement Heifers:
350-700 lbs.: \$240-285

The calf market keeps rolling right along#1 kinds in all weight brackets sold steady and strong. Light weight calves saw increases of \$6 to \$12. Very active sale. Packer cows & bulls sold \$3 higher on a tital supply of 350 head.

SEGUIN CATTLE CO.

August 9th
Quality of cattle good overall with all classes remaining steady. Packer cows and bulls steady.

Cattle - 935
Sheep & goats – 514

Medium & large frame #1 Steers:
200-300 lb. .55-2.35-3.20
300-400 lb. .60-2.02-3.10
400-500 lb. .55-2.00-2.75
500-600 lb. .60-1.80-2.64
600-700 lb. .80-1.76-2.24
700-850 lb. .71-1.80-2.21

Medium & large frame #1 Heifers:
200-300 lb. .95-1.98-2.75
300-400 lb. .75-2.05-3.00
400-500 lb. .50-1.98-2.46
500-600 lb. .70-1.91-2.34
600-750 lb. .65-1.81-2.20

Cows:
Utility & commercial – .82-1.00-1.12
Cutters – .60-.72-.83
Cannors – .45-.58-.70

Palpated cows – 800-1200 Cow/Calf Pairs – 1200-1550

Bulls:
Heavy High Yielding – 1.20-1.30
Light & Low Yielding – .77-1.19

Sheep & Goats:
Nannies – 65-250
Kid Goats (Fat) – 2.00-3.00
Wethers - 2.00-3.40
Billies – 1.30-2.00

**Dorp. Ewes - 50-115
Dorp. Lambs (Fat) – 2.00-3.00
Wooled Ewes – 50-115
Wooled Bucks – 2.00-2.67
Lambs – 2.20-2.25
Barb. Bucks – 390**

CUERO LIVESTOCK MARKET

August 11, 2023
Number of head 1,831

There were 259 cows and 29 bulls. The packer market on cows and bulls continued its strong run with both packer cows and bulls holding steady. Top packer bull was at \$125/cwt while top packer cows were at \$112.00/cwt. Calf market was steady with last week's rise. Weight was a little heavier resulting in \$8 per head more value. Another solid day of strong demand across the board.

Packer bulls: 108.00-125.00
Packer cows:
cannors & cutters 94.00-112.00
poor & weak 35.00-60.00
Palpated: 19 BRED \$1,200- \$1,425

PAIRS: 8 \$1,225-\$1,800 (AVG-HIGH)

Steer Calves:
Under 200 lbs. NONE
200-249 lbs. 261.00-280.00
250-299 lbs. 262.00-300.00
300-350 lbs. 238.00-312.00
350-400 lbs. 248.00-308.00
400-450 lbs. 230.00-266.00
450-500 lbs. 236.00-274.00
500-550 lbs. 230.00-285.00
550-600 lbs. 224.00-264.00
600-700 lbs. 214.00-246.00
700-800 lbs. 208.00-226.00

Bull Calves: (AVG-HIGH)
Under 250lbs. 257.00-304.00
250-300 lbs. 267.00-320.00
300-350 lbs. 269.00-326.00
350-400 lbs. 245.00-318.00
400-450 lbs. 236.00-292.00
450-500 lbs. 232.00-254.00
500-550 lbs. 225.00-260.00
550-600 lbs. 214.00-250.00
600-700 lbs. 207.00-225.00
Over 700 lbs. 170.00-210.00

Heifer Calves: (AVG-HIGH)
under 200 lbs. 267.00-302.00
200-250 lbs. 234.00-255.00
250-300 lbs. 233.00-260.00
300-350 lbs. 235.00-316.00
350-400 lbs. 217.00-264.00
400-450 lbs. 216.00-270.00
450-500 lbs. 213.00-295.00
=>replacement

500-550 lbs. 210.00-265.00
550-600 lbs. 209.00-255.00
600-700 lbs. 201.00-231.00
Over 700 lbs. 191.00-207.00

SUNDOWNERS 4-H CLUB KICKOFF



CONTRIBUTED

The Sundowners 4-H Club kicked off the year Sunday, Aug. 13. They practiced public speaking by introducing themselves and talking about their favorite things. If you missed the meeting, no worries! The next meeting is Sept. 10. Online 4-H registration opened Aug. 15 for all 4-12 graders. Registration for third graders opens Sept. 1. Visit 4honline.com to register.

Garden
Q&A
with CALVIN FINCH

Deer won't survive on grass alone

Q. Our St Augustine grass has always looked green and lush but now it looks like hay. Do you have any ideas? Is there a better more drought tolerant grass variety. We plan to add some soil, will that help.?

A. There are lots of questions to answer before you make drastic changes to the lawn. If you don't figure out what is causing the problem, you are likely to end up with the same problem even after drastic expensive actions. Most hay-colored lawns are not dead. Even St Augustine grass if it receives some water every 2-3 weeks survives, especially if there is a 6-inch layer of soil under it. Bermuda grass and zoysia grass can usually go dormant and survive without water for a period but both require more sun than St Augustine grass for long term success. Have you been able to water at all? Try an experiment and be generous with a hand watering twice/ week to see if the grass responds. Don't automatically add a thick layer of soil.

Q. Do deer eat grass? My neighbor and I are arguing about it. It looks to me as if they graze the lawn quite regularly.

A. Deer cannot survive by eating grass, they must consume stems and broadleaf foliage for the right nutrients, but they may occasionally eat some grass. It is especially likely if they visit a well watered lawn in this hot dry situation we are now experiencing. Look closely at the lawns they are visiting and see if there are any broadleaf weeds such as horse herb mixed in the grass.

Q. When should we plant the winter vegetables? Can we grow



anything more than broccoli, kale, lettuce and turnips?

A. I will start planting my winter vegetables in September. There is still time to plant peppers and tomatoes if you find large transplants. In addition to the vegetables, you listed you can also plant radishes, carrots, chard, rutabagas, cauliflower and Brussels sprouts in September. Plant spinach transplants in October and onions in November. Q

Q. We have aphids on our milkweed. What is the best way to control them without negatively affecting the butterflies?

A. The Monarchs will arrive in September on their way south to their wintering grounds. Actually, despite some recent discussion that says aphids on milkweed negatively affect nectar production and Monarch reproduction I am not eager to attack the aphids on milkweed. In the long term it seems best to let the wasps, lady bugs and other predators bring the aphid population under control. Perhaps a water spray would reduce the aphid presence without interfering with butterfly activities, but I am not sure it is productive.

Hallettsville Livestock Commission Co.

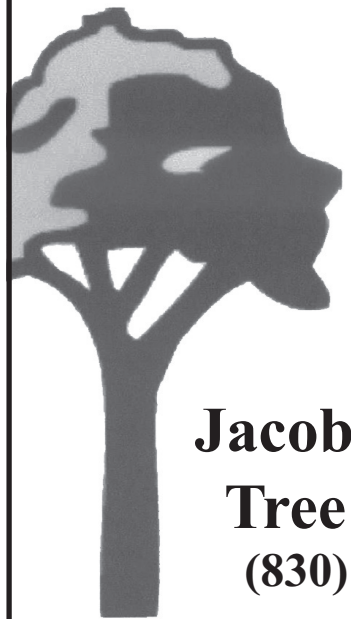
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TSTA: Legislature must say no to vouchers

Texas State Teachers Association President Ovidia Molina released the following statement:

“We applaud the House Select Committee on Educational Opportunity and Enrichment for recommending pay raises for teachers and school personnel with a proposed increase to the basic allotment, but we are unhappy that the panel also suggested recommendations if a parental choice program is enacted by the Legislature.

“We fear that higher educator pay and more resources for our public school classrooms will again be held hostage to vouchers, which the legislative leadership is trying to sell as parental choice. They can call it what they want, but it is still a voucher program which will waste billions of tax dollars for privatization efforts.

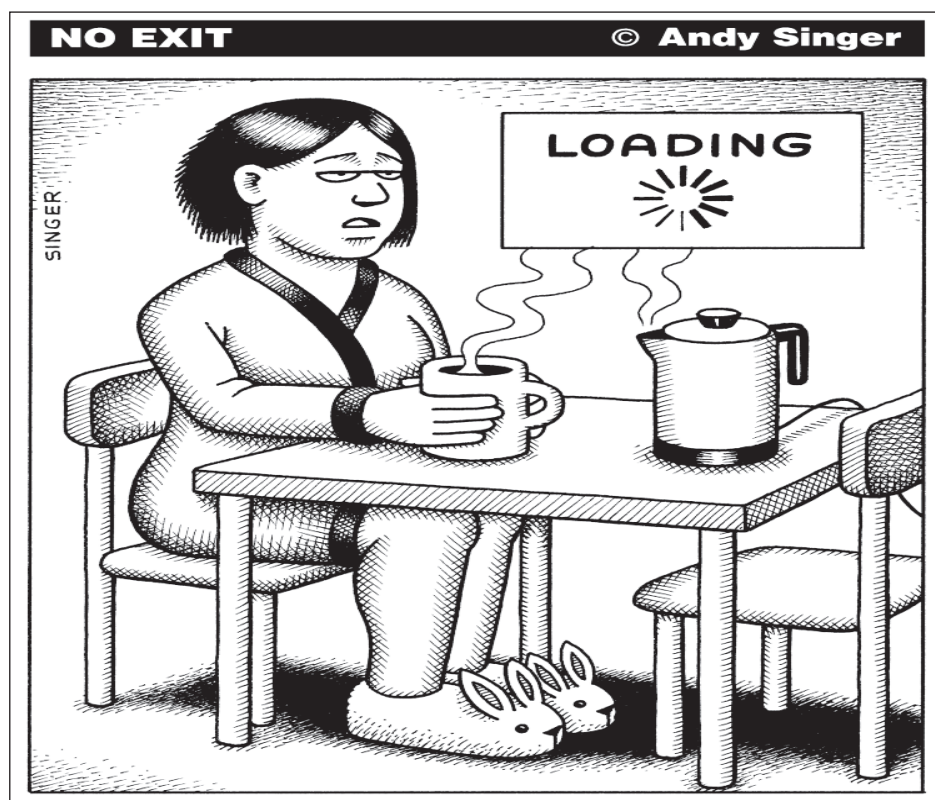
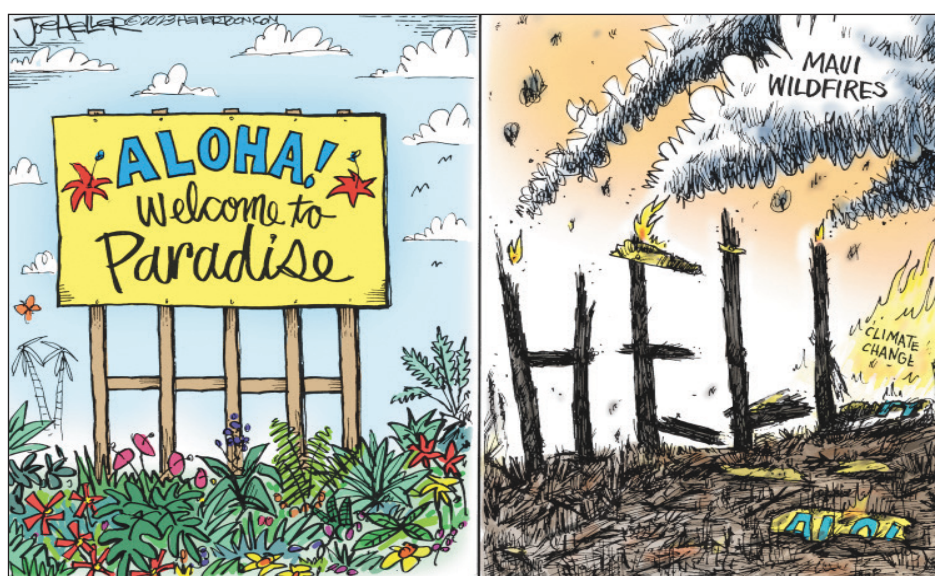
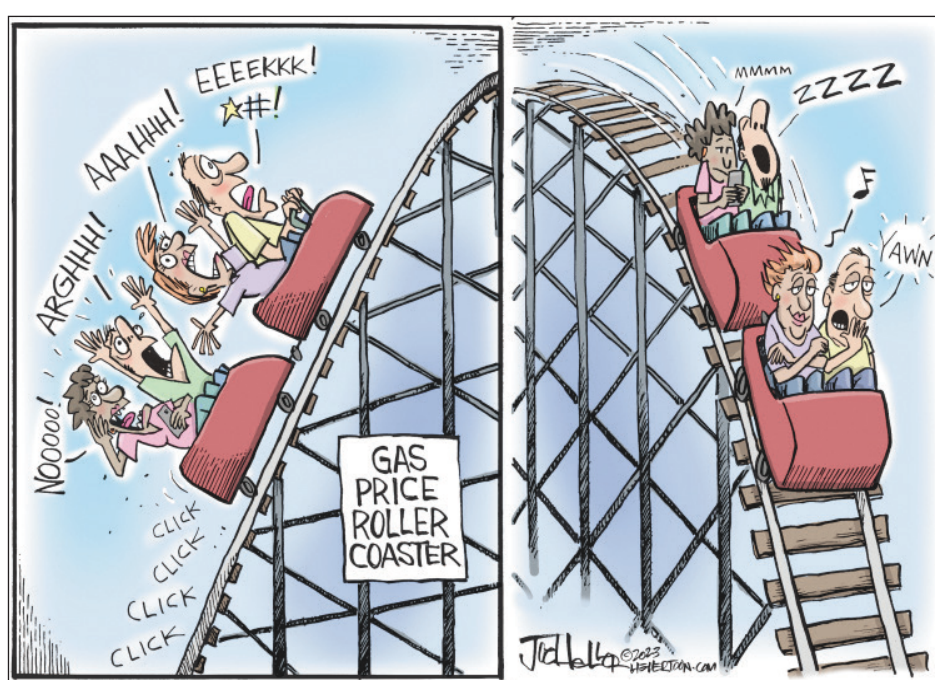
“A voucher bill that was approved by the Senate but died in the House during the regular session would have cost \$1 billion a year in general revenue by 2028, money that should go to public schools, and the price tag would have continued to increase.

“Meanwhile, public schools remain under-funded and teachers and support staff remain underpaid. Teachers need significant pay raises, not the limited salary bumps and one-time stipends that died during earlier sessions this year. School support staff, many of whom aren’t even paid livable wages, need substantial pay increases as well.

“The average teacher salary in Texas is more than \$7,700 below the national average. And, based on a TSTA survey of its members, about 40 percent of Texas teachers are forced to take second or third jobs during the school year to meet their families’ needs. Many teachers are leaving the profession for higher-paying work.

“But state leaders have so far ignored a task force appointed by the governor last year, which concluded that raising teacher compensation was critical to improving teacher retention.

“The Legislature began work this year with a record \$33 billion budget surplus but already has spent more than half of it on tax relief. Law-makers must invest more in public schools and educators and say no to private school vouchers.”



Disagreeing without being disagreeable

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

The Gonzales City Council meeting was coming to an end Thursday, Aug. 10, when there was an exchange between Councilwoman Ronda Miller, Mayor Steve Sucher and Councilwoman Sherrie Koepp that revealed tension and dissention among the those on the dais.

After Sucher asked his fellow council members if they had any items that needed to be placed on a future agenda, Miller told Sucher she thinks “it’s time we stopped calling our office staff ‘the girls.’”

“When a girl becomes an adult, she’s referred to as a woman, and I know it’s done sometimes out of habit with no ill intentions for most people, but instead of yielding to habit and precedent, I think that we should be intentional in how we address ourselves,” Miller said.

Sucher responded by telling Miller they were supposed to be determining if there were any outstanding agenda items that needed to be placed on a future agenda.

“If you can couch the language into how we would discuss this on a future agenda, I’m fine with that, but I am not up for having an open conversation towards the end of the meeting,” Sucher said.

Miller responded by telling Sucher she believes “it is something we need to discuss publicly.”

“We have a right to speak on issues, echo our constituents and concerns and things and that’s what I’m trying to do,” Miller said. “Instead of yielding to habit, we should be intentional in how we address each other. Referring to a man as a boy is considered inappropriate and the same standard should be held for women. I’m aware that sometimes women use the term girl as a term of endearment. That may be something in the lexicon language but it has no place in the public professional setting.

“It is becoming a more frequent allegation of sexual discrimination allegations as well and that has been brought up. No one refers to Sherrie and I as girls on this council, so I think a conscious and sustained effort is required to change. I’m asking that we all be more mindful of the power and significance of word choice, and that we all become diligent in ensuring each staff is treated as a respected professional, as we establish a more respectful culture in the work environment.”

Koepp then took exception to being included by Miller in her statement and said “I would just like to say that I do not condone that, nor do I agree with (Miller). And I will say girls to staff if I choose to; that is my right.”

Sucher stopped the conversation from going further and the meeting was hastily adjourned.

The entire exchange between the three parties was no longer than four minutes in length. And while Miller makes a valid point — we should endeavor to choose our words carefully because words have meaning beyond their definitions — it would have been better for her to have brought up her concerns perhaps during the closed session that had been held prior to the terse exchange.

Discussions about personnel issues are covered as an allowable exception to the Texas Open Meetings Act and may be held behind closed doors due to privacy concerns. If city staffers are upset by the terminology that is being used to address them, that is an excellent time for the council to discuss that behavior and set a course for corrective action.

By bringing it up during an open session, Miller’s good intentions of standing up for city workers who may have been wronged has now become muddled by what could be seen as an attempt to publicly shame or embarrass her fellow council members.

Gonzales City Council is not alone when it comes to these types of exchanges during public proceedings. As publisher of the Gonzales Inquirer, I have witnessed similar instances of public officials castigating each other or members of the public (and vice versa) during meetings of the Nixon City Council, Smiley City Council and Gonzales County Commissioners Court. Some of these have devolved into full-on shouting matches with

Letters to the Editor Policy

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

Letters must either be about Gonzales County, from a resident of Gonzales County, or in response to a story that appears in print or online in The Inquirer.

Examples of content that will cause letters to be rejected include the following:

- Confusing or unclear points.
- Crude language.
- Poor taste.
- Disrespectful comments regarding a group’s or individual’s ethnicity, gender, religion, culture, sexual orientation or race.
- Other incendiary language or remarks.
- Endorsements for or complaints about individually named commercial products or services.

• Poetry.

• Personal attacks.

• “Thank You” letters that go beyond general thanks to the community; attempt to serve as an advertisement for a company, individual or political party; or is submitted in lieu of a paid “Thank You” advertisement.

The Inquirer will not knowingly publish factually incorrect information.

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

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

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

Please send Letters to the Editor:

- Email: publisher@gonzalesinquirer.com
- U.S. Mail: The Inquirer, P.O. Box 616, Gonzales, Texas, 78629
- In person: The Inquirer, 622 St. Paul Street, Gonzales, Texas, 78629 (Please bring in a digital format, if possible).

Further questions may be directed to Publisher Lew Cohn, 830-672-2861.

The Gonzales Inquirer

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Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE



© 2023 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Graphics Vol. 39, No. 37

Seaweed

Expert says seaweed can feed the world and slow climate change.

Seaweed is a type of plant that grows in the ocean and other bodies of water all over the world.

It's not like the plants you see on land because it doesn't have roots. It can float and move through the water.

Seaweed comes in different shapes, sizes and colors. Some seaweed looks like long ribbons. Some look like big, leafy plants.

Unscramble the letters to discover different seaweed colors.

ERGNE WORBN

Would you eat seaweed?

Many kinds of seaweed are so nutritious that the United Nations estimates that farming only 2% of the ocean could feed as many as 12 billion people!

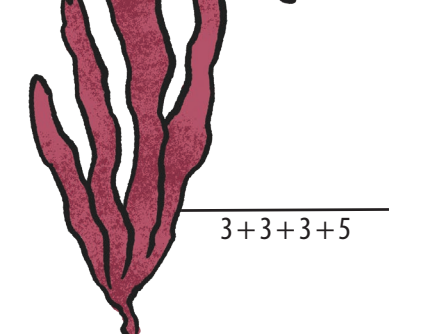
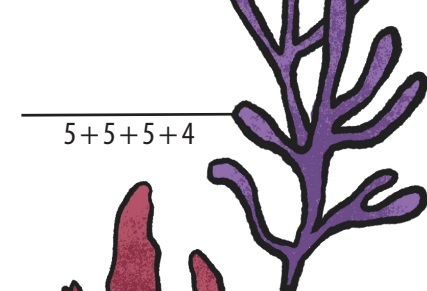
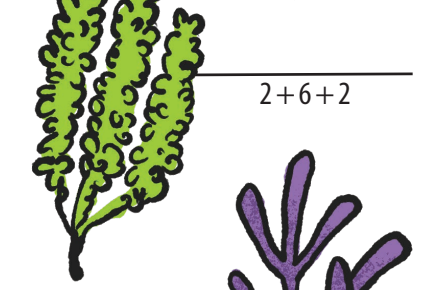
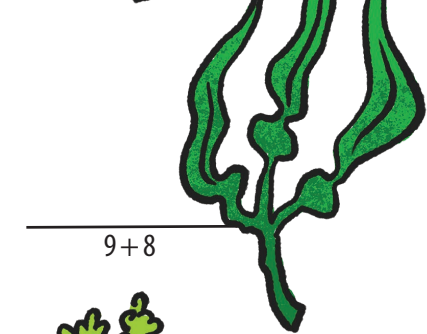
Circle every other letter to discover the name of this delicious rice and seafood treat wrapped in seaweed.

A S T U H S L H J I
S

Kid Scoop Together Seafood Favorites

Work with a family member to do the math to discover five of the most popular types of edible seaweed.

- 10 = NORI
- 21 = WAKAME
- 17 = KELP
- 19 = ARAME
- 14 = DULSE



Seaweed Means Survival

Replace the missing words.

URCHINS HIDING LIFE DEPEND SHELTER

Seaweed is important to marine _____. Animals such as fish, sea turtles and even whales _____ on seaweed for food and _____. Small fish use seaweed as a _____ place from predators. Sea _____ eat seaweed.

Burger Lovers Need Seaweed
Even meat eaters can be helped with seaweed. It makes an excellent animal feed!

Yum!

What do you think?

Wind Stopper

Feeding livestock seaweed also cuts down on their wind (also known as toots). A cow's "wind" adds methane gas to the air.

Methane gas is part of what is causing climate change.

Help me find my mama!

Our planet is amazing! Earth has an abundance of truly wonderful natural resources!

Extra! Extra! Earth is My Happy Place

Look through the newspaper for pictures and words that identify the parts of nature that you like. Cut these out and glue them onto a piece of paper. Under or next to the newspaper clippings, write what you love about each kind of nature.

Standards Link: Science: Plants have structures that aid in survival.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Seaweed Food

Use the code to find out how seaweed is used in foods around the world.

Here, sheets of dried seaweed are used in soups and to wrap sushi.

In this country, a seaweed called **laver** is used to make a popular food called **laverbread**.

CODE
0 = A
1 = B
2 = C
3 = E
4 = I
5 = L
6 = S
7 = T
8 = W
9 = Z

0 6 4 0 8 0 5 3 6

A seaweed called **dulse** is mixed with milk, nutmeg, cinnamon and vanilla to make a popular drink in this country.

1 3 5 4 9 3

Double Double Word Search

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

CHANGE
COLORS
EARTH
EAT
FEED
FISH
HIDING
HUNGER
MARINE
OCEAN
SEAWEED
SLOW
WATER
WHALES
WIND

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

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

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* Statistics published by the Newspaper Association of America from independent researchers.

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Youth Burger Grill-Off and Kid Pedal Tractor Pull set for Sept. 9

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Youth Grill-Off is a state-wide team BBQ burger cook-off contest organized by cooperative efforts of the Luling Foundation and tri-county Texas A&M AgriLife Extension offices of Caldwell,

Gonzales & Guadalupe County. The Youth Grill-Off will take place on Saturday, Sept. 9 at the Luling Foundation Farm's (LFF) Demonstration Barn located at 523 S. Mulberry, Luling. Prizes will be given for Grand & Reserve Grand in each division. Each registered team mem-

ber is granted a raffle entry for a mega-prize drawing of a Blackstone Griddle with a gas conversion kit sponsored by Texas Gas Service. This contest is for youth ages third through 12th grade consisting of 2-3 youth per team of the same age category.



INTRODUCING SHINER'S CHEER SQUADS



CONTRIBUTED

Shiner Catholic School would like to introduce its cheer squads for the 2023-2024 school year. The cheerleaders who will cheer on the St. Paul High School athletes are, front row from left, Co-Captain Dallyn Pesek, Julia Barecky, Brooke Cerny, Captain Faith Machart, Tori Walker, Stefany Pokluda, and Petra Koch. Back row are Eden Rodriguez, Sally Machacek, Faith Brown, Gracie Malinovsky, Karis Barta, Frances Filip, Tatum Walker, and Addison Pustka.



CONTRIBUTED

The cheerleaders and mascot who will cheer on the St. Ludmila Elementary athletes, and assist at SPH games, are, front row from left, Emery Kennedy, Annie Werner, Captain Emma Marshall, and Reese Chilek. Back row are Presley Rother, Reese Patek, Annabelle Collins, Mascot Kelson Jacobs, McKinley Jacobs, Co-Captain Emori Rodriguez, and Hayden Rother.

Thompsonville Cemetery Association to hold 74th annual Homecoming

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Wow! Can you believe another year has passed? Time to gather up all the kids, family, friends, and neighbors, and y'all come join us for food and fellowship! Cook up something delicious to share for lunch and let's have a great day together.

Service at Thompsonville Community Church will begin at 10:30 a.m. with The Kerr Creek Trio leading worship, and Brother Ray Blundell bringing the message. Lunch at noon, with the Trio entertaining us during the afternoon.

This year's Homecoming is dedicated to the memory of: Mary Lou Brown: 09/21/1937-03/25/2023 and Rayn Neal Pickett: 02/28/1981-03/29/2023.

Activities will include a Raffle, a Live Auction, and yard games for the young and old alike! As always, we will recognize and have gifts for the eldest man and woman, newest wed, longest married, and youngest child! Back by popular demand-fresh ground cornmeal for sale!

We appreciate all who help out with work around the property by giving of their time and/or services, including but not limited to: County Commissioner, Donnie Brzozowski, for mowing the right of way, and Sherry Hill, of Annie Oakley Pest Control for treating the Community Center, the

Church and grounds!

After years of putting pencil to paper we have invested in a software program (Ramaker) and an iPad for the mapping of the cemetery. Training is in the works. Homecoming is our opportunity to raise funds for the maintenance and care of the Thompsonville Cemetery and the buildings and the grounds. Our goal is to have a perpetual fund for the future.

It's great to see Community members stepping up to serve on the board and continue Homecomings for future generations! All donations are tax deductible and very much appreciated! You can pick up a copy of the TCA Financial Statement from the Registration Table during Homecoming, or contact Betty Schroeder at 830-263-0996, and she will gladly send you a copy.

Please make donations to: Thompsonville Cemetery Association, 2774 County Road 423, Waelder, TX 78959. We thank you for your continued financial support of the Thompsonville Cemetery Association! Homecoming is a time to treasure the memories and make new ones! A time to gather with family and friends and enjoy the day!

Thank Y'all very much for always taking such good care of the Thompsonville Community! All you do is very much appreciated.

25TH DISTRICT COURT SENTENCINGS

The following sentences were handed down by 25th District Court Judge William Old III during an Aug. 3 hearing:

- Jasmine Gonzalez, robbery, taken into custody 10 days jail failure to appear for PSI, reset for September.
- Kaylee Lynn-Carrigan, possession of a controlled substance, three years deferred adjudication, plus attorney's fees and court costs.
- Julia Proa, manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance, 10 years deferred adjudication, \$1,000 fine, plus attorney's fees and court costs.
- Dylan Alias Rodriguez, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle x2, PT Possession of a Building, five years deferred adjudication each on the UUMV charges, \$1,000 fine, plus attorney's fees and court costs.
- Roman Salazar, driving while intoxicated, 10 years TDCJ-ID, probated 10 years, 10 days jail with 18 days credit, \$500 fine, plus attorney's fees and court

costs.

- Sabrina Velasquez, possession of a controlled substance, three years deferred adjudication, \$500 fine, attorney's fees and court costs.
- Paul Villarreal Jr., indecency with a child, eight years deferred adjudication, \$2,000 fine, plus attorney's fees and court costs.
- Karen Ivey, aggravated assault, 365 days in Gonzales County Jail.
- Emanuel Ruiz-Alcantara, smuggling of persons four counts, two years TDCJ-ID.
- Justin Gammons, assault family violence, four years TDCJ-ID.
- Manuel Lee Garza, possession of a controlled substance, nine months state jail with credit for 119 days.
- Bond revocations, reinstatements
- Jennifer Maldonado, possession of a controlled substance, bond revoked for failure to appear, new bond set at \$25,000 cash.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The NIXON-SMILEY CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT will hold a public meeting at 6:00 PM, August 28, 2023 in Nixon-Smiley High School Library, 800 North Rancho Rd, Nixon. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$0.6792/\$100 (proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	\$0.4354/\$100 (proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)
Approved by Local Voters	

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and operations	10.46 % increase
Debt service	94.31 % increase
Total expenditures	28.36 % increase

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$2,551,265,620	\$3,077,728,675
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$4,864,280	\$5,426,382
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$1,347,402,125	\$1,780,323,385
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$4,563,381	\$4,604,989

*Appraised value is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.
** "New property" is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.
*** "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$29,029,000

*Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$0.8646	\$0.2854	\$1.1500	\$16,190	\$884
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$0.6679	\$0.0917	\$0.7596	\$14,659	\$151
Proposed Rate	\$0.6792	\$0.4354	\$1.1146	\$20,808	\$693

*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$110,708	\$119,338
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$41,300	\$0
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$1.1500	\$1.1146
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$474.95	\$0.00
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		-\$474.95

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$1.1162. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of \$1.1162.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$3,625,761
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$2,119,224

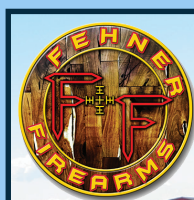
A school district may not increase the district's maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying the district's debt service.

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.

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Fehner Firearms is closed on Mondays



Gavino Moreno 1st Day Sophomore Year Nixon Smiley High School



Amadee L. Riojas 7th grade Nixon-Smiley Middle School



Daleyza Rangel- elementary 4th grade Waelder



Ezequiel Rangel-junior high 6th grade Waelder

GONZALES COUNTY GOES BACK TO SCHOOL



Erykah Williams Waelder ISD 9th Grade Kamryn Williams Waelder ISD 5th Grade



Skilar Smith and Braxtyn Knight



Kaleigh Medina LISD sophomore



Miranda Vinklerek 9th grade Gonzales High School



Lillie 4th grade and Lauren 3rd grade Nixon Smiley Elementary School Brassell



Gisselle Ontiveros-HS freshman Waelder



Matthew attends Smiley school



Tanisha Hunt Levi CJ Scarlet



Hailey Greathouse 4th, Riley Cantu 7th, Dorian Greathouse 6th

CLASSIFIEDS

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

ERRORS

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

CALL TODAY
830-672-2861

040 AUCTIONS

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Para solicitar un apartamento favor llamar a manager al siguiente numero 830-582-1343. Para solicitar una adaptacion o modificacion razonable, favor llamar manager al siguiente numero 830-582-1343.

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

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670 APARTMENTS FOR RENT OR LEASE

850 HELP WANTED

TEXAN NURSING AND Rehab

of Gonzales is now hiring for the following position: Full Time: C.N.A., all shifts; LVN, all shifts, full-time, with a \$1000 Sign On and Referral Bonus. Individual should be multi-task oriented, self-motivated, and must enjoy working around the elderly. Please apply in person: Texan Nursing and Rehab of Gonzales, 3428 Moulton Rd., Gonzales, Texas 78629. EOE

850 HELP WANTED

CAL - MAINE FOODS INC.

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



LOOKING FOR A NEW JOB?

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850 HELP WANTED



Part-time Instructor needed for CDL Truck Driving Course to be held at the VC Gonzales Center.

In partnership with HCC For details contact Melissa Robinson at (361) 573-3291, ext. 3461.

850 HELP WANTED

050 GARAGE SALES

YARD SALE: SATURDAY, August 19, 2023, 8 am-1pm, 1327 St. Lawrence St. Kids, woman's, men's clothing and shoes, household items, furniture, etc

190 LAWN, GARDEN

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

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210 MISC. SERVICES

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500 PETS AND SUPPLIES

FREE: DOGS NEED good homes before they have to be put down. 2 blue Heelers, good ranch dogs, 7 are mixed Terriers. Contact Amy, 361-484-4457.

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

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 Caitlyn Boscamp: 830-203-0910
 Meagan Campion: 830-857-5700
 Heather Rodriguez: 830-351-0174
 Julie Carreon: 512-393-9533
 Esther Pena: 830-305-5288
 Somer Simon: 281-690-6003
 Jimmy Tuma: 210-387-8862
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firstshotrealestate@gmail.com

750 AUTOMOBILES

2000 CHEVROLET IMPALA, 4 door. 1 owner. Less than 500 miles on new motor. \$2,200. Can be seen at Independence Motel, 3307 Hwy. 90A from 8-6. 830-263-1808.

850 HELP WANTED

FIELD SITE SOLUTIONS LLC, Flatonia, TX is looking for experienced Dispatcher, Office Personnel and CDL Drivers in oil field. Experience a plus. For information call 1-361-217-5949.

THE TEXAN IS looking for a **Full time Maintenance Director**. Please apply in person: Texan Nursing and Rehab of Gonzales, 3428 Moulton Rd., Gonzales, Texas 78629. EOE

CAL MAINE FOODS Inc. Happy Hen location is looking for Shipping and Receiving, Palletizer. Benefits include: Vacation, Sick leave, Hosp. Ins., Dental, Vision, 401K, ESOP. Apply in person: Cal-Maine Foods Inc., 1680 CR 431, Waelder, TX 78959. Monday-Friday 7-4.

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

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 Heather Rodriguez: 830-351-0174
 Julie Carreon: 512-393-9533
 Esther Pena: 830-305-5288
 Somer Simon: 281-690-6003
 Jimmy Tuma: 210-387-8862
 Macie Chrisman 361-648-6620
firstshotrealestate@gmail.com

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

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 Must have good driving record.
Call 830-672-2861 for more information.
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Instructor needed to teach Certified Pharmacy Technician course at the Gonzales facility. Classes begin in August 2022. Prefer minimum of one year experience. For more information call (361) 572-6446 or email HealthCareers@VictoriaCollege.edu. An Equal-Opportunity Institution

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

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 101 S. Liberty Ave, Nixon, Tx 78140
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APPLICATION HAS BEEN MADE WITH THE TEXAS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMMISSION FOR A MIXED BEVERAGE PERMIT (MB) BY TEQUILA BAR LLC TO BE LOCATED AT 1402 SAINT LOUIS STREET, GONZALES, GONZALES COUNTY, TEXAS 78629. BUSINESS PRINCIPAL PARTIES: RAMON ALONSO ESCOTO COVARRUBIAS AND ANGELICA SOLIS RODRIGUEZ, MEMBERS.

Small Taxing Unit Notice

The Gonzales Co. Underground Water Conservation District will hold a meeting at 5:30 PM on September 12, 2023 at 522 Saint Matthew, Gonzales, Texas to consider adopting a proposed tax rate for tax year 2023.

The proposed tax rate is \$0.003174 per \$100 of value.

The proposed tax rate would increase total taxes in Gonzales Co. Underground Water Conservation District by 8.14%.

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.

CITATION BY PUBLICATION – TRC 109 & 114

THE STATE OF TEXAS Cause No. 28,007

Richard Hollas, Et Al, | IN THE DISTRICT COURT

Vs | 2nd 25TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Oscar Crawford and the Known and Unknown Heirs, Assigns and Devises of Oscar Crawford, Deceased and Sylvester Crawford, Jr and the Known and Unknown Heirs, Assigns and Devises of Sylvester Crawford, Jr. | GONZALES COUNTY, TEXAS

TO: the Estate of Oral Lee Crawford, Deceased, Alan Eugene Williams, Sandra Joyce Smith, Sam Smith, Jr., Pat May, Jermaine N. Smith, Da'Mon Juprell Smith, Valerie Crawford, Sheila E. Crawford, unknown heirs of Sylvester Crawford, Jr.

Defendant – GREETING

August 10 Puzzle Answers

Last Puzzle Solution

S-1649

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

Notice to Creditors

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of JERRY W. BIVINS, Deceased, were issued on August 8, 2023, in Cause No. PW23-0280, pending in the County Court of Gonzales County, Texas, to: DAVID W. BIVINS.

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.

DAVID W. BIVINS
c/o Norman L. Burns
Attorney at Law
1606 N. Sarah DeWitt Drive
Gonzales, TX 78629

Dated the 11 day of August, 2023.

NORMAN L. BURNS
Attorney for DAVID W. BIVINS
State Bar No.: 03448500
P.O. Box 827
GONZALES, TX 78629
Telephone: (830) 672-9511
Facsimile: (830) 672-7638
E-mail: nburns@munsonburns.com

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days after the date this citation was issued, a default judgment may be taken against you." In addition to filing a written answer with the clerk, you may be requested to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file your answer with the clerk. Find out more at Texaslawhelp.org, Tex. R. Civ. P 99.

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Plaintiff's Original Petition at or before 10:00 o'clock A.M. on the Monday next after the expiration of 42 days after the date of issuance of this citation before the Honorable District Court of Gonzales County, at the Courthouse in said County in Gonzales, Texas. Said Plaintiff's Original Petition was filed in said court on 06/01/2021 in the above entitled cause.

A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to-wit: Partition Suit as is more fully shown by Plaintiff's Petition on file in this suit.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at Gonzales, Texas, this 8th day of August, 2023.

Attorney for Plaintiff or Plaintiff:
NOEL HENRY REESE
P.O. Box 887
417 St. George St., 2nd Floor
Gonzales, TX 78629
830-857-1023

Clerk of the Court
Janice Sutton
414 St. Joseph St., Ste. 300
Gonzales County, Texas

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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS GONZALES COUNTY

Gonzales County plans to apply for Regional Mitigation Program Council of Governments Method of Distribution (COG-MOD) program(s) from the Texas General Land Office (GLO) and is soliciting Request for Qualifications from a qualified engineer/engineering firm (registers to practice in the State of Texas) for engineering services to include budget/scopes of work/cost estimates for the preparation of the General Land Office (GLO) COG-MOD application(s) for funding flood mitigation projects and planning for future flood events and the subsequent preliminary and final design plans, bid documents, and necessary interim and final inspections required by the County for the implementation of the GLO project(s) if the County is awarded a GLO contract(s). Please submit three (3) copies of your statement of qualifications for the proposed services to the following address: Attn: Patrick C. Davis, Gonzales County Judge, 414 N. St. Joseph St. Gonzales, Texas 78629. Qualifications must be received by the County no later than **2:00 PM on September 5th, 2023** to be considered. The County reserves the right to negotiate with any and all individuals or firms that submit qualifications and may award one or more contracts to one or more engineering service provider(s). Section 3 Residents and Business Concerns, Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises and Women Business Enterprises, and Labor Surplus Area firms are encouraged to submit qualifications. Gonzales County is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Servicios de traducción están disponibles por petición.

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.

8/7/2023

Harold Rice, City Manager Date
City of Nixon

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The Gonzales Inquirer

Gonzales County Commissioners' Court Proposed Salary Increases for Elected Officials For Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Pursuant to the Texas Local Government Code, Section 152.013, notice is hereby given that the Gonzales County Commissioners Court will meet at the Courthouse on Tuesday, the 5th of September, at 9:00 a.m.

The Commissioners Court shall consider a proposal to raise the annual salaries of the Gonzales County elected officials, to become effective on October 1, 2023, as follows:

Elected Official	FY 22-23 Adopted		FY 23-24 Proposed	
	Salary	Longevity	Salary	Longevity
County Judge	\$72,190.77	\$0	\$75,516.78	\$0
Juvenile Board	\$4,800.00		\$4,800.00	
State Salary Supplement	\$25,200.00		\$25,200.00	
County Clerk	\$66,817.56	\$5,620	\$70,129.26	\$5,860
**County Treasurer	\$64,417.56	\$4,820	\$67,729.26	\$5,060
RLF / ORCA Grant	\$2,400.00		\$2,400.00	
County Tax Assessor-Collector	\$66,817.56	\$5,440	\$70,129.26	\$5,680
District Clerk	\$66,817.56	\$1,700	\$70,129.26	\$1,940
Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1	\$63,253.12	\$2,620	\$66,553.44	\$2,860
Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3	\$63,253.12	\$2,620	\$66,553.44	\$2,860
Justice of the Peace, Precinct 4	\$63,253.12	\$2,080	\$66,553.44	\$2,320
Constable, Precinct 1	\$50,752.46	\$0	\$54,021.60	\$0
Rabies / Wild Animal Officer	\$10,000.00		\$10,000.00	
Constable, Precinct 3	\$50,752.46	\$2,020	\$54,021.60	\$2,260
Environmental Officer	\$10,000.00		\$10,000.00	
Constable, Precinct 4	\$50,752.46	\$5,980	\$54,021.60	\$6,220
Environmental Officer/Vehicle Theft	\$10,000.00		\$10,000.00	
County Sheriff	\$77,695.39	\$0	\$81,036.06	\$0
Commissioner, Precinct 1	\$72,199.19	\$5,540	\$75,524.10	\$5,780
Commissioner, Precinct 2	\$72,199.19	\$3,580	\$75,524.10	\$3,820
Commissioner, Precinct 3	\$72,199.19	\$8,240	\$75,524.10	\$8,480
Commissioner, Precinct 4	\$72,199.19	\$1,240	\$75,524.10	\$1,480

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Notice to Creditors

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of PHILLIP LYNN BAKER, Deceased, were issued on July 31, 2023, in Cause No. PW23-0282, pending in the County Court of Gonzales County, Texas, to: IRVIN WAYNE BAKER.



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.

IRVIN WAYNE BAKER
c/o Norman L. Burns
Attorney at Law
1606 N. Sarah DeWitt Drive
Gonzales, TX 78629

Dated the 11th day of August, 2023.



NORMAN L. BURNS
Attorney for IRVIN WAYNE BAKER
State Bar No.: 03448500
P.O. Box 827
GONZALES, TX 78629
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In compliance with V.T.C.A., Texas Local Government §111.007 and §111.0075, Gonzales County Commissioners Court will hold a PUBLIC HEARING on the Proposed Budget - Fiscal Year 2023-2024 on Tuesday, September 5, 2023, 9:00 a.m., at the County Courthouse, Commissioners Courtroom, 414 St. Joseph Street, Gonzales, Texas.

The County Judge's Proposed Budget was filed with the Gonzales County Clerk on August 14, 2023.

At the conclusion of the Public Hearing, the Commissioners Court shall take action on the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Proposed Budget.

This budget will raise more total property taxes than last year's budget by an amount of \$114,318 or .82%, and of that amount \$120,790 is tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year.



10

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SCA August Meeting

Saturn Cemetery Association will have a general meeting and hold elections on Sunday, Aug. 20, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Saturn Community Center. Members are encouraged to bring their favorite snack, sandwiches or soup to share.

St. Paul AME hosts 135th Homecoming

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

On Sunday, Aug. 27, starting at 2 p.m., St. Paul AME Church in Flatonia, Texas, will hold its 135th Commemorative Homecoming event. This program will be by Zoom and conference call (Zoom and Conference Call ID #'s: 596 923 3566).

Former Pastor Shawn King, now of Dallas, Texas, will be the guest speaker. The Rev. King will discuss the idea that we are living better because of God's grace and mercy toward us and that we can cause others to live better because of what we do as Christians. Rev. King will share some thoughts from the beginning to the end of the bible about the different scenarios and thoughts centered on "Grace and Mercy."

Additionally, he will ask that we focus on our parents, foreparents, and other ancestors as they developed their worshipping experiences.

The current pastor of St. Paul AME is the Rev. Bobby F. Lewis.

Come and praise God and worship on the fourth Sunday in August.

Public notification of nondiscrimination in Career and Technical Education programs

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Gonzales ISD offers career and technical education programs in Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources; Business, Management, and Administration, Education and Training; Health Science; Human Services; Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security; Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics; Arts, Audio/ Visual Technology and Digital Communications; and Hospitality and Tourism. Admission to these programs is based on student request and coursework prerequisites.

It is the policy of Gonzales ISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or handicap in its vocational programs, services or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

It is the policy of Gonzales ISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap, or age in its employment practices as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title

IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

Gonzales ISD will take steps to assure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and vocational programs.

For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the Title IX Coordinator, Dr. Elmer Avelaneda, Superintendent, at 1615 Saint Louis Street, Gonzales, TX 78629, 830- 672-9551.

CONTRIBUTED
The final curtain dropped on "Drinking Habits", the hilarious summer production at the historic Gaslight Theatre in Shiner, Sunday Aug. 6. More than 1,400 people enjoyed the play during its three-weekend run with more than 400 folks on the waiting list hoping to see it. The outstanding production was directed by Melissa Neubauer. Pictured left to right are the cast and crew of the play. The award winners are identified. Front row is Michael Silgero (Paul - Best Youth Debut). Middle row are Navii Neubauer -crew, Melissa Neubauer (Director-Sister Michelle Excellence Award), Steve Liberti (Father Chenille), JoAnn Kirkland (crew- Lampighter Backstage Award), Lauren Villa (Sister Mary Catherine) - Best Adult Debut Award), Butch Neubauer (crew), Josh Kaspar (crew-Awards committee chairman). Back row are Hali Westergren (light and sound tech), Sarah Liberti - (Mother Superior), Cody Westergren-(George), Emma Davis (Sally), Angela Bays (Sister Augusta), Abrianna Johnson (Sister Philomena).



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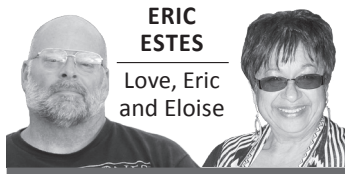
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The Art of Relaxtion



ERIC ESTES
Love, Eric and Eloise

Howdy folks, I hope life's treating you well, and that you've been able to fit in at least a little r&r (rest and recuperation) this summer. My summer's been pretty action packed with assorted projects, but seeing as I'm in between major projects presently, I'm taking some much needed r&r myself. I'm really not sure what the cause is, but along the way I've noticed that some folks can't motivate themselves to get off of the couch, while others can't motivate themselves to get on it. Somewhere in between would be optimal, but seeing how balance is more of a concept than a reality, I guess we should work on changing our mindsets. I've recently changed my mind, but ordered a smaller version by mistake, and now am even dumber than I was before. But on the positive side, I now lack the processing power to worry about it, so I think I'll keep it, even though my hats fit a little looser!

After curiosity nearly killed my cat (poor kitty), I decided to do a little research and see what the experts had to say about the art of relaxation, since so many of us struggle with getting the most bang for the buck while attempting it. It seems that relaxing should be one of the easiest endeavors we engage in, but apparently not. Relaxation takes many different forms, and at differ-

ent times for most of us. It could be as simple as a nap, binge watching your favorite shows, grilling in the back yard, enjoying your favorite hobby, or boating with your family at the lake. It seems that one obstacle to truly being able to chill out lies between our ears. We've been wrongly programmed to believe that if we're not constantly being productive, we somehow won't measure up. Life is not a competition, we're born broke, we die broke, and everything we accomplish in our short time here will eventually be changed by future generations. That doesn't mean we shouldn't work at life, but try to keep our perspectives more in line with actual reality, reducing stress levels as we go. Here's a few tips that might help in this area. In order to shift mental gears, try quieting your mind by starting with some slow deep breathing, as this signals your brain that everything's ok. I relate this to the 1999 movie "For Love of the Game" starring Kevin Costner as a major league baseball pitcher. Before throwing his next pitch, in order to drown out the noise of the crowd and

sharpen his focus, he tells himself to "Clear the mechanism." I've said this to myself on many occasions, and it does seem to help. Next, decide on what you want from your relaxation; rest, escape, stress relief, fun etc. Scheduling a time for chilling out is important because it helps us to give permission to ourselves for doing so, helping to alleviate occasional feelings of guilt. Some form of priming the transition from the busyness of life to chill time helps, and can come in the form of meditation, a short walk, exercise, or simply taking a small thing off of your to-do list, allowing you to feel that you're ahead of the game.

For Christians, Psalm 46:10 reminds us to "Be still, and know that I am God." Many times throughout scripture Jesus himself needed a reset. Whether resting by the well in Samaria while traveling from Judea to Galilee, or simply getting away from the crowds to recupe and pray in the wilderness, even the son of God needed recharging, so why shouldn't we?

I've come to the conclusion that learning to relax is an art, and needs to be practiced on a regular basis. Yep, I still have high hopes that I'll eventually figure out what my couch is for.

Until next time, love you guys, Eric.

GriefShare Ministry coming to Gonzales

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

When a loved one dies, it can feel like you're alone or that you have no hope or future. Few people understand how painful and isolating your grief can be. But that doesn't mean you have to suffer by yourself. There are others who have experienced what you're going through and you can find them at a GriefShare support group.

GriefShare, the number one grief recovery support program that has helped over one million people worldwide heal from the pain of grief, will soon be offered in Gonzales to those struggling with the loss of a loved one. It is a free, Christ-centered, nondenominational outreach ministry. People of all faiths (and those who do not practice a faith) are welcome.

A GriefShare group consists of participants who, over the course of 14 weeks, meet weekly where they will hear insights from grief recovery experts, meet others who understand what they are going through, receive comfort and support, learn practical tips for navigating their grief and most importantly, learn that they are not alone on their journey of grief.

The first group offering of GriefShare is going to begin on Tuesday, Sept. 5 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Abiding Word Lutheran Church, 1020 St. Louis St., Gonzales, and will run through Tuesday, Dec. 5. Due to a high level of interest in this program, this first offering is already full and not taking any additional participants at this time. However, the next session is scheduled for Jan. 9 and reservations can now be made by calling 713-582-0794.

To learn more about GriefShare or for additional information, go to www.griefshare.org.

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CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

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OBITUARIES

MARY JANE WHIDDON



Mary Jane Whiddon, 87, of Gonzales, Texas, passed away peacefully at home on Monday, August 7, 2023. She was born on February 29, 1936 in Gonzales County to Nina Mae Freeman and Sam Robert Schrieber. She married the love of her life, Kenneth Plowman Whiddon, on June 3, 1954, and together they raised a family of four children, twelve grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren.

Mary started school in the Smiley community and graduated from Gonzales High School in 1954. During school, she participated in cheer and her granddaughters were smitten with and still love looking at her yearbook photos. After a three-year courtship, including a one-year engagement, Mary and Plowman married one week after her high school graduation. The two enjoyed a brief honeymoon on the Texas Coast, followed by a move to Center, Texas where Plowman was employed vaccinating baby chicks and running a feedstore. While living in Center, Texas, the couple gave birth to their first and second born children. A few years later, they moved back to Gonzales to begin their own poultry business and cattle operation and very soon welcomed their third born child. Living closer to family was important as Mary and Plowman's family continued to grow. Six years later, they welcomed their fourth born child. At one time, Mary's career ambition may have been to become a nurse, but she soon decided that being a supportive wife to her husband and mother to four was the best job for her. Her numerous trips up and down the Pilgrim Road, driving four active kids while keeping up with the family business's bookkeeping and immaculate housekeeping kept her plenty busy. Mary's adoring family will attest that her career choice was indeed her calling, and now her legacy. Later in

life, Mary's favorite pastimes included caring for and watching her grandchildren grow, gardening, canning, furniture rearranging, sewing, writing cookbooks for her granddaughters, camping at area state parks with family and freshwater fishing, preparing fried fish feasts at the Pilgrim Community Center Opry and hosting family gatherings. Mary was affectionately known as Mama Jane by her grandchildren and their spouses and children. Four generations, including other family and friends were always welcome in their home on any day, but it was an unspoken tradition that holidays could be spent at Mama Jane and Papa's house for cheerful company, lots of hunting and fishing tales and you were guaranteed a meal made of love. A true homecoming to all that chose to be there. Mary was a member of the First Baptist Church of Gonzales and Friends of the Pilgrim Community Center. Mary and Plowman were happily married for 69 years.

Mary Jane Whiddon is survived by her loving husband, Kenneth Plowman Whiddon, daughter Jackie Lynn Williamson and special friend, Ronnie Zella; son and daughter-in-law, Kenneth O'Dell and Tammy Whiddon; daughter and son-in-law, Kathy Sue and David Shelton; grandchildren: Jeffrey Scott Dolezal, Chris Ward (Akemi) Williamson, Kelli Jane (Albert) Urrutia, Jason Tot (Kelly) Whiddon, Amanda Friedrich (Chad), Christy Diamond, Laurel Ethel Bach, Holly Nicole (Rob) Barnhart, Joshua

David (Heather) Shelton, James Clayton Shelton, Lesli Michelle Shelton; great-grandchildren: Kimberly Dolezal, Mei Lynn Williamson, Lion Williamson, Hina Jane Williamson, Ema Sue Williamson, Harua Williamson, Andrew Urrutia, Allison Urrutia, Thomas Barnick, Mattie Jane Barnick, Chelsea Whiddon, Jessica Whiddon, Grace Frederick, Brynlee Frederick, Laine Bach, Lilah Bach, Jackson Barnhart, Everly Barnhart, Barrett Shelton, Tawni Shelton, Marli Shelton, Kenneth Robert Shelton, River Van Kirk, Tucker Van Kirk, sister and brother-in-law, Linda and Donnie Mills. She is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews and special caregivers, Nora Matias and Virginia Ramirez.

She was preceded in death by her son Clayton Vance Whiddon; her parents, Nina Mae and Clifton Oliver; and Sam Robert Schrieber; sister-in-law Rae Ruddock, and husband Upton; and niece Sherry Allen.

A visitation will be held at Seydler Hill Funeral Home on Thursday, August 10, 2023 from 5:00-7:00pm. Funeral Services will be held at Seydler Hill Funeral Home on Friday, August 11, 2023 at 3:00pm with Rev. Todd Craven officiating. Interment will follow at Plowman Ranch Cemetery. Pall Bearers: Jeff Dolezal, J.D. Shelton, Chris Williamson, Jason Tot Whiddon, Jim Shelton, and Javier Villegas. Honorary pallbearers: Andrew Urrutia, Dylan Mills, Lion Williamson, Thomas Barnick, Barrett Shelton, River Van Kirk, Harua Williamson, Tucker Van Kirk, Rob and Jackson Barnhart. Memorials may be made to the Pilgrim Presbyterian Church or the Pilgrim Cemetery Association. Friends may leave their condolences to the family by visiting www.seydlerhillfuneralhome.com. Services are under the care and direction of Seydler-Hill Funeral Home.

GLORIA MATA NUNCIO



In loving memory of Gloria Mata Nuncio, who passed on Friday, August 4, 2023, she went on to join the many family and friends that have passed on before her. Gloria was a wife, proud mother, cherished grandma, sister, and aunt. Gloria was born on March 27, 1949, to her parents Marcelino and Eva Mata in Gonzales, Texas, she was the youngest of her 3 siblings.

Gloria loved being a Certified Nurse's Aide, she was known to bring a smile to all her residents.

She never came across a stranger, she always made friends in every situation. Gloria was the taxi and number one fan club of the family. She never turned down the opportunity to travel and gamble! Gloria filled this world with love, laughter, and Soul. She will be remembered as our loving matriarch, her generous spirit, and for her appreciation for life.

She is preceded in

death by her parents, Marcelino Sr. and Eva Mata, her brothers Marcelino "JR" Mata and Oscar Mata, her husband Leb-rado "Chuco" Nuncio, and her youngest daughter Amada Mata-Vera.

Gloria is survived by her children Jeneva Kincaid (Saturn), Robert Flores, Jr., Kristie (Abel) Flores, Vida (Sal) Alarcon. She is also survived by her 11 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces, nephews, and by those she "adopted" as family.

A visitation will be held

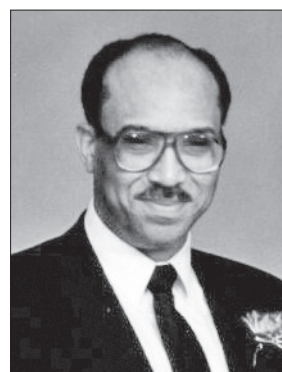
at Seydler - Hill Funeral Home, on Wednesday, August 9, 2023, from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. A funeral service will take place at Seydler - Hill Funeral Home on Thursday, August 10, 2023, at 10:00am conducted by Pastor Allen Davis. Interment will follow at Gonzales Memorial Park Cemetery, where Gloria will be laid to rest with her beloved husband, Chuco.

Pall Bearers: Robert Flores, Jr, Noah M. Flores, Jared B. Bolton, Nehemiah R. Mata, Ramon Vera, Jr., Marcelino Mata III, Mark L. Mata, and Salvador S. Alarcon.

Honorary Pall Bearers: Amber D. Bolton, Taryn B. Bolton, Iliza Flores, Tabitha McCarty, Peyton McCarty, Maricela Nuncio-Alarcon, Selma L. Alarcon, Major A. Bolton, Iliana Flores, Tony D. Allen, and Daniel Sanchez.

All services are under the care and direction of Seydler - Hill Funeral Home.

DWIGHT HENRY JEFFERY



"To everything there is a season. A time for every purpose under heaven"
Ecclesiastes 3:1

Dwight Henry Jeffery was born on Dec. 12, 1949, in Houston, Texas, to Mr. Haywood Jeffery, Sr. and Mrs. Emma Haynes Jeffery. He passed away Aug. 12, 2023.

Dwight confessed Christ at an early age and united with Fourth Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Reverend E. Stanley Branch. He later united with Mt. Hebron Missionary Baptist Church under Dr. Johnnie J. Roberson, where he ushered for many years. He later united with Brookhollow Baptist Church aka The Church Without Walls under Dr. Ralph Douglass West, where he remained until his death.

Dwight attended Dotson Elementary School, Ryan Middle School and Jack Yates High School, where he graduated in 1968. He

continued his education at Texas Southern University.

Dwight was employed at Foley's for many years. He retired from Sysco after 13 years.

Dwight was united in holy matrimony to Adell Allen on March 19, 1994.

Dwight was preceded in death by parents; Haywood Jeffery, Sr., Emma Jeffery, Brothers: Herbert Jeffery, Alvin Jeffery, and Melvin Jeffery. Sisters: Lee Ester Hudson, Helen Jeffery.

He leaves to cherish his

memory: wife of 29 years, Mrs. Adell Jeffery of Houston, Texas; a special niece, Sharon Adams; brother, Rufus Brown (Gloria) of Houston, Texas; sisters-in-law, Mrs. Kathryn Jeffery and Mrs. Lynda Jeffery; and a host of nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Visitation will be held from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 19, at St. James Missionary Baptist Church, 7231 FM 532 E, Gonzales. Funeral services will take place at 11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 19 at the church with the Rev. Charles Roaches as the eulogist and the Rev. Kenneth Gordon as pastor.

Pallbearers include Calvin Allen, Lamont Allen, Troy Allen and volunteers. Honorary pallbearers include Glenn Hudson, Kenneth Hudson, Lawrence Hudson, Melvin Hudson and Willis Hudson.

Interment will take place in Brasco Cemetery in Gonzales.

LAW ENFORCEMENT WEEKLY REPORTS

Gonzales County Sheriff's Office
07/30/23 - 08/05/23

08/02/23
• Ivey, Karen Michelle, 08/2002 Nixon: Local

Warrant - Agg Assault Causes Serious Bodily Inj; Other Agency Hold - TDCJ Detainer, Remains in Custody

Alias, 12/2001, Gonzales: Commitment/Sentence - Unauth Use of Vehicle; Commitment/Sentence - Unauth Use of Vehicle, Remains in Custody

08/02/23
• Lynn-Carrigan, Kaylee Lisette, 07/2003, Houston: Commitment/Sentence - Poss CS PG 2>=4G<400 G, Remains in Custody
• Blundell, Allison Lyndi, 09/2001, Luling: Warrantless/On-View - Poss Marij <2oz, Released - \$1,000 Bond
• Rodriguez, Dylan

• Gammons, Justin Ray, 10/1988, Gonzales: Commitment/Sentence - Assault Family/Household Member w/Prev Conv, Remains in Custody
• Gonzalez, Jasmine, Nichole, 02/1988, Gonzales: Commitment/Sentence - Robbery Remains in Custody
• Stone, Benjamin, Jr, 07/1978, Gonzales: Local Warrant - Poss CS PG 1>=1G<4G, Remains in Custody

08/04/23
• Tumlinson, Christopher Lee, 11/1984, Harwood: Local Warrant - Terr Threat Imp Pub Serv/ Pub Fear SBI/Influ GV, Remains in Custody

08/05/23
• Hernandez, Matthew Kyle, 11/1989, Gonzales: Warrantless/On-View - Obstruct Hwy Psgway, Requires \$1,500 Bond, Remains in Custody

Total Arrest, Court Commitments, other agency arrest and processings:

GCSO	09
DPS	02
GPD	07
WPD	00
NPD	02
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	20

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PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS

Lady Apaches junior libero Dakota Schmidt (20) and sophomore Aubrey Lindemann (3) get in defensive position for Stockdale's serve in the Shiner tournament Friday, Aug. 11.

Lady Apaches sweep Lady Tigers on road

STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Lady Apaches traveled back on the road to Smithville Tuesday, Aug. 15 and faced the Lady Tigers.

The Lady Apaches took care of business on the road, sweeping the Smithville Tigers in three sets (25-19, 25-23, 25-23).

Gonzales extends its win streak over the Lady Tigers to two games; last year, the Lady Apaches beat Smithville at home in four sets (22-25, 25-11, 25-11, 10-25).

The Lady Apaches will travel to Schulenburg Thursday, Aug. 15 for their second tournament of the season.

Gonzales will travel to Hallettsville to take on Lady Brahmas in a non-district contest Tuesday, Aug. 22.

The Lady Apaches first home game is set for Friday, Sept. 1 against Weimar.

Lady Apaches compete in Shiner Tournament

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales Lady Apaches traveled to Shiner for their first tournament of the 2023 volleyball season Friday, Aug. 11.

The Lady Apaches started day one of the tournament strong while facing tough competition from Hallettsville, Stockdale and Shiner.

"We came out playing strong against a competitive Hallettsville team, got a little wind in our sails, got our first win of the season and felt great," head volleyball coach Jillian Gonzales said.

The Lady Apaches kicked off the tournament beating Hallettsville (25-15, 24-26, 25-23) and earning their first win of the season.

Gonzales volleyball fell in the next two games against Stockdale (14-25, 25-19, 17-27) and Shiner (20-25, 14-25), but coach Gonzales saw much improvement from the season opening games.

"We've had some communication issues in the first few games of our season and we're getting better at that, we're getting better at transitioning and just overall court awareness," Gonzales said.

The Lady Apaches are less than a month away from the district opener against the La Vernia Bears, and coach Gonzales hopes facing tough teams will get her team mentally ready for district.

"They're preparing us really well. They hustle and they're pushing us to hustle. I'm glad for that. They're competitive with us, forcing us to be competitive right back with them," Gonzales said.

The Lady Apaches won second place in their bracket and senior setter and outside hitter Macy Sample was named to the All-Tournament Team.



The Gonzales Lady Apaches celebrate a score against the Lady Comanches in the Shiner Tournament Friday, Aug. 11.



Lady Apaches senior Macy Sample jumps in the air to block the ball against the Shiner Lady Comanches Friday, Aug. 11 in the Shiner Tournament.

Gonzales and her team traveled to Smithville, Tuesday, Aug. 15, for their third non-district contest.

Gonzales said they have faced the Lady Tigers in a scrimmage be-

fore and added facing the tournament teams will prepare them for that Tuesday's match.

The Lady Apaches will travel to Schulenburg Thursday.



PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS

Nixon-Smiley senior Nichole Ivey jumps for the ball for the Lady Mustangs against Weimar in the Yorktown tournament Thursday, Aug. 10.

Lady Mustangs kick off season with tournament

STAFF REPORT

The Nixon-Smiley Lady Mustangs traveled to the Yorktown Thursday, Aug. 10 for their first tournament of the 2023 season.

The Lady Mustangs finished 2-2 during the first day of the tournament, beating Falls City (22-25, 25-22, 15-11) and Waelder (25-12, 25-13) and losing to Fayetteville (20-25, 25-23, 13-15) and Weimar (8-25, 14-25).

Nixon-Smiley fell to Falls City and Kenedy in the bracket tournament that Saturday.

The Lady Mustangs traveled to Falls City for a third meeting between the Lady Beavers Tuesday, Aug. 15.

Nixon-Smiley will host and play its home tournament Friday, Aug. 18, and will host the Stockdale Lady Brahmas Tuesday, Aug. 22 for a non-district contest.

Lady Mustangs beat Beaverettes in 5 sets

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The Nixon-Smiley Lady Mustangs traveled to Falls City for a non-district match against the Beaverettes Tuesday, Aug. 15.

This was the third meeting between these two teams; they competed against each other twice in the Yorktown tournament last weekend.

The Lady Mustangs battled through all five sets to get the win, and head volleyball coach Loraine Yates knew her team had to push through that match.

"I thought we pushed through some tough moments there at the beginning. We picked up the energy pretty quickly. I think, as a team, we're starting to mesh really well together. The chemistry has really come very far along since the first day two-a-days," Yates said.

"In order for us to keep being successful against good teams like this, I think we just need to keep working and improving on that," Yates added.



VANDY VAN EPPS

The Nixon-Smiley Lady Mustangs jump in the air in celebration of a score against the Falls City Beaverettes Tuesday, Aug. 15.

The Lady Mustangs' front three shined against Falls City, getting key kills and blocks to beat the Beaverettes.

"I feel like we did a really good

I feel like this is one of the best games that we actually have played. Communication was on point,

See **MUSTANGS**, page 15



Nixon-Smiley Lady Mustangs head volleyball coach Loraine Yates speaks in the huddle with her players before the start of Weimar match at the Yorktown Tournament Thursday, Aug. 10.



Above: Gonzales Apaches head football coach Joey Rivera speaks with his players after the Beeville scrimmage Friday, Aug. 11 at Apache Field. Far left: Gonzales Apaches senior wide receiver Davonte Smith rushes and avoids tackles from Beeville's defense. Left: The Gonzales Apaches defense lines up against Beeville's Slot-T offense in the Friday, Aug. 11 scrimmage at Apache Field.

PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS

Apaches back on the football field in scrimmage

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales Apaches walked into Apache Field for the first time as a team Friday, Aug. 11 for the first scrimmage against the Beeville Trojans. The Apaches took many reps on offense and defense, and head football coach Joey Rivera was impressed with how his team did in their first scrimmage.

"I knew it was going to be a good one. I enjoy, I don't enjoy, but I love going against slot-T teams early; one you never know if you're gonna see them later on," Rivera said. "And they're always well-coached teams, very tough and gritty teams and you find out a lot about your team early on. And it helps us teach our defense so

much when you go against the slot-T team."

Rivera got a chance to see the positives and the playmaking ability from his offense, especially from senior wide receiver Davonte Smith and sophomore quarterback Travis Malveaux; and the running game from senior running back Rocky Gallegos and sophomore David Clack.

"We've got some opportunities to make some big plays. We've got to limit the negative yards and try to get positive yards every time. I always tell them, hey, we're looking for three yards, first down, and touchdown," Rivera said.

Rivera said one thing his team is working on is their toughness, and he added this is a much smaller varsity group this year and players will be

playing multiple positions.

"So some guys are learning multiple positions and some guys may not really have a true backup. So you know the grittiness and toughness and being in shape is going to be something I've got to work on," Rivera said.

The Apaches will play the Poteet Aggies for the final scrimmage of the season Thursday, Aug. 17, and Rivera said last year the Aggies handle his team pretty easily.

"I'm looking to see how we respond to that as a group and just getting better. I just want to see our guys continue to improve offensively defensively. We're really worried about ourselves right now and getting into the season healthy," Rivera said.

The Apaches will host Poteet at home today at 6:30 p.m.

Gonzales area football teams play last scrimmages

STAFF REPORT

Texas high school football teams head into their last scrimmages this week before the official kickoff of Friday Night Lights on Friday, Aug. 25.

The Gonzales Apaches will host the Poteet Aggies Thursday, Aug. 17 for their last scrimmage and will kick off their 2023 football season on the road against Bastrop Cedar Creek on Friday, Aug. 25.

The Nixon-Smilely Mustangs will hit the road for their final scrimmage against Kenedy; the Mustangs will kick off the season at home against San Antonio Christian on Friday, Aug. 25.

The Shiner St. Paul Cardinals kick off their football season on the road against the Flatonia Bulldogs on Friday, Aug. 25.

The Shiner Comanches will host the Hallettsville Brahmas at home Friday, Aug. 25; and the Luling Eagles will host the Rice Consolidated Raiders for the season opener that same night.

MUSTANGS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14



hustle, effort. Everything was on point," Senior Kendall Amaya said.

The Mustangs struggled early in the match, but quickly turned things around as the match progressed.

"Communication is key. So we all just kind of talked about it. We all just picked each other up as the game went on," Amaya said.

The back three of the Lady Mustangs contributed to multiple long volleys in the match, and hustled to record multiple digs.

Nixon-Smilely junior libero Emily Granados said the communication was great compared to the previous games, and added the team helped each other talked through the match.

Yates was very impressed how the communication went against Falls City and it was best she seen all season.

"I thought it's pretty

much been the best that has been all season so I'm proud of them for sticking through it. We've been working hard. And as long as we can just keep piecing together the front row offense and the back row defense. I think we're gonna be just fine come district," Yates said.

The Lady Mustangs will host a tournament Friday, Aug. 18 and Yates hopes the competition from the tournament gets them ready for a Tuesday, Aug. 22 match with Stockdale.

"I think just these matches where we're going back and forth. I know it's always real emotional anytime we play Stockdale, just because they've been rivals for so long. But being able to come out on top and a tough game like this, when it's back and forth, kind of prepares us for those moments when we need to really dig down deep and pull out the win," Yates said.

VANDY VAN EPPS

Nixon-Smilely libero Emily Granados records a dig against Falls City Tuesday, Aug. 15.

GOLF SCRAMBLE WINNERS



CONTRIBUTED

The winning team from the Aug. 9 Golf Scramble at Independence Golf Course in Gonzales were, from left, Jake Barnick, Devon Benes, Will Ruddock, Chuck Emmick and Brian Sample.



The second-place team from the Aug. 9 Golf Scramble at Independence Golf Course in Gonzales were, from left, Kevin Raderstorf, Mike Turk, Blake Cox, Ralph Agurrie, Morgan Martinez and John Hahn.

Texas Hunting, Fishing Licenses on sale Aug. 15

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

It's August, which means kids are back in school and the fall hunting and fishing seasons are quickly approaching. Before packing your favorite tackle and camo for trips, be sure to purchase an annual fishing and hunting license for 2023-24.

Current-year Texas hunting and fishing licenses (except the Year-from-Purchase All-Water Fishing Package) expire at the end of August. Licenses for the 2023-24 season go on sale Aug. 15.

Texans purchase more than 2.7 million hunting and fishing licenses annually, directly funding a multitude of conservation efforts and recreational opportunities. Some of the many projects made possible by license sales include fish stocking, wildlife management, habitat restoration, public hunting leases, river fishing access and Texas Game Wardens.

Outdoorsmen and women can purchase a variety of licenses online through the official TPWD website, by phone at 1-800-895-4248 during regular business hours or in-person.

New this year, hunters and anglers can purchase additional types of digital licenses including Youth Hunting (Item 169), Lifetime Hunting tags (Item 991), Lifetime Fishing tags (Item 992) and the Exempt Angler tag (Item 257).

The Super Combo license (Items 111, 117 and 990) continues to be available for purchase as a digital license this year as well.

The digital license option is available through online purchase only when licenses go on sale Aug. 15. Digital license holders will not receive a printed license or tags but must keep their digital license available while in the field. Digital tagging is required of digital license holders through the My Texas Hunt Harvest mobile



app. The license can be viewed through the My Texas Hunt Harvest and TPWD Outdoor Annual mobile apps.

TPWD encourages repeat license buyers to use the expedited checkout process, which speeds up re-purchasing licenses bought in recent years.

Customers can access their past and current licenses in several ways: (1) an electronic photo of their licenses, (2) an emailed receipt of their purchases; (3) their account in the online license sales system; (4) via License Lookup in the Outdoor Annual app or My Texas Hunt Harvest app.

Hunting and fishing regulations for the 2023-24 season are available online at outdoorannual.com, on the Outdoor Annual mobile

app. The mobile app is free, and once downloaded, it works without internet connectivity, making it easy for hunters and anglers to view regulations in even the most remote locations. Other features include license lookup, location-based functionality such as "Hunting Seasons and Regulations by Location," "Where to Fish," and more. A limited supply of printed booklets will be available at select TPWD offices. Hunters and anglers are encouraged to call their local offices to check availability.

The My Texas Hunt Harvest app enables electronic submission of mandatory harvest reports, including alligator gar harvest reporting, and supports digital tagging of harvested

deer, turkey and oversized red drum for certain license holders. The app also allows hunters to complete their on-site registration for many TPWD public hunting lands. Hunters can hunt on more than one million acres of public land with the purchase of an Annual Public Hunting Permit.

When buying their license, resident hunters and anglers may wish to purchase an entry in the Lifetime License Drawing. Three lucky winners will each win a Lifetime Super Combo License and never need to buy a Texas hunting or fishing license again. Entries are \$5 each and can be purchased online, by phone or at any license retailer. The first entry deadline is Sept. 30.

When making their purchase,

license buyers can also add a donation of \$1, \$5, \$10 or \$20 to help support the Hunters for the Hungry program or the Fund for Veterans Assistance. Donations to the Hunters for the Hungry program provide hunters with a way to donate legally harvested deer to participating processors. The processed meat goes to local food banks to feed Texas families in need. Donations to the Fund for Veterans Assistance program provide grants to veteran service organizations and nonprofit charitable institutions, assisting veterans and their families at the community level throughout Texas.

For frequently asked questions about Texas hunting and fishing licenses, visit the TPWD website.

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Section included as part of our Thursday, Aug. 31 print and e-edition!

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Domino's Pizza grand opening set for Aug. 21

Domino's Pizza will hold its official grand opening at 1832 Water St., Gonzales, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Monday, Aug. 21. The Gonzales Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture will hold a ribbon cutting to celebrate the new business.

Gaslight Theatre holds auditions for 'Christmas Spectacular'

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIER

Auditions for "The Charitable Sisterhood Christmas Spectacular," the fall production at the Shiner Gaslight Dinner Theatre, will be Monday, Aug. 21 and Tuesday, Aug. 22, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the theatre. Meredith Hairell will direct.

The play is a hilarious holiday comedy that involves the ladies of the Charitable Sisterhood who are preparing for 2nd Trinity Church's annual Christmas Spectacular. Trouble brews when it is discovered that the baby Jesus figure has been stolen from the nativity scene! Finding the guilty thief takes precedence, but the truth isn't disclosed until the end of the Spectacular. The hilarious revelation at the show's climax leaves the audience and the sisterhood filled with the best Christmas spirit ever.

Parts needed are: five adult women, a pianist, two or more stage crew members, technology crew, backstage crew, hair/makeup crew, set designers/builders and costume designers.



With Senator Kolkhorst and other legislators at his side, Governor Greg Abbott signed historic tax relief legislation this afternoon.

Kolkhorst celebrates signing of largest property tax cut in Texas

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIER

State Senator Lois W. Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) joined other state leaders for the signing of the largest property tax cut in Texas history. Governor Greg Abbott, Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick, House Speaker Dade Phelan, and a host of lawmakers gathered in New Caney with hundreds of attendees to usher in a major tax relief package for homeowners and business owners.

"I'm proud to help deliver the largest property tax saving bills in state history," said Senator Kolkhorst. "This tax cut saves homeowners and businesses serious money by returning \$18 billion to taxpayers."

The \$18 billion property tax reduction passed as Senate Bill 2 and House Joint Resolution 2 of the 2nd Called Session of the 88th Legislature. The legislation increases homestead exemptions from \$40,000 to \$100,000 for over 5.7 million homeowners and also decreases the tax rates of public school districts by more than 10 cents.

Homeowners 65 and older will see additional benefits through this legislation; a welcome relief for many living on fixed incomes and battling with ever-rising inflation. With SB 2, combined with Senator Kolkhorst's Senate Joint Resolution 2 from the 2021 2nd Called Session, school taxes for seniors will be re-frozen at a new lower level. School taxes for these senior homeowners now have the possibility of decreasing even after being frozen, but never the possibility of increasing.

"If passed by voters this fall, Texas homestead exemptions will rise to \$100,000, senior homeowners will be protected from being priced out of their home, the small business exemption for the Franchise Tax will double, and Texas small businesses will be protected from excessive appraisal increases," said Governor Abbott. "None of these monumental changes could have been accomplished without the hard work of Lieutenant Governor Patrick and Speaker Phelan. We all came together to offer Texans the property tax relief they so desperately de-

serve, and I am proud to sign these new laws today."

For business owners, Senate Bill 3 doubles the franchise tax exemption to \$2.47 million, which means that 40 percent of small businesses will not pay a franchise tax.

"The signing of this Texas-sized tax cut, the biggest property tax cut in history, is a massive victory for all 5.7 million Texas homeowners," said Lieutenant Governor Patrick. "The combination of compression and the \$100,000 homestead exemption is a powerful one-two punch that will cut school property taxes for the average priced home by \$1,250 to \$1,450 every year on their homesteaded property."

The constitutional amendment will be listed as Proposition 4 on the November 7th ballot and will be added to the Texas Constitution if approved by a simple majority of Texas voters.

"We must balance the needs of government with the limits of a taxpayer's wallet. That's why it's crucial to vote for Proposition 4 this November," said Kolkhorst.

VC Board adopts budget, sets property tax rate

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIER

Following a public hearing on Aug. 14, Victoria College's Board of Trustees unanimously voted to adopt the college's operating budget and set the property tax rate for the 2023-24 fiscal year.

The property tax rate was set at 17.22 cents per \$100 of taxable value, a de-

crease of twelve percent from the current tax rate. It is the college's lowest property tax rate since 2016-17.

The new tax rate includes the first payment on the new \$10 million bond approved by Victoria County voters in May for the construction of a Student Success Center. The bond was sold on July 24, and VC applied \$200,000 from its debt

service reserves (savings). The reduced bond payment resulted in a debt service tax rate of 2.96 cents per \$100 valuation, an 8 percent decrease instead of a slight increase initially projected.

The 2023-24 budget includes a 2 percent cost-of-living salary adjustment and a 1.5 percent step increase for eligible employees.

Sweet Chaos ribbon cutting

Sweet Chaos Shaved Ice will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony with the Gonzales Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 23, at 113 E. Highway 90-A, Gonzales.

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ACROSS

1 Oldham County seat

5 TX Jensen Ackles was in "Rust" before shooting incident with this Baldwin

6 Spanish "little girl"

7 Fri. night score

8 founded in Texas, "Steak and ___"

9 horse racetrack in Selma, Texas: "___ Park"

15 TXism: "up and ___ juice" (coffee)

16 sold by Texas-based Whataburger

19 with "Inc.," Texas based cosmetics company (2 wds.)

21 TXism: "heavy as the front end of a John ___"

22 2nd place (hyph.)

27 in golf, scoring a 3 on ___ 4 is a birdie

28 those kids who ain't a seeker

29 marijuana cigarette

30 "the food was good, what there ___" (small portion)

32 it uses machines that learn (abbr.)

33 TXism: "hot as ___ bumper"

36 A.H. ___ founded the Dallas Morning News

37 TXism: "the ole ball ___ chain" (spouse)

38 fishing boat that drags baited lines

39 front door, e.g.

41 this Smith worked for the Astros for 35 years

42 Texas-born astronaut, White

45 parental response: "because ___ so"

46 end of boxing bout (abbr.)

47 french fries seasoning

48 org. that controls athletic contests in Texas schools

49 fuel nozzle site (2 wds.)

52 sound of something wet hitting a surface

53 lineage-based patriotic org.

54 approvals

55 TX Janis sang "Me and Bobby Mc ___"

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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DOWN

1 ___ Alstynne, TX

2 UT grad, Wallach

3 TX George H.W. ___ wanted a kinder and ___ nation

4 TX Tommy Lee Jones has won one of these (2 wds.)

8 Padre Island beach bronzed (2 wds.)

9 reservoir north of Denton

10 "Gig '___ Aggies!"

11 Texas-born saxophonist, "Tex" (init.)

12 place for a school assembly

13 former talking horse CBS sitcom (2 wds.)

14 Cowboy running back, Tommie (1990-94)

15 Potter County seat

16 Lukas of "Leap of Faith" starring Texas-born Steve Martin straying from the proper course (noun)

17 live in a place

20 San Antonio public FM station

22 home state of Jerry Jones (abbr.)

23 televangelist in Rockwall, TX, Larry

24 Branch Davidians of Waco notoriety

25 "Stark Museum ___," in Orange

26 in Ellis County on I-35 (2 wds.)

28 sword handle

31 Alamo heroes were unable to ___ off the Mexicans

34 TX Sissy was this Lynn in 1980 film "Coal Miner's Daughter" (init.)

35 Texas actor Tommy ___ Jones

37 ___-retentive (overly orderly)

40 took ___ of hot coffee

43 a dog ___ his tail when he's happy

44 TXism: "tame as ___"

50 analyze a sentence into its parts

51 Austin univer.

SUDOKU

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

Abandoned water wells a danger to animals, humans

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

A recent incident in Bastrop County where three people died when they tried to rescue a dog that had fallen into an abandoned cistern highlights the dangers of abandoned or deteriorated water wells in Texas. Cisterns, which are not regulated in Texas, have solid bottoms and sealed sides so they can store water. Although cisterns are not wells, this tragedy shows how below-ground water storage tanks can be just as dangerous as abandoned or deteriorated wells.

The three people were reported to be hog hunters who entered a cistern in a cornfield, trying to rescue a hunting dog that had apparently fallen into the uncovered cistern. The people were all overcome by toxic fumes that had built up in the cistern, according to law enforcement officials in Bastrop County.

There may be thousands of abandoned or deteriorated water wells in Texas posing safety hazards and contributing to groundwater pollution.

Anyone who is aware of abandoned or deteriorated wells is urged to report them to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) at <https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/abwells/default.aspx>. When filing the report, please include an address or GPS coordinates, as well as any photos or video of the well, if possible.

Abandoned or deteriorated water wells can contaminate groundwater by providing a direct conduit for chemicals and



other surface contaminants, such as animal waste and pesticides, to directly enter aquifers. Uncapped wells also present a physical danger to humans and animals who can be severely injured or killed when they fall partially or completely into the well.

Landowners who are not

sure if there are abandoned water wells on their property should look for plastic, steel, brick or concrete casing (pipe) that may extend above ground, or for a hole in the ground with no apparent bottom. Some abandoned wells have concrete or brick casing extending above ground or a windmill with

missing blades. Abandoned or deteriorated well casings or pipes may be cut off at ground level, posing an additional threat.

- Wells are “abandoned” when they are not in use, as defined by Texas Occupations Code, Section 1901.255.
- A “deteriorated” well is a

well that is causing or likely to cause pollution of any water in the state, including groundwater.

Under Section 1901.255 of the Occupations Code, abandoned or deteriorated wells must be plugged or brought into compliance within 180 days of a landowner learning that they have an abandoned or deteriorated well on their property.

Landowners are responsible for abandoned or deteriorated water wells on their property. If a well needs to be plugged, they may plug the well themselves (in compliance with Title 16, Texas Administrative Code, Section (76.104 Capping and Plugging Wells Standards) or hire a well driller or pump installer licensed by TDLR to plug the well or bring the well into compliance.

If a landowner chooses to plug the well themselves, they are required to plug the well in accordance with TDLR’s well plugging specifications (<https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/wwd/wwdspecs.htm>) and submit a State of Texas Plugging Report to TDLR within 30 days from the date the well was plugged.

To avoid problems in the future, landowners should install a locking well cap or sanitary well seal – not just a cover over the well – to prevent unauthorized use or entry into the well. Septic systems should be pumped and inspected as often as recommended by the local health department. Care should be taken when mowing or working near the well.

DISAGREE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

accusations hurled like Nolan Ryan fastballs at a batter’s head.

It is representative of the politics of the day, where personalities run amok and soundbites are exchanged as currency, when it should be policies that lead the way and bipartisanship and collaboration should be the objective.

The late U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg is often quoted as saying, “We can disagree without being disagreeable.” While she represented the left, more liberal, branch of the court, she was known for having an excellent relationship with the late Justice Antonin Scalia as well as with Justice Clarence Thomas, who now is the senior member of the right wing of the court.

They disagreed with one another on most matters of policy, but always did so with respect for one another and without trying to turn their comments into political capital. Wouldn’t it be great if all of our government officials and representatives could aspire to emulate their example?

TxDOT, police step up effort to curb drunk driving

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

YOAKUM – As Labor Day approaches, TxDOT is reminding all Texans about the dangers of drunk driving. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has announced an increased enforcement period from Aug. 18 to Sept. 4. Texas law enforcement agencies are among those that will increase their efforts to pull over motorists suspected of drunk driving.

“Too many people are killed on our roads each year—especially during holidays—due to impaired driving. These crashes are inexcusable and 100% preventable,” said TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams. “If you spend time with friends or family and decide to drink, make the right decision and plan ahead for a sober ride by taking a rideshare, taxi, public transit or designated driver.”

The harsh reality is people continue to choose to drive after

drinking. Last year, there were 345 DUI-alcohol related traffic crashes over the Labor Day holiday weekend alone, resulting in 20 fatalities and 62 serious injuries. Over the course of the year, a person was killed every 7 hours and 17 minutes in Texas because of a DUI-alcohol-related traffic crash, resulting in 1,203 people losing their lives.

The increased enforcement period comes as a new law is set to take effect on Sept. 1 that will require someone convicted of intoxication manslaughter to pay child support if they kill a parent with young children.

Erin Crawford Bowers was six-months old when her parents were killed by a drunk driver. She is now a married mother of two living in New Braunfels. She is sharing her story across Texas to prevent other families from experiencing the same tragedy.

“I just wanted my father to walk me down the aisle or my mom to be there when I had

babies,” said Bowers.

Drive Sober. No Regrets. is a key component of #EndTheStreakTX, a

broader social media and word-of-mouth effort that encourages drivers to make safer choices while behind

the wheel to help end the streak of daily deaths. Nov. 7, 2000, was the last deathless day on Texas roadways.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

A tax rate of \$0.3050 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of GONZALES HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.3050 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.2589 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.3146 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 HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS 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 HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS 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 HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2023 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON September 5, 2023 AT 5:15 pm AT THRIVE Healthplex, 1300 Captain Albert Martin Trail, Gonzales, Texas.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, GONZALES HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS 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 Directors of GONZALES HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS 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: Kenneth Gottwald, President
Tim Markham
Sascha Kardosz
Gene Reed

Stephanie Kodack, Secretary
Lisa Gindler
Kerry Morgan

AGAINST the proposal: Greg Tieken, Vice-President
Wayne South

PRESENT and not voting: None

ABSENT: None

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 HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by GONZALES HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS this year.

	2022	2023	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.3200	\$0.3050	decrease of -0.0150, or -4.69%
Average homestead taxable value	\$139,153	\$151,365	increase of 12,212, or 8.78%
Tax on average homestead	\$445.29	\$461.66	increase of 16.37, or 3.68%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$13,015,209	\$15,462,356	increase of 2,447,147, or 18.80%

No-New-Revenue Maintenance and Operations Rate Adjustments

Indigent Health Care Compensation Expenditures

The GONZALES HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS spent \$3,260,661 from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 on indigent health care compensation expenditures at the increased minimum eligibility standards, less the amount of state assistance. For the current tax year, the amount of increase above last year’s enhanced indigent health care expenditures is \$1,625,784. This increased the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate by \$0.0323/\$100.

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

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**23 SILVERADO 1500
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LAW ENFORCEMENT WEEKLY REPORTS

Gonzales County Sheriff's Office
08/06/23 – 08/12/23

Christopher, 01/1983, Lockhart: Commitment/Sentence – Poss CS PG 1>=1G<4G, Released – Work Release

• Ogg, Dustin Blaine, 05/1994, LaGrange: Local Warrant – Man Del CS PG 1<1G, Local Warrant – Man Del CS PG 1>=1G<4G, Remains in Custody

08/10/23

• Wood, Erik Clayton, 11/1987, Gonzales: Other Agency Hold – Unl Carrying Weapon, Released - \$2,500 Bond

08/11/23

• Izaguirre, Pedro Jr, 07/1982, Yoakum: Commitment Sentence – Engage in Organized Criminal Activity, Released – Weekender

Total Arrest, Court Commitments, other agency arrest and processings:	
GCSO	05
DPS	00
GPD	03
WPD	00
NPD	01
GISD	00
SMO	00
Constable 1	00
Constable 3	00
Constable 4	00
DWCSO	00
DEA	00
TPW	00
GCAI	00
Rangers	00
Other	00
Total	04

BUDGET

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

\$24.57, or 6.05 percent.

The total tax levy on all property in the county is increasing from \$13,972,697 last year to \$14,087,015 this year — an increase of \$114,318, or 0.82 percent. Of that amount, \$120,790 is tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year.

Commissioners will hold a public hearing at 9 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 5, in the Commissioners Courtroom at the Gonzales County Courthouse on the budget for fiscal year 2023-24.

BUDGET AT A GLANCE

The proposed budget calls for general fund expenditures of \$17,491,956.66, an increase of \$1,101,626.83, or 6.7 percent, above last year's general fund budget of \$16,390,329.83. The majority of that increase comes from a salary increase of \$1.50 per hour, or \$3,120 per year, across the board for full-time county employees.

There are also increases for longevity pay as well as for increases for the cost of supplies due to inflation. The general fund is expected to generate \$14,404,526 in revenue for the upcoming year, an increase of 14.8 percent or

\$1,857,286, above the \$12,547,240 that was generated last year.

Gonzales County has also budgeted an overall total of \$6,952,020.52 for road and bridge expenditures, which includes salaries, capital outlay, supplies and money for right-of-way acquisition and maintenance costs. Last year, Gonzales County budgeted \$6,598,756.56, so this year's budget represents an increase of \$353,263.96, or almost 5.35 percent.

While supplies and materials have gone up due to inflation and the expenses also include the salary increase of \$1.50 per hour per road and bridge employee, the commissioners also increased the amount funded to Precinct 2 from \$1,737,971.19 to \$2,076,427.10. There are modest increases to both the Precinct 3 and Precinct 4 expenditure budgets, while the Precinct 1 budget has decreased from \$1,933,524.19 to \$1,781,482.10.

Gonzales County has budgeted revenue of \$5,280,036 for the road and bridge fund for fiscal year 2024, compared to the \$5,934,407 that was budgeted in 2023 — a decreased of \$654,371 in revenue.



Leaders of the University of Houston-Victoria and DeTar Healthcare System participate Tuesday in the groundbreaking ceremony for the university's new Health & Wellness Center. From left are UHV mascot jaX; Chance Glenn, UHV provost and vice president for academic affairs; UHV President Bob Glenn; and Bernard Leger, DeTar Healthcare System CEO. The building will be located at the corner of Ben Wilson and Red River streets and will be across the street from Dairy Queen.

UHV breaks ground on new health, wellness center

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The University of Houston-Victoria hosted a groundbreaking ceremony Tuesday morning to officially begin construction on the university's new Health and Wellness Center.

The UHV Health & Wellness Center will be located at the corner of Ben Wilson and Red River streets across Ben Wilson Street from Dairy Queen. The 38,864 square-foot building will offer UHV students, faculty and staff a place to safely participate in fitness and

wellness activities. It also will be home to a 5,500 square-foot walk-in clinic run by DeTar Healthcare System. The building is projected to be completed in the spring of 2025.

In addition to the clinic, the center will have a variety of spaces for physical and health-oriented activities. The first floor will house two indoor basketball courts that can also be used for volleyball and pickleball, a strength and weight training area, locker rooms, and two multi-fitness rooms for athletics classes. The second floor will feature a padded track, a group fitness area, a cardio fitness area, well-

ness rooms for meditation or mental relaxation, and a functional fitness area for more intense workout programs.

The building was funded through a student fee that UHV students voted to approve in December 2018. UHV also received a \$2 million grant from the M.G. & Lillie A. Johnson Foundation — the biggest gift in the university's history — to help build out the areas that will be used for health education. UHV students will be able to use the building's athletics facilities for free. The university's employees can use the facility for a small fee.

BOND

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"It has been nine years since Gonzales ISD held a bond election to address major facility improvements and renovations," said Avellaneda. "The proposed projects included in the propositions will address improvements at existing campuses that will serve the needs of our students and staff."

The district received valuable input from citizens, business leaders, parents, school administrators and teachers to prioritize the district's current and future needs. After several listening and meeting sessions and garnered input through a survey, the Bond Committee and the Gonzales ISD Board of Trustees concluded with the final recommendations for two separate propositions in the bond proposal.

"We are grateful to the Board and our committee members for their continued commitment to our students and staff," said Superintendent Avellaneda. "The conservative bond proposal will address the growing demand for CTE and other innovative programs, make upgrades to improve safety and security, and address deficiencies identified in our facilities while remaining fiscally responsible and good stewards of taxpayer dollars."

During the discussion phase of the bond, the district originally had a third proposition for a new high school, but school board members gave their opinions about why they didn't put in all three proposition in the November election.

An estimated amount provided to Gonzales ISD by Region 13 consultants reveals that a new high school build is approximately \$144 million, just shy of reaching the bond capacity for residents of Gonzales.

"Building a brand-new school could potentially put the district and its taxpayers in a challeng-

ing situation, the district's bond capacity is \$207 million and the addition of a new high school would cost \$144 million," Avellaneda said. "The combination of three propositions would put us at \$206 million. By removing the addition of a new high school, this approach prevents over-extension of the district's bond capacity, while safeguarding the interests of the community."

"I know the need for a high school and I know a lot of the younger generation, they're really wanting the stadium," board member Josie Smith-Wright said. "I would love to be able to afford all three. But I'm terrified, just like a lot of us are, for our bond to be maxed out at \$209 million and then we have no money left."

Board member Gloria Torres said she wanted to add the high school proposition, but will support what the board decides.

"I think it's good if we're looking at some of the improvements now for the high school, so eventually Junior High can move over there and we can move forward," board Member D'Anna Robinson said.

Robinson added she doesn't want the new high school completely off the table and the district needs a new one.

"Like Ms. Smith-Wright, I don't want us to cap ourselves out and then be in trouble with no extra funding," Robinson said.

Board President Ross Hendershot III said he appreciates all the comments from the board members about this move, and he added he shows support for all the propositions, but will have to move forward with administration's recommendations.

"I think it's important that we continue forward and develop a timeline and a plan and actually go through some of the architecture and planning to put a date to

that timeline and look forward to that additional campus in the future," Hendershot said.

The board voted unanimously, 7-0, to approve the bond election at presented. The potential \$95 million bond is estimated to require a property tax increase of 15.27 cents per \$175,000 valuation, this translates to an increase of roughly \$114.53 per year or \$9.54 per month.

Voters will decide November 7 whether to approve Gonzales ISD's \$95 million bond proposal.

The last day to register to vote for the Nov. 7, 2023 election is Tuesday, Oct. 10. Early voting is Monday, Oct. 23 through Friday, Nov. 3. The ballot will allow voters to vote "for" or "against" the two measures.

In other board business, the board approved the following agenda items:

- approved Construction/Renovation associated with the current lease agreement of the Pace building located on N. Fair Street.
- approved a Resolution Establishing Shared Services with the GISD Education Foundation.
- approved to Authorize the Superintendent to Sign the Legal Services Retainer Agreement with Walsh Gallegos Trevino Russo & Kyle P.C.
- approved the List of Teacher Appraisers and Appraisal Calendar for the 2023-2024 school year.
- approved Meal Prices for the 2023-2024 School Year.
- approved the TEA Staff Development Waiver Minutes Application and Additional Campus Operational Minutes.
- approved an Agreement for the Purchase of Attendance Credits (Option 3 Agreement) and to Delegate Contractual Authority to the Superintendent.
- approved a Notice of Public Meeting to Discuss Budget and Proposed Tax Rate.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The GONZALES INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT will hold a public meeting at 5:30 PM, August 28, 2023 in East Avenue Admin Building, 1615 Saint Louis, Gonzales, Texas. **The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.**

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$0.7331/\$100 (proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	\$0.0916/\$100 (proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)
Approved by Local Voters	

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget	
The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:	
Maintenance and operations	6.24 % increase
Debt service	60.75 % increase
Total expenditures	8.80 % increase

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)		
	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$4,399,565,031	\$5,164,506,477
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$21,214,110	\$41,658,120
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$2,285,332,137	\$2,728,618,107
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$20,593,339	\$39,880,110

*Appraised value is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.
 ** "New property" is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.
 *** "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness	
Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness*	\$17,970,000
*Outstanding principal.	

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates					
	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$0.9185	\$0.0698	\$0.9883	\$9,517	\$2,006
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$0.6907	\$0.0564	\$0.7471	\$8,774	\$2,752
Proposed Rate	\$0.7331	\$0.0916	\$0.8247	\$9,414	\$2,844

*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence		
	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$157,614	\$171,018
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$107,811	\$60,835
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$0.9883	\$0.8247
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$1,065.50	\$501.71
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		-\$563.79

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$0.8280. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of \$0.8280.

Fund Balances	
The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:	
Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$13,435,973
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$0
A school district may not increase the district's maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying the district's debt service.	

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.

SALES TAX ALLOCATIONS

County	City	Rate	Net Payment This Period	Comparable Payment Prior Year	% Change	Payment YTD	Prior Year Payment YTD	% Change
Gonzales	Gonzales	1.500%	\$299,398.99	\$291,879.05	2.57%	\$2,155,316.17	\$2,101,526.08	2.55%
Gonzales	Nixon	1.500%	\$34,703.39	\$35,187.73	-1.37%	\$271,092.22	\$239,557.20	13.16%
Gonzales	Smiley	1.000%	\$2,830.28	\$6,621.00	-57.25%	\$25,572.47	\$23,596.20	8.37%
Gonzales	Waelder	1.500%	\$10,722.64	\$5,936.17	80.63%	\$92,153.64	\$51,181.57	80.05%

TAX

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

are still four months left to go in the calendar year.

Unfortunately, both Nixon and Smiley saw a decrease in sales tax revenue for the month despite it being one where allocations were based not just on sales made in June by businesses that report tax monthly, but also on sales made in April, May and June by quarterly filers.

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar sent cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose districts \$1.2 billion in local sales tax allocations for August, 2.8 percent more than

in August 2022.

For the month of August 2023, Gonzales County municipalities received a combined \$347,655.30 in sales tax allocations, up just \$8,031.35 or 2.36 percent more than the \$339,623.95 received during August 2022.

For the year, county municipalities have received \$2,544,134.50, an increase of \$128,273.45 or 5.31 percent above the \$2,415,861.05 received through the first eight months of 2022.

Sales tax allocations for Gonzales, the largest city in

the county which generates the lion's share of sales tax revenue, were \$299,398.99, up \$7,519.94 or 2.57 percent above the \$291,879.05 received during August 2022.

For the year, the city has received \$2,155,316.17, up \$53,790.09 or 2.55 percent, above the \$2,101,526.08 received at this same point in 2022.

Waelder received a total of \$10,722.64, up 80.63 percent or \$4,786.47, above the \$5,936.17 received in August 2022. For the year, Waelder has received \$92,153.64, up \$40,972.07, or 80.05 percent, above the

\$51,181.57 received at this point in 2022. The city has smashed the record \$84,776.57 it received in all of 2022 and still has allocations coming in September, October, November and December.

Sales tax receipts for Nixon were \$34,703.39, down \$484.34, or 1.37 percent, below the \$35,187.73 received in August 2022. The city received \$1,302.20 less in August than it did in July, which included sales taxes collected during the Feather Fest on Cinco de Mayo in May.

For the year, the city of Nixon

has received \$271,092.22, up \$31,535.02, or 13.16 percent, above the \$239,557.20 received at this same point last year.

Finally, Smiley's sales tax receipts were \$2,830.28, down \$3,790.72, or 57.25 percent, from the \$6,621 received in August 2022. For the year, the city has received \$25,572.47, up \$1,976.27 or 8.37 percent above the \$23,596.20 received in the first eight months of 2022.

Three cities in Gonzales County — Gonzales, Nixon and Waelder — collect a 1.5 percent sales tax rate, while Smiley collects a 1 percent sales tax.

RATE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I really would recommend to go with that. It's not like it's a huge increase. The tax rate is still decreasing from last year. In 2017, we were at 27 and a half cents. I'm proposing y'all go to 29 cents 0.2938." Zella said.

Zella added that everything is increasing due to inflation, from bids and cost of living, and she added it'll not increase the tax rate.

The vote Thursday was at deadlocked at 2-2 with Mayor Steve Sucher and Councilwoman Sherri Koepp voting for the voter approval tax rate and Councilman Lorenzo Hernandez and Councilwoman Ronda Miller voting against it.

Miller said last year she asked for a no new revenue tax rate and made the motion to approve that with Hernandez agreeing with her.

The council would return to vote on this agenda item in the budget workshop meeting Monday, Aug. 14 with Kridler present.

The council approved, 3-2, for the voter approval tax rate; Sucher, Koepp, and Kridler voted yes, and Miller and Hernandez voted no.

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

- approved Closing out Grant #7220052-2020-DRP from the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) in the amount of \$500,000 for Sidewalk and Street Improvements on and around Texas Heroes Square.

- approved Authorizing the City Manager to submit, and accept if awarded, an application and associated documents to the Public Safety Office, Criminal Justice Division, through the Office of the Governor, for up to \$160,000 in Operation Lone Star Grant Funds, for the Purchase of a police vehicle, one drone and overtime for the Police Department.

- approved Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Purchase Agreement for the Purchase of a Chevrolet Tahoe SSV 4x4 for the Fire Department in the amount of \$75,929.

- Authorizing the City Manager to negotiate and execute a License Agreement with Linda Gay Wood Drake granting the use of certain tracts of land as described within said agreement.

- approved the removal of tree on the southern portion of Independence Square east of the Fire Station.

CHAMBER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

No reason was given for why Henderson is no longer working for the Chamber.

Baker said Chamber member and marketing specialist Martha Jimenez will serve as interim director during the transitional period until a new director is hired.

"Martha Jimenez will be serving as interim to fulfill the

duties of Executive Director for the time being," Baker said.

"Some of you may remember, Martha is no stranger to serving our Chamber in this capacity. She was a great asset during our transitional period between Brad's exit and Melissa's hiring. Martha is very knowledgeable of the Chamber's day-to-day operations, familiar with our

members, and experienced in working with our Come and Take It Committee.

"As we know, transitions and staffing changes can see some challenges, but they're part of moving forward. We are excited to move forward and take the Chamber in a positive direction to strengthen it as an asset to its members, the community and

visitors that come to spend time in our city."

Baker said he and the Chamber board "will do our best to keep you informed of progress moving forward as we begin recruiting efforts and open the executive director position for applicants. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions you might have."

More Than You Expect!



High Tech Without the Hard Drive

Did you know? The Jane Johnson Women's Imaging Center at Gonzales Healthcare Systems performed more than 1,500 digital mammograms last year! In addition to state-of-the-art digital 3-D mammography, our Diagnostic Imaging department offers a wide range of advanced diagnostic imaging services – including ultrasound, bone densitometry, fluoroscopy, CT, MRI and X-ray – right here, close to home. Our department is staffed by qualified radiologists and our expert team of imaging technologists is specially trained and licensed by the Texas Department of Health. It's all part of our commitment to provide every patient with a level of healthcare excellence that exceeds expectations.

To more information about advanced diagnostic services, visit gonzaleshealthcare.com or call (830) 672-8499.



1110 N. Sarah DeWitt Drive • Gonzales, TX 78629 • GonzalesHealthcare.com