

The Gonzales Inquirer

OUR 169TH YEAR SERVING GONZALES COUNTY \$1.00

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GONZALES COUNTY

Property values soar more than 20 percent

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

Certified taxable property values for Gonzales County are up more than 20 percent over last year, according to the

certified appraised value rolls from the Gonzales Central Appraisal District.

The certified appraisal rolls were made available to the Inquirer on Aug. 4 and are what local governing bodies use to determine and set their tax rate

for the next fiscal year.

GONZALES COUNTY

Gonzales County shows a total market value of more than \$10.18 billion, which includes land value of more than \$4.2

billion, improvement value of nearly \$1.54 billion, personal property value of nearly \$123.7 million and mineral market value of more than \$4.3 billion. With

See **PROPERTY**, page 13

STAAR test results released for grades 3-8

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

Results released last week from the spring 2023 State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) for grades 3-8 showed some progress made by local school districts as they try to regain pre-pandemic proficiency in reading-language arts, mathematics, science and social studies.

Statewide, results for students in grades 3-8 remained mostly unchanged, but there was promising results for most of the grade levels on the mathematics portion of the test, even as Texas Education Agency official noted "significant

See **STAAR**, page 17

Main Street talks gift card program

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales Main Street Board met for their regular scheduled meeting Thursday, Aug. 17, at City Hall. The board had a presentation on a potential Main Street gift card program that can be used for downtown merchants on Main Street.

Yiftee representative Tyson Senevoravong went over the presentation with the board about how the program works and how the e-gift card works.

The board asked multiple questions that included whether the e-cards are transferable and would merchants be given training in how to use the program.

Senevoravong said there are webinars the board can look at and he would hop on a call for the businesses that are interested in the program. He added that that cards are transferable for

See **GIFT CARDS**, page 13



PHOTO COURTESY OTTINE VFD

Volunteer firefighters look over the smoldering remains of the Luling Mr. Taco on Tuesday, Aug. 22 after the restaurant caught fire and burned. The building is a total loss and comes just three months after the death of family patriarch Bonifacio Magallanez Jr.

'Unimaginable loss': Fire destroys beloved Luling Mr. Taco restaurant

FROM STAFF REPORTS

For the second time in just three months, the staff and customers of Mr. Taco are mourning another "unimaginable loss" after a Tuesday, Aug. 22, afternoon fire

destroyed the flagship Luling restaurant that had been a pillar of the business communities of Caldwell and Gonzales counties for nearly 45 years.

Personnel from Luling Volunteer Fire Department,

Ottine Volunteer Fire Department, Mid-County Fire/Rescue, Seguin Fire Department, City of Luling and Caldwell County Emergency Management responded to

See **FIRE**, page 18

CITY OF GONZALES

Council to hold public hearing on \$31.3M budget

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

The Gonzales City Council will hold a public hearing at 5 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 7, to discuss a proposed fiscal year 2023-24 budget that calls for more than \$31.3 million in expenditures and nearly \$29.7 million in revenues.

The council will not take formal action on the budget or a proposed tax rate of 29.38 cents per \$100 valuation until the next regular council meeting on Thursday, Sept. 14.

The budget is broken down into 13 different funds. Six of those are the General Fund (including JB Wells), Electric, Water, Wastewater, Solid Waste and Debt Service. The other seven are special dedicated funds for

See **BUDGET**, page 13

TxDOT funding includes upgrades to Texas 80 in Gonzales

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

The Texas Department of Transportation has earmarked more than \$78 million in funding to revamp Texas 80 in Gonzales

County to a "Super 2" highway in the 2024 Unified Transportation Plan (UTP), which was announced Aug. 18.

The money is part of a record \$142 billion in total investment into Texas transportation infrastructure, of which \$1.064

billion was designated for the Yoakum District, which is comprised of Austin, Calhoun, Colorado, DeWitt, Fayette, Gonzales, Jackson, Lavaca, Matagorda and

See **ROADS**, page 6

A RAINY DAY IN GONZALES — FINALLY!



VANDY VAN EPPS

Gonzales gets its first sight of rain since Friday, July 7, as remnants of Tropical Storm Harold hit South Central Texas.

GISD school board discusses budget workshop

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

A budget workshop was held by the Gonzales Independent School District in a special called Monday, Aug. 21 meeting with the board of trustees.

GISD Financial Officer Amanda Smith went over the proposed preliminary budget for the 2023-24 school year with the board.

See **WORKSHOP**, page 12

GISD seeking architectural firm for bond package

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Gonzales ISD is seeking qualified firms to provide architectural/engineering and construction administration services

should the district be successful in its combined \$95 million bond issue the board has called for a November election.

The board is accepting these applications until 2 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 19, in

order to be prepared prior to the bond election.

The bond package on the ballot is

See **GISD**, page 6



Female fires gun into air, gets one-way ticket to jail

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

A female Gonzales resident was arrested early Sunday morning, accused of firing off several shots into the air from a

handgun while on a vacant lot near downtown.

GPD officers responded at about 6:47 a.m. to a call of shots fired in the 800 block of Saint Paul Street, which is just

down the street from the police station. Upon arrival, officers spoke with witnesses who stated a female subject was walking in a vacant lot when she fired a handgun in the air multiple

times and then fled the scene.

There was no other person involved in the incident, nor was there any reported incident at any of the businesses nearby. The adult female subject was

identified as Danielle Gonzales, 32, of Gonzales. She was located and taken into custody without incident. Her bond for a charge of deadly conduct discharge of a firearm was set at \$10,000.

COME & TAKE IT CELEBRATION SELECTS ITS PARADE GRAND MARSHAL



CONTRIBUTED

Lester Henry has been named the parade marshal for the 2023 Come and Take It Celebration parade, to be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 7. Henry was a longtime bus driver for generations of Gonzales ISD students who made sure they got to school and home safely.

ESD1 notified of data breach

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

EMS Management and Consultants, Inc. ("EMS|MC") recently notified Gonzales County Emergency Services District 1 of an incident that may have impacted some information related to certain patients.

On May 31, 2023, and again in June 2023, Progress Software Corp. publicly disclosed that its MOVEit Transfer tool had been compromised. Our billing services provider, EMS Management and Consultants Inc. ("EMS|MC"), is a user of that tool. EMS|MC moved quickly to patch the tool and undertook recommended mitigation steps. EMS|MC promptly launched an investigation, with the assistance of third-party cybersecurity specialists, to determine the potential impact of the incident. EMS|MC's investigation determined that an unknown actor accessed the MOVEit Transfer server on May 30, 2023, and took certain data from the server during that time. EMS|MC then engaged a third-party data analysis firm to perform a detailed review of the involved data to understand the contents of that data and to whom it relates.

Through this review EMS|MC learned that some patients' informa-

tion was included within the data.

While EMS|MC was unaware of any misuse of information in relation to the incident, it is providing potentially affected individuals with steps they may take to help protect their information should they feel it is necessary to do so.

EMS|MC is mailing notice letters on behalf of its EMS agency customer to the impacted individuals for whom they have valid mailing addresses. The types of potentially impacted information for patients may include name, date of transport, social security number, date of birth, encounter/transport number, billing codes and other patient information related to the ambulance transport.

Interested individuals can find additional information about the event and how they can help protect their personal information at www.emsbilling.com/notice. They may also contact the toll-free call center, which is dedicated to responding to inquiries about this incident at (833) 318-2801, reference code B100189.

Dredla attends Beef Leaders Institute

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Bonnie Dredla of Luling, Texas, attended the 2023 Beef Leaders Institute (BLI) June 13-17. The annual event is hosted by the American Angus Association and funded by the Angus Foundation and Certified Angus Beef® brand (CAB®). BLI provides Association members the opportunity to experience the beef value chain from pasture to plate.

"It's truly a privilege to welcome a new Beef Leaders Institute class each year," said Mark McCully, Association CEO. "This unique experience fosters growth for attendees and provides an opportunity to connect with their fellow breeders."

Participants began the week at the American Angus Association in Saint Joseph, Missouri. While at the breed's headquarters, attendees met with staff to learn about the many departments and programs housed within the Association. Several Association employees offered insights, including Mark McCully; Kelli Retallick-Riley, Angus Genetics Inc. (AGI) president; and Clay Zwilling, Angus MediaSM president.

Attendees then hit the road, departing from Saint Joseph to further explore the production and processing sectors of the beef industry. They toured Tyson Fresh Meats in Dakota City, Nebraska, and Weborg Feedyards in Pender, Nebraska. For the next leg of the trip, attendees traveled to Ohio to continue studying the beef value chain.

While visiting Buckhead Toledo, Northwood, Ohio, participants experienced the preparation of value-added CAB® products. They explored the impact of genetics in the beef industry at STgenetics, Tiffin, Ohio.

The final days of the experience were spent in The Culinary Center at the CAB® brand's headquarters in Wooster, Ohio. From a "Taste the Difference," steak tasting to a hands-on beef fabrication demonstration in the meat lab, participants explored the specifications behind putting a CAB® steak on the dinner table. Their newly-gained knowledge was even put to the test as they prepared their own steaks



CONTRIBUTED

Bonnie Dredla, Office Manager of the Luling Foundation at the Certified Angus Beef Culinary Center in Wooster, OH.

with the assistance of world-class chef, Venoy Rogers, III.

During a week fully immersing themselves in the industry, the BLI class realized how the cattle they raise influence the industry well beyond their pastures.

"We're always selling bulls and you see the commercial people, but you don't really see what happens to the beef after it leaves," said Trevor Hinkle, an attendee from Nevada, Missouri. "It's just a really interesting process to see what happens after it gets to the packer, leaves the packer, and how there's value made along the whole chain, and how many people are really working to do that. — it's a really eye-opening experience."

Hinkle said he's eager to take what he learned home and share it with his operation's customers. He expressed his gratitude for the knowl-

edge, perspective and new friendships gained throughout the week.

"We are proud to support educational opportunities like Beef Leaders Institute for our members," said Jaclyn Boester, Angus Foundation executive director. "Providing experiences that prepare our breeders for success is a vital part of the Foundation's mission to ensure a bright future for the breed."

Providing continued education for the Angus membership is a priority for the Association. BLI is designed to equip members ages 25 to 45 with the resources to understand all segments of the beef industry. Attendees leave as stronger, more effective leaders for the Angus breed and beef industry.

To learn more about BLI, visit www.angus.org/Event/BLIEntryForm. The 2024 application will be available in early November.

Fourth Thursday Shop & Stroll tonight

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Gonzales Main Street will hold another Fourth Thursday Shop & Stroll this Thursday, Aug. 24, from 5

p.m. to 8 p.m. at Peach Creek Antiques, 627 St. Paul St., Gonzales.

Love Me Last will perform live music in a celebration of downtown retailers, boutiques and restaurants.

Quarterly business round table slated for Sept. 21

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The trifecta of Gonzales Main Street, Gonzales Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture and Gonzales Economic Development Corporation will host a quarterly business round table discussion from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Sept. 21 at Come & Crepe It, 521 N. Saint Joseph St.,

Gonzales.

There will be grant information, social media ideas and basic search engine optimization (SEO), community gift card options and feedback and discussion is welcome. Light refreshments will be served.

For more information, go to gonzalesmainstreet.com.



Celebrations

Birthdays

August 24th Larry Hudson Pamela Malatek Tracy Neitsch Richard Nix Virginia Oliver Kilee Schwausch Clyde Sepeda	August 26th Kasey Engelbretson Dot Henderson	Lola Wilkerson
August 25th Nicole LaFleur Janice Lester Pamela Martinez Dylan Mills Dane Needham Lisa Nowotny Billy Petru Genelda Pruett Samantha Robinson Josh Serrato	August 27th Allison Davis Edna Patterson Skylea Tatsch Robin Zella	August 29th John Evans Samantha Garcia Lavonne Hyden Debbie Menking Janie Rivera Debbie Turk
August 28th Janet Absher Jill Bates Tom Cox Peyton Miller Danie Dae Rodriguez Moss Robert Tomas	August 30th Sharon Barta Melanie Cowan David Floyd Jr. Kenny Hodges Sandi Vaclavik Regina Walker	

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Gonzales Weather

	August 24 103°/78°	Sunny and very warm 5% chance of rain • RealFeel 109
	August 25 104°/76°	Sunny, very warm and humid 10% chance of rain • RealFeel 108
	August 26 103°/76°	Remaining very warm with plenty of sunshine 5% chance of rain • RealFeel 109
	August 27 102°/77°	Hot with plenty of sunshine 5% chance of rain • RealFeel 105
	August 28 99°/78°	Plenty of sunshine, hot and humid 5% chance of rain • RealFeel 105
	August 29 97°/75°	Hot and humid with partial sunshine 20% chance of rain • RealFeel 101
	August 30 98°/76°	Hot with clouds to start, then sunshine returns 25% chance of rain • RealFeel 102

Upcoming Events at J.B. Wells Park in Gonzales

August 25th-27th
Region 6 Rodeo

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Wildflowers need sun, soil and some moisture to grow

Q. When should we plant our wildflower seeds? The ground is so bare, dry, and hot. Will the seed germinate under those conditions?

A. The seed won't immediately germinate but the conditions you describe are good for the eventual germination and growth of the wildflowers. The keys to successful wildflower growth are to accomplish seed contact with the bare soil and eventually have the soil receive some moisture. Most wildflowers also require full sun to grow.

Q. You have written before that our peach and plum trees require water in the summer if they are going to bear fruit next spring. What form should this watering take? How much and how often?

A. It would have been

best if you started the irrigation in July or August, but I would irrigate with a running hose end or soaker hose for 2 hours the first week and then for 1 hour every week through mid-October. If you are in an area with drought restrictions provide the irrigation on your watering day between 7am and 11 am or 7pm and 11pm.

Q. What is the deal with the large marigold transplants without blooms that the nursery is trying to sell? Where were they in the spring when we would have a long bloom period to look forward to?

A. Marigolds are one of the flowers most susceptible to spider mites, by planting them now as the weather begins to cool there is a

better chance for them to escape severe infestations of spider mites. Planted now there is a good possibility that they will bloom until Thanksgiving before the temperature gets too cold.

Q. Our St Augustine lawn is straw colored, how do we know if it is dead or just extremely dry?

A. St Augustine will usually survive if it receives some water every 2 weeks if it has 3 inches of soil. It may survive indefinitely if it has 6 inches of soil. One exception is if the lawn area has less than 6 hours of sun and it is too shady in addition to the drought or other problems. Determine if the grass is alive by hand by watering a small patch every other day for two weeks. If it is alive the grass should green up in the watered patch.



SEPTEMBER GARDENING CALENDAR

September is the month that most gardeners in San Antonio think of as the first month of the winter garden. The list of vegetables that are planted is long and includes both seeded selections and transplants. On my list of transplants that I like to plant in the month are broccoli, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, Swiss chard, cabbage, collards, and kale. Plant carrots, radishes, turnips, beets, rutabagas, and lettuce by seed. I usually wait until November for onion and spinach transplants. Prepare the soil by incorporating 2 inches of compost and 6 lbs. of 19-5-9 slow-release lawn fertilizer into every 10 sq feet of gardening bed.

Some area gardeners are fighting with the drought and heat to produce a crop of tomatoes and peppers this fall. It is not easy; the tomato plants seem to want to grow up like a Christmas tree with the leaves all thin and sharp. The good news is that if you can keep them alive with an expanding root system, if and when the temperatures break, they will rush to produce their crop. Especially if you have one of the semi-determinate heat setting varieties like Thunderbird, Ruby Crush, Red Snapper, BHN 968, or Tycoon. The other hot weather vegetables such as eggplant, peppers and okra are producing fruit. If you have fire ants on the eggplant, you can spray them with an insecticide with Spinosad as

the active ingredient that is labeled for the vegetable garden.

Zinnias are faring well in the flower garden if you can keep them watered. Along with milkweed, porter weed, mist flower, lantana and salvia as they will be a favored nectar source for the Monarch butterflies that we expect to show up in San Antonio on their way to their wintering ground in Mexico.

Thin your perennial beds such as iris, daylilies, and phlox. When you transplant the iris remember that they survive best when the top of the rhizome is level with the top of the soil and that they are not fussy about soil as long as it is not soggy.

The key to maintaining and being able to view your bird population is to have water available. Refill your bird-baths every day. For even more action obtain a recirculating device to provide the birds with moving water. They are inexpensive and there are a number of technologies including water pressure, electricity, or solar power.

Don't underestimate your lawn's ability to survive even if it is straw colored. Bermuda grass and zoysia can go dormant to recover when the rains return and even St Augustine grass can survive if it receives water every 2 weeks. Lawns that grow on 6 inches of soil are especially able to tolerate tough conditions like we are experiencing now.

LIVESTOCK WEEKLY REPORTS

GONZALES LIVESTOCK MARKET

August 19th
Cattle - 1304
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., 315-330; 400-500 lbs., 267-290; 500-600 lbs., 252-265; 600-700 lbs., 225-240; 700-800 lbs., 210-221. Bull Yearlings: 700-900 lbs., 110-195. Stocker-feeder heifers: Medium and large-frame No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 272-275; 300-400 lbs., 250-265; 400-500 lbs., 232-245; 500-600 lbs., 223-228; 600-700 lbs., 205-215. Packer Cows: Good lean utility and commercial, 84-97; Cutters, 102-106; Canners, 52-77; High yielding fat cows, 91-103. Packer Bulls: Yield grade 1 & 2, good heavy bulls, 121-123; Light weights and medium quality bulls, 100-118. Stocker Cows: \$750 to \$1,700. Pairs: \$1,100 to \$1,800.

HALLETTVILLE LIVESTOCK COMMISSION CO., INC.
Sale date: August 15th
Cattle on hand: 2570
Packer Cows:
Canner and Cutter Cows: \$81-110
Utility & Fat Cows: \$81-109
Light Weight Canner Cows: \$55-80
Poor/Weak: \$45-57
Packer Bulls:

Heavyweight Bulls: \$117-126
Utility & Cutter Bulls: \$105-120
Lightweight Canner Bulls: \$96-108
Stocker Cows:
Good Stocker/Cows & Heifers: \$1200-1450
Medium Stocker Cows & Heifers: \$975-1200
Good Cow & Calf Pairs: NONE
Medium Cow & Calf Pairs: NONE
Stocker & Feeder Calves & Yearlings:
Number 1 steer & bull calves:
Under 200 lbs.: \$255-320
200-300 lbs.: \$250-315
300-400 lbs.: \$248-315
400-500 lbs.: \$235-290
500-600 lbs.: \$225-265
600-700 lbs.: \$205-255
700-800 lbs.: \$190-235
Number 1 heifer calves:
Under 200 lbs.: \$230-305
200-300 lbs.: \$220-300
300-400 lbs.: \$220-290
400-500 lbs.: \$215-265
500-600 lbs.: \$205-260
600-700 lbs.: \$190-225
700-800 lbs.: \$175-215
Replacement Heifers:
350-700 lbs.: \$235-285
The calf market remains strong. #1 quality calves in all weight brackets sold steady to \$3 higher. A very active sale overall. Pasture conditions getting serious forcing larger numbers. Packer cows & bulls sold \$2 lower on a total sully of 475 head.

SEGUIN CATTLE CO.
August 16th
Market active and steady on all classes of cattle. Packer cows & bulls 2-3 better.
Cattle - 898
Sheep & goats - 737

Medium & large frame #1 Steers:
200-300 lb. .40-1.59-3.15
300-400 lb. .10-2.02-3.15
400-500 lb. .45-1.99-2.80
500-600 lb. .55-1.80-2.63
600-700 lb. .70-1.64-2.45
700-850 lb. .65-1.62-2.23
Medium & large frame #1 Heifers:
200-300 lb. .55-1.50-2.75
300-400 lb. .20-1.63-2.50
400-500 lb. .40-1.90-2.43
500-600 lb. .40-1.91-2.52
600-750 lb. .90-1.90-2.21
Cows:
Utility & commercial - 60-118-99
Cutters - 50-72-95
Canners - 50-68-87
Palpated cows - 100-1200
Cow/Calf Pairs - 850-1625
Bulls:
Heavy High Yielding - 1.20-1.30
Light & Low Yielding - .75-1.19
Sheep & Goats:
Nannies - 60-190
Kid Goats (Fat) - 1.80-3.10
Wethers - 1.50-2.60
Billies - 1.20-1.85
Dorp. Ewes - 40-110
Dorp. Lambs (Fat) - 2.00-2.65
Woolled Ewes - 80-90
Woolled Bucks - 97-132
Lambs - NONE
Barb. Bucks - NONE

CUERO LIVESTOCK MARKET
August 18, 2023
Number of head 1,722
There were 207 cows and 17 bulls. The packer market on cows and bulls stepped back \$2-\$3/cwt on both cows and bulls as dry conditions are forcing more to market. Top packer bull was at \$122/cwt while tops on packer cows was at \$110.00/cwt.

The calf market was stronger as even with almost 20 pounds of less weights, the average value of a calf was almost \$10 per higher. Lighter weights were much higher. Another solid day of strong demand across the board.
Packer bulls: 108.00-125.00
Packer cows:
canners & cutters 94.00-112.00
poor & weak 35.00-60.00
Palpated: 13BRED 127.00-149.00
PAIRS: 4 \$1,200-\$1,500
Steer Calves: (AVG-HIGH)
Under 200 lbs. NONE
200-249 lbs. NONE
250-299 lbs. 284.00-326.00
300-350 lbs. 258.00-320.00
350-400 lbs. 262.00-322.00
400-450 lbs. 249.00-308.00
450-500 lbs. 238.00-302.00
500-550 lbs. 230.00-260.00
550-600 lbs. 220.00-240.00
600-700 lbs. 220.00-236.00
700-800 lbs. 214.00-226.00
Bull Calves: (AVG-HIGH)
Under 250lbs. 250.00-312.00
250-300 lbs. 262.00-326.00
300-350 lbs. 269.00-316.00
350-400 lbs. 266.00-320.00
400-450 lbs. 248.00-312.00
450-500 lbs. 232.00-280.00
500-550 lbs. 225.00-255.00
550-600 lbs. 216.00-236.00
600-700 lbs. 211.00-230.00
Over 700 lbs. 195.00-217.00
Heifer Calves: (AVG-HIGH)
under 200 lbs. N O N E
200-250 lbs. 231.00-260.00
250-300 lbs. 224.00-266.00
300-350 lbs. 233.00-266.00
350-400 lbs. 230.00-274.00
400-450 lbs. 223.00-300.00
=>replacement
450-500 lbs. 219.00-248.00
500-550 lbs. 214.00-242.00
550-600 lbs. 213.00-227.00
600-700 lbs. 207.00-230.00
Over 700 lbs. 194.00-210.00

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New TDLR laws will take effect September 1

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

New laws – including ones giving TDLR the authority to shut down massage establishments where human trafficking is suspected, re-defining who is a dog or cat breeder, and attaching the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners to TDLR – will go into effect on Sept. 1.

To administer these changes, in some cases the agency must first develop rules for implementation. Some bills include specific direction to TDLR on the rules the agency must adopt and the deadline for adoption. The rulemaking process gives the public an opportunity to provide comment and feedback at TDLR advisory board meetings. The public can also participate in the process when proposed rules are published in the Texas Register and at meetings of the Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation when the rules are discussed and brought up for a vote. The rulemaking process can take several months to complete.

To keep informed about proposed rule changes, TDLR urges the public to sign up for email updates tailored to specific licensing programs: <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/TXD/LR/subscriber/new>. Select “important notices” for the programs of interest.

Among notable new laws involving TDLR:

- SB 1414 attaches the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (TBVME) to TDLR for the next four years. During this time, TBVME will serve as an advisory board to TDLR, and TDLR will provide TBVME with policy-making and administrative oversight, guidance, and support. At the end of the four-year attachment, TBVME will return to its independent agency status.

- SB 876 redefines who is a dog and cat breeder by lowering the threshold for the number of breeding dogs or cats to five or more intact females, and does away with the minimum requirement of sales in a calendar year. Currently, any person with 11 or more adult intact female dogs or cats who breeds them and sells or exchanges at least 20 animals per year must be licensed and inspected. The bill contains a new exception for dogs raised for breed or conformation shows. The law goes into effect on Sept. 1, 2023, and newly affected breeders must have a TDLR license by Jan. 1, 2024.

- HB 3579 allows TDLR's executive director to issue an emergency order halting the operation of any massage establishment if law enforcement or TDLR believes human trafficking is occurring at the establishment. The law goes into effect Sept. 1, 2023.

- SB 1001 creates a regulatory framework for electric vehicle charging stations, giving TDLR the responsibility for charging station inspections and making rules for the installation and operation of electric vehicle supply equipment. The bill also provides consumer protections and consumer complaint procedures. (This law went into effect on June 18, 2023. TDLR has until Dec. 1, 2024, to adopt rules.)

- HB 2313 requires transportation network companies, also known as rideshare companies, to provide human trafficking training to their drivers regarding awareness and how to report suspected trafficking.

- HB 2016 prevents someone from getting a massage therapy license if they have been convicted of, entered a plea of nolo contendere or guilty to, or received deferred adjudication for sexual assault and aggravated sexual assault. Although current law provides for license ineligibility for some offenses, it does not explicitly prohibit licensure for sexual assault or aggravated sexual assault offenses.

- HB 1391 establishes a new career and technology education (CTE) program for individuals that will create a pathway to licensure as a residential wireman. TDLR will establish standards for the program, including classroom and practical requirements and allowing on-the-job training to count for the practical component. The State Board of Education will approve the educational components.



And that was then ...

Backyards were the social scene for kids back in the day

Editor's Note: This column originally ran in the Friday, Oct. 23, 2009, edition of the Gonzales Cannon.

BY BOB BURCHARD

It seems to me kids do not play in the backyard anymore. Most of the activities for kids today are organized and supervised by adults.

Maybe that is good. Times are changing. Society is changing. But, when I was growing up in Gonzales in the 40's and early 50's, the backyard was whatever you wanted it to be.

It could be an athletic field, a jungle, a frontier, a battleground, or a playground. And all the kids in the neighborhood would come in and out of our backyard.

We played the sports of the season. Whatever the Apaches were playing, that's what we played.

The out of bounds lines and goal lines were established by agreement, not by lines on the ground, which prompted a lot of discussions of whether someone went out of bounds, or if a batted ball was fair or foul.

But those things were worked out, because the most important thing was to play, not win.

We always built tree houses in our back yard. The Chinaberry tree was the best for this purpose. The tree limbs were easy to drive nails into. And we would build two, maybe three decks.

Did you ever have a chinaberry fight? Those hard, green berries of the Chinaberry tree were perfect for the throwing at someone.

Occasionally, we might throw a few dirt clods. We never threw rocks. You could hurt someone with a rock. But, we thought it was okay to throw a dirt clod every now and then. At least that's what we thought.

And it worked all right, until some kid's mother would call my mother, to complain about the dirt in her son's hair. And then my mother would jump all over me — and I would stop throwing dirt clods — for awhile.

Our play in the backyard, whether it be sports activity, or Cowboys and Indians, was subject to instant termination when an outsider came into the neighborhood.

For example, when the grocery delivery man came. Do you remember that? When groceries could be delivered to your house. We would stop our play to visit with this man from the outside — find out where else he was going on his delivery route; the paperboy for the Gonzales Inquirer came by every day except Sunday, and his arrival could be an interruption our activity if we were playing in or near the street — of course, we might heave a dirt clod or two in his direction as he pedaled by.

The arrival of the garbage man was always cause for play stoppage. You could hear him coming down the street (the streets were not paved), his two horses pulling big wooden wagon. He was almost right out of the movies, we thought, with those two horses hitched to that wagon, except that he was hauling a slop barrel instead of Roy Rogers or Johnny MacBrown. He would go into the backyard of each house and collect the garbage and then take his bucket back to the street and empty that into this huge barrel in the back of the wagon.

We might follow him from yard to yard, as he did his job, totally entertained by this outsider with his horse and wagon.

And, oh, the most entertaining thing of all was when the gas company dug up the street, looking for a gas leak. Mr. Tommy Cox would be there with his men and their picks and shovels' and all the kids would be there — watching, looking, and taking it all in. Mr. Cox would say, "You boys get back. I don't want you to get hurt." "Yes Sir, Mr. Cox" and in few minutes we would be right back, looking into the open ditch, gazing at the secrets now laid open — tree roots, different layers of dirt, each a slightly different color, moisture seeping into the ditch and the sweet aroma of freshly dug dirt. What a world of treasure, this outsider had opened for us. Not to mention the new supply of dirt clods we now had to greet the paperboy with when he came by. Man, was he in for it.

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OSTRICHES HEAD TO TOE!

When you think of a bird, what do you usually picture? A small bird that flies? Most birds are just like that.

But there is a bird in Africa that's different. An ostrich can grow to be 9 feet tall (2.7 m) and can weigh 320 pounds (150 kg). Even though it is gigantic, it has small wings and does not fly.

Feathers

Males have fluffy black feathers with white plumes on their wings and tail, while females are grayish brown.

Legs

Ostriches may not be able to _____, but they can run! They can reach _____ of over 40 miles per hour (70km per hour). An ostrich holds out its small _____ when running. This helps them keep their _____. And an ostrich's legs are also good for _____

themselves from lions, hyenas, and other _____



Ostrich Eggs

Ostriches lay the largest eggs in the world. Their eggs weigh about the same as two dozen chicken eggs.

Ostriches lay their eggs in shallow pits they scratch into the dirt. Mother and father ostriches take turns lying on top of their eggs. The mother's brown feathers camouflage the egg in the day. The father's black feathers camouflage it at night.

Baby ostriches are only about 10 inches (25cm) tall. They weigh about 2 pounds—less than 1kg.

Standards Link: Science: Students understand that animals have unique features for survival.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Whoops! This chicken is sitting on an ostrich egg! Help her find her way back to her own nest.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

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

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

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

Eyes

Ostrich eyes are the largest eyes of any land animal. They also have long eyelashes. Each eye is bigger than their brain.

How big?

11
Billiard ball
Golf ball

Do ostriches bury their heads in the sand?

Hold this page up to a mirror for the answer!

sbird ot bnuorp ertt no vol oil lliv zsrhtzo ,r9990H .9urt ton zi zirtT .merh eptnuorms3 bns bnuorp ertt rhtsm z9ert999 rirtT .z9rt9999q motT .z9ert rirtT beinud zsrhtzo rirtT 9abi ertt elp9q nevip 9vart trlrim zirtT

Toes

Ostriches have two toes on each foot. And each toe has a long claw.

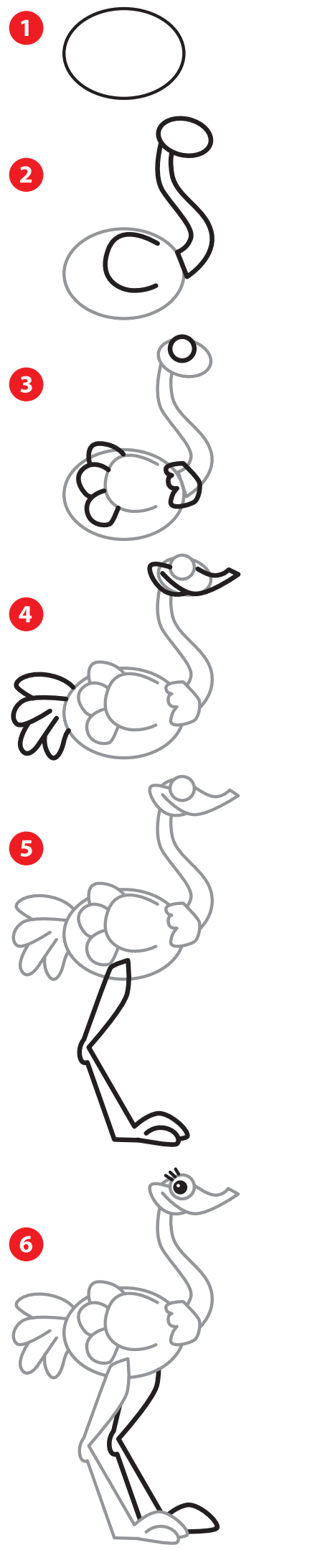
Extra! Extra! Big, Bigger, Biggest

Look through the newspaper for a picture of something big. Then find another picture of something bigger. Then look for the biggest thing you can find in the newspaper. Glue these to a sheet of paper with the words **Big, Bigger, and Biggest**. Can you repeat this with pictures of things that are small, smaller, and smallest?

Standards Link: Language Arts: Understand comparative and superlative adjectives.

Kid Scoop Together Let's Draw!

Follow these steps to draw an ostrich.



Write On!

My favorite animal is ...

Finish this story.

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BURCHARD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Times have changed. The streets are paved; the gas company has ditch-digging machines and Mr. Cox died a few years ago. Groceries are not delivered to your house anymore; the Inquirer does not come every day.

Sometimes in the spring, I want to take off my shoes and socks, and play softball in someone's back yard; decide where the foul lines are as we get ready to play. Sometimes my ears strain to hear the horses and garbage wagon rattling on the unpaved street. I want to stand on a dirt pile in my bare feet and peer into an open ditch — looking, searching for what? Maybe the old neighborhood; the lost sense of adventure; looking for the feeling of community, the feelings of safety, security, love.

But, probably when I look into that open ditch and play that game of softball in someone's back yard, I will be looking for something more personal — I will be searching for me.

And that is part of our history. The history of Gonzales, Gonzales, Texas — the birthplace of your Texas freedom.

LAWS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

- HB 1859 creates an opportunity for high school students or community college students to receive HVAC certification by lowering the minimum age from 18 to 16 to apply for a registered technician license. Anyone under 18 will be required to work under direct supervision of a licensed ACR contractor or a certified ACR technician.

- SB 478 gives TDLR the authority to approve more motorcycle operator instructor training courses. Currently, to become a certified motorcycle instructor in Texas, a person must complete the motorcycle operator training instructor preparation course, which the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service offers exclusively. Some provisions of the bill become effective Sept. 1, while the entire bill becomes effective Jan. 1, 2024.

- SB 1213 establishes an 11-member Mold Assessment and Remediation Advisory Board at TDLR. The new board is designed to provide expertise and perspectives from mold assessors and remediators, home building contractors, the insurance industry, and the public. The law became effective May 29, 2023, and board members must be appointed no later than Dec. 1, 2023.

For a full list of laws affecting TDLR licensees, see <https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/legislation.htm>.

GISD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

comprised of two propositions. Proposition A for \$50.6 million 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 for \$44.48 million 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.

“ This plan will help the lives of all Texans for years to come as we work to move people and goods safely and efficiently in our rural, urban, and metropolitan areas.”

— Marc Williams, TxDOT executive director

ROADS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Wharton counties.

Other money for the Yoakum district includes \$524 million for reconstruction of US 59 to I-69 standards from Wharton to El Campo in Wharton County; \$396 million for reconstruction of IH 10 in Colorado County and \$42 million for US 77 in Fayette County.

The UTP calls for \$26,769,745 to upgrade Texas 80 from the Guadalupe County line to US 90A in Belmont; \$20,419,889 to upgrade Texas 80 from US 90A to 1.23 miles north of Farm-to-Market Road 1682; and \$31,229,156 to upgrade Texas 80 from 1.23 miles north of FM 1682 to the intersection with FM 1681. All three segments will be turned into a Super 2 Highway.

A Super 2 Highway is a two-lane rural highway in which a periodic passing lane has been

YOAKUM DISTRICT Listed Projects

MULTI-COUNTY PROJECTS										
MAP ID	HIGHWAY	PROJECT NAME / PROJECT ID (CS / NUMBER)	FROM	TO	ESTIMATED LET DATE RANGE	CONSTRUCTION COST ESTIMATE	UTP ACTION	TOLL	AUTHORIZED CONSTRUCTION FUNDING BY CATEGORY	TIER
1a	US 77	Widen Non-Freeway - Lee County (Lee County) 0211-05-022	0.56 Miles North of CR 156	Lee County Line	FY 2024-2027	\$4,807,692	New Authorization	No	Cat. 4 Rural \$4,807,692 TOTAL \$4,807,692	1
1b	US 77	Widen Non-Freeway - La Grange (Fayette County) 0211-06-059	Lee County Line	SH 71	FY 2024-2027	\$116,780,410	Funding Adjustment	No	Cat. 4 Rural \$116,780,410 TOTAL \$116,780,410 Cat. 4R increased \$38M	1
COLORADO COUNTY										
MAP ID	HIGHWAY	PROJECT NAME / PROJECT ID (CS / NUMBER)	FROM	TO	ESTIMATED LET DATE RANGE	CONSTRUCTION COST ESTIMATE	UTP ACTION	TOLL	AUTHORIZED CONSTRUCTION FUNDING BY CATEGORY	TIER
2a	SH 71	One-Way Frontage Roads - Columbus 0266-02-068	US 90	IH-10 (West Bound Frontage Road)	FY 2024-2027	\$46,545,875	New Authorization	No	Cat. 4 Rural \$46,545,875 TOTAL \$46,545,875	1
2b	IH 10	Widen Freeway - Columbus 0271-01-083	Colorado River Bridge	US 90 (Alleyton Rd South)	FY 2024-2027	\$177,888,070	Funding Adjustment	No	Cat. 4 Rural \$177,888,070 TOTAL \$177,888,070 Cat. 4R increased \$157M	1
2c	IH 10	Widen Freeway - Columbus 0535-08-072	FM 2434	Colorado River Bridge	FY 2024-2027	\$285,149,976	Funding Adjustment	No	Cat. 4 Rural \$285,149,976 TOTAL \$285,149,976 Cat. 4R increased \$193M	1
GONZALES COUNTY										
MAP ID	HIGHWAY	PROJECT NAME / PROJECT ID (CS / NUMBER)	FROM	TO	ESTIMATED LET DATE RANGE	CONSTRUCTION COST ESTIMATE	UTP ACTION	TOLL	AUTHORIZED CONSTRUCTION FUNDING BY CATEGORY	TIER
3a	SH 80	Super2 Highway - Gonzales County 0287-03-034	UA 90	1.23 Miles North of FM 1682	FY 2024-2027	\$20,419,889	New Authorization	No	Cat. 4 Rural \$20,419,889 TOTAL \$20,419,889	1
3b	SH 80	Super2 Highway - Gonzales County 0287-04-038	1.23 Miles North of FM 1682	FM 1681	FY 2024-2027	\$31,229,156	New Authorization	No	Cat. 4 Rural \$31,229,156 TOTAL \$31,229,156	1
4	SH 80	Super2 Highway - Gonzales County 0287-03-036	Guadalupe County Line	US 90A	FY 2024-2027	\$26,769,745	New Authorization	No	Cat. 4 Rural \$18,437,707 Cat. 11 Energy Sector \$8,332,038 TOTAL \$26,769,745	1
JACKSON COUNTY										
MAP ID	HIGHWAY	PROJECT NAME / PROJECT ID (CS / NUMBER)	FROM	TO	ESTIMATED LET DATE RANGE	CONSTRUCTION COST ESTIMATE	UTP ACTION	TOLL	AUTHORIZED CONSTRUCTION FUNDING BY CATEGORY	TIER
5	SH 35	Interchange at FM 172 - Jackson County 0179-09-034	At SH 172		FY 2024-2027	\$21,111,580	Funding Adjustment	No	Cat. 4 Rural \$21,111,580 TOTAL \$21,111,580 Cat. 4R increased \$7.6M	1

added to allow faster vehicles to pass. The passing lane typically alternates from one direction of travel to the other within a section of roadway, which allows periodic passing opportunities in both directions in a safe manner. The transitions at the beginning and end of the passing lane allow sufficient room for the diverging and merging traffic.

Funding for Texas 80 was included in the plan due to its connectivity to Interstate 10, a vital corridor which connects San Antonio to Houston. The southern part of the highway also sees a great deal of energy sector traffic because of natural gas extraction in the Eagle Ford Shale, one of the largest natural gas fields in the country.

The 2024 UTP represents a \$25 billion increase in total investment from the previous year.

“Thanks to our booming economy, Texas has achieved a major milestone in our transportation infrastructure with this record \$142 billion investment that will strengthen our roadways and build a next-generation transportation network,” said Gov. Greg Abbott. “Through this record transportation investment project, the State of Texas will further improve roadway congestion and safety to meet the growing needs of Texans in our large metros, rural communities, and everywhere in between. This plan will not only connect Texans from every corner of our state, it will also bolster our economic growth and ensure Texans and businesses continue to thrive for generations to come.”

“This historic investment in our transportation system is

critically important to help meet the needs of our fast-growing state,” said Texas Transportation Commission Chairman J. Bruce Bugg, Jr. “Thanks to the leadership of Governor Abbott and our Texas Legislature, Texas continues to see growth in the transportation investments needed to support a world-class transportation system focused on safety and congestion relief.”

“This plan will help the lives of all Texans for years to come as we work to move people and goods safely and efficiently in our rural, urban, and metropolitan areas,” said TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams. “TxDOT is already putting these resources to work with a record number of projects aimed at improving safety and saving lives on our roadways.”

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.



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Despite heat, dove season expected to have soaring numbers

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

A cool and rainy spring means that despite above-average summer temperatures, Texas hunters could encounter significantly increased dove populations as the 2023 season opens Sept. 1.

Spring surveys conducted by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) staff found an estimated 28.3 million mourning doves in Texas, a 44 percent increase from 2022. White-wing dove populations have increased 20 percent, tying the record high with an estimated 11.7 million this year.

"This spring was about as perfect as it could be, with steady rains and cool weather," said Owen Fitzsimmons, TPWD Dove Program Leader. "Given the population increases

this year and the excellent breeding season conditions that persisted through the first half of the summer, hunters should expect to see a lot more birds on the landscape this September."

As daily temperatures top 100 degrees with no relief in sight, hunters will likely find larger concentrations of birds at watering holes, and doves may be feeding earlier and later than normal to avoid the mid-day heat. In areas where agriculture has suffered from the heatwave, look for stands of common sunflower, croton and other native annual forbs and grasses.

Texas is home to seven species of native doves and pigeons, including the three legal game species- mourning, white-winged and white-tipped doves. Texas accounts for 30

percent of the total mourning doves and 85 percent of the total white-winged doves harvested in the U.S. each year, far more than any other state.

TPWD officials remind hunters to prepare for the extreme heat and make sure they are packing all the essentials for a day in the field. They should bring plenty of water to stay hydrated and take measures to stay cool in a shaded area. The same is true for canine hunting partners.

"If this extreme heat persists, think twice about bringing your dog out in the early season," Fitzsimmons said. "Temperatures this high can be dangerous for dogs, particularly when they're excited and running hard after birds. If you do bring them, try to limit the hunts to early mornings or late evenings."

The regular dove seasons:

- North Zone: Sept. 1-Nov. 12, resuming Dec. 15-Dec. 31, 2023
- Central Zone: Sept. 1-Oct. 29, resuming Dec. 15, 2023-Jan. 14, 2024
- South Zone: Sept. 14-Oct. 29, resuming Dec. 15, 2023-Jan. 21, 2024

For the third straight year, there will be six Special White-Winged Dove Days, Sept. 1-3 and 8-10.

The aggregated bag limit in South Zone's regular season is 15 with no more than two white-tipped doves. During the Special White-winged Dove Days in the South Zone, hunting is allowed only from noon to sunset and the daily bag limit is 15 birds, to include not more than two mourning doves and two white-tipped doves.

All updated hunting regulations for this year's hunting

season can be found in the Texas Outdoor Annual mobile app or online at OutdoorAnnual.com.

In addition to a hunting license, anyone born after Sept. 1, 1971, must successfully complete a hunter education training course to hunt legally in Texas. The TPWD Hunter Education certification is valid for life and is honored in all other states and provinces. Hunters can find more information or print a replacement at no cost online.

A Migratory Game Bird Endorsement (Stamp) and Harvest Information Program (HIP) certification are also required to hunt dove. HIP certification involves a brief survey of previous year's migratory bird hunting success and is conducted at the time licenses are purchased.

Texas A&M Forest Service opens grant applications to fight wildfires

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Emergency grant applications are now open for volunteer fire departments included in Governor Abbott's wildfire disaster declaration.

"Volunteer firefighters are our first line of defense against wildfires in Texas," said Wes Moorehead, Texas A&M Forest Service Fire Chief. "During this active summer season, these firefighters are responding to wildfires daily. They work in extreme conditions that not only challenge them physically but also cause their equipment to become worn and damaged."

The disaster declaration is in response to wildfires that began on July 24, 2023, which "pose an imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury or loss of life or property" in the 191 counties listed.

In addition to preventing and responding to wildfires, Texas A&M Forest Service is here to help firefighters by administering emergency grants

through the Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program.

The emergency grants fund essential equipment that needs repairing and replacement damaged during response efforts. Essential equipment can be repaired or replaced for 100 percent of the cost up to \$15,000.

Apparatus replacement, or replacement of water tenders, large and small brush trucks or large and small truck chassis can be replaced for 90 percent of the cost up to various amounts, the maximum being \$240,000.

"Having the proper equipment to respond to wildfires is essential," said Moorehead. "Emergency grants for repair and replacement equipment are expedited to provide assistance as quickly as possible."

The budget for declared disaster emergency grants is 10 percent of the Rural VFD Assistance Program budget, nearly \$1.7 million this fiscal year.

Texans should stay aware and immediately call 911 if a wildfire is spotted.

WORKING ON THE HIGHWAY



Road work continues on Interstate 10 in Gonzales County just past the Fayette County line. Traffic was down to one lane westbound on Tuesday, Aug. 22. The work is part of a project to overlay 3.659 miles of road from U.S. 90 to the Fayette County line, one of nine ongoing projects being worked on in Gonzales County by TxDOT.

PHOTOS BY LEW K. KOHN

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

A tax rate of \$0.2938 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of CITY OF GONZALES.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.2938 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.2910 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.2938 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 CITY OF GONZALES from the same properties in both the 2022 tax year and the 2023 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that CITY OF GONZALES 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 CITY OF GONZALES is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2023 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON September 7, 2023 AT 5:00 PM AT City Hall, 820 N Saint Joseph St, Gonzales, TX.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, CITY OF GONZALES 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 City Council of CITY OF GONZALES 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: Steve Sucher, Sherri Tumlinson Koepf, Joseph Kridler

AGAINST the proposal: Ronda Miller, Lorenzo Hernandez

PRESENT and not voting:

ABSENT:

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

	2022	2023	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.3117	\$0.2938	decrease of \$-0.0179, or -5.74%
Average homestead taxable value	\$139,900	\$152,668	increase of 12,768, or 9.13%
Tax on average homestead	\$436.07	\$448.54	increase of 12.47, or 2.86%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$1,764,204	\$1,790,701	increase of 26,497, or 1.50%

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

Fiesta Guacamole returning to Waelder on September 2

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The 2023 Fiesta Guacamole, sponsored by St. Patrick Catholic Church, will be held, as usual, on Labor Day weekend — this time on Saturday, Sept. 2 at Waelder City Park. Admission is free and gates open at noon.

There will be a soccer tournament at noon. For information on entry,

contact Adrian Rangel at 830-445-9506. The guacamole mash will be held at 3 p.m. and a raffle drawing will take place at 7 p.m.

Activities include Spin the Wheel, a mechanical bull, a jumping castle, kids games, trinkets and ring toss.

Food includes tamale plates, gorditas, tamales by the dozen, mini tacos, hamburgers, roasted

corn, snow cones, aguas frescas and cold beer.

There will be entertainment by JR Reyna and Elegido, Grupo Actual and DJ Reyna.

Pre-festival activity includes a live auction this Saturday, Aug. 26, at 7 p.m. at St. Patrick Church Hall.

The event is sponsored by Bud Light and Estrella Jalisco.

The Gonzales Inquirer will be closed on

Labor Day - Sept. 4, 2023

to celebrate the holiday with family and friends.

Have a safe and happy holiday from
The Gonzales Inquirer staff

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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

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

By: *Georgia Mahoney*

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.

Public Hearing Notice

The City Council of the City of Nixon will hold a Public Hearing on August 28th, 2023, at 5:30 at the Nixon City Hall, 302 E. Central Ave., Nixon, Tx 78140, to allow for public comment for the Proposed Budget Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2023, and ending September 30th, 2024.

This budget will raise more total property taxes than last year's budget by \$179,115 or 56.03% and of that amount, \$10,958 is tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year.

This notice of Public Hearing was posted for public viewing at City Hall in Nixon, Texas, a place convenient and readily accessible to the public at all times.

Attest:

Tanya Torres

Tanya Torres
 City Secretary

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Media Release: Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

The Waelder Independent School District announced today it will operate the Community Eligibility Program (CEP) under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program for the 2023–2024 school year. Schools qualifying to operate CEP serve breakfast and lunch to all children at no charge and eliminate the collection of meal applications for free, reduced-price, and paid student meals. This approach reduces burdens for both families and school administrators and helps ensure that students receive nutritious meals.

For additional information please contact the following person:

Waelder Independent School District
 Attention: Rosalba Villegas
 Food Service Program
 109 Avenue C
 Waelder, TX 78959
 Phone: 830-239-5600 Ext 215 or 830-857-0419
 rvillegas@waelderisd.org

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or (2) fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: Program.Intake@usda.gov. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Comunicado de prensa muestra: Disposición de Elegibilidad Comunitaria (CEP)

El Waelder Independent School District anunció el día de hoy que continuará su política de operar la Disposición de Elegibilidad Comunitaria (CEP) bajo el Programa Nacional de Almuerzos Escolares y el Programa de Desayunos Escolares para el año escolar 2023–2024. Las escuelas que califican para operar la Disposición de Elegibilidad Comunitaria (CEP) sirven desayuno y almuerzo a todos los niños sin cargo y eliminan la recolección de solicitudes de comidas para obtener comidas para estudiantes gratuitas, a precio reducido y pagadas. Este nuevo enfoque reduce las cargas tanto para las familias como para los administradores escolares y ayuda a garantizar que los estudiantes reciban comidas nutritivas.

Para obtener información adicional, por favor comuníquese con la siguiente persona:

Waelder Independent School District
 Attention: Rosalba Villegas
 Food Service Program
 109 Avenue C
 Waelder, TX 78959
 Phone: 830-239-5600 Ext 215 or 830-857-0419
 rvillegas@waelderisd.org

Conforme a la ley federal y las políticas y regulaciones de derechos civiles del Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos (USDA), esta institución tiene prohibido discriminar por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, edad, discapacidad, venganza o represalia por actividades realizadas en el pasado relacionadas con los derechos civiles (no todos los principios de prohibición aplican a todos los programas). La información del programa puede estar disponible en otros idiomas además del inglés. Las personas con discapacidades que requieran medios de comunicación alternativos para obtener información sobre el programa (por ejemplo, Braille, letra agrandada, grabación de audio y lenguaje de señas americano) deben comunicarse con la agencia estatal o local responsable que administra el programa o con el TARGET Center del USDA al (202) 720-2600 (voz y TTY) o comunicarse con el USDA a través del Servicio Federal de Transmisión de Información al (800) 877-8339. Para presentar una queja por discriminación en el programa, el reclamante debe llenar un formulario AD-3027, formulario de queja por discriminación en el programa del USDA, el cual puede obtenerse en línea en: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, de cualquier oficina de USDA, llamando al (866) 632-9992, o escribiendo una carta dirigida a USDA. La carta debe contener el nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del reclamante, y una descripción escrita de la supuesta acción discriminatoria con suficiente detalle para informar al Subsecretario de Derechos Civiles (ASCR, por sus siglas en inglés) sobre la naturaleza y fecha de una presunta violación de derechos civiles. El formulario AD-3027 completado o la carta debe presentarse a USDA por: (1) Correo: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) correo electrónico: program.intake@usda.gov. Esta institución es un proveedor que ofrece igualdad de oportunidades.

Career and Technical Education Annual Public Notification of Nondiscrimination

Nixon-Smiley CISD offers career and technical education pathways in Information Technology Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, Health Science, and Hospitality and Tourism. Admission is based on grade level, age appropriateness, interest, and class space availability. Students must follow the course sequence for each pathway.

It is the policy of Nixon-Smiley CISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap in its vocational programs, services, or activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups 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 Nixon-Smiley CISD 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.

Nixon-Smiley CISD 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 at wendy.fuller@nixonsmiley.net, 830-582-1536 ext.103, and/or the Section 504 Coordinator at wendy.fuller@nixonsmiley.net, 830-582-1536 ext.103.

Nixon-Smiley CISD
 800 N. Rancho Road
 Nixon, TX 78140
 830-582-1536 ext. 102

Notificación Publica de No Discriminación en Programas de Educación Técnica y Vocacional

Nixon-Smiley CISD ofrece programas de educación técnica y vocacional en Ciencias de la Tecnología de la Información, Tecnología, Ingeniería y Matemáticas, Agricultura, Alimentos y Recursos Naturales, Ciencias de la Salud y Hotelería y Turismo.

La admisión a estos programas se basa en la admisión se basa en el nivel de grado, adecuación a la edad, interés y disponibilidad de espacio de clase. Los estudiantes deben seguir la secuencia del curso para cada camino.

Es norma de Nixon-Smiley CISD no discriminar en sus programas, servicios o actividades vocacionales y brinda igualdad de acceso a los Boy Scouts y otros grupos juveniles designados por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo o impedimento, tal como lo requieren el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, según enmienda; Título IX de las Enmiendas en la Educación de 1972, y la Sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973, según enmienda.

Es norma de Nixon-Smiley CISD no discriminar en sus procedimientos de empleo por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, impedimento o edad, tal como lo requieren el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, según enmienda; Título IX de las Enmiendas en la Educación, de 1972, la ley de Discriminación por Edad, de 1975, según enmienda; y la Sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973, según enmienda.

Nixon-Smiley CISD tomará las medidas necesarias para asegurar que la falta de habilidad en el uso del inglés no sea un obstáculo para la admisión y participación en todos los programas educativos y vocacionales.

Para información sobre sus derechos o procedimientos de quejas, comuníquese con el Coordinador del Título IX en wendy.fuller@nixonsmiley.net, 830-582-1536 ext.103, y/o el Coordinador de la Sección 504 en wendy.fuller@nixonsmiley.net, 830-582-1536 ext.103.

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Notice to Creditors
 Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Independent Administration for the Estate of JOHN ROBERT BROWN, Deceased, were issued on August 14, 2023, in Cause No. PW23-0285, pending in the County Court of Gonzales County, Texas, to: JOAN LYNETTE BEHRENS and KAREN ANITA BROWN, Co-Independent Executors of the Estate of JOHN ROBERT BROWN, Deceased.

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.

JOAN LYNETTE BEHRENS and KAREN ANITA BROWN, Co-Independent executors, Estate of JOHN ROBERT BROWN, Deceased
 c/o: Sue C. Ortman
 403 St. George
 GONZALES, TX 78629

Dated the 16th day of August, 2023.


 Sue C. Ortman
 Attorney for: JOAN LYNETTE BEHRENS and KAREN ANITA BROWN
 Co-Independent Executors, Estate of JOHN ROBERT BROWN, Deceased
 State Bar No.: 15324425
 403 St. George
 Gonzales, Texas 78629
 Tel: (830) 672-9535
 Fax: (830) 672-8654
 ortman@gvec.net

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PUBLIC NOTICE
 Gonzales Independent School District requests qualifications from qualified design professionals to provide Architectural/Engineering and Construction Administration Services for GISD's Possible November 2023 Bond Construction Program. GISD has called for a bond election for the following Program, which consists of: (1) Proposition A, Career & Technology Education Center, Ag Barn, and District-Wide Safety & Security, Accessibility, Maintenance Projects; and (2) Proposition B, Athletic Complex. If the Program passes, in whole or in part, and the Owner elects to proceed with the Architect's services for all or part of the projects in the Program, the Architect would proceed with the services. Gonzales ISD's Request for Qualifications, which includes requirements and instructions for the submission of qualifications and other important information, can be obtained at the Gonzales ISD's offices at 1615 Saint Louis Street, Gonzales, Texas 78629, on the district's website <https://www.gonzalesisd.net/Page/171> and by contacting the Chief Financial Officer at amanda.smith@gonzalesisd.net. Submissions will be accepted by the District until Tuesday, September 19, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. All submissions are to be sent to Gonzales ISD, Attn: Chief Financial Officer, at the address shown above. No faxed or emailed submissions will be accepted. Gonzales ISD reserves the right to reject any or all submissions.

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Tent revival set for Saturday in Gonzales

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Christian Fellowship Tent Ministries will hold an Alive in Christ Revival tent meeting with Evangelist Bobby and Betty Clamer at 6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 26, at 408 CR 236, Gonzales. The event is sponsored by the Life Changing Church.

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Hey there folks. I hope y'all are remembering to pace yourselves properly, as life's definitely a marathon and best not treated as a 100 yard dash. This especially applies to the elderly, as sprinting at older ages just leads to skid marks on the tennis balls of our walkers. Not there yet myself, and pray I won't be somewhere down the line, but don't we all?

I gotta admit, I still seem to be much better at giving advice than following it myself. But again, aren't we all? After doing plenty of prep for my last family visit a couple of weeks back, I couldn't seem to get recuperated in my usual fashion, leaving me to wonder what the heck was going on. Little did I realize at the time that my over-work shenanigans would leave me so depleted... and vulnerable to attack. I've always said that if you don't set yourself up for success, you're automatically setting yourself up for failure. Hey dummy, listen to yourself. Yep, just spent the last week in bed with a heavy duty sinus infection, complete

with enough snot to drown a duck, headaches that felt like a wrecking ball to the face, and fever that, after the rest of the skin flakes off of my head should leave it shinier than a disco ball. I'm generally a very healthy person, and after not having so much as a cold in the last eight years, this just confirms that being sick sucks, and is highly not recommended. Kids, don't try this at home, pace yourself, you'll be glad you did!

Seeing as how we all seem to struggle with communication skills to some degree (even with ourselves), it made me think of an article I recently read on the origin of the term "Roger That". As a young boy, I remember our family moving to Columbus, Georgia, as my dad was training at Fort Benning at the time. I quickly made friends with the boy my age next door, but snickered when he told me his name was Roger, as I'd only heard it mentioned in the term "Roger, over and out". We became best of friends, spending a lot of fun times to-



ERIC ESTES

Love, Eric and Eloise

gether, swimming, camping, and playing in my backyard parachute hung in a tree, and I missed him greatly after we left Georgia, even if he did have a weird name.

Apparently during WWII, as morse code was being replaced by two-way radios and walkie-talkies, a clearer way of communicating with more clarity and less mistakes was implemented, employing the phonetic (alteration of ordinary spelling) alphabet, and was adopted by military personnel, as well as aviators. Even in first Corinthians 14:8 it reminds us that "If the bugle gives an indistinct sound, who will get ready for battle?" You may also recognize this from of communication from movies with terms like Alpha, Bravo, Tango, Charlie etc. This left listeners with little doubt as to the accuracy of the message being

broadcast, and is still used today. Some of the most recognizable terms are; Roger (received), Wilco (will comply), Over (finished speaking for moment), and Out (conversation complete). The word Copy meant: was message understood?

Many people probably don't realize that morse code was actually inspired by norse code, invented by the ancient seafaring warriors of Scandinavia known as the Vikings, which after many successful conquests settled in North America in the northern territory known as Minnesota, forming a formidable football team named after themselves... just kidding! I explained last week that I recently changed my mind and ordered a smaller version by mistake, so hang in there, we may be in for a downward spiral.

I appreciate you, and our local paper for allowing me these random 270 blurps over the years, it's been a blast! Until next time, have a great week... love you guys, Eric.

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

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OBITUARY

HELEN "LENEE" GILSTRAP



Helen "Lenee" Gilstrap, 66, of Gonzales, Texas passed away on Tuesday, August 15, 2023. She was born on July 27, 1957, in Austin, Texas to Darlene "Butch" Gilstrap and Clarence "Rags" Gilstrap.

Lenee was a person full of energy and didn't know a stranger. She loved to make people smile or laugh with her sense of humor and the jokes she would get from Reader's Digest. Lenee loved horses and taught horsemanship in Shady Springs while attending High School. She loved outdoor activities such as hunting, fishing, and shooting guns but her favorite thing that gave her excitement and joy was riding on the Rhino ATV with her Dad shooting grasshoppers with a pellet rifle.

Lenee at the age of 12 years old at Woodlawn Baptist Church received Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior and was baptized. She loved her Lord and any chance she was given would share her faith with others. She later would begin teaching Sunday School at Congress Avenue Baptist Church to kindergarten girls. Lenee also loved her Hymns and also loved playing the piano praising her Lord through music. She was

dedicated to keeping her Dad in line at meal time making sure prayer was never forgotten. Lenee became a member at Eastside Baptist Church on May 3, 2009. She loved her church family and enjoyed being at the head table at Sunday School while her Daddy would teach the class.

Lenee is survived by her Father, Clarence "Rags" Gilstrap, Uncles, Aunts, and several Cousins. She was preceded in death by her Mother Darlene "Butch" Gilstrap.

The family would like to receive all friends at the Memorial service Saturday, August 26, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. at Eastside Baptist Church, 701 Seydler St., Gonzales, Texas 78629 to celebrate the life of Lenee Gilstrap.

Memorials may be made to: Your favorite Charity

New year of 4-H begins on Sept. 1

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The 2023-2024 4-H year officially kicks off Sept. 1, with early enrollment beginning Aug. 15. Gonzales County 4-H of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is excited to welcome new and returning members to another year of 4-H programming and opportunity.

4-H is a club for youth ages 8 to 18 in third through 12th grades. All youth can join 4-H for \$25 each and will select one or many projects to participate in from the categories of agriculture and livestock, family and community health, leadership and citizenship, natural resources, and STEM.

Community service, leadership, and scholarship opportunities are also included in the offerings of this program that reaches more than 550,000 youth in Texas each year.

"The start of the new 4-H year is such an exciting time in our program," Texas 4-H Youth Development Program Director Dr.

Montza Williams said. "We hope to see members take advantage of every opportunity that 4-H has to offer this year, and we hope to see new members begin their journey in this life-changing program."

Not only do youth gain knowledge in the topic area of their choice, but life skills like communication, teamwork, citizenship, giving back, and working hard are obtained along every step of the way.

"According to past members, one of the most common 4-H benefits is friendship," Dr. Williams said. "Friendship in your county, your district, your state, and even your nation. 4-H is rich in the opportunity to make friends who are interested in the same things you are."

The new 4-H year is not only exciting for members, but for 4-H volunteers as well. The Texas 4-H program thrives on adult volunteers, with more than 30,000 registered and background-check-approved volunteers, annually.

"The volunteers are what make this program accessible to all youth," Dr. Williams said. "We are incredibly thankful for the work our volunteers do across the state and encourage adults that have a skill to share to reach out to their County Extension Office about becoming a 4-H volunteer."

The Gonzales County AgriLife Extension Office is located at 1709 E. Sarah DeWitt Drive, Gonzales, Texas 78629. For more information about 4-H enrollment, events, and projects, visit our website at gonzales.agriLife.org.

Gonzales County 4-H will be having a free kick-off event Sept. 14 from 4p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Pace Building, 623 Fair St., next to Gonzales Elementary. Families interested in 4-H are invited to our Open House to learn more about 4-H projects and events. Come join for the fun. If you have any questions, call Gayle Bludau, County Extension Agent at 830-672-8531.

USDA: \$72.9 million in grant funding awarded

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) today announced \$72.9 million awarded to 55 states and territories through the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP). The grant program provides funding to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops and support specialty crop growers through marketing, education, and research.

"USDA is excited to announce that this year's Specialty Crop Block Grant awards marks over \$1 billion invested in nearly 12,000 projects that support the U.S. spe-

cialty crop industry," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "The Specialty Crop Block Grant Program is a critical piece of USDA and the Biden-Harris Administration's efforts to support small and mid-sized producers and ensure Americans have sustained access to fresh, locally grown specialty crop products."

Fiscal year 2023 SCBGP funding is awarded to the departments of agriculture in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Funding for SCBGP is authorized by the

2018 Farm Bill.

States are encouraged to sub-award funding to projects that address the needs of U.S. producers of fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops. Funded projects include investing in food safety, specialty crop research, including research to focus on conservation and environmental outcomes, developing new and improved seed varieties and specialty crops, and pest and disease control. Additional projects focus on increasing child and adult nutrition knowledge and consumption of specialty crops; and improving efficiency and reducing costs of distribution systems.

LAW ENFORCEMENT WEEKLY REPORTS

Gonzales County Sheriff's Office
08/13/23 - 08/19/23

Elida, 02/1986, Nixon: Other Agency Hold - Parole Violation; Remains in Custody

08/14/23
• Ramirez, Marcos Daniel, 07/1978, Nixon: Local Warrant - Man Del CS PG 1 >=1G<4G, Requires \$100,000 Bond; Remains in Custody

08/18/23
• Izaguirre, Pedro Jr., 07/1982, Yoakum: Commitment/Sentence - Engage in Organized Criminal Activity; Released - Weekender

08/15/23
• Vera, Ricardo, Jr, 07/2000, Harwood: Warrantless/On-View - Duty on Striking Fixture/HWY Landscape >=\$200; Released - \$200 Bond
• Eldridge, Austin Rene, 02/2003, Gonzales: Local Warrant - Poss Marij <2oz, Requires \$20,000 Bond; Remains in Custody
• Martinez, Dominic Angel, 03/2001, Gonzales: Warrantless/On-View - Assault of Pregnant Person, Requires \$20,000 Bond; Remains in Custody

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

GCSO	06
DPS	01
GPD	02
WPD	00
NPD	01
GISD	00
SMO	00
Constable 1	00
Constable 3	00
Constable 4	00
DWCOS	00
DEA	00
TPW	00
GCAI	00
Rangers	00
Other	00
Total	10



WORKSHOP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Smith said this year's budget is not a result of one or two people, but the community and having a strategic plan.

"We had numerous community members, every staff member in the district had an opportunity to contribute, students and parents," Smith said.

"So this really is the culmination of our community's effort. I applaud and thank each of them, because

without their hard work, we wouldn't be where we are today, as well as your leadership. It truly is a team effort to create the district budget and maintain a healthy financial position," Smith added.

Smith went over the general fund, debt service fund, child nutrition fund, and the tax rate with the board.

The 2023 tax rate is set to decrease again, from 0.9883 last year to 0.8247

this year. In other business, the board approved the following agenda items:
• approved, 6-1, the revisions for the 2023-24 district compensation plan
• approved, 7-0, the implementation of a stu-

dent internship program within the communication department at a rate of \$7.25 an hour.

The board will host another budget workshop meeting Monday, Aug. 28 at the Gonzales ISD Administration Building.

BRITNEY JONES CAKA
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Sam Houston State University announces summer grads

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The following area students received degrees during the 2023 Summer semester at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville:

- Cole Hendershot, Gonzales, Bachelor of Science, Animal Science

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

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Dr Desai (713) 864-2659
- Nephrology**
Azhar M. Malik, M.D. (361)-576-0011
George Osuchukwu, MD (361)576-0011
Yong Du, MD (361)576-0011
- Obstetrics**
Alyson Kirchner, M.D.-OBGYN (830) 379 - 1500
- Pain Management**
Eric Miller, M.D. (830) 272-7746
- Urology**
Robert Ryan, III, M.D. (830) 379-8491
- Ophthalmology**
Joseph Kavanagh, M.D. (830) 379-3937
- Orthopedics**
Trent Twitero, M.D. (830) 625-0009
- Podiatry**
Terri Quebedeaux, D.P.M., P.A. (830) 303-0005
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PROPERTY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

a productivity loss of more than \$3.7 billion, that drops the total market taxable value to nearly \$6.47 billion.

The county had more than \$339.5 million in losses and exemptions totaling more than \$17 million, dropping the net taxable value to more than \$6.11 billion.

When protested value and tax ceilings (taxes frozen for those 65 and older) are taken into account, that drops the total adjusted taxable value to a little more than \$5.82 billion. That is an increase of \$987.9 million, or 20.4 percent, above last year's net taxable value of a little more than \$4.83 billion.

Gonzales County added nearly \$50 million in new real estate improvement market value for 2023 as well as a whopping \$643.2 million in new mineral improvement market value.

CITY OF GONZALES

The City of Gonzales shows a total market value of more than \$882 million, which includes land value of more than \$104.7 million, improvement value of nearly \$546.9 million, personal property value of more than \$36.4 million and mineral market value of nearly \$194.2 million. With a productivity loss of more than \$9.3 million, that drops the total market taxable value to nearly \$872.9 million.

The city had more than \$181.7 million in losses and exemptions totaling more than \$2.6 million, dropping the net taxable value to more than \$688.5 million.

When protested value and tax ceilings (taxes frozen for those 65 and older) are taken into account, that drops the total adjusted taxable value to just under \$609.5 million. That is an increase of nearly \$43.6 million, or some 7.7 percent, above last year's net taxable value of more than \$565.9 million.

The city added nearly \$3.7 million in new improvement taxable value for 2022.

GONZALES ISD

Gonzales ISD shows a total market value of property in Gonzales County of more than \$4.98 billion, which includes land value of more than \$2.11 billion, improvement value of nearly \$1.1 billion, personal property value of nearly \$83.5 million and mineral market value of more than \$1.69 billion. With a productivity loss of more than \$1.82 billion, that drops the total market taxable value to nearly \$3.16 billion in Gonzales County.

GISD had nearly \$256.8 million in losses and exemptions totaling more than \$228.9 million, dropping the net taxable value for the portion in Gonzales County to more than \$2.67 billion.

Property inside the district's boundaries that is within Caldwell

County has total market value of \$184.2 million, with net taxable value of nearly \$57.8 million, bringing the total taxable value of all property to nearly \$2.73 billion.

That is an increase of more than \$443 million, or nearly 19.4 percent, above last year's net taxable value of nearly \$2.29 billion.

The district added nearly \$41.7 million in new real estate improvement market value for 2023 as well as more than \$176.9 million in new mineral improvement market value.

CITY OF NIXON

The City of Nixon shows a total market value in Gonzales County of nearly \$123.7 million, which includes land value of more than \$16 million, improvement value of nearly \$65.4 million, personal property value of more than \$10.4 million and mineral market value of more than \$31.7 million. With a productivity loss of more than \$1.2 million, that drops the total market taxable value to nearly \$122.5 million. Nixon had nearly \$15.2 million in losses and exemptions totaling nearly \$350,000, dropping the net taxable value for the portion in Gonzales County to just under \$107 million.

Property inside the city's boundaries that is within Wilson County has net taxable value of nearly \$43.6 million, bringing the total taxable value of all property to nearly \$150.6 million. That is an increase of nearly \$30.5 million, or nearly 25 percent, above last year's net taxable value of more than \$120.1 million.

The city added \$320,780 in new improvement taxable value for 2023.

NIXON-SMILEY CISD

Nixon-Smiley CISD shows a total market value of property in Gonzales County of nearly \$2.87 billion, which includes land value of nearly \$1.16 billion, improvement value of more than \$228 million, personal property value of more than \$25 million and mineral market value of nearly \$1.46 billion. With a productivity loss of nearly \$1.04 billion, that drops the total market taxable value to more than \$1.83 billion.

Nixon-Smiley had more than \$57.5 million in losses and exemptions totaling nearly \$82.2 million, dropping the net taxable value for the portion in Gonzales County to a little over \$1.69 billion.

Property inside the district's boundaries that is within Wilson County has net taxable value of nearly \$72.6 million, while property inside the district's boundaries that is within Guadalupe County has a net taxable value of \$8.82 million, bringing the total taxable value of all property to more than \$1.77 billion.

That is an increase of \$449.2

million, or nearly 25 percent, above last year's net taxable value of more than \$1.32 billion.

CITY OF WAELDER

The City of Waelder shows a total market value of nearly \$72.1 million, which includes land value of nearly \$11.9 million, improvement value of more than \$31.6 million, personal property value of more than \$6 million and mineral market value of more than \$22.5 million. With a productivity loss of nearly \$3.5 million, that drops the total market taxable value to more than \$68.6 million.

The city had more than \$13 million in losses and exemptions totaling more than \$426,580, dropping the net taxable value to more than \$55.1 million.

That is an increase of nearly \$6.32 million, or nearly 13 percent, above last year's net taxable value of more than \$48.8 million.

The city added \$384,210 in new improvement taxable value for 2022.

WAELDER ISD

Waelder ISD shows a total market value of property in Gonzales County of more than \$846.6 million, which includes land value of more than \$568.2 million, improvement value of more than \$136.3 million, personal property value of nearly \$12.5 million and mineral market value of more than \$129.5 million. With a productivity loss of more than \$511 million, that drops the total market taxable value to almost \$335.6 million.

Waelder ISD had nearly \$20 million in losses and exemptions totaling nearly \$25.9 million, dropping the net taxable value for the portion in Gonzales County to nearly \$289.9 million.

Property inside the district's boundaries that is within Caldwell County has net taxable value of more than \$171.7 million, bringing the total taxable value of all property to more than \$461.6 million.

That is an increase of \$133.5 million, or nearly 40.7 percent, above last year's net taxable value of nearly \$328.1 million.

CITY OF SMILEY

The City of Smiley shows a total market value of more than \$26.2 million, which includes land value of more than \$4.62 million, improvement value of nearly \$18.9 million, personal property value of more than \$2 million and mineral market value of more than \$681,000. With a productivity loss of more than \$701,000, that drops the total market taxable value to more than \$25.5 million.

The city had more than \$5.5 million in losses and exemptions totaling more than \$1.27 million, dropping the net taxable value to more than \$18.7 million.

BUDGET

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Tourism, the Gonzales Memorial Museum Fund, Forfeiture Fund, Municipal Court Fund, Robert L. Brothers Library Fund, PEG Franchise Activities Fund and Economic Development.

With the exception of the Solid Waste, Tourism, Memorial Museum and Economic Development funds, all are budgeted to spend at the same level or less in 2023-24 than they did in 2022-23.

The budget calls for total expenditures of \$31,308,637 and total revenues of \$29,668,945. It anticipates the city will use \$1,639,692 of its \$14,159,721 combined total fund balance to balance the budget, leaving the city with an ending combined total fund balance of \$12,520,029 on Sept. 30, 2024.

The General Fund, which includes the JB Wells Park, Arena & Expo, is anticipate to generate \$10,065,560 in revenues against expenditures of \$10,065,559. This represents a decrease of more than \$2.1 million from the \$12,170,044 budgeted this past fiscal year.

The largest percentage of general fund expenditures is the Police Department, which is expected to spend \$2,850,480, or 31 percent of the general fund budget when excluding JB Wells, followed by the Fire Department, which has projected expenditures of \$1,537,690, or 17 percent of the budget excluding JB Wells. Parks (\$739,238, 8 percent), Streets (\$698,051, 8 percent) and Finance (\$605,583, 7 percent) are the next largest expenditure areas. The biggest decrease in expenditures came in the streets department (down from \$2,425,296 in 2022-23) due to the conclusion of grants

the city had received.

JB Wells has projected expenditures of \$932,121 against revenues of \$670,850. The lion's share of expenditures for JB Wells comes from personnel expense (\$465,294), operational expenses (\$294,127) and maintenance costs (\$89,000), while biggest revenue sources are from the Texas Junior High Rodeo (\$177,500), horse stall rentals (\$100,000), RV site rentals (\$85,000) and arena and expo rental fees (\$70,000 each).

The Electric Fund is projected to produce \$11,212,245 in revenues and to expend \$11,193,048, while the Water Fund will collect \$3,208,440 and will spend \$3,192,759 and the Wastewater Fund will collect \$1,741,600 and will expend \$1,541,943.

The Solid Waste Fund will generate \$876,750 in income and will expend \$850,468. The Debt Service Fund (DSF) revenues are estimated to come in at \$828,200 with expenses of \$815,200.

Tourism is estimated to receive \$575,000 in revenues and \$603,284 in spending. The Memorial Museum is estimated to receive \$2,500 in revenues and \$9,000 in expenditures. The Forfeiture Fund is estimated to receive \$4,300 in revenues and \$20,500 in spending.

The Municipal Court Fund is estimated to receive \$2,350 in revenues and \$8,000 in spending. The Robert L. Brothers Fund is estimated to receive \$1,700 and \$30,600 in expenditures. The PEG Franchise Fund is estimated to receive \$14,550 and to spend \$75,000. The Economic Development Fund will have \$1,135,750 in revenues and \$2,903,275 in spending.

GIFT CARDS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

those shopping in Gonzales.

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

- approved pausing acceptance of all grant applications until the first Monday of November.
- approved the Main Street vendor booth at

2023 Come and Take It Celebration and Mullet Judging contest

- approved tabling the agenda item regarding the continuation of Shop & Stroll fourth Thursday.
- approved setting the date for Main Street Business Roundtable Thursday, Sept. 21 at 5:30 p.m.



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ACROSS

1 TXism: "he's still got some snap in his garters"

5 squeezein' snakes

6 TXism: "it's near '___'" (approximate)

7 Texas veggie: fried ___

8 golf or football prop

9 TXism: "bone ___" (cemetery)

16 TXism: "got a mind like a steel ___"

18 Hawaiian dance attire (2 wds.)

21 TX Don Henley's "All She Wants ___ Do Is Dance"

22 TXism: "working between ___" (night work)

23 once a brand of GMC cars

24 Crowell High School football (2 wds.)

30 TXism: "behind the ___"

34 TX Chandra Wilson was ___ Miranda Bailey on "Grey's Anatomy"

35 small, narrow river

36 Gulf canvas

37 Amarillo's "Big Texan" features a 72-___ steak

39 TX George H.W.'s NASA director (2 wds.)

43 cowboys ___ buckles on their belt

44 party inflatable

45 sodium symbol

46 TXism: "just a ___ in the bucket"

47 UT has original manuscript of E.M. Forster's "Passage ___"

49 former Texas honky tonk used in "Urban Cowboy"

52 Ranger Eovaldi stat.

53 UT's Benton directed "Kramer ___ Kramer"

54 7th signs of the zodiac

55 "if ___ me you'll be sorry"

58 what most Texas college students have (2 wds.)

59 "heavy" Cameron AM station

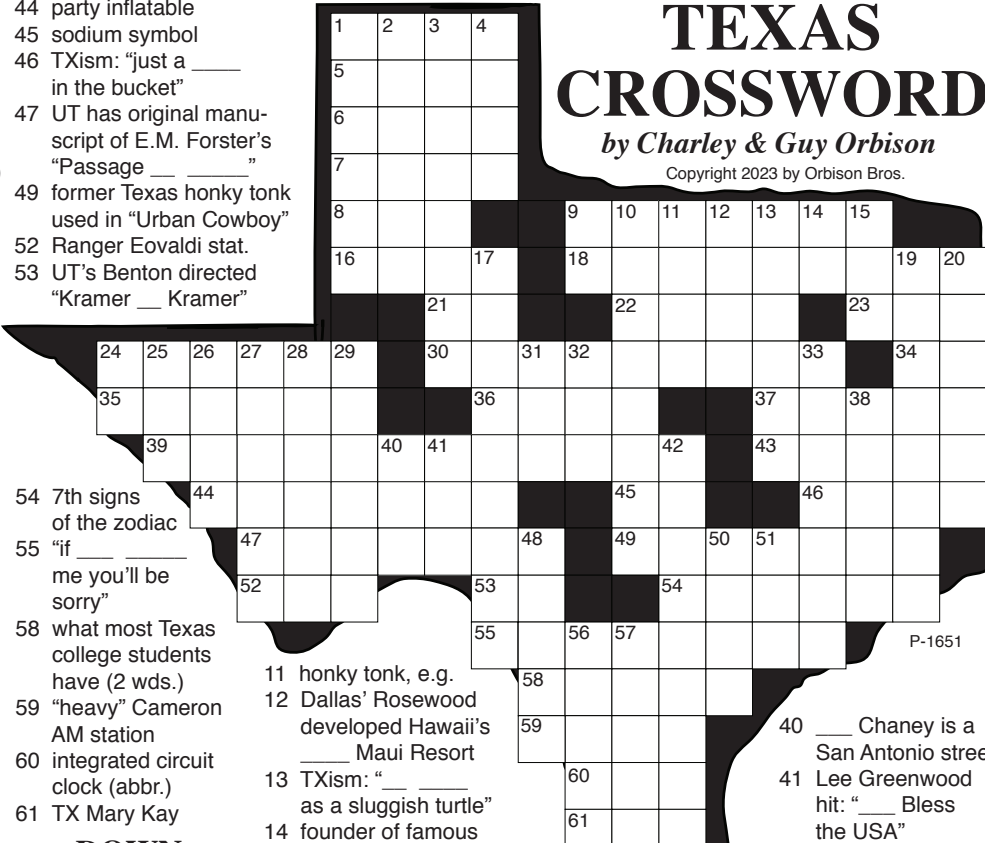
60 integrated circuit clock (abbr.)

61 TX Mary Kay

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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DOWN

1 Texas birth town of Willie Nelson

2 northernmost Texas town

3 Grace Noll Crowell was a Texas poet

4 TXism: "como ___" (how are ya?)

9 TX Holly's "___, Boy" stealing cattle

11 honky tonk, e.g.

12 Dallas' Rosewood developed Hawaii's ___ Maui Resort

13 TXism: "___ as a sluggish turtle"

14 founder of famous TX King Ranch (init.)

15 TXism: "shin ___" (big dance)

17 "rash" vine? (2 wds.)

19 disaster relief organization (2 wds.)

20 you're apt ___ what you sow

24 35th governor, Coke (init.)

25 former Ford model

26 Semitic person

27 TX Ted Cruz group

28 Gulf traveler

29 pilot Earhart

31 TXism for "female"

32 TXism: "he ___ out" (concealed)

33 in Jones County on highway 6

38 TXism: "___ soul" (no one)

40 ___ Chaney is a San Antonio street

41 Lee Greenwood hit: "___ Bless the USA"

42 spread near Albany (2 wds.)

48 "___ in the tub"

50 West Texas animal: mountain ___

51 Luling Watermelon Thump once had a melon that weighed 88 of these (abbr.)

56 extreme adjective

57 TXism for old, senile men

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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

Answers found in next week's Classifieds.

Lady Apaches' late rally falls short against Hallettsville

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales Lady Apaches volleyball team traveled on the road to face a familiar team, the Hallettsville Lady Brahmas, Tuesday, Aug. 22.

The Lady Apaches and Lady Brahmas battled back and forth for all five sets, with Gonzales forcing a late rally near the end of the fifth set, but ultimately falling in that deciding game.

Lady Apaches head volleyball coach Jillian Gonzales said this was the fourth match against Hallettsville and both teams got a chance to know each other during tournament season.

"Our girls have gotten to know everything about that team, as well as myself. We learned how to play smarter volleyball. We learned how to work together in and how to communicate bet-

ter," Gonzales said.

Gonzales added it's a learning process when facing a team five times — that includes hitting weak spots.

The Lady Apaches won sets two (25-18) and four (25-15), and Coach Gonzales was proud how her team played against Hallettsville and battling through adversity.

"In those five matches, we have gotten seven matches in a row and they know that they are getting better at pushing through all of these matches. We did like I said, we did seven matches in a row or seven sets in a row. So, we are learning to fight through some tough situations," Gonzales said.

District play is around the corner for the Lady Apaches, and they'll compete in one more tournament in Cuero Thursday, Aug. 24 and play three more

non-district matches before the Friday, Sept. 8 district opener against La Vernia.

Gonzales hopes the Hallettsville match will get them ready for more tough competition at the Cuero and get ready for district.

"I expect to play some fast communicating teams there and hoping to learn how to play in that type of environment and in that type of situation and get ready for district," Gonzales said.

The Gonzales Lady Apaches will travel to Edna for non-district contest against the Cowgirls.

Match is set at 6 p.m.

SET SCORES:

Gonzales Lady Apaches: S2: (25-18) and S4: (25-15)

Hallettsville Lady Brahmas: S1: (25-17), S3: (25-19), and S5: (15-12)



Gonzales Lady Apaches senior Kelly Breitschopf (8) records a dig in the back court in a five set battle with the Hallettsville Brahmas on Tuesday, Aug. 22.

VANDY VAN EPPS

Lady Mustangs host home tourney

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The Nixon-Smiley Lady Mustangs volleyball team returned to action Friday, Aug. 18 for their home tournament.

The Lady Mustangs started the first day of the tournament with a 3-0 start and beat Yorktown, 2-0, in the opening match.

Nixon-Smiley head volleyball coach Loraine Yates and the Lady Mustangs have hosted the home tournament for the second year, and Yates is always excited to host the tournament.

"I'm excited that we're able to do this. I like that we kind of were able to get some new faces in the gym this year, something different from last year and try to get some new competition in here," Yates said. "As far as getting the first winner of the tournament, I think our expectation as a team coming in was to leave the weekend with some hardware, so we're just gonna keep aiming for that goal. And hopefully we can come out with a couple more W's today," Yates added Friday.

See **MUSTANGS**, page 16



NIXON-SMILEY VOLLEYBALL

Stockdale sweeps Lady Mustangs

STAFF REPORT

The Nixon-Smiley Lady Mustangs hosted their rival, the Stockdale Lady Brahmas, for a non-district match Tuesday, Aug. 22.

The Lady Mustangs fell to Stockdale in a three-set sweep (8-25, 11-25, 8-25) at home.

Nixon-Smiley travels to Cuero Thursday, Aug. 24 for its last tournament for the season, and will have three more non-district matches before the Friday, Sept. 8 district opener against Marion.

The Lady Mustangs will travel to Yoakum Tuesday, Aug. 29 for non-district match against the Lady Bulldogs.

Match is set for 7 p.m.

LEFT: Lady Mustangs senior Jaylee Bustos (8) jumps in the air for a spike attempt against the Yorktown Kitty Kats in their home tournament Friday, Aug. 18.

VANDY VAN EPPS

Lady Apaches travel to Schulenburg for tournament

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales Lady Apaches volleyball team traveled to Schulenburg, Thursday, Aug. 17, for their second tournament of the season.

The Lady Apaches took on some tough competition at the tournament

last week, facing teams like Yoakum, East Bernard, Round Top-Carmine, and more.

Gonzales fell to Yoakum, Round Top and East Bernard in the first day of the tournament, but Lady Apaches head volleyball coach Jill Gonzales hopes her team learns from the

See **VOLLEYBALL**, page 16



PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS

ABOVE: Senior Kelly Breitschopf (8) spikes the ball for a kill for the Lady Apaches against East Bernard in the Schulenburg Tournament Thursday, Aug. 17. RIGHT: Lady Apaches seniors Macy Sample (12), Sam Baker (4), and Kelly Breitschopf (8) compete against East Bernard in the Schulenburg Tournament Thursday, Aug. 17



Apaches close out scrimmages with Poteet Aggies

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

Last Friday concluded the final week of high school football scrimmages in Texas, including the Gonzales Apaches, who had theirs on Thursday, August 17.

The Apaches hosted the Poteet Aggies for the last scrimmage of the season and played a whole half in preparation for the season opener against Cedar Creek.

Second year head football coach Joey Rivera and the Apaches are getting final rosters spots filled in and mixing in JV and freshmen players with varsity team members.

“Very important for them to see the speed of the game, get into the lights a little bit, because some of those guys, their numbers may be called before the end of the season,” Rivera said. “You never know, what with injuries and depth issues and stuff. Those guys are the next ones up and they’ve got to be ready to go.”

Rivera said, defensively, the Apaches started off good in the first 10 minutes of the scrimmage and getting out of the scrimmage healthy was the number one priority.

The Apaches will head on the road for the season opener against the Eagles, and Rivera and his staff’s main focus is making Gonzales the best team they can be, he said.

“Obviously we’ll work as coaches to get a game plan for Cedar Creek, but we’re still worried about the Gonzales Apaches and making sure we’re doing everything right and putting in all of our stuff, so you know it’s still a process,” Rivera said.

The Apaches will play the Eagles Friday, Aug. 25 at Bastrop Memorial Stadium. Kickoff is set for 7 p.m.



Gonzales Apaches senior wide receiver Davonte Smith catches a pass in the endzone in the Poteet Scrimmage Thursday, Aug. 17 at Apache Field.
PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS



ABOVE, LEFT: The Gonzales Apaches defensive line squares off against Poteet’s offensive line in the final scrimmage. ABOVE, RIGHT: The Gonzales Apaches raise their helmets in the huddle. Gonzales kicks off the season on the road against Cedar Creek Friday, Aug. 25 at Bastrop Memorial Stadium.



Mustangs compete in final scrimmage

STAFF REPORT

The Nixon-Smiley Mustangs and many other Texas high school football teams competed in their last scrimmages Friday, Aug. 18.

The Mustangs played against the Kenedy Lions in the last scrimmage before

their season opener against San Antonio Christian Friday, Aug. 25.

The Mustangs finished last season second place in district behind state runner-up Poth, and are projected to make the playoffs again in the fourth seed of 3A DII District 15.



TOP: The Nixon-Smiley Mustangs compete against the Kenedy Lions in the last scrimmage before their season opener against San Antonio Christian Friday, Aug. 25, at home. ABOVE: Mustangs senior running back Julian Amaya runs into the Kenedy defensive line Friday, Aug. 18 on the road. RIGHT: Senior quarterback Luke Moses throws a pass for the Mustangs against the Kenedy Lions Friday, Aug. 18.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



Lady Mustangs junior Janaelyn White set up a serve for Nixon-Smiley in the tournament match against Yorktown Friday, Aug. 18. PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS

MUSTANGS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

The Tilden McMullen County Cowgirls won the tournament on Saturday, with Falls City finishing second and taking silver.

The Lady Mustangs hosted rival Stockdale for a non-district contest Tuesday, Aug. 22, and Yates hopes facing the competition in the tournament got them ready for tough match.

“When we go into the Stockdale game we’ll have to make a couple of adjustments on defense, but I’m hoping that some of these teams can kind of prepare us for that and we’ll be able to make some adjustments that will mimic what we’re go-



Nixon-Smiley head volleyball coach Loraine Yates on the side line with the Lady Mustangs in the opening tournament match against Yorktown.

ing to do against Stockdale,” Yates said. The Lady Mustangs will travel to Cuero Thursday, Aug. 24 for their last tournament of the season.



Lady Apaches senior Mallory Clack (14), Kelly Breitschopf (8) and Macy Sample (12) high five each other before East Bernard’s serve. VANDY VAN EPPS

VOLLEYBALL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

losses moving forward. “We are hoping to take all of the errors that we had and learn from them and use them, correct them, and use that as a tool to get better as a team,” Gonzales said.

The Lady Apaches beat Rice Consolidated, but lost to Burton and Round Top.

The Gonzales Lady Apaches traveled to Hal-

lettsville for a non-district contest against the Lady Brahmas, and Coach Gonzales hoped the quick pace from the East Bernard game would get her team ready for that match.

“We did just play a very well coached fast pace, fast tempo, East Bernard and I think that made us better as a team forced us to come out of our

comfort zone force us to play faster and they went on pace we haven’t seen yet [this season],” Gonzales said.

The Gonzales Lady Apaches will head to Cuero for their last tournament of the season Thursday, Aug. 24. The Lady Apaches will kick off the tournament against Corpus Christi Veterans Memorial.

GOLF SCRAMBLE WINNERS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

The winning team from the Aug. 16 Golf Scramble at Independence Golf Course in Gonzales were, from left, Rick Lindstedt, Allison Poteet, Randall Dupree, Cody Jeter and Kameron Craft.



The second-place team from the Aug. 16 Golf Scramble at Independence Golf Course in Gonzales were, from left, John Mcnerney, Bill Kessler, Zack Reed, Chris Jeanes and Randy Reed.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

CITY OF GONZALES
CITY COUNCIL

The City Council of the City of Gonzales, by this instrument, notifies the public of a PUBLIC HEARING on the Proposed BUDGET that has been presented to the City Council for their consideration.

PUBLIC HEARING for citizen input regarding the use of City Funds for Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2023 and ending September 30, 2024.

This budget will raise more total property taxes than last year’s budget by \$26,497 or 1.50% and of that amount \$10,846 is tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year.

The City Council will hold a **Public Hearing on September 7, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. at the Gonzales Municipal Building, 820 N. Saint Joseph, Gonzales, Texas 78629**, to allow for public comment for Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2023 and ending September 30, 2024.

The City Council encourages citizens to participate in the public comment and public hearing stages of all City Council projects. Citizens unable to attend meetings may submit their views to Kristina Vega, City Secretary for the City of Gonzales, by mailing them to P. O. Drawer 547, Gonzales, Texas 78629. For additional information contact the City Secretary office at (830)-672-2815.

I certify that a copy of the September 7, 2023, Notice of Public Hearing was posted on the City Municipal Building bulletin board on the 17th day of August 2023, at 5:00 p.m. and remained posted continuously for at least 14 days prior to the scheduled time of the meeting.

Kristina Vega, City Secretary

Need a new Rifle or a Deer Stand for Hunting Season? Come see us at Fehner Firearms and Fehner & Son Grain for all your hunting needs. You can also pick up your Hunting and Fishing License as well.



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Fehner Firearms is closed on Mondays

PERFORMANCE LEVELS: STAAR 3-8, SPRING 2023

Group	Admin	Grade	STAAR - Reading					STAAR - Mathematics					STAAR - Science					STAAR - Social Studies								
			Number Tested	Average Scale Score	Did Not Meet %	Approaches %	Meets %	Masters %	Number Tested	Average Scale Score	Did Not Meet %	Approaches %	Meets %	Masters %	Number Tested	Average Scale Score	Did Not Meet %	Approaches %	Meets %	Masters %	Number Tested	Average Scale Score	Did Not Meet %	Approaches %	Meets %	Masters %
GONZALES ISD	Spring 2023	3	162	1460	20	80	51	19	161	1448	24	76	39	12												
GONZALES ISD	Spring 2023	4	189	1481	38	62	31	12	190	1521	42	58	35	16												
GONZALES ISD	Spring 2023	5	180	1562	30	70	45	22	181	1633	23	77	42	20	181	3553	53	47	18	9						
GONZALES ISD	Spring 2023	6	181	1607	30	70	45	13	180	1680	31	69	29	7												
GONZALES ISD	Spring 2023	7	178	1645	26	74	48	20	179	1741	44	56	31	7												
GONZALES ISD	Spring 2023	8	179	1676	23	77	43	17	148	1783	39	61	25	2	180	3715	43	57	30	7	180	3543	59	41	19	8
NIXON-SMILEY CISD	Spring 2023	3	61	1450	13	87	51	10	61	1519	11	89	70	34												
NIXON-SMILEY CISD	Spring 2023	4	65	1535	22	78	45	20	65	1538	23	77	34	14												
NIXON-SMILEY CISD	Spring 2023	5	71	1587	24	76	52	20	71	1621	27	73	44	14	71	3667	39	61	24	8						
NIXON-SMILEY CISD	Spring 2023	6	72	1635	28	72	51	22	72	1665	24	76	24	0												
NIXON-SMILEY CISD	Spring 2023	7	65	1650	28	72	52	31	53	1669	68	32	4	0												
NIXON-SMILEY CISD	Spring 2023	8	87	1727	15	85	54	31	85	1834	24	76	41	7	87	3836	36	64	41	10	87	3637	52	48	26	13
WAEOLDER ISD	Spring 2023	3	13	1311	62	38	15	0	13	1339	69	31	8	0												
WAEOLDER ISD	Spring 2023	4	12	1417	42	58	8	0	12	1385	92	8	8	0												
WAEOLDER ISD	Spring 2023	5	23	1476	48	52	17	4	23	1547	35	65	26	4	23	3211	65	35	9	0						
WAEOLDER ISD	Spring 2023	6	18	1535	56	44	22	6	18	1644	33	67	17	0												
WAEOLDER ISD	Spring 2023	7	18	1560	50	50	22	11	18	1696	67	33	11	6												
WAEOLDER ISD	Spring 2023	8	18	1655	22	78	39	0	10	1784	30	70	0	0	10	3632	40	60	20	0	18	3632	44	56	28	0

The results for grade levels 3-8 place students in one of four categories based upon performance — Did Not Meet, Approaches, Meets and Masters.

Group	Admin	Grade	STAAR Spanish - Reading					STAAR Spanish - Mathematics					STAAR Spanish - Science														
			Number Tested	Average Scale Score	Did Not Meet %	Approaches %	Meets %	Masters %	Number Tested	Average Scale Score	Did Not Meet %	Approaches %	Meets %	Masters %	Number Tested	Average Scale Score	Did Not Meet %	Approaches %	Meets %	Masters %							
GONZALES ISD	Spring 2023	3																									
GONZALES ISD	Spring 2023	4	3											2													
GONZALES ISD	Spring 2023	5																									
GONZALES ISD	Spring 2023	6																									
GONZALES ISD	Spring 2023	7																									
GONZALES ISD	Spring 2023	8																									
NIXON-SMILEY CISD	Spring 2023	3																									
NIXON-SMILEY CISD	Spring 2023	4	3											3													
NIXON-SMILEY CISD	Spring 2023	5																									
NIXON-SMILEY CISD	Spring 2023	6																									
NIXON-SMILEY CISD	Spring 2023	7																									
NIXON-SMILEY CISD	Spring 2023	8																									
WAEOLDER ISD	Spring 2023	3																									
WAEOLDER ISD	Spring 2023	4	1											1													
WAEOLDER ISD	Spring 2023	5																									
WAEOLDER ISD	Spring 2023	6																									
WAEOLDER ISD	Spring 2023	7																									
WAEOLDER ISD	Spring 2023	8																									

STAAR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

effects of the (COVID-19) pandemic still linger.”

“Teachers across Texas continue to work with passion and skill to help students learn,” said Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath. “This year’s results show the efforts of our educators continue to deliver improved results for students.”

Much like in the end-of-course results reported in the Aug. 10 edition of the Inquirer, the results for grade levels 3-8 place students in one of four categories based upon performance — Did Not Meet, Approaches, Meets and Masters.

While students at all

grade levels are tested in reading-language arts and math, only students in fifth and eighth grades take the science test, while only those in eighth grade take the social studies exam.

GONZALES ISD

Test scores for Gonzales ISD in reading-language arts improved at all levels but one — fourth grade, where the number of students who scored as Did Not Meet went up from 31 percent to 38 percent. However, there was a fantastic 10 percent drop in the third grade for those who Did Not Meet as the number lowered from 30 percent to 20

percent.

Fourth grade math was the lone sore thumb among math scores as the number of those who did not meet increased from 35 percent to 42 percent. Again, however, the third grade scored exceptionally well, improving from 37 percent Did Not Meet to just 24 percent in 2023.

Fifth grade science was also a spot where the numbers of those who Did Not Meet standards went up from 43 percent to 59 percent. However, all other scores for Gonzales ISD showed positive needle movement.

“GISD students showed academic growth in the majority of the tested

areas for grades 3-8 in ELAR, Math, Science, and Social Studies,” GISD Superintendent Dr. Elmer Avellenada said. “With the high demand of the STAAR redesign this year, these academic gains are attributed to the hard work and collaboration of the teachers, the campus leaders, and most importantly, the students. Continued growth for all students in all subject areas is expected in the 23-24 academic school year.”

NIXON-SMILEY CISD

Test scores for Nixon-Smiley CISD in reading-language arts improved at three levels and stayed the same at one. However, at the fifth grade level, the number of students who scored as Did Not Meet went up from 22 percent to 24 percent while at seventh grade, the number went up from 18 percent to 28 percent. Much like GISD, however, there was a fantastic drop in the third grade for those who Did Not Meet as the number lowered from 21 percent to 13 percent, while sixth grade saw an improvement from 36 percent to 28 percent not meeting standards.

Fifth grade math and seventh grade math saw the number of those who did not meet increased from 25 percent to 27 percent and from 49 percent to 68 percent, respectively. Again, the third grade scored exceptionally well, improving from 25 percent Did Not Meet to just 11 percent in 2023, while the sixth grade saw an incredible 20 point drop from 44 percent to 24 percent.

Scores in science worsened for both fifth grade and eighth grade for Nixon-Smiley CISD as a lower percent of students met the necessary requirements. Similarly, there is room for improvement in social studies as the number of students not meeting requirements went up from 23 percent to 52 percent.

“Nixon-Smiley CISD is very proud of the hard work that both the staff and students put in so that they could achieve success on the newly designed STAAR tests,” Superintendent Jeff Van Auken said. “The staff spent many hours breaking down the areas of academic strengths and deficiencies which allowed them the opportunity to best prepare our students for the tests. Although we have some work to do, we are very pleased with our continued improvement on the state assessments, which is a direct reflection of the students and staff’s commitment to academic excellence!”

WAEOLDER ISD

Test scores for Waelder ISD in reading-language arts showed room for improvement at the third, sixth and seventh grade levels. The number of students who scored as Did Not Meet in third grade went up from 36 percent to 62 percent, while in sixth grade, the number went up from 50 percent to 56 percent while seventh grade rose from 38 to 50 percent. There was significant improvement however in the other three grade levels. Fourth grade improved from 59 percent to 42 percent

not meeting standard, while fifth grade had a drop from 67 percent to 48 percent. Eighth grade dropped from 31 percent not meeting to just 22 percent.

Math proved to be problematic for the youngest two grades (3-4) as well as for seventh grade. Of those, the fourth grade had the biggest increase in Did Not Meet as the number jumped from 55 percent to 92 percent. The number of seventh graders rose from 48 percent to 67 percent not meeting the standard. This was offset by excellent gains in fifth, sixth and eighth grade with drops of 57 to 35, 45 to 33 and 59 to 30, respectively.

Science was a bright spot for Waelder ISD as scores for fifth grade improved from 86 percent Did Not Meet to 65 percent, while eighth grade saw that amount drop from 47 percent to 40 percent. Meanwhile, eighth graders improved by 10 points in science going from 54 percent Did Not Meet to 44 percent.

“In Waelder, we saw some stability in the 8th grade Reading and Math, and scores were generally good in Science and Social Studies,” Superintendent Ron Lilie said. “We are still seeing some foundational issues and residual pandemic effects in 3rd grade reading and 3rd and 4th grade Math that we are addressing through increased study time blocks and intervention programs, which we believe will yield improvement as these students progress through the grade levels.”

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

CITY OF GONZALES
CITY COUNCIL

The City Council of the City of Gonzales, by this instrument, notifies the public of a PUBLIC HEARING on the Proposed Rate Fee Schedule that has been presented to the City Council for their consideration.

PUBLIC HEARING for citizen input regarding the proposed Master Rate and Fee Schedule for Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2023 and ending September 30, 2024.

The City Council will hold a **Public Hearing on September 7, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. at the Gonzales Municipal Building, 820 N. Saint Joseph, Gonzales, Texas 78629**, to allow for public comment on the proposed Master Rate and Fee Schedule for Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2023 and ending September 30, 2024.

The City Council encourages citizens to participate in the public comment and public hearing stages of all City Council projects. Citizens unable to attend meetings may submit their views to Kristina Vega, City Secretary for the City of Gonzales, by mailing them to P. O. Drawer 547, Gonzales, Texas 78629. For additional information contact the City Secretary office at (830)-672-2815.

I certify that a copy of the September 7, 2023, Notice of Public Hearing was posted on the City Municipal Building bulletin board on the 17th day of August 2023, at 5:00 p.m. and remained posted continuously for at least 14 days prior to the scheduled time of the meeting.



Kristina Vega, City Secretary



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Volunteer firefighters from Ottine VFD and Mid-City Fire/Rescue responded to the call for assistance by Luling Fire Department on Tuesday, Aug. 22, when Mr. Taco caught fire at 1132 E. Pierce St. The restaurant had been a part of the Luling restaurant landscape for nearly 45 years.

PHOTOS COURTESY OTTINE VFD

FIRE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the blaze, which was reported sometime after 3 p.m. It was not immediately known what caused the fire, which leveled the building at 1132 E. Pierce St. that had housed the beloved Mexican restaurant owned since 1979 by the Magallenez family, who also have restaurants in Gonzales and Lockhart.

That family was still reeling from the passing of their patriarch, the restaurant's founder — the original "Mr. Taco," Bonifacio Magallenez Jr. — at the age of 78 on May 25. Now, what should have been a happy time with the restaurant running specials to celebrate teachers and the start of the school year has turned into another heartbreak.

"Mr. Taco would like to thank every single person that has

reached out to us after we suffered another unimaginable loss today in the form of a fire that ran throughout the entire restaurant," the family said in a statement on the restaurant's Facebook page.

"While the damage to the location can be seen across social media, the images fail to compare to the pain we feel as a restaurant family. During this time of unexpected tragedy, please keep our owners, managers, wonderful staff and customers in your thoughts and prayers as this was a means of livelihood for so many and a staple in the Luling community since 1979."

The restaurant owners extended their appreciation to the first responders who came to fight the fire, noting

their "diligence to protect our community cannot be more appreciated."

"We are deeply thankful for the outpouring of support and concern for our restaurant and would continue to ask for prayers for healing for our entire Mr. Taco family," the statement continued. "We love you, we are thankful for you and we look forward to serving you again in the future."

Support for the restaurant could be seen all over social media Tuesday and Wednesday as the Luling Area Chamber of Commerce, Luling Main Street and even other restaurants like Rails & Ales Taphouse and businesses like Easterling Exteriors voiced their love and prayers for the Magallenez family and their employees.

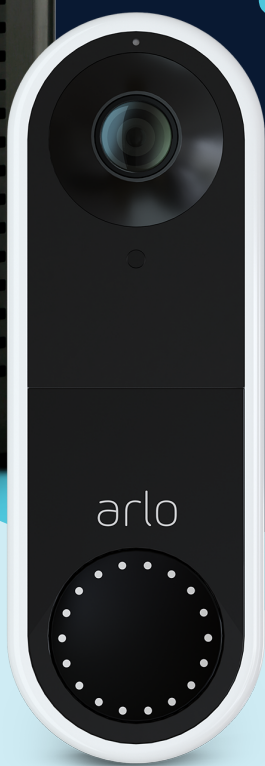
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