

The Gonzales Inquirer

OUR 169TH YEAR SERVING GONZALES COUNTY \$1.00

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Holmes Food cited for 5 OSHA violations

Nixon company assessed \$60K in penalties

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

A workplace safety investigation found that a Nixon poultry processor

exposed employees to ergonomic hazards, a common industry safety concern and the cause of many injuries to its workers. The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration estimates about 50 percent of injuries and illnesses in the poultry processing industry involve musculoskeletal disorders.

After a scheduled inspection on March 15, 2023, under OSHA's Regional Emphasis Program for Poultry Processing Facilities, investigators found that Holmes Foods Inc. violated federal workplace safety regulations when the company did the following:

- Failed to provide required eye protection.

- Did not develop procedures to lock out and tagout machines to prevent sudden start-ups.

- Failed to guard rotating shafts, chains and sprockets.

OSHA also found that Holmes violated OSHA's General Duty Clause by

See **HOLMES**, page 7

APACHES HONOR FIRST RESPONDERS



Gonzales Independent School District and the Gonzales Apaches honored all area first responders prior to the start of their home game Friday, Sept. 22 at Apache Field against the Yoakum Bulldogs. First responders walked with the team through the home stands and joined them on the field. Cheering on these first responders as well as his beloved Apaches was Gonzales superfan Ricky Rivera and his family.

PHOTOS BY LEW K. COHN



CTI Celebration brings together old traditions, new amenities

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

By the time this edition of the Gonzales Inquirer hits the streets, it will be T-minus one week and counting for this community's favorite time of year — the annual Come and Take It Celebration.

Every year, on the first full weekend of October, Gonzales remembers the Old 18 who defended the city against the Mexican Army on Oct. 2, 1835, and challenged Santa Anna's men that if they wanted one old cannon so much they could "come and take it."

This year's Come and Take It (CTI) Celebration will be held from Oct. 6-8 in Independence and Texas Heroes squares in downtown Gonzales with other events taking place at Pioneer Village, the Crystal Theatre and along Saint Joseph Street.

See **CTI**, page 18

Major county intersection to change into all-way stop

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

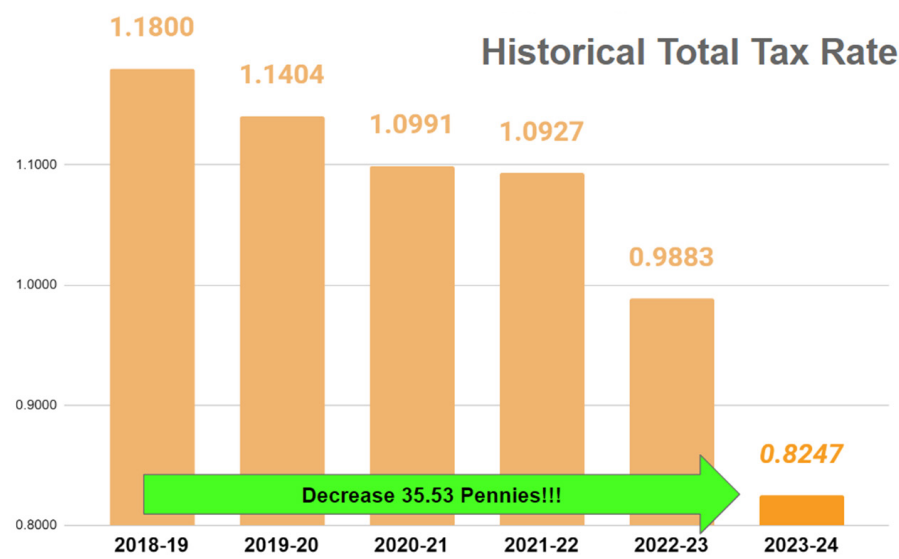
A major Gonzales County intersection where a truck driver was killed earlier this year trying to avoid another vehicle will be converted into an all-way stop next week.

Work is planned for Tuesday, Oct. 3, to convert the intersection of U.S. 90 and Texas 304 by Texas Department of Transportation officials, who stated "the safety of drivers on Texas roadways is TxDOT's top priority."

This comes after a June 8 fatal accident when a tractor-trailer driver tried to minimize the collision he had with a vehicle and lost his own life in the process.

According to a Texas Department of Public Safety

See **STOP**, page 7



GISD CFO talks about taxes regarding upcoming bond issue

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

With the Gonzales ISD \$95.08 million bond election less than a month away, the district has been working hard to keep the community informed, especially regarding taxes.

One of the big concerns from the community is how will the bond election impact residents' taxes if either propositions passes.

BACKGROUND

Prop A: If approved, will fund the building of a Career & Technical Education Building and new Ag Barn at the potential new high school site in the near future, renovations, safety, accessibility, and security of GISD campuses and buildings.

Prop B: 7,000 seat artificial turf lighted Stadium, 8 lane track, conces-

sions, partial locker rooms, restrooms, parking, scoreboard, field events, Baseball/Softball artificial turf, lighted, bleachers concession, 8 lighted tennis courts, weight room.

GISD Chief Financial Officer Amanda Smith has been speaking with residents during the community bond meetings the district has been hosting in several locations.

"We've been very fortunate to have what I'm calling a roadshow trying to educate and inform as many voters as possible. We can't of course the law requires that we not advocate for or against anything. So our primary goal has been to just make sure people have accurate current information so they can make an informed decision," Smith said.

See **BOND**, page 17

Water board member suggests EDC drill new well for city

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
The Inquirer

The Gonzales Economic Development Corporation Board (GEDC) met for its regularly scheduled meeting Monday, Sept. 25.

The GEDC board invited a special guest to make public comments before the start of the actual meeting; Barry Miller, director for District 4 of the Gonzales County Underground Water Conservation District.

See **WATER**, page 7

New policy prevents off-duty vehicles from leaving county

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

All county-owned vehicles will be required to stay within Gonzales County unless they are in use for official business after the Gonzales County Commissioners Court voted to adopt a new policy at their Monday, Sept. 25 meeting.

Work vehicles used by employees who live out of the county must be parked in a secure

See **VEHICLES**, page 18



GCUWCD receives public amendment request, sets tax rate

BY CLAYTON KELLEY
For the Inquirer

The Gonzales County Underground Water Conservation District held two public hearings on Sept. 12. One of the public hearings was for a Canyon Regional Water Authority public amendment request.

CRWA requested an additional 920.5 acre-feet to add to their existing 7,400 acre feet that they already are producing. “(CRWA) wants to add that to one well by lowering and putting in a larger pump,” GCUWCD General Manager Laura Martin said.

The other public hearing was for setting the small taxing unit notice. The new tax rate is a third of a cent (\$0.0033) for per every \$100 of taxable value.

GCUWCD also received

two contested cases during the public hearing.

The district wants to remind people to start conserving water as Gonzales County is still in a drought. Eighty-six percent of the state is still currently in a drought.

“Summer time in Texas is very hot,” Martin said. “Sometimes when people water their yards, the water will run down the streets and be wasted. Watering during peak hours during the day time is the worst time to water because most of it is lost in evaporation, so the best time to water is early in the morning and late in the evening.”

Other water conservation tips include taking shorter showers, installing aerators on sinks, and using high efficiency washing machines and dishwashers.



On Tuesday, Sept. 26, the Gonzales Economic Development Corporation (GEDC) and Gonzales Main Street had the pleasure of hosting a big check ceremony for Jeri Biddle, owner of 415 St. James, as a result of the completion of improvements to her building as per her Main Street Business Incentive Grant (BIG). This was a reimbursable grant in the amount of \$52,000 and included improvements to the plumbing, HVAC, and finishing out the inside of the building to prepare for a new tenant that agreed to a 5-year lease. Gonzales is fortunate to have a thriving business community that continues to bring new investment and businesses into the community daily. The city continues to work diligently to restore and revitalize the Gonzales community to further increase commerce and economic prosperity for the citizens of the city of Gonzales, Texas.

VANDY VAN EPPS

DIAPER DRIVE TO BENEFIT RAINBOW ROOM



CONTRIBUTED

The “Grow Your Own” class at GHS has teamed up with North Avenue for a diaper drive to benefit our local Rainbow Room. The Rainbow Room is a 24/7 resource center located within the CPS office. The Rainbow Room is stocked with supplies for children who are victims of abuse or neglect. If you would like to donate diapers to the Rainbow room, please bring them to the Gonzales High School office by October 5. You may also contact Sara Breitschopf for more information at 830-263-0024.

WAEOLDER ISD BOND

Gym facility a necessity to fulfill academic requirements

BY WAEOLDER ISD
Special to the Inquirer

Waelder ISD began work on the upcoming bond election by bringing together a citizens committee to discuss facility needs of the school district. Academic objectives were given priority at each meeting and one of the best discussions included perspectives about the need of a second gym for the school district.

At first glance you would think that a gym is a facility that impacts athletic and physical education classes only. The reality is that a second gym is needed for both athletic and academic programs of the school district.

Developing an academic schedule of classes when there is only one gym for all grade levels results in a schedule that limits academic offerings as counselors work with students in an attempt to squeeze

in all courses that are needed and wanted. Fourteen student teams and/or groups of students compete for time in the gym and when the gym is not available, academic classes must be moved to avoid scheduling conflicts.

Graduation requirements dictated by the state require certain classes be taken at each grade level and the gym is used by students at elementary, middle school, and high school. Simply stated, a second gym would provide greater access for students at all schools in the district and greater accessibility to academic offerings by reducing the number of conflicts in a student’s schedule.

To save money, it is being proposed that the covered pavilion be converted to a climate-controlled gym as opposed to building a new gym at a different location. The conversion of the pavilion to a gym would allow a separate en-

trance to the facility without going through existing hallways – which will make it easier for after school groups and community events to have access to the facility. The location of this project is perfect for access by students at all grade levels. This project will be listed as “Proposition B” on the ballot and is separated from the other four projects that comprise “Proposition A.”

The total estimated cost of this project is \$2.1 million with \$1.1 million in bond funding and the school district providing \$1 million for the project. Conversion of the covered pavilion to an enclosed, climate-controlled gym will save approximately \$2 million compared to building a new gym on a different site.

If you have questions about this project, email erinsuhr@waelderisd.org and you will receive a response to your question.

CONSTITUTION WEEK



CONTRIBUTED

Members of the Thomas Shelton Chapter Daughters of the Revolution are pictured with Mayor Sucher, who signed the proclamation declaring the week of September 17- 23 as Constitution Week. Members pictured are Melanie Petru, Kay Bakken, and Betty Vaughan.

Sculpture unveiling at Gonzales library set for Sept. 30

FROM STAFF REPORTS

There will be a sculpture unveiling ceremony held Saturday, Sept. 30, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Robert Lee Brothers Jr. Memorial Library, 301 Saint Joseph Street, Gonzales.

The work to be unveiled will be “Defiance,” sculpted by award-winning sculptor Craig Campobella. The sculpture was donated to the library by David and Rose Roberts. The public is invited to attend.

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Celebrations

September 28th Shelia Johnson Jessica Smith Kathy Stanley John Stefinsky	October 1st Carter Bowden Felicia Escobedo Nancy Georgie Debbie Henderson Levi Hernandez Neely Yackel	Lindsey Trammell Kenneth Fougerat Jason Haile Lena Hernandez Coy Hill Tim Knesek Mona Lassig Jason Malatek Joshua Maldonado Mary Ann Pullin David (Rat) Schauttet Ada White
September 29th Lindsay Cantu Quincy Johnson Benny Lewis Tim Penney Evelyn Tiekem	October 2nd Dalton Ray Harkey Daisy Marie Izaguirre Cole Moran	October 4th Angie Boothe Rocky Fitzgerald Damaris Green Debbie Lewis Kathy Quinton Belinda Stewart Barbara Urban Mikayla Vinklerek Frank Wallace
September 30th Ryan Arellano Hayley Blanton Julie Boscamp Jaime Eureste Paige Glass Brian Phillips Antonio Ramirez Becky Schillhab Allison Vanacek	October 3rd Teena Beyer Kelby Crow Brenda Downey	

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Gonzales Weather

	September 28 94°/69°	Mostly sunny and very warm 25% chance of rain • RealFeel 96
	September 29 93°/73°	Very warm with intervals of clouds and sunshine 1% chance of rain • RealFeel 98
	September 30 92°/73°	Intervals of clouds and sunshine with a thunderstorm in parts of the area, very warm 40% chance of rain • RealFeel 94
	October 1 92°/72°	Partly sunny and very warm with a thunderstorm in a couple of spots 40% chance of rain • RealFeel 95
	October 2 90°/72°	Mostly cloudy and warm; a thunderstorm in the morning followed by rain and a thunderstorm in the afternoon 81% chance of rain • RealFeel 92
	October 3 92°/71°	Remaining very warm with sunshine 0% chance of rain • RealFeel 94
	October 4 88°/67°	Partly sunny 0% chance of rain • RealFeel 90

Upcoming Events at J.B. Wells Park in Gonzales

September 28th
South Texas Tour

September 30th
J and K Productions

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CONTRIBUTED

Gonzales County 4-H members and the Gonzales County Commissioners Court celebrate a proclamation declaring Oct. 1-7 as National 4-H Week.

Gonzales County youth to celebrate National 4-H Week

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Gonzales County 4-H members attended Commissioners Court on Sept. 25, 2023 to witness the signing of the 4-H Proclamation declaring the Week of Oct 1-7 as National 4-H Week. The anticipation is building for National 4-H Week, during which millions of youth, parents, volunteers and alumni across the country will be

celebrating everything 4-H.

Gonzales County 4-H will observe National 4-H Week this year by showcasing the incredible experiences that 4-H offers young people, and will highlight the remarkable 4-H youth in the community who work each day to make a positive impact on those around them.

The theme of this year's National

See 4H, page 7

Garden Q&A with CALVIN FINCH



Q. Our lawn area is now bare after all this drought and heat. Some parts look like a hayfield, but most are bare soil. We have quite a bit of shade, but we have always had a reasonable St Augustine lawn. What is your advice concerning restoring the lawn?

A. It sounds like you have decided not to water any of the area? A generous watering every 3 weeks will usually keep the grass alive even if it looks terrible. Even now parts of your lawn are probably alive. I would wait and see what happens when the temperatures moderate and the rains start. If some of the grass is still alive you can let it spread into the killed areas. Another option is to apply some or all new sod. St Augustine sod will spread to fill in empty areas if water is available.

Q. I notice that the nursery has snapdragons and dianthus transplants for sale. They also have sweet peas available on the seed rack. Does that mean we can go ahead and plant them for the winter?

A. I usually wait until mid-October to start planting sweet pea seeds. Even then the soil is sometimes too warm. Do a planting every month until the seeds germinate and prosper. The snapdragons and dianthus will survive if planted now but will increase their growth and bloom rate when the temperatures cool.

Q. Why is it that they say providing

sugar water feeders into the winter does not affect the hummingbirds inclination to stop or slow down their migration south? Some naturalists blame the availability of long blooming tropical milkweed for that very action in the case of Monarch Butterflies.

A. That is a good question. There are several answers. It may not be true. We haven't found decisive evidence that late blooming and foliage on tropical milkweed does slow down migration of Monarchs. Another answer is that all animal species are different. Because one will slow down migration because of unexpected milkweeds does not mean another species will slow down migration for unexpected sugar water.

Q. We have two Texas red oaks that were planted at the same time 10 years ago. One has grown very quickly and the other one is half as large. The slowest growing tree has scars from string mower damage on its trunk, could that be what is slowing its growth? Is there anything we can do to correct it if that is the cause of the slow growth?

A. String mower damage quite often interrupts the circulation system which is on the tree's surface with the result that growth rate is reduced. Unfortunately I don't believe there is anyway to correct the problem. You must either tolerate the growth rate reduction or remove the tree.

LIVESTOCK WEEKLY REPORTS

GONZALES LIVESTOCK MARKET

September 23rd
Cattle - 1446
Compared to our last sale:
Number 1 choice calves and yearlings sold steady to 3.00-4.00 cheaper in spot. Less quality calves and yearlings sold 6.00-10.00 cheaper. Hard to place. Packer cows sold steady & bulls sold steady.
Stocker-feeder Steers: Medium and large-frame No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 305-310; 300-400 lbs., 285-300; 400-500 lbs., 255-275; 500-600 lbs., 232-245; 600-700 lbs., 225-230; 700-800 lbs., 172-195. Bull Yearlings: 700-900 lbs., 80-115.
Stocker-feeder heifers: Medium and large-frame No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 225-255; 300-400 lbs., 210-230; 400-500 lbs., 225-227; 500-600 lbs., 210-215; 600-700 lbs., 181-195.
Packer Cows: Good lean utility and commercial, 72-98; Cutters, 92-107; Canners, 52-83; High yielding fat cows, 95-104.
Packer Bulls: Yield grade 1 & 2, good heavy bulls, 117-123; Light weights and medium quality bulls, 100-115.
Stocker Cows: \$750 to \$1,700. Pairs: \$1,100 to \$2,600.

NIXON LIVESTOCK MARKET

September 25th
Cattle - 1410
Steers:
200-300 lbs - \$214-224-365
300-400 lbs - \$213-233-325
400-500 lbs - \$218-228-325
500-600 lbs - \$208-218-300
600-700 lbs - \$203-213-239
700-800 lbs - \$197-207-229
Heifers:
200-300 lbs - \$187-197-345
300-400 lbs - \$199-209-325
400-500 lbs - \$203-213-310
500-600 lbs - \$194-204-240
600-700 lbs - \$185-195-215
700-800 lbs - \$178-188-207

Slaughter Cows - \$35-106
Slaughter Bulls - \$90-127
Stocker Cows - None to test market
Pairs: 1 pair @ \$1050

HALLETTSVILLE LIVESTOCK COMMISSION CO., INC.

Sale date: September 19th
Cattle on hand: 2591
Packer Cows:
Canner and Cutter Cows: \$83-112
Utility & Fat Cows: \$81-108
Light Weight Canner Cows: \$56-82
Poor/Weak: \$45-62
Packer Bulls:
Heavyweight Bulls: \$118-129
Utility & Cutter Bulls: \$105-120
Lightweight Canner Bulls: \$96-106
Stocker Cows:
Good Stocker/Cows & Heifers: NONE
Medium Stocker Cows & Heifers: \$975-1325
Good Cow & Calf Pairs: NONE
Medium Cow & Calf Pairs: \$1225-1325
Stocker & Feeder Calves & Yearlings:
Number 1 steer & bull calves:
Under 200 lbs.: \$210-290
200-300 lbs.: \$240-310
300-400 lbs.: \$232-330
400-500 lbs.: \$228-325
500-600 lbs.: \$218-265
600-700 lbs.: \$210-252.50
700-800 lbs.: \$188-277.50
Number 1 heifer calves:
Under 200 lbs: \$200-260
200-300 lbs.: \$185-265
300-400 lbs.: \$205-285
400-500 lbs.: \$205-206
500-600 lbs.: \$205-257.50
600-700 lbs.: \$190-227
700-800 lbs.: \$175-215
Replacement Heifers:
350-700 lbs.: \$230-275
The calf market was basically steady this week. #1 quality calves continue to sell to strong demand. #2 and plainer kinds

remain under pressure - overall a good active sale. Packer cows & bulls sold strong on a total supply of 350 head.

SEGUIN CATTLE CO.

September 20th
Stocker cattle 2-3 better with packer cows & bulls steady
Cattle - 847
Sheep & goats - 655
Medium & large frame #1 Steers:
200-300 lb. .50-1.70-2.80
300-400 lb. .55-1.98-3.25
400-500 lb. .30-1.95-3.20
500-600 lb. .30-1.94-2.93
600-700 lb. .25-1.71-2.35
700-850 lb. .57-1.64-2.08
Medium & large frame #1 Heifers:
200-300 lb. .50-1.68-2.60
300-400 lb. .30-1.75-2.68
400-500 lb. .60-1.94-2.68
500-600 lb. .15-1.76-2.45
600-750 lb. .45-1.59-2.55
Cows:
Utility & commercial - .60-.87-1.15
Cutters - .58-.68-.78
Canners - .50-.63-.76
Palpated cows - 700-1300
Cow/Calf Pairs - 1500-2000
Bulls:
Heavy High Yielding - 1.15-1.30
Light & Low Yielding - .75-1.14
Sheep & Goats:
Nannies - 75-230
Kid Goats (Fat) - 2.80-3.50
Wethers - 1.10-3.40
Billies - 1.45-2.25
Dorp. Ewes - 65-135
Dorp. Lambs (Fat) - 1.80-2.65
Wooled Ewes - NONE
Wooled Bucks - 1.20-1.80
Lambs - 1.00-2.55
Barb. Bucks - 250-450

CUERO LIVESTOCK MARKET
September 22, 2023
Number of head 2,437
There were 424 cows and 23 bulls. It was another solid market on cows and bulls with top packer bull was at \$122/cwt while tops on packer cows was at \$107.00/cwt.
The calf market was lower by \$6/cwt on 34 pounds less weight. Drought is taking its toll on the lighter calf market with little grass to graze them. The #1 calves were still strong on the heavier and mid weights. Demand is strong just not at as high levels.
Packer bulls: 105.00-122.00
Packer cows: 94.00-107.00
canners & cutters 35.00-62.00
poor & weak 234.00-290.00
Palpated: 16 BRED 110.00-154.00
PAIRS: two \$1,000 & \$1,200
Steer Calves: (AVG-HIGH)
Under 200 lbs. NONE
200-249 lbs. NONE
250-299 lbs. 200.00-300.00
300-350 lbs. 233.00-330.00
350-400 lbs. 234.00-290.00
400-450 lbs. 229.00-302.50
450-500 lbs. 225.00-258.00
500-550 lbs. 222.00-256.00
550-600 lbs. 211.00-249.00
600-700 lbs. 210.00-236.00
700-800 lbs. 204.00-222.00
Bull Calves: (AVG-HIGH)
Under 250lbs 196.00-300.00
250-300 lbs. 206.00-306.00
300-350 lbs. 222.00-310.00
350-400 lbs. 210.00-278.00
400-450 lbs. 221.00-280.00
450-500 lbs. 212.00-255.00
500-550 lbs. 210.00-250.00
550-600 lbs. 206.00-232.00
600-700 lbs. 204.00-234.00
Over 700 lbs. 192.00-220.00
Heifer Calves: (AVG-HIGH)
Under 200 lbs. 169.00-300.00
200-250 lbs. 169.00-220.00
250-300 lbs. 163.00-250.00
300-350 lbs. 183.00-220.00
350-400 lbs. 196.00-300.00
400-450 lbs. 202.00-250.00
450-500 lbs. 206.00-239.00
500-550 lbs. 206.00-252.00
550-600 lbs. 204.00-233.00
600-700 lbs. 200.00-236.00
Over 700 lbs. 178.00-218.00

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A historic investment to provide statewide connectivity

BY ALVIN NEW

Commissioner, Texas Transportation Commission

Texas has a lot to offer which includes over 80,000 highway lane miles. We also have worldclass rail and air facilities for freight and passengers. Nearly 2,000 people move here every day, steadily increasing the pressure on our infrastructure. That's one of the reasons why my Texas Transportation Commission colleagues and I made history this month with the approval of a record \$142 billion total investment for Texas' transportation infrastructure, including the \$100 billion 10-year Unified Transportation Program (UTP). This funding will help ensure vital transportation projects will improve safety, congestion, preservation, and connectivity for Texas drivers.

Our state is growing by leaps and bounds in our metropolitan, urban, and rural communities. The growth places stress on our transportation system. Rural Texas cities like my hometown of San Angelo and others are feeling the effects of more traffic on our highways. For instance, many of our rural roadways, especially in the Permian Basin, have experienced dramatic increases in truck traffic, driven by the oilfield economy in the largest source of oil and gas production in the country. This record level of transportation funding will continue to reduce crash rates and improve pavements. In turn, life will be better for us personally, easier on our vehicles, and better for rural industries such as energy, agriculture, timber, and others.

TxDOT has planned, and will continue to plan, for this growth as the agency works to provide the needed infrastructure to help move people and products across the state. To help address this effect on our system, this historic 2024 UTP reflects an unprecedented level of projected funding and estimates \$34.2 billion in development costs and \$7.5 billion in routine maintenance contracts for a total investment of \$142 billion. The UTP also includes funding for five highway corridors (US 87/US 83, US 69/ US 175, US 281, US 59, and US 277/US 83) to improve mobility, provide alternatives to Interstate Highways, or beginning phases of building Interstate Highways that pass through urbanized areas.

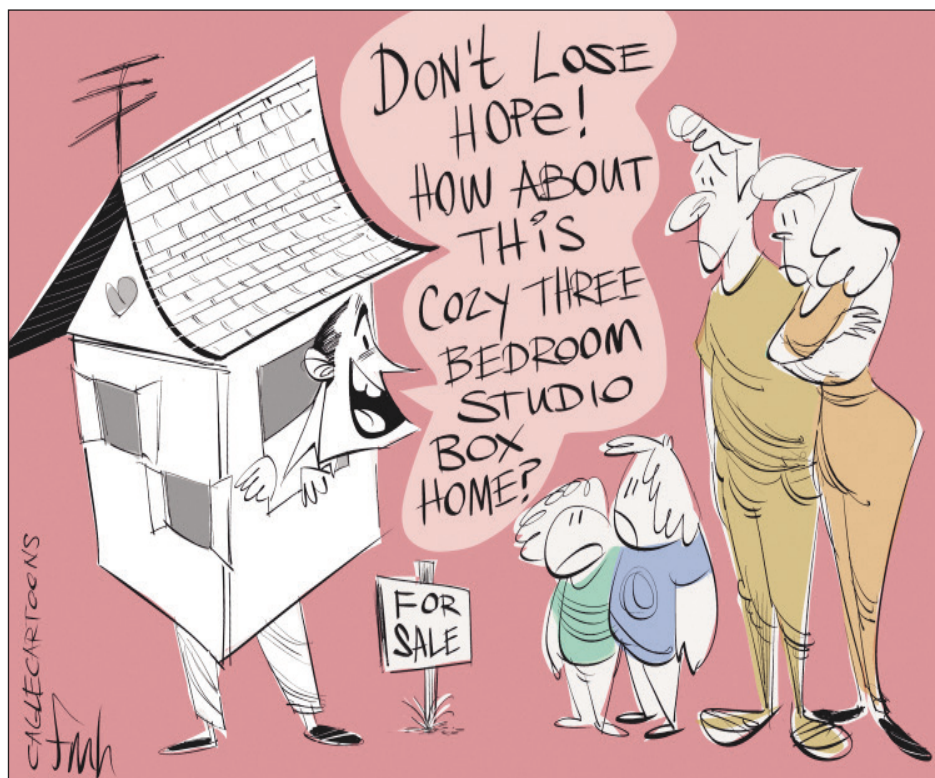
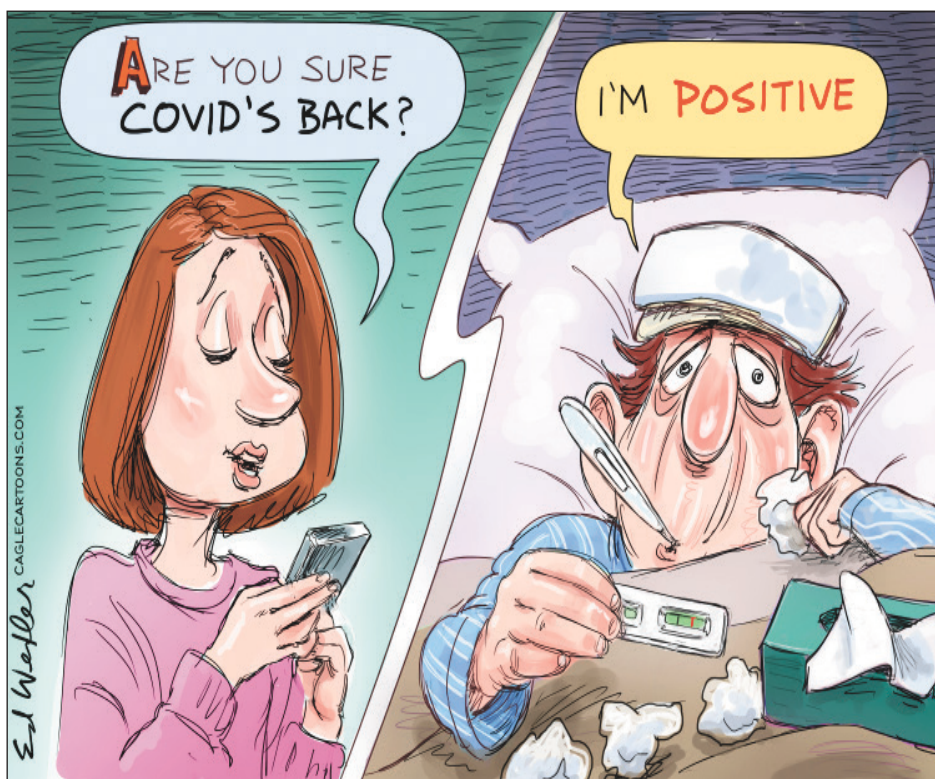
This 10-year plan provides for the development of a network of rural highways to improve mobility, connect major activity centers, provide access to ports of entry into Texas, and address safety by building four-lane divided roads. In addition, the 2024 UTP includes the development of major statewide corridors to achieve Interstate Highway classification. Future Interstate Highways in Texas include Interstate Highway 14, Interstate Highway 27/Ports-to-Plains, and Interstate Highway 69.

Since our mission at TxDOT is "Connecting You With Texas," we're working hard to make sure every region of the state stays connected. Since fiscal year 2015, we've completed more than 258 rural connectivity projects — an investment of \$7.7 billion. And we have another 120 projects — \$7 billion worth — currently under construction.

In fact, we're planning to invest a historic level of \$19.2 billion in our rural areas over the next 10 years through our 2024 UTP. That's a major increase over the past few years compared to \$2.2 billion in the 2016 UTP.

This UTP also puts us to work in the energy producing areas of the state. Roads in our energy sector are bearing the brunt of that industry's economic boost to the state in wear and tear. That's why we're dedicating billions of dollars to address specific roadways impacted by traffic in five energy producing regions.

With this historic investment, we're showing our commitment to connecting every region and every Texan to the people and places that matter most. It is my privilege to serve you as a Texas Transportation Commission Commissioner and to continue to "Connect You with Texas" safely and in a way that keeps pace with the vigorous economic climate we enjoy.



DR. DON NEWBURY
The Idle American

Down from the cross...

Randy Brooks, who portrayed Jesus in "The Promise" more than 6,000 times, is nearing the 60-year mark in Christian ministry. But, he still has "the look" --the kind that causes head-scratching when vaguely familiar faces are seen.

Randy was cast in the role in 1989, when the award-winning musical began its 34-year run at Glen Rose's Texas Amphitheater. He later appeared for years in Branson, MO, at a New York City church and numerous performances internationally before he ended the role when COVID arrived in 2020.

Long-haired since the mid-1970s, he now is free to leave his gray hair au natural, unlike most performance years when it was dyed to hide premature graying. Had one of the founding producers of the Glen Rose production not spotted Randy in a hair salon in 1989, he might never have been featured in "The Promise..."

"Can you sing?" she asked. Having been a pianist/vocalist since junior high, he quickly answered, not knowing that the producer was looking for a blue-eyed, long-haired man to play Jesus.

Then age 36, Randy--his commitment to God already strongly in place--signed on, the course of his life to be forever changed.

He sang Word-produced songs such as "Closer than a Heartbeat," "It is Written" and "Shalom." Randy says he writhed and winced with imaginary pain on the cross, but never came close to portraying Jesus' actual suffering. He remembers the challenge of holding onto nails, and contorting his body to a 45-degree angle. (On the cross for 20 minutes at each performance, his total time there amounted to 83 24-hour days.).....

Producers were never worried about his lacking both theological and theatrical training or changing his mannerisms. He sounded "way too southern," however, so he underwent speech training to sound less so!

Throughout his career, Randy has been closely identified with gospel music, but he and his brother Bill also performed throughout the nation for corporate groups, including Amway and American Airlines. Randy also hooked up with the Stamps Quartet, which provided vocal back-up for Elvis Presley.

He also was music director on 58 episodes of TV's "Country Crossroads," and--with the Brooks Brothers Band--was named "Entertainer of the Year" in Texas for six consecutive years by the Johnnie High Country Music Revue Association, and twice honored in Branson as the "Male Entertainer of the Year"...

In 2020, Randy returned to Texas, where he continues to perform, largely at churches, retirement centers and at various other venues.

"My body told me it was time to slow down, so I have," Randy said.

He feels that he has kept numerous providential appointments in his life, including a recent visit to Shipshewana, IN, where his brother Bill is emcee in the tiny Amish/Mennonite community's two theaters.

With three shows left to perform, Randy was helping Bill move household furniture. A large mirror slipped, seriously cutting Randy's right hand between his wrist and thumb. Fifteen stitches were needed to close the wound, but let's not race ahead....

The nearest hospital was 12 miles away, so Bill took Randy to his doctor's office. Blood gushing, Randy learned that it was the doctor's day off.

Coming through the back door, however, was the doctor, who lives 20

See **NEWBURY**, page 7



Randy Brooks, left, at age 36, when he began playing Jesus in "The Promise." At right, Randy at 70, still playing and singing at venues throughout the Metroplex.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear editor,

It is with great sadness that WISD and the community of Waelder mourn the passing away of Mr. Lawrence Fryer. I feel a lot of satisfaction that I was on the WISD School Board when he was hired as he was loved and respected by the students and his peers.

I will quote from Hammerstein

something I feel is very appropriate: "A bell's not bell 'til you ring it. A song's not a song 'til you sing it. Love in your heart wasn't put there to stay. Love isn't love 'til you give it away!"

The biggest thing for me was that he was my friend!

Eulogio "Lacho" Melchor
Waelder

The Gonzales Inquirer

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Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE



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BE A REPORTER!

Are you curious? Do you like to ask questions? Then you might want to be a reporter!

Below is a silly news story written by an imaginary reporter named I.B. Curious. It's a news report that could have happened in this fairy tale:

Use the code!

- = A
- = C
- = D
- = E
- = I
- = L
- = N
- = R



What's a Reporter?

Reporters, also called journalists, gather facts to tell people what is happening.

Some reporters work for newspapers. Some work for online news. Some work for television news or radio news. There are many ways to be a reporter.

Kid Scoop Together Scrambled Story

The pictures below tell a silly story, but they're out of order. Can you number them to show the correct order? On another sheet of paper, write the story in words.



PAGE 2A

Fairyland Morning Post

SHOE FOUND: PRINCE SEARCHES FOR OWNER

By I.B. Curious
STAFF WRITER



His majesty Prince Kevin III.

FAIRYLAND PALACE – Just after midnight last night, the Prince of Fairyland found a glass slipper on the grand stairway outside the palace entrance, according to Captain Turret of the Palace Guard.

“Prince Kevin III met a young woman last evening at the Royal Ball,” said Captain Turret. “His majesty wished to ask her out on a date. But the young woman suddenly ran off, just as the clock struck midnight.”

Several guests reported seeing the mysterious woman speeding off in a beautiful, golden coach pulled by a team of white horses. Dozens of witnesses said that she appeared to be wearing only one sparkling shoe.

Captain Turret revealed that Prince Kevin III discovered a single glass slipper on the staircase moments later.

“His majesty has declared that he will lead the search to find the young woman, visiting every house in the kingdom to find the woman whose foot fits this tiny shoe,” said Turret.

An official announcement from the Prince’s assistant requested that anyone with any information about the identity or location of the unknown woman contact the nearest Palace guard immediately.

Your News Report

Follow the steps below to write a news report about an event in your classroom, at your school, or in your neighborhood.

STEP 1

Pick something to report about. It should be about an upcoming event. Answer each of the following questions about the event.

1. What is happening?

2. When will it happen?

3. Where will it happen?

4. Why will it happen?

5. Who is involved?

6. Add additional facts or details.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow written instructions.

STEP 2

Ask people about this event. Write down what they say. You might find a way to include a quote from one or more in your news report.

STEP 3

Use your notes to write a report about the event. Fill in the blanks or write it on another piece of paper.

_____ announced that _____

_____ *WHO* _____ *WHAT*

will be happening at the _____

_____ *WHERE*

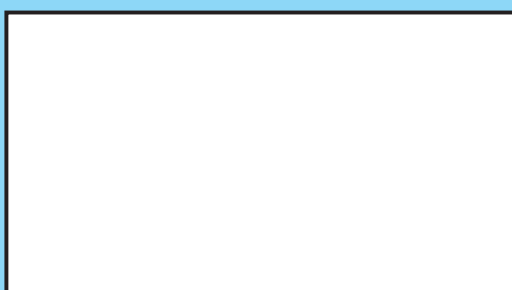
on _____ *WHEN (DAY OR DATE)* _____ *WHO* said, “_____”

_____ *QUOTE SHOULD BE ABOUT WHY THE EVENT IS HAPPENING*

STEP 4

Draw a picture or take a picture.

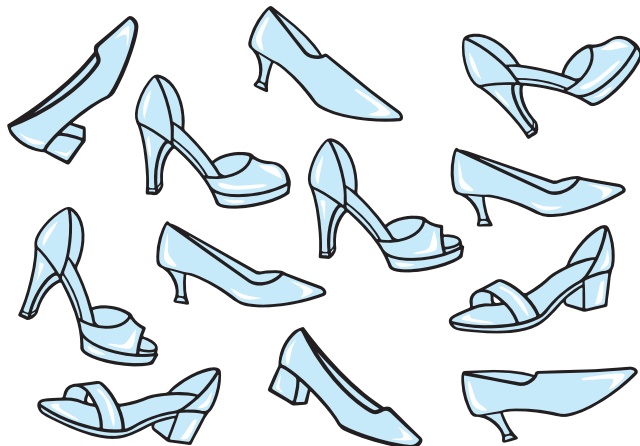
Below the picture, write a caption telling who or what is in the picture.



Kid Scoop Puzzler

Matching Glass Slippers

Can you match each pair of glass slippers in under two minutes?



Double Double Word Search

- CLOCK
- DETAILS
- EVENT
- FACT
- GATHER
- MIDNIGHT
- NEWS
- PRINCE
- QUOTE
- RAN
- REPORT
- SHOE
- TINY
- WORK
- WRITE

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



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

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CHCSCT, Main Street sponsor Prince & Princess Royal Ball

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Community Health Centers of South Central Texas (CHC-SCT) proudly sponsored the enchanting Prince & Princess Royal Ball in Gonzales, an event that captured the hearts of attendees of all ages. This magical evening, hosted by Gonzales Main Street, celebrated the spirit of togetherness and community while raising joyous cheers.

CHCSCT extends heartfelt gratitude to Gonzales Main Street for granting them the opportunity to sponsor and collaborate, contributing to the resounding success of this royal affair.

The Prince & Princess Royal Ball unfolded as a night of royal splendor, with delectable food, enchanting Disney characters, and memorable moments. The beloved Disney characters, including Cinderella & Prince Charming, Rapunzel & Flynn Ryder, Aladdin & Jasmine, and Elsa & Belle, came to life, courtesy of the talented performers from Lone Star Character Entertainment in Austin, Texas. They danced, sang, and delighted children and adults alike while serving cookies at the CHCSCT Royal Cookie and Lemonade Table, adding to the magic of the night.

The Royal Cookie & Punch Table featured scrumptious



cookies by Cathey of Finders Keepers Catering in Gonzales, Texas, and thirst-quenching lemonade by Judah's Java Coffee Drive Thru in Luling, Texas. The sumptuous feast was catered by Baker Boys BBQ in Gonzales, Texas, which included mouthwatering brisket, chicken, sausage, and an array of sides. Special thanks go to Pastor Morales with At The Well Ministries for generously donating delicious Chicken Strips prepared by the beloved Rusty Rooster in Gonzales, Texas.

All event attendees were entered into a drawing for a chance to win exciting prizes,

generously provided by CHC-SCT. The Grand Package, which included an Outdoor Theater System, 100-inch Projector Screen, Pizza Making Kit, Movie Night Snacks, and more, found its way into the hands of the lucky Farah Sanchez and her family of Gonzales, Texas. Children were not left out, as they had a chance to win two Lego Building Royal Castle sets in separate drawings, all thanks to CHCSCT's commitment to spreading joy.

CHCSCT also wishes to extend its warm appreciation to Lone Star Entertainment for their mesmerizing perfor-

mances and Gonzales Health-care System for their donation of hand sanitizers, ensuring the safety of all attendees. Gratitude is also extended to Brass Armadillo's Little Blue Shop, Around the Corner, and St. James Inn Bed & Breakfast for their generous contributions toward the cookies and for their unwavering support of the Royal Prince & Princess Ball. We want to sincerely thank Come and Dance It Studio for their amazing venue and hospitality.

For over five decades, Community Health Centers of South Central Texas has

been a pillar of the Gonzales community, providing essential medical, dental, and behavioral health services since 1966. With clinics in seven cities across five counties, including Gonzales, Seguin, Luling, Lockhart, Victoria, Bastrop, and Elgin, CHCSCT is renowned for its commitment to ensuring access to healthcare for all, regardless of their ability to pay.

CHCSCT remains dedicated to the well-being of the community it serves and looks forward to continuing its mission of making healthcare accessible to all.

ST. PAUL HIGH SCHOOL HOMECOMING COURT



CONTRIBUTED

St. Paul High School will host its Homecoming game this Friday, Sept. 29, as the Cardinals host the Brentwood Christian Bears. Homecoming candidates include, left to right, Nate Boedeker, Julia Barecky, Tori Walker, Charlie Pilat, Brooke Cerny, Joseph Davis, Zane Barta, and Maurin Knesek. The Homecoming royalty will be announced during halftime festivities.

Noon Lions, Breakfast Lions present Peace Poster contest

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Gonzales Noon Lions Club and Gonzales Breakfast Lions Club present the Lions International 2023-24 Peace Poster Contest.

The theme for this year's contest is "Dare to Dream." Students are asked to create a poster that visually communicates how the dream of peace with others in the world can be a reality. By this creative expression, shared by the students, may we all have greater tolerance and international understanding.

Students ages 11-13 as of Nov. 15 are eligible to participate in the Peace Poster Contest. Students must be residents of Gonzales County and come from public, private or homeschools.

Entry to the Peace Poster Contest in Gonzales is due by Oct. 30. This contest is sponsored by the Gonzales Noon Lions and Gonzales Breakfast Lions. All entries must be submitted to Lion Margie Radicke or your principal. Call Margie Radicke at (830) 857-5411 for pick up or any questions.

Local contest awards are \$75 for first place; \$50 for second place and \$25 for third place. Judging will occur at each Lions club after posters are turned in by Oct. 30. Two first-place win-

ning posters will be sent to District. Winners from the District contest will go to State and then the International contest. Prize money is awarded at each level.

CONTEST RULES

- One entry per student.
- Art work must be individual student's original creation-no duplicates are accepted.
- Art Paper: to be flexible material so that it can be rolled up for mailing tube.
- Do not fold poster.
- Art work size: No smaller than 33cm x 50cm (13inch x 20 inch) No larger than 50cm x 60cm (20inch x 24inch).
- Do not mat, frame or laminate art work.
- All media accepted-note: chalk, charcoal, and pastel entries should be sealed with a fixative spray to prevent smearing.
- Three-dimensional entries are not accepted.
- Nothing may be glued, stapled or attached to the art work in any way.
- The use of lettering in any language or numbering on the front of the poster, in any language, is not allowed.
- All artists initials or signatures can be written on the back of the poster (upper or left side of art work). Please also include school. DO NOT put name on the front.

Odd Fellows lodge to hold annual smoked meat sale, raffle drawing

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Gonzales International Order of Odd Fellows Lodge #38 will hold their annual smoked meats sale, with orders due on

Monday, Oct. 31 and pickup on Nov. 15 between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. at the lodge building.

All orders are prepaid. Smoked chickens (three pounds) are \$12 each, while smoked sausage (three pound

package) is \$15 each.

Smoked turkey (8-10 pounds) is \$34 each. Whole smoked peppered ham (5-6 pounds) is \$28 each, while sliced smoked peppered ham (5-6 pounds) is \$30 each.

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HOLMES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

exposing line workers to ergonomic hazards.

“Holmes Foods exposed employees whose jobs require repetitive motions and lifting tasks to recognized workplace hazards that can cause long-term injuries,” said OSHA Area Director Monica Munoz in Austin.

“The company must follow federal requirements to protect workers, in-

cluding those whose work is essential to the region’s food supply. We will hold employers accountable when they fail to meet their legal obligations.”

According to the investigation, employees were required to repeatedly lift boxes of chicken products weighing between 46 to 81 pounds from the conveyor to the pallet, from floor level to eight product tiers high. The frequen-

cy and duration of lifts, weights of the boxes, repetitive motions, and awkward postures placed employees at risk for low back injuries.

The agency has proposed \$60,269 in penalties related to five serious violations.

Founded in 1925 and headquartered in Nixon, Holmes Foods Inc. is a family-owned company that raises, processes, packages and distributes ready-to-cook

poultry for food service providers and retail deli markets. Holmes Foods employs about 500 workers at its Nixon facility.

The company has 15 business days from receipt of the citations and penalties to comply, request an informal conference with OSHA’s area director or contest the findings before the independent Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission.

STOP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

report summary, a Nissan passenger vehicle was southbound on FM 304 at 5:55 a.m. approaching US 90 while the tractor-trailer was eastbound on US 90 and approaching the same intersection. The intersection has a stop sign for those traveling on FM 304, while traffic on US 90 does not stop.

The Nissan failed to yield the right of way at the stop sign, and pulled into the path of the semi, which tried to avoid the car but ultimately struck the right front quarter panel of the Nissan. The Nissan spun counter-clockwise and came to rest upright on the unimproved shoulder at the intersection’s northeast corner.

The tractor-trailer rolled to the right and became detached and the truck-tractor came to rest upright on the unimproved shoulder on the north side of US 90, while the trailer came to rest in the middle of US 90 on its right side.

The driver of the rig, later identified as Allen Groff, 67, of Seguin, was declared dead at the scene while three passengers in the Nissan were transported by ground and air ambulance to Seton Hays Hospital.

The work to convert the intersection could be delayed due to weather conditions. TxDOT plans to use changeable message signs to alert drivers of the upcoming change.

WATER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Miller’s district covers the eastern part of Gonzales County and the southwestern part of Caldwell County.

Miller gave a lecture of the geography and geology of the Texas Gulf Coast to the board.

“I know that the city of Gonzales faces challenges with water. I know what those challenges are. You have a run of the river permit. And that run of the river permit says if the river isn’t running, you aren’t getting any water coming out of it,” Miller said.

Miller recommended to the GEDC board to drill another water well, he said.

“Gonzales is blessed with acreage and avenues that go out five leads in either direction. And you’re lucky. North Avenue goes out over a zone of fairly good water — not the best but fairly good,” Miller said.

“A little bit of geology, underneath our feet, is a spine of rock called the San Marcos Arch, that spine of rock at some point in time squished up a little bit and this underneath our feet is the thinnest spot in the Carrizo sand in all of Texas,” Miller added.

According to Miller, a water supply was drilled eight miles east of Gonzales near the Saturn Community and he added the Carrizo Sand is 2,000 feet there.

“There’s more sand in western Gonzales County that’s 800 feet thick. When you get

the thicker sand you get better water because it doesn’t sit and absorb minerals for so long,” Miller said.

Miller added it’s 109 degree water coming from the ground, but it’s wonderful water.

Miller recommends the city go up North Avenue and find a site, and he added it’ll require some work to identify the “quality of water and the volume.”

“It would represent a resource to the city that would be just wonderful. It would, it could be developed to equal the Hinten Well east of town out here. And therefore you know, you’d have a dual source of water,” Miller said.

One of the big concerns Miller mentioned to the board is the potential of pharmaceuticals in the water supply and he added that it’ll be the next big thing to take out.

“It’s doable, but it’s very expensive. And I don’t know who’s going to pay for it. Because I’ll be quite frank, I don’t think the city can pay to put in a reverse osmosis plant of the size of scale that would require to treat that river water down there,” Miller said.

Board President Ken Morrow asked Miller if there’s a problem with pharmaceuticals in the Carrizo water well.

Miller responded that the water well he drinks from is 50,000 years old under his house and

4H

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

4-H Week is Opportunity 4 All, which highlights how 4-H offers opportunity for youth to find their passion and explore learning about that passion and what lies within it through hands-on learning experiences.

The positive environment provided by 4-H mentors ensures that kids in every county in the country are encouraged to take on proactive leadership roles and are empowered with the skills to lead in life and career.

4-H, the nation’s largest youth development and empowerment organization, cultivates confident kids who tackle the issues that matter most in their communities right now. In the United States, 4-H programs empower six million young people through the 110 land-grant universities and Cooperative Extension in more than 3,000 local offices serving every county and parish in the country.

Outside the United States, independent, country-led 4-H organizations empower one million young people in more than 50 countries. National 4-H Council is the private sector, non-profit partner of the Cooperative Extension System and 4-H National Headquarters located at the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) within the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Learn more about 4-H in Gonzales at <https://gonzales.agrilife.org/> or find us on Facebook at Gonzales County 4-H - Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

NEWBURY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

miles away in Goshen. “I had this strong feeling that I should come to the office,” he said.

Providence again, right?... *****

Realizing that Randy had sustained a serious injury, the doctor initially suggested calling an ambulance to take him to a hospital.

Then, he remembered treating numerous victims of roadway accidents during his Indianapolis internship.

He expertly completed the treatment. Randy, claimed to be “good as new,” performed the same evening and at the two closing shows the next day.... *****

“I don’t solicit engagements, but enough still come to me,” particularly with Shiloh Road, a southern gospel quartet in the Metroplex. “I’ll serve the Lord until I can’t.”

Ever the “people person,” he now drives for UberEats between gigs. He hears numerous comments about his “Jesus look,” and smiles.

“God is good, now and forever,” he said. “With Him, I’m ready for whatever comes next.” Amen....

Dr. Newbury, longtime university president, remains active as a columnist, author and speaker. Contact: 817-447-3872. Email: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Facebook: [donnewbury](https://www.facebook.com/donnewbury).

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 Cash/check/credit card accepted.
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**For more information, contact
 Karina Longoria
 830.672.8757**

Must be 3 years old and older to receive drive-thru vaccination. Other restrictions may apply.

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The Gonzales Central Appraisal District

Gonzales Central Appraisal District will be accepting applications for Appraisal Review Board members for the 2024/2025 term until all positions are filled. Board members will receive compensation for their time attending hearings. For applications and more information please visit our website at www.gonzalescad.org, call 830-672-2879, or come to the office at 1709 E. Sarah Dewitt Dr. Unit B, Gonzales, Texas 78629.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING to Discuss Gonzales ISD's State Financial Accountability Rating

Gonzales ISD will hold a public meeting on October 9, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room located at the Gonzales ISD Administrative Office, 1615 Saint Louis St, Gonzales, TX. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Gonzales ISD's rating on the state's financial accountability system (School FIRST).

The primary goal of School FIRST is to achieve quality performance in the management of school districts' financial resources. Gonzales ISD received the top rating available, "A" for "Superior Achievement".

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Guy I. Moore, Deceased, were issued on April 5, 2023, under Cause No. PW23-0258, pending in the County Court of Gonzales County, Texas.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the executor below.

All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Dorothy J. Moore
c/o Pamela D. Orsak
The Law Office of Pamela D. Orsak
306-B E. Airline Road
Victoria, Texas 77901
ATTORNEY FOR THE INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR

NOTICE REQUEST FOR BIDS FOR BANKING SERVICES DISTRICT DEPOSITORY

The Gonzales Central Appraisal District is seeking sealed bids from all qualifying banking institutions in Gonzales County to act as the depository for the district. Bid specifications and instructions may be obtained from the Appraisal District office free of charge. Bids must be addressed to the Board of Directors, Gonzales Central Appraisal District, P.O. Box 867, 1709 E. Sarah Dewitt Drive, Unit B, Gonzales, Texas 78629 and received at the Appraisal District office no later than 5:00 p.m. Thursday, October 19, 2023. All bids must be sealed and clearly marked on the outside of the envelope "Depository Bid". The sealed bids will be opened at the regular meeting of the Board of Directors at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, October 19, 2023 at the Appraisal District office located at 1709 E. Sarah Dewitt Drive, Unit B, in Gonzales, Texas. The Board of Directors will consider award of the contract following opening of the sealed bids. The Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids received.

NOTICE REQUEST FOR BIDS FOR A COMPUTER SYSTEM LEASE/LICENSE AGREEMENT

The Gonzales Central Appraisal District is seeking sealed bids for a Computer System Lease/License Agreement. Bid specifications and instructions may be obtained from the Appraisal District office free of charge. Bids must be addressed to the Board of Directors, Gonzales Central Appraisal District, P.O. Box 867, 1709 E. Sarah Dewitt Drive, Unit B, Gonzales, Texas 78629 and received at the Appraisal District office no later than 5:00 p.m. Thursday, October 19, 2023. All bids must be sealed and clearly marked on the outside of the envelope "Mass Appraisal Software and Hardware Proposal". The sealed bids will be opened at the regular meeting of the Board of Directors at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, October 19, 2023 at the Appraisal District office located at 1709 E. Sarah Dewitt Drive, Unit B, in Gonzales, Texas. The Board of Directors will consider award of the contract following opening of the sealed bids. The Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids received.

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CITY OF WAELDER THE TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE (GLO) – 2023 CDBG MITIGATION FUNDING THROUGH THE REGIONAL MITIGATION PROGRAM (COG MODS) ADMINISTERED BY THE TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE (GLO) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND REVITALIZATION (GLO-CDR) DIVISION. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN & NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PROVISIONS AND; NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF APPLICATION INCLUDING THE START OF THE 14-DAY COMMENT PERIOD

The City of Waelder is planning to apply to the Texas General Land Office for a grant under the 2023 the CDBG Mitigation funding through the Regional Mitigation Program (COG MODs) administered by the Texas General Land Office (GLO) Community Development and Revitalization division (GLO-CDR) and identified on the allocation summary in the approved Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission (GCRPC) Method of Distribution (MOD), the City of Waelder requests assistance from citizens in identifying community, housing, and economic development needs and selecting priorities. A total of one public hearing will be held.

PUBLIC HEARING

The public hearing will be held at City Hall, 300 Highway 90 West, at 6:00 p.m., Waelder, Texas 78959 on Tuesday, October 3, 2023. At this meeting, the following items will be discussed:

- Locality/CDBG Citizen Participation Plan and Public Hearing Provisions.
- All eligible activities under the General Land Office Texas CDBG-MIT/Disaster Recovery - Infrastructure Program.
- Estimated amount of funds for activities that will meet the National Objective of benefit to low/moderate income persons.
- Level of Texas General Land Office - Infrastructure funding available.
- Proposed scope of work, estimated budget, identification of all sources of funding and maps identifying project locations and project beneficiaries (as applicable).
- Use of past Texas General Land Office contract funds (if applicable).
- Identification of housing needs/community development and/or economic development needs.
- Selection of priorities.
- Submission of Views and Proposals.
- Plans of the locality to minimize displacement of persons and to assist persons actually displaced as a result of activities assisted with HUD/Texas Community Development Block Grant and/or Mitigation Disaster Recovery Infrastructure Program funds (if applicable).

All interested parties, groups or individuals are encouraged to attend these public hearings and participate in the discussion of community development and housing needs and/or development of economic needs. Citizens unable to attend this meeting are invited to submit their public views and proposals regarding the community development and housing needs and/or economic development needs any time between regular business hours at City Hall, Office of the Mayor.

A copy of the application will be available for review and comment at City Hall between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, October 5, 2023, through October 19, 2023.

Technical Assistance

The City will provide technical assistance to groups who represent persons of low and moderate income and/or who are residents of slum and blight areas in submitting their views and proposals regarding community development, housing and/or disaster recovery needs and the use of Community Development Block Grant and/or Mitigation Disaster Recovery Infrastructure Program funds.

Citizen Participation Plan & Public Hearing Provisions

The Citizen Participation Plan and Public Hearing Provisions are in compliance with the requirements of the Texas General Land Office (CDBG) program and are available for public inspection in accordance with Texas Civil Statutes, Article 6252-17a (as amended).

Accommodation for Non-English speaking residents and Limited English Proficiency (LEP)

The City will upon request provide an interpreter to accommodate the needs of the Non-English speaking residents and ensure nondiscrimination by taking reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access for person with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) by providing language assistance as appropriate. Persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) needs are asked to contact City Hall at least two (2) days prior to this hearing. Para mas información en español, comuníquese con la Oficina del Alcalde al (830) 788-7331.

Complaint Procedure Guide

The City will utilize a Complaint Procedure Guide that complies with the requirements of the Texas General Land Office Complaint System; a copy of the procedure guide will be available for review at City Hall.

Disabilities, Handicapped Accessibility & Non-English Speaking Residents

In accordance with the Americans Disabilities Act (ADA), "Individuals who require auxiliary aids and services for this meeting should contact the City Hall, Office of the Mayor at (830) 788-7331. Reasonable arrangements have been made to accommodate the accessibility needs of handicapped persons and non-English speaking residents and persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP), who attend the public hearing. Persons with disabilities who require Auxiliary Aids or services are asked to contact City Hall at least two (2) days prior to this hearing.

Compliance with all Federal, State and Local Program Requirements

The City commits to comply with Federal, State, and Local program requirements, including environmental review, labor standards, procurement, acquisition of property, civil rights, and administrative requirements of Texas General Land Office and the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG).

Records and Additional Information

All records will be made available to the public in accordance with Texas Civil Statutes, Article 6252-17a (as amended). Any interested party requesting any special needs or desiring more information and/or technical assistance may contact City Hall, Office of the Mayor at (830) 788-7331.

Certification of Public Posting: September 25, 2023; _____, Melinda Caballero, City Secretary

CLASSIFIEDS

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
The governing board of Austin County Farmer's Mutual Fire Insurance Association, Inc. pursuant to the bylaws, calls an annual meeting of the membership of the Association to be held Saturday, October 14, 2023 beginning at 8:00 A.M. at the home office of the association located at 16836 Fordtran Blvd., Industry, Tx. The membership meeting is called for the purpose of electing commissioners for the auxiliaries whose terms have or will expire within one year from the date of the annual meeting.

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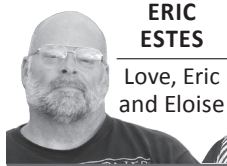
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Who you talking to?

How are you doing today? Oh sorry, I wasn't talking to you, but as long as we're on the subject; How are you doing today? Regardless of how today actually pans out, enjoy and appreciate it for the gift it is. As with many mornings, I woke to the sound of my racoons running and playing on my metal roof once again, wiping the sleep from my eyes with a faint smile on my face. Not long ago I climbed up and sat with them about 1:00 a.m., watching them frolic as I laid back and enjoyed the brilliant night sky, spying not only a satellite, but a shooting star as well. I love it when I intentionally take time out of "My" schedule to relax and take in God's fabulous artwork, something mankind will never be able to accurately duplicate.

After getting up, with coffee and cat food in hand, I headed out to the bench on my front porch, where several of my racoon buddies joined me for their breakfast. Many eat from my hand and are now pettable, while others haven't quite got the hang of it yet. I recently trapped a new baby in a cat cage, and after talking and petting it into calming down, was able to remove a glass jar mouth from around its neck. Yep, freedom is



ERIC ESTES
Love, Eric and Eloise

sweet!
God's gift of speech has always amazed me. With about 7,000 different languages being used around the world today, we somehow

always find a useful way of communicating with each other, if even through sign language, or simple gestures. Facial expressions and tone of voice also play a major role, as I was always sure when Eloise was happy, sad, confused, or simply fed up with my shenanigans. Many times I would give her fire eyes while moving my mouth internally, and with a look that said "I might just have to slap the snot out of you", she would ask what I was saying. I was quick to respond with "you don't want to know", so go sit in your corner of the closet, I'm putting you on time out! She'd then respond with a swift uppercut to my strong/handsome jawline, causing me to again bite my tongue. Oh yeah, let date night begin!

Speech is not only a great way of communicating with each other, but ourselves also. Widely accepted in psychology and self-help circles, it is biblical as well. As Proverbs 18:21 reminds us, "The power of the tongue is life and death, those who love to talk will eat what it produces." Proverbs 12:25 also tells us that

"Anxiety weighs down the heart, but a good word cheers it up." Self-talk is a successful technique used in many cognitive behavioral therapies, also useful in meditation and mindfulness practices. It's been shown to have positive effects on dealing with pain, post-traumatic stress, depression, feelings of inadequacy, healing, motivation and general feelings of well-being.

Many times I've used a form of self-talk to either change bad habits, or acquire better ones. I've found it very useful in motivating myself to tackle daunting tasks. For weeks before starting to build our house I would sit on sight verbally and mentally convincing myself that I'd be able to pull it off, giving our family a nice place to live and enjoy each other's company for years to come, and continued on a daily basis until completed. Truly a gift from God!

A warning though, in public it can make you look a bit unhinged. Once, while sitting outside a Cracker Barrel finishing my coffee, I apparently dozed off after my morning self-motivational speech, waking to a cup full of change. Bless their little hearts for taking pity on the crazy person talking to themselves.

Have a great week, love you guys, Eric.

Gonzales Area Parkinson's Support Group holds meetings

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The new support group for Parkinson's Disease began meeting in September in Gonzales. Future meetings will be held on the first Thursday of every month from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church of Gonzales Fellowship Hall. There are no fees to become a member of this group. Light refreshments will be furnished. We encourage those that attended the last meeting to come again and bring someone else you might know that has Parkinson's Disease.

The next meeting will be held on Oct. 5 at 6 p.m. This meeting will have final information on the annual Lone Star Parkinson Society Symposium that will be held in New Braunfels at the McKenna Event Center, 801 W. San Antonio Street, on Oct. 21 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. A continental breakfast and lunch will be served. The symposium and meals are free to all attendees, but you will need to RSVP to lonestarparkinsonsociety@gmail.com. This is an opportunity to visit with vendors and hear speakers to gather more information on this disease and meet other people with the disease.

Mark your calendars for both of

See **PARKINSON'S**, page 17

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Elm Grove Baptist Church 4337 FM 1115 Waelder, TX, 78959 First Baptist Church 422 St. Paul, Gonzales First Baptist Church 403 N. Texas, Nixon First Baptist Church Highway 108 N., Smiley First Baptist Church 406 N. Avenue E, Waelder	CATHOLIC St. James Catholic Church 417 N. College, Gonzales Sacred Heart Catholic Church St. John St., Gonzales St. Joseph Catholic Church 207 S. Washington, Nixon St. Patrick Catholic Church Waelder St. Phillip Catholic Church Highway 87, Smiley	METHODIST Belmont United Methodist Highway 90A, Belmont Dewville United Methodist West of FM 1117 on CR 121 First Methodist 426 St. Paul, Gonzales First United Methodist 410 N. Franklin, Nixon Flatonia United Methodist Harris Chapel United Methodist S. Liberty St., Nixon 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	Living Waters Fellowship 306 St. Paul, Gonzales PENTECOSTAL Faith Temple Hwy. 80 (N. Nixon Ave.), Nixon Holy Temple of Jesus Christ No. 2 1515 Dallas, Gonzales Iglesia Pentecostes Filadelfia 893 S. Magnolia Ave., Luling Temple Bethel Pentecostal 1104 S. Paul, Gonzales Life Changing Church of Gonzales 3.3 miles north on Hwy 183, right on CR 235, then right on CR 236
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OBITUARIES

BRITTANY LYNN (VOIGT) BALDERAS



Brittany Lynn (Voigt) Balderas, age 40, of Gonzales, Texas passed away on August 30, 2023. All her loved ones surrounded her at St David's Georgetown Hospital when she fell asleep in death after a tragic battle of a severe asthma attack.

Brittany was born on March 13, 1983, in Lockhart, Texas, to her parents Fred Voigt and Billie Faye (Robinson) Padgett. She was a graduate of Gonzales High School Class of 2002 and a dedicated and most loving wife, mother, sister, daughter and caregiver to her grandmother, Janet S Voigt-Mahan.

Brittany immediately lit up any room she entered with her infectious smile and laughter. She was a humble woman who enjoyed reading and studying the Bible. She instilled many values in her children and a love for Jehovah God. She loved helping everyone and never met a stranger. Everyone who knew Brittany knew she would give anything she had, and that her family meant everything to her. She loved ballet, butterflies, road trips, traveling to the beach and Colorado,

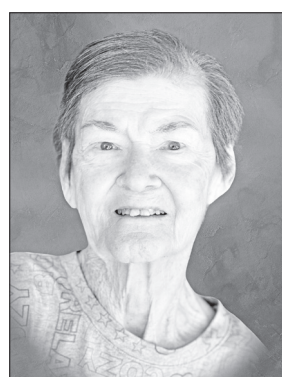
dancing to music and was no doubt a "Daddy's girl." Brittany proudly displayed both inside and outside of her home, her large collection of butterfly wind chimes. And she loved to spoil each of her many precious pets. Brittany's joy and passion of family gatherings, sharing a meal and caring for all her family and friends will be greatly cherished and missed. Prior to her death Brittany was most excited and preparing to be a first-time grandmother this upcoming October.

Brittany is preceded in death by her grandfathers, Herschel Teddie Voigt, W.W. "Bill" Robinson, and step-grandfather John "J.B." Mahan; and mother Billie Faye (Robinson) Padgett; and brother Jarrett Levi Voigt.

Brittany is survived by her husband, Jose Adam Balderas and her five children, Jonathan Sepulveda (Alexis), Jayla Ornelas, Jose Adam Balderas Jr, Jennifer Balderas, Jasmine Balderas; her father, Fred Voigt; Grandmothers, Janet S Voigt-Mahan and Faye (Copeland) Robinson; Sisters Kimberly Wright (Johnny), Krystal Cantu (Samuel); Brothers, Jeffrey Spears (Tracie) and Jessibb Voigt; step-father, James Henry Padgett, III and step-grandfather James Henry Padgett, Jr.; mother-in-law, Esther Perez; several sister-in-laws and brother-in-laws; numerous nieces and nephews; multiple aunts, uncles, and cousins.

All are welcome and invited to join in Brittany's memorial service on Saturday, September 30, 2023. Visitation and a slideshow presentation will begin at 11:00 am, followed by a memorial talk from 12:00-12:30 pm, at The Venue at GGs (upstairs venue B), 216 Middlebuster Rd., Gonzales, Texas. Brittany loved many colors, so the family is encouraging vibrant attire such as purple and pink to show your love.

FRANCES MARIE KUNTSCHIK



Frances Marie Kuntschik, 88, of Gonzales, passed away Monday, September 18, 2023. She was born January 27, 1935 in Gonzales to Prince Edward Decker and Thelka Frankenhauser Decker. Frances married Melvin Anton Kuntschik on July 10, 1954 in Gonzales.

Frances had worked as a florist for Polly's Flower Shop and Person's Flower Shop before going to work in the meat department at Wuest Grocery Store and retiring in 1990. She continued to create beautiful flower arrangements for many and various occasions.

Frances was described by many as a firecracker. She enjoyed camping, taking trips to Nashville or for that matter, trips to anywhere, she loved to travel. She was most passionate about family and delighted in time spent together with all of her family.

Margaret Kuntschik. She was preceded in death by her husband, parents, sons, Ricky and Chris Kuntschik and an infant brother, Douglas Decker.

The family will receive friends from 5 to 7 pm Sunday, September 24, 2023 in Seydler-Hill Funeral Home. A funeral service will be held at 10 am Monday, September 25, 2023 in Seydler-Hill Funeral Home with Deacon John Klapuch officiating. Interment will follow in Hermann Sons Cemetery. Pallbearers: Will Scott, Rocky Quintero, Corey Kincaid, Cody Mashburn, Cameron Harris, and Tanner Greathouse. Memorials may be made to the Hermann Sons Cemetery Association. Friends may leave their condolences to the family by visiting www.seydlerhillfuneralhome. Services are under the care and direction of Seydler-Hill Funeral Home.

REBECCA ANN HIDALGO

Rebecca Ann Hidalgo sadly left us on August 11, 2023, following a long battle with cancer.

She is survived by her son, Gabriel Anthony Gallardo; brothers, Ron (Stella) Hidalgo and Raul (Susan) Hidalgo; sisters, Rosenda, Elosia, Suzanna Hidalgo; and longtime best friend (caretaker) Michelle Duplantis-Baker.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Raul

O. and Grace R. Hidalgo, and a brother, Michael H. Hidalgo.

Services will be held on Oct. 2, 2023 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with a Rosary at 9:30 a.m., followed by Mass at 10:00 a.m. then burial at Gonzales Catholic Cemetery. A bereavement meal will be served at the Sacred Heart Parish Hall.

She will be missed by her nephews, nieces and cousins.



51st Breitschopf, Kuntschik reunion held in Gonzales

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The 51st reunion of the descendants of Anton and Elizabeth Mauritz Breitschopf and Johann and Theresia Fissel Kuntschik was held at the KC Hall in Gonzales on Aug. 6, 2023. The Frank Kuntschik families served as hosts with 48 in attendance.

In 1882, Mr. Anton Breitschopf and his oldest son, Anton, came to Texas from Horitz, Austria. Mr. Breitschopf died of yellow fever and is buried somewhere near Smithville. Anton worked hard for a Richter family near Moulton, earning \$10 a month. He sent for his brother, Wencil and his mother Elizabeth. In 1890, sister Mary and brother Florian arrived. Another brother, Frank, died in a mining accident in Austria.

Mary worked at the Menger Hotel in San Antonio. When she attended the wedding of her brother, Anton to Anna Kuntschik, she met John Kuntschik, Anna's brother, and later married him. Florian married Rosa Mitzner, and these families settled in the Stieren Community. Wencil married Josephine Bruner and they lived in Cistern. Elizabeth Breitschopf died Sept. 18, 1903.

Johann Kuntschik, was born on Jan. 9, 1843 in Upper Silesia, Austria. His wife, Theresia Fissel, was born at Heinzendorf, Austria, on Feb. 18, 1845. They had 8 children and they were: Anna, who married Anton Breitschopf; Theresia who married Stanislaus Petrosky; Baby Boy died at birth; John married Mary Breitschopf; Em-

ily married Michael L. Barnick; Frank married Agnes Gast; Adolph Alois married Frances Roznovsky and Edward married Mamie Schmidt.

A noon meal of Baker Boys BBQ was served along with numerous vegetables and desserts. The meeting was called to order by David Kardosz, Dian Denker Patterson read the minutes of 2019. (No reunions were held in 2020, 2021, & 2022 due to COVID). The treasurer's report was given by Rene Singleton.

Prayers were asked for anyone being sick: Judy Wesson, Frances Kuntschik, Kennon Brunkerhoefer, & Brenda Benes.

A moment of silence was held for any deceased members: Freddie Frazier, Linda Muhlstein, Kreg Llewellyn, Johnny Kuntschik, Raymond Zella, Verline Kuntschik, Janie Kuntschik, Kenneth Zella.

Family members currently serving in the Military were thanked for their service: Martina Armstrong & Zachery

Zella (Air Force), Greg Kuntschik & Mason Philbrick (Army)

New Business: Do we want this reunion to continue? After much discussion, a motion was made that this would be the last reunion. Rene Singleton will close the bank account with the remaining funds donated to the Colby Brown Scholarship fund.

The remainder of the evening was spent visiting.

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Gonzales Healthcare Systems
SEPTEMBER 2023

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
				1
4 Labor Day Office Closed	5 Dr Echols	6 Dr Quebedeaux Dr Miller	7 Dr Ryan Dr Echols	8 Amy Trost Dr Miller
11 Austin MFM Dr Malik <i>Dr Desai</i>	12 Dr Echols Dr Quintero	13 Dr Quebedeaux Dr. Twitero	14 Dr Ryan Dr Echols	15 Dr Bui
18 Austin MFM	19 Dr Echols	20 Dr Quebedeaux Dr Miller	21 Dr Ryan Dr Echols Dr Malik	22
25 Austin MFM	26 Dr Echols	27 Dr Quebedeaux	28 Dr Ryan Dr Echols Dr Kirchner	29

LOCATED AT THRIVE:

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Gloria Box, M.D. (830) 672 - 8497	Kathleen Koerner, DO, FACOS (830) 672 - 8497	William Craig, M.D. (830) 672 - 3845	Dr. Desai (713) 864-2659

Specialty Physician Outpatient Clinic

Audiology
Amy Trost, Hearing Specialist
(830) 372-2237

Chiropractic
Jeff Echols, DC
(512)799-6811

Dermatology
Vicente Quintero, M.D.
(830) 626-5551
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
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Podiatry
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Charles White, D.P.M
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GONZALES HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS
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Running M hosts Teachers Gone Bad comedy event

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Running M's walls have seen many things over the 100+ years they have been standing, and Saturday, Sept. 23, they added another new experience to the vault — nationally acclaimed comedy show "Teachers Gone Bad."

Teachers Gone Bad, Gonzales's first nationally acclaimed comedy show, hosted at the Running M Bar and Grill, was a success! After traveling all over the U.S., a short stop from home in our beloved Lone Star State for a first-ever event where Texas started was an easy yes!

Comedians Irma Ruiz, Tammie Bernal and Joshua Nieto put on a fabulous show! They kept the audience engaged and entertained

the entire time even going so far as to research our local area in order to make the show more personal to Gonzales.

They took us through everything from embarrassing moments and bad students, to hilarious questions and moments throughout the lives as educators. It was a night of fun, laughter, great food, and great entertainment for the Running M!

After the show the comedians stayed to take pictures and hangout for the after party provided by DJ Buddy. There was cold beer, hot food, delicious wine, and continuous laughter.

If you missed our first ever comedy show, no need to fret! The Running M will be hosting more comedy events in the future as well as an array of other delectably entertaining events!

Hayes to speak about Quilts of Honor

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The speaker at the Tuesday, Oct. 3 meeting of the Shiner Heritage Quilters will be Debbie Hayes, president of the Texas chapter of "Quilts of Honor," a national nonprofit organization whose mission is to show military members, past and present, how much their sacrifice and service is appreciated.

A Quilt of Valor (QOV) is a quality, handmade quilt that is machine or hand quilted. It is awarded to a Service Member or Veteran who has been touched by war. The quilt says unequivocally, "Thank you for your service and sacrifice in serving our nation." To learn more about "Quilts of Honor" log onto <https://www.govf.org>.

The Guild meets at the Shiner Methodist Church at 5 p.m. for socializing and enjoying light refreshments. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. and includes the program, show and tell and door prize drawings. Visitors and new members are always welcome.

For more information, go to www.shinerheritagequilters.org or email info@shinerheritagequilters.org.

Date change for Simmons, Lemons, Adams reunion

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Due to the death of an immediate family member, The Simmons, Lemons, and Adams Annual Family Reunion has been changed to Saturday, Oct. 14 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Blase's Hall (361-798-2978) in Hallettsville, Texas.

The scholarship application date has been extended to Oct. 6 and winners will be announced during the family reunion.

For questions and/or additional information, contact Margie (Nell) Simmons at 512-565-1218 or at bertmason58@gmail.com.



DUBOSE REPRESENTS

The American Legion Post #40, Gonzales, Texas chose Dakota DuBose to represent our post at the Boys State this year, which was held June 11-16, 2023 at The University of Texas at Austin. This program brings together students who have exhibited strong academic potential, solid leadership skills, dedicated commitment to service, and strength in character. Thanks to Dakota for representing The American Legion Post #40, Gonzales, Texas. Pictured are Albert Rodriguez, Dakota DuBose and Gary Schroeder.

CONTRIBUTED

LAW ENFORCEMENT WEEKLY REPORTS

Gonzales County Sheriff's Office 09/10/23 - 09/16/23

09/10/23

- Riewe, Nicholas Randell, 05/1982, Gonzales: Local Warrant - Poss CS PG 1<1G, Requires \$25,000 Bond; Local Warrant - Tamper/Fabricate Phys Evid W/ Inten to Impair, Requires \$ 25,000 Bond; Local Warrant - Evading Arrest Detention, Requires a \$2,500 Bond; Remains in Custody

09/11/23

- Longoria, Damian Jeremiah, 10/2003, Gonzales: Warrantless On-View - Poss Marij >4oz <=5Lbs., Release on \$5,000 Bond

09/12/23

- Martinez, Jesus Gerardo, 06/1999, Gonzales: Warrantless/ On-View - Poss Marij<2oz, Release on \$200 Bond

09/12/23

- Holstein, Franklin Wayne, 11/1966, Harwood: Other Agency Hold - Poss CS PG 1>=1G<4G,

Requires \$50,000 Bond; Other Agency Hold - Poss CG PG 1<1G, Requires \$30,000 Bond

09/14/23

- Meza, Jesus Moses, 03/1985, Smiley: Local Warrant - AGG Robbery, Requires \$50,000 Bond; Other Agency Hold - Evading Arrest Det w/veh, Requires \$20,000 Bond; Other Agency Hold - Evading Arrest Det w/veh, Requires \$10,000 Bond; Other Agency Hold - Resist Arrest Search or Transport, Requires \$6,000 Bond; Other Agency Hold - Terroristic Threat of Family/Household, 1 Bond all Counts; Other Agency Hold - Resist Arrest Search or Transport, Requires \$3,500 Bond; Other Agency Hold - Accident Involving Damage to Vehicle >=\$200, Requires \$2,000 Bond; Remains in Custody

09/15/23

- Perez Arredondo, Eric David, 04/2000, Nixon: Commitment/ Sentence - Poss Marij <2oz, Released - Weekender
- Ramos, John Wesley, 04/1997,

Luling: Commitment/Sentence - Agg Assault w/Deadly Weapon, Remains in Custody

09/16/23

- Nino-Nino, Jose Mercedes, 04/1998, Waelder: Commitment/ Sentence - Injury Child/Elderly/ Disable w/Int Bodily Inj, Released- Weekender

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

GCSO	08
DPS	00
GPD	05
WPD	06
NPD	00
GISD	01
SMO	00
Constable 1	00
Constable 3	00
Constable 4	00
DWCSO	00
DEA	00
TPW	00
GCAI	00
Rangers	00
Other	00
Total	20

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

- Outsourcing (abbr.)
- Post
- German city on edge of Black Forest
- "_, but goodie"
- Spiced stew
- Passionately
- Monetary units
- Group of living organisms
- Organic compound derived from ammonia
- High honors
- 5-year-olds' classes
- Swiss river
- Old woman
- Cash machine
- A way to soak
- Hair product
- Deride
- "The Blonde Bombshell"
- Cause to become insane
- Bluish greens
- Supported with money

CLUES DOWN

- Native of Slovakia
- Deli meat
- Fibrous substance in fungi
- Cutting
- Vedder and Van Halen
- Horror comic novelist
- Rulers of Tunis
- Shaped like a circle
- Make a pig of oneself
- Aphorism
- Witness
- Single Lens Reflex

- Type of equation
- Court officials
- Indian god
- Rids
- Leak slowly through
- Units of ionizing radiation
- Midway between south and southeast
- Freshwater North American fish
- Nautical ropes
- Leg (slang)
- Pokes holes in
- Moved quickly on foot
- Fix-it shops
- Type of bread
- Repaired
- Synthetic diamond (abbr.)
- Type of drug (abbr.)
- German city along the Rhine
- Animal disease
- Martini necessities
- Get away from
- Village in Mali
- Djibouti franc

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

SUDOKU

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

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.

Yoakum outpunches Apaches, 34-14



LEW K. COHN

Gonzales senior Blake Wright (22) turns a short pass from Cole Duty (9, not pictured) into a long gain in the first quarter against the Yoakum Bulldogs Friday, Sept. 22. Helping block on the play was Rafael Rodriguez (55).

Gonzales falters in final non-district game of season

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

The Yoakum Bulldogs outscored the Gonzales Apaches, 20-7, in the final three quarters to break open a one-score game, honking their obnoxious train horn in glee as they left Apache Field with a 34-14 win on Friday, Sept. 22.

For the first quarter of the game, it seemed like the Gonzales Apaches would match up with the Yoakum Bulldogs — blow for blow — like two great heavyweights in a title fight.

Gonzales had a puncher's chance against Yoakum on the Apache Field gridiron in what appeared to be an evenly matched bout. The Apaches' first win against the Bulldogs since 2019 was very much within arm's reach with the score tied 7-7.

The game started with Yoakum getting a 40-yard Cuellar TD run on their first play from scrimmage following a Gonzales punt. The Apaches would buckle down, though, and drive the ball down to the Yoakum 2, when quarterback Cole Duty would pick up a bad fourth down snap and find Brandon DuBose in the corner of the end zone for Gonzales' first points.

On the next possession of the game, David Clack III would pick off a pass from Bulldog quarterback Zach Taylor and set up the Apaches in Yoakum territory.

Gonzales' very own "Rocky" — No. 21

See **APACHES**, page 15

Lady Apaches win fourth game in row in sweep of JFK

STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Lady Apaches continued their strong start in district with a sweep (25-8, 25-21, 25-15) of the San Antonio JFK Lady Rockets Friday, Sept. 22.

According to MaxPreps, this is the first time the Lady Apaches kicked off district with a 4-1 record, surpassing their 3-1 start in 2018.

The Lady Apaches recorded 22 kills in the win over JFK; senior Macy Sample led the team with seven kills.

Sample added more to her contributions with match high five sets; and the team recorded 14 total aces in the win Friday night.

Sophomore Isabella Ikard recorded two total blocks for the Lady Apaches.

Junior Dakota Schmidt and sophomore Aubrey Lindemann both tied with seven digs; the team recorded 28 digs in the JFK match.

Senior Hannah Avant led the team with eight assists in the win over JFK; the team combined for 20 assists.

The Lady Apaches closed out the first half of district

STATS

KILLS:

M. Sample: seven kills
Kelly Breitschopf: five kills
Tara Lester: four kills
Samantha Baker and H. Avant: two kills
Mallory Clack and A. Lindemann: one kill

ACES:

M. Sample: five aces
A. Lindemann and M. Clack: three aces
Alania Valle: two aces
Jolee Lester: one ace

DIGS:

D. Schmidt and A. Lindemann: seven digs
H. Avant: four digs
M. Sample and K. Breitschopf: three digs
A. Valle: two digs
J. Lester and S. Baker: one dig

BLOCKS:

I. Ikard: two blocks
H. Avant: one block

ASSISTS:

H. Avant: eight assists
M. Sample: seven assists
A. Lindemann: three assists
D. Schmidt: two assists

4-2, and will host back-to-back home games against La Vernia (Tuesday, Oct. 3 at 6:30 p.m.) and San Antonio Fox Tech (Friday, Oct. 6. at 5:30 p.m.).



VANDY VAN EPPS

Senior Macy Sample (12) spikes the ball in the air against two Cuero players Tuesday, Sept. 26.

Cuero snaps Lady Apaches' win streak

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales Lady Apaches lost a tough match-up against their US 183 rival, the Cuero Lady Gobblers, in three sets (13-25, 18-25, 15-25) Tuesday, Sept. 26.

The Lady Apaches entered the match with a 4-1 district record; it was their strongest start in district play since 2018 when they started 3-1 in district.

Gonzales struggled in the

first set of the match, with Cuero starting the set with a 7-0 run, but the Lady Apaches continued to fight.

"We knew that after the first set that we had more in us, we could give more into our game and we just regrouped and went out there and played," Head volleyball coach Jillian Gonzales said.

The Lady Apaches cut the Lady Gobblers lead to 10-11 in the third set and Gonzales said her team didn't want to look

defeated entering the second and third sets and they knew they had to jump on Cuero where they can.

The Lady Apaches closed the first half of district with a 4-2 record after beating all the San Antonio Schools and losing to La Vernia and Cuero; they are currently sitting in third in District 28-4A.

"It is very important to us [start district strong]. We're

See **VOLLEYBALL**, page 15

Gonzales finishes strong in home cross country meet



PHOTOS BY VANDY VANDY VAN EPPS

Above: Varsity cross country runner Ckristofer Ramos sprints to the finish line for the Gonzales Apaches. Ramos finished seventh in the boys division. Right: JV cross country runner Kylee Bairrington sprints towards the finish for the Gonzales Lady Apaches Saturday, Sept. 23. Bairrington finished ninth overall in the race.



STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Cross County teams hosted their home meet at J.B. Wells Saturday, Sept. 23. The varsity, junior varsity and junior high teams all finished in the top five in team points.

GONZALES APACHES VARSITY

Ckristofer Ramos finished seventh overall in the home meet with a 18:18.58 time for the Apaches. Youhi Huerta (13th), Kevin Reyna (19th), and Carlos Pedraza (24th) all cracked the top 25 finishes for the varsity team. The Apaches finished fourth with 92 points.

GONZALES LADY APACHES VARSITY

Yaritza Angel (sixth) and Marianelly Martinez (10th) finished in the top team for the Lady Apaches; and Jordyn Gonzales (19th) and Kaylie Ramirez (25th) finished in the top 25 at the home cross country meet.

The Lady Apaches finished third with 93 points

See **MEET**, page 16

Mustangs fall in district opener to Comfort



BY VANDY VAN EPPS

The Nixon-Smiley Mustangs fell to 0-5 [0-1 in district] after a 43-16 loss to the Comfort Bobcats Friday, Sept. 22 in the district opener.

The game started rough for the Mustangs from the opening kickoff with Comfort recovering a surprise onside kick to start the game.

"Things didn't go away early and we didn't recover. It has nothing to do what they were doing. We just didn't recover very well from a negative situation," Head football coach Troy Moses said.

The Mustangs allowed 448 rushing yards for 46 carries and six touchdowns in the loss to Comfort; the most allowed yards for the season for Nixon-Smiley.

The Mustangs rushed for 209 yards on 45 carries; freshman Garett Gonzales led the team with 91 yards on 16 carries and he and junior Adrian Zamora scored the team's two touchdowns.

The Mustangs will hit the road Friday, Sept. 29 to Karnes City to take on the Badgers and Moses will be focusing on getting his team mentally ready with themselves.

"We got to get better. Mentally. We got to start practicing better and practicing harder. And it's kind of tough when we're not seeing success. So we just got to focus on us and not really focus on our opponents so much," Moses said.

The Badgers won their district opener against South San Antonio West, 26-18, and the Mustangs beat Karnes City at home, 20-13, last season.

The game will kick off at 7:30 p.m.

STATS

--OFFENSE--

PASSING:
Timothy McGlothline: 2/2 for 60 yards

RUSHING:
G. Gonzales: 16 carries for 91 yards and one touchdown
Ryan Paez: eight carries for 34 yards
John Garza: six carries for 26 yards
T. McGlothline: five carries for 23 yards
Eric Rodriguez: two carries for 17 yards
A. Zamora: three carries for 14 yards and on touchdowns
Trislan Mikes: two carries for eight yards
Aiden Flores: three carries for negative four yards

RECEIVING:

A. Flores: one reception for 31 yards
Carl White: one reception for 29 yards

--DEFENSE--

Davian Ramos: five total tackles
R. Raez and J. Garza: four tackles
G. Gonzales, E. Rodriguez, A. Zamora, and Noah Jenks: three total tackles
C. White, Jesus Espino, Nicholas Martinez, Jaylun Rodriguez, and Kade Dixon: two total tackles
A. Flores: one total tackle

SACKS:

C. White: one sack

TACKLES FOR LOSS:

C. White and J. Espino: one tackle for loss



Above: Junior running back Ryan Paez (44) runs past a Comfort defender for positive yards for the Nixon-Smiley Mustangs in the district opener Friday, Sept. 22. Left: The Nixon-Smiley Mustangs run out the tunnel for their district match against the Comfort Bobcats Friday, Sept. 22.

PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS

Lady Wildcats lose district opener

STAFF REPORT

The Waelder Lady Wildcats kicked off their district opener on the road against the McDade Lady Bulldogs Tuesday, Sept. 26.

The Lady Wildcats lost to McDade in four sets (12-25, 25-20, 13-25, 20-25).

Waelder made it a close contest in the second and fourth sets; the Lady Wildcats took the second set by five points, but came close to forcing a fifth set in their 20-25 set four loss.

The Lady Wildcats will host four home games in a row; they'll host Fayetteville, Round Top-Carmine, Prairie Lea, and McDade (second round of district).

Waelder will host the Fayetteville Lady Lions Friday, Sept. 29 at 5 p.m.

Griffins beat Lady Mustangs in four

STAFF REPORT

The Nixon-Smiley Lady Mustangs dropped to 1-3 in district rankings with a four-set loss to the Great Northern Oak Griffins

Friday, Sept. 22.

The Lady Mustangs started off strong, taking the first set, 25-22, but lost the next three sets.

The Griffins snapped the Lady Mustangs' two-game

win streak.

Nixon-Smiley will have three home games in a row. They will host Randolph (Friday, Sept. 29), Marion (Tuesday, Oct. 3) and Cole (Friday, Oct. 6).

VOLLEYBALL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

looking forward to the second round and possibly beating a couple of the teams that we lost to," Gonzales said.

The Lady Apaches will host the La Vernia Lady Bears Tuesday, Oct. 3 and Coach Gonzales expects this to be similar to Cuero's

team.

Gonzales said Cuero had similar qualities to La Vernia and that match will help them get ready for the second meeting against the Lady Bears.

The Lady Apaches have a bye Friday, Sept. 29 and will kick off second round

of district play at home against La Vernia Tuesday, Oct. 3 and will host San Antonio Fox Tech at home Friday, Oct. 6.

La Vernia starts at 6:30 p.m.

Fox Tech starts at 5:30 p.m.

Lady Mustangs fall to Luling in three sets

STAFF REPORT

The Nixon-Smiley Lady Mustangs fell to the Luling Lady Eagles in a three-set sweep Tuesday, Sept. 26 on the road.

The Lady Mustangs dropped to 1-4 in district play for the first time since the 2019 season.

Nixon-Smiley will close out the first half of district play at home Friday, Sept. 29 against the Randolph Lady Rohawks.

The Lady Mustangs will kick off the second half of district Tuesday, Oct. 3 with a home game against the Marion Lady Bulldogs.

Randolph game starts at 5 p.m. Marion game starts at 7 p.m.

APACHES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

Rocky Gallegos — was churning for extra yardage inside the red zone after an 11-yard run. The Apaches were in position to take a one-score lead in the final seconds of the first period.

Cruel fate then stepped in as Qyion Williams — playing the part of "Apollo Creed" — dislodged the ball from Gallegos' grasp, scooped it up in the air and raced untouched 90 yards for a TD that instead gave the visitors a 14-7 lead after 12 minutes of play.

"We had a lot of opportunities, and we were tied up going in there and got stripped and they took it back, what, 95 yards or so for the touchdown," Apaches coach Joey Rivera said. "If I had a challenge flag, I would have thrown it and I don't know what we would have seen, but I know that was a big momentum play and a big momentum swing. I think we would have made the game very interesting. We still were tooth to claw the whole way through."

Gonzales took their ensu-



LEW K. COHN

Omar Borjon (79) and Kamren Leal (4) bring down a Yoakum ballcarrier on a big fourth-down stop in Gonzales territory during the Apaches' 34-14 loss to the Bulldogs Friday, Sept. 22.

ing possession and marched methodically down the field into the Yoakum red zone again, but negative yardage plays forced a field goal at-

tempt. The snap was botched and a pass attempt by holder Dakota DuBose was unsuccessful. Gonzales would force a Yoakum turnover on downs at

the Apache 15, but then turned over the ball on their next possession when Travis Malveaux's pass was tipped by his own receiver and intercepted by the Bulldogs, who would score one play later from 11 yards out on a Williams run to make it 20-7, which would be the halftime score.

Yoakum scored the only points of the third quarter on their opening possession of the second half when Trae Cuellar took it in from 20 yards out to make it 27-7 with the PAT kick. Gonzales moved the ball into Yoakum's side of the field on both of their possessions in the third quarter, but gave up possession due to a fumble and a turnover on downs.

Midway through the fourth period, Yoakum would score their final points on five-yard pass from quarterback Zach Taylor to Williams and the PAT made it 34-7 with just six minutes left. Gonzales would get a 27-yard TD run from Malveaux, who had 106 yards on just 12 carries, but with under a

minute left in the game, it was too little, too late for the orange and black faithful.

"Like I told our guys, we could play 60 plays good defense, but if you've got to play 65 and those other five plays aren't good, they can take those dogs to the house and make it a four-score lead," Rivera said.

The Apaches will have a bye this week and then open district play on Friday, Oct. 6, with their homecoming against Caldwell. It will also be Come and Take It weekend, making this a Homecoming and Take It.

"Everyone told me when I came here, 'Coach, you gotta get a game for Come and Take It' and it just happened to work out perfectly this year," Rivera said. "I'm excited because I know we will get a big crowd with a lot of former Apaches showing up to support us. People can come out and see the game and then go downtown and still have plenty of time to enjoy the fun and the music!"

Come & Take It Memorial Golf Tournament is Oct. 7

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

There's still time to get a team together to enjoy the fifth annual Come & Take It Memorial Golf tournament hosted by the Gonzales HS Class of 1964 and the Community Foundation of

the Gonzales Area (CFGA), a 501(c)(3) organization. Teams are filling up quickly for the CTI Memorial Tournament which honors local veterans killed in action in Vietnam. The tournament provides funds for the Tommy Chenault & Ken-

ny McGinty Scholarship which is awarded to Gonzales Area students. Last year, five students from Gonzales, three students from Shiner and two students from Waelder were among the recipients of the awards. Organizers and supporters

of the annual golf tournament appreciate your assistance in making this year's event even more worthwhile, more fun, and more successful than ever. For questions regarding participation in the golf tournament, to contribute to the

program, or to offer any form of support, contact either Bill McCaskill (830-620-8767) bill@bmcaskill.com or Dee Schieberle (830-857-0278) dsch@gvtc.com. Financial support can be mailed to CFGA, PO Box 75, Gonzales, TX, 78629.



GVTC Foundation raises more than \$14,000 from Inaugural Game Day 5K charity event

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The GVTC Foundation is excited to announce that its inaugural community charity event, the Game Day 5K, raised more than \$14,000! As a testament to its steadfast commitment to fostering community involvement and diversifying fundraising efforts, The GVTC Foundation orchestrated an event that not only provided an invigorating and unforgettable experience but also united participants around a shared cause.

The GVTC Foundation Game Day 5K drew in individuals, families, and friends together for a day of physical activity, camaraderie, and spirited celebration. Participants ran, strolled, or walked alongside their loved ones and donned the vibrant colors and logos of their favorite high school, college, or professional sports teams, infusing the event with an electrifying Game Day atmosphere.

The Knibbe Ranch, renowned for its captivating natural beauty, offered a unique running route encompassing both

paved and trail segments. Attendees reveled in the stunning hill country scenery, caught glimpses of local wildlife, and embraced the spirit of the occasion.

The post-race celebration, held upon crossing the finish line, was a vibrant affair, replete with delectable food offerings, refreshing beverages, engaging games, and more. The festivities culminated in a heartwarming awards ceremony, where exceptional runners were presented with medals, further amplifying the sense of achievement and camaraderie.

Reflecting on the event's success, Sonia Aguillon, President of The GVTC Foundation, remarked, "The Game Day 5K has exceeded our expectations and has solidified its place as a unique platform for community members to come together and support a worthy cause. The GVTC Foundation remains dedicated to uplifting our community, and this event encapsulated that mission in a dynamic and engaging way."

As a part of its commitment to nurturing the future, The GVTC

Foundation awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to the youth program that had the most spirit. Congratulations to the Spring Branch Middle School Cross Country Team. The Pieper Cheer Team was also given a \$500 sponsorship for cheering on our runners and adding a whole new level of excitement to the day. These contributions reflect The GVTC Foundation's commitment to empowering the youth and investing in their growth.

The GVTC Foundation extends its profound appreciation to the sponsors whose generous support brought the Game Day 5K to fruition.

Ritchie Sorrells, President and CEO of GVTC, stated, "The Game Day 5K exemplifies the spirit of collaboration and unity that defines The GVTC Foundation. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the sponsors and attendees who embraced this event and its underlying purpose."

The GVTC Foundation looks forward to future events as it continues to champion community unity, physical wellness, and a shared vision of a brighter future.

GOLF SCRAMBLE WINNERS



CONTRIBUTED

The winning team from the Sept. 20 Golf Scramble at Independence Golf Course in Gonzales were, from left, Bill Kessler, Mike Turk, Donnie Janicek, Zack Reed, Randy Reed.



CONTRIBUTED

The second-place team from the Sept. 20 Golf Scramble at Independence Golf Course in Gonzales were, from left, Miguel Cruz, Justin Sepulveda, Dee Tiller, San Juan Garcia, Victor Melgar.



VANDY VAN EPPS

The junior high cross country teams kick off their race at the Gonzales Cross Country Meet Saturday, Sept. 23.

MEET

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

JV APACHES

All seven JV Apaches runners cracked the top 25 in the home meet; Cain Cardoza (eighth), Mille Balfanz (ninth) and Jude Hataway (10th) finished in the top for the Apaches.

The JV Apaches finished second with 58 points.

JV LADY APACHES

The JV Lady Apaches joined the JV Apaches with all their

runners finishing in the top 25; Jaelyn Ramso (fifth), Angie Palacios (sixth), Reigna Rhodes (seventh), and Kylee Bairrington (ninth) all cracked the top 10 at the home meet.

The JV Lady Apaches finished second with 39 points.

JH APACHES

The Junior High Apaches took home first place overall with 63 points. Homer Ruiz finished

third overall with 12:32.426 time; Nicholas Villa (fifth place) and Braydon Garcia (10th) finished in the top 10.

JH LADY APACHES

The Junior High Lady Apaches finished second with 87 points and Ellie Lester took home first place with 13:02.738; Maya Shoulders (14th) and Mardines Suarez (19th) both cracked the top 25 for Gonzales.

STATS

Varsity Apaches:

Seventh place: Kristofer Ramos (18:18.58)
13th: Youhi Huerta (18:50.937)
19th: Kevin Reyna (19:42.732)
24th: Carlos Pedraza (19:58.390)
29th: Christopher Gonzales (20:21.87)
32th: Miguel Moreno (20:44.857)
33th: Diego Leon (21:08.119)
Team finish: fourth place (92 points)

Varsity Lady Apaches:

Sixth place: Yaritza Angel (13:04.947)
10th: Marianelly Martinez (13:20.175)
19th: Jordyn Gonzales (14:05.001)
25th: Kaylie Ramirez (14:40.632)
33rd: Kassandra Mendez (14:59.269)
37th: Alaina Valle (15:07.350)
38th: Tianna Smith (15:08.408)
Team finish: third place (93 points)

JV Apaches:

Eighth place: Cain Cardoza (22:21.469)
Ninth place: Miller Balfanz (22:45.201)
10th: Jude Hataway (22:46.391)
14th: Alan Gudino (23:30.077)
17th: Alex Martinez (25:32.328)
20th: Kevin Garcia (26:31.638)
22th: Oscar Toro (27:19.219)
Team finish: second place (58 points)

JV Lady Apaches:

Fifth place: Jaelyn Ramos (15:52.330)
Sixth place: Angie Palacios (16:23.615)
Seventh place: Reigna Rhodes (16:30.083)
Ninth place: Kylee Bairrington (17:23.486)
12th: Eilleen Castillo (19:13.937)
16th: Abrial Reyna (20:13.074)
21st: Hailey Garcia (25:23.426)
Team finish: second place (39 points)

JH Apaches:

Third place: Homero Ruiz (12:32.426)
Fifth place: 5 Nicholas Villa (12:46.248)
10th: Braydon Garcia (13:05.930)
14th: Daniel Olmedo (13:44.086)
31st: Dylan Moreno (14:49.866)
61st: Conrad Canales (17:04.424)
63rd: Dutch Zaitz (17:22.349)
Team finish: first place (63 points)

JH Apaches:

First place: Ellie Lester (13:02.738)
14th: Maya Shoulders (16:11.919)
19th: Mardines Suarez (16:54.998)
26th: Alexia Kuntschik (17:30.042)
27th: Emma Stewart (17:31.030)
33rd: Khloe Granados (17:52.721)
38th: Melanie Soto (18:08.752)
Team finish: second place (87 points)

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BOND

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

One of the big questions from the bond meeting was the homestead exemption, and the definition of the that: "Homestead exemptions remove part of your home's value from taxation, so they lower your taxes."

Smith said the residence homestead exemption is for a "primary residence" in Gonzales. She added for the district under the current law there is a \$40,000 homestead exemption.

"So what that means is for a \$100,000 home, \$40,000 would be subtracted from that value before the tax rate is applied to calculate your tax bill. So you would actually only pay taxes on \$60,000 instead of \$100,000," Smith said.

GISD posted the form from the Texas Comptroller onto their bond website under homestead (<https://www.gonzalesisd.net/Page/4816>).

Also eligible for the homestead exemption are residents who are 65 or older, and residents that are disabled.

Smith said there's a tax ceiling for school district taxes for residents who are 65 or older.

"Once you reach 65 years of age, your homestead, your primary residence, hits the maximum school district taxes you will ever pay. So it's a ceiling, it's not an exemption, it's truly a ceiling. Your tax bill cannot go any higher," Smith said.

Smith added the ceiling can go down if the property value decreases.

TAX RATE

The school district's tax rate has gone down again this year; the project tax rate for 2023-24 is 0.8247 and since 2018, the tax rate has dropped 35.53 pennies.

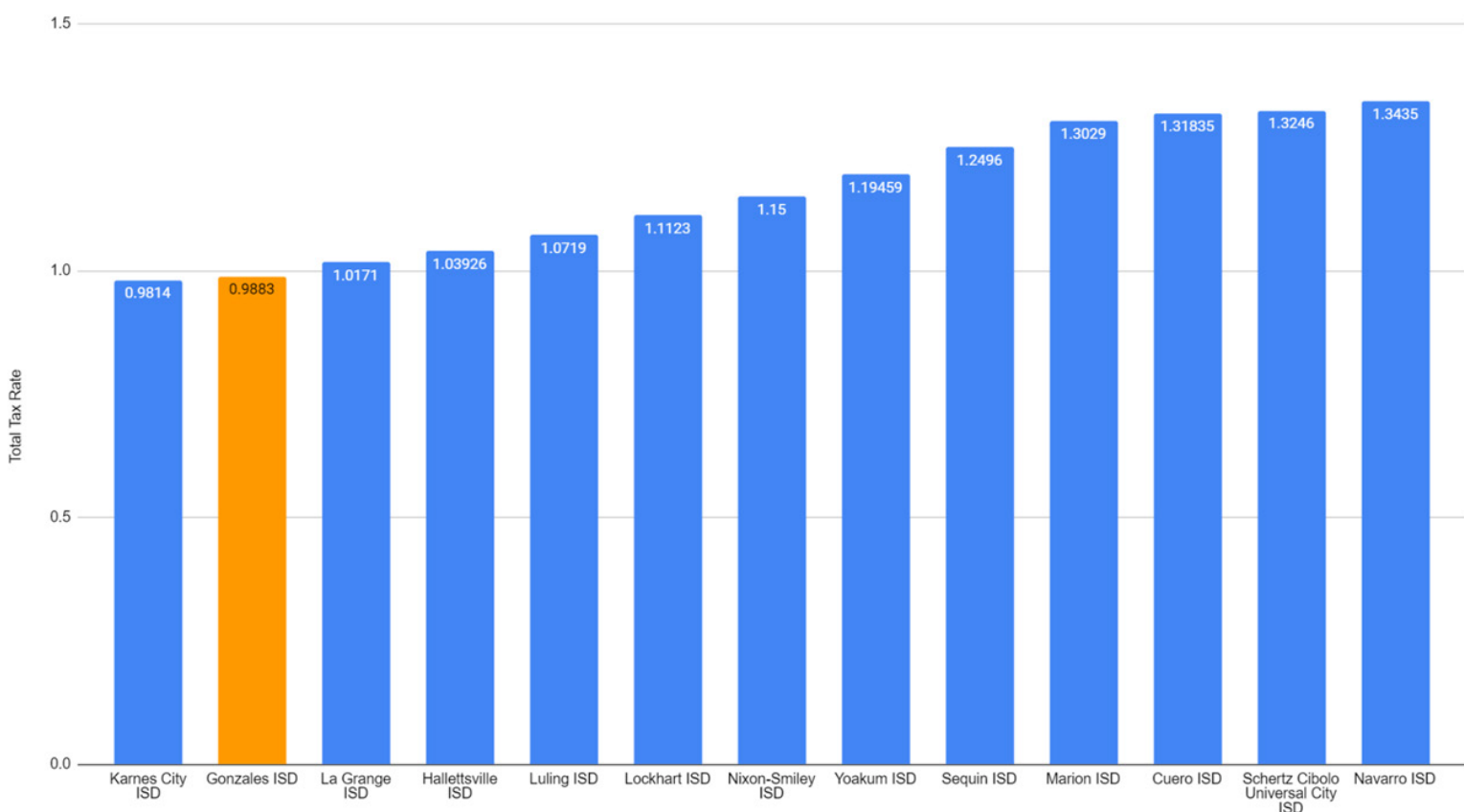
With the Texas Legislature passing Senate Bill 2 (SB2), it mandates that school districts to compress their tax rates for Maintenance and Operations (M&O), according to Smith.

"Our property values grew over 25 percent. And we were mandated to decrease our M&O tax rate. And that is anticipated to continue into future years. So we decreased our tax rate 16.36 pennies [from last year's tax rate], I mean, so and we're estimating if both propositions pass, that the tax rate will be increased 15.27 pennies."

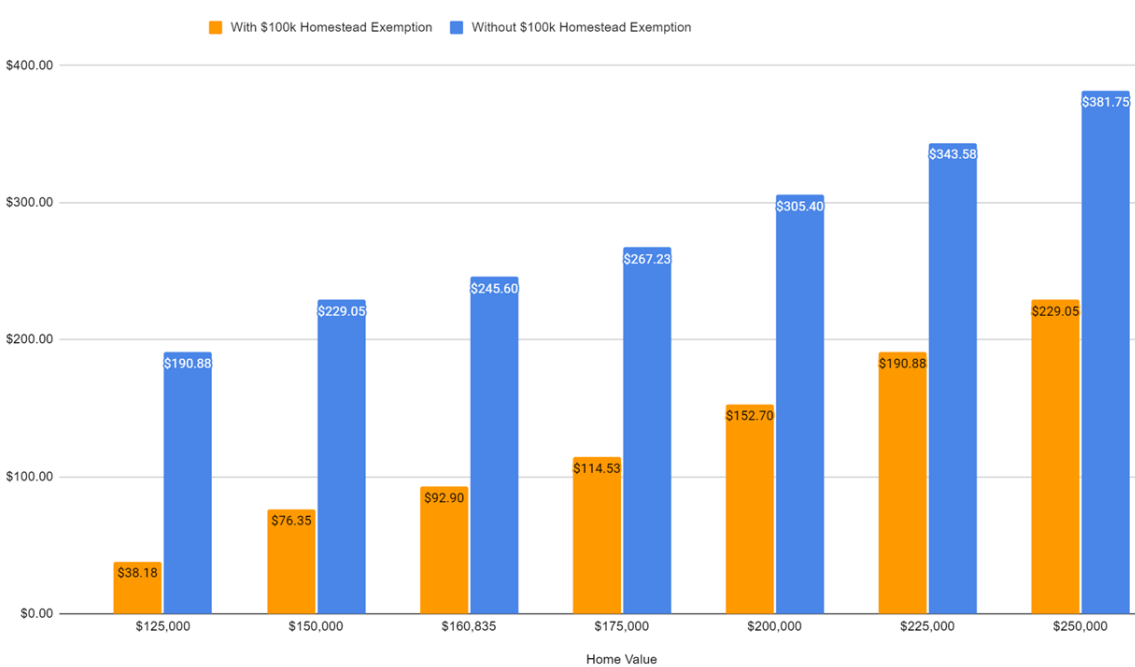
Smith went over the tax rate increases from both propositions; Prop A: 8.13 pennies, Prop B: 7.14 pennies, and if both passed it'll combined to 15.27 pennies.

"It is possible that one proposition passes if one does not.

Peer District 2022 Tax Rate Comparison



Estimated Annual Tax Bill Impact - Gonzales ISD Bond 2023



And the two propositions are two propositions and not one because Texas law requires that any athletic facility that has a seating capacity of more than 1,000 people be a standalone proposition on our ballot," Smith said.

ELECTION DAY

The city will not only vote on two propositions in November; they'll have another proposition to vote to increase the homestead exemption from \$40,000 to \$100,000.

"So if you have that \$100,000 property that I mentioned earlier, right now, that \$100,000 property is only taxed at \$60,000. But if that \$100,000 homestead exemption becomes law, they will be zero," Smith said.

Smith used a \$175,000 home

value as an example; with the \$100,000 homestead exemption it'll cost \$114.53 a year (\$9.54 a month) and without the \$100,000 exemption, it'll cost \$267.23 a year for residents.

"Although the district tax rate would increase with the successful bond election, a property owner's home value with this increased exemption may decrease enough that it may offset whatever increase the district has in its tax rate," Smith said.

Compared to other school districts in the surrounding areas since 2022, GISD has the second lowest tax rate with 0.9883 (Karnes City is the lowest at 0.9814); Nixon-Smiley ISD has a 1.15 tax rate and Cuero ISD 1.31835 tax rate.

PROJECTS COST

One of the biggest questions asked at the Victoria College bond meeting Monday, Sept. 18 was project budgets; and Smith said the numbers may be different due to the current economy, market and inflation.

"We're trying to do a really good job of making sure that we can deliver if these are successful," Smith said.

PROP A:

--CTE Building: \$12.5 million project budget, \$35 million soft costs, \$1.6 million escalation, and \$2.4 million contingency (TOTAL: \$20 million)

--Ag Barn: \$1.625 million project budget, \$455,000 soft costs, \$208,000 escalation, and \$312,000 contingency (TOTAL: \$2.6 million)

--District Wide Safety & Security, Accessibility, Maintenance Project: \$20 million project budget, \$2.4 million soft costs, \$2.240 million escalation, and \$3.360 million contingency (TOTAL: \$28 million)

PROP B:

--Athletic Complex: \$27.8 million project budget, \$7.784 million soft costs, \$3,558,400 escalation, and \$5,337,600 contingency (TOTAL: \$44,480,000)

"There were a few people in the audience that wanted to know what the project budget was, versus contingency escalation. And then soft costs are like our architect and engineering that we have to pay," Smith said.

The bond election is set for Tuesday, Nov. 7 and Smith hopes the community will educate themselves before the election begins.

"I'm a parent of students in our school system. I'm a property owner, lifelong resident. And I just hope that people make an informed vote that we as a community, do our best to vote with our heads. You know, emotion weighs in so much of dealing with money and children especially," Smith said

"And it is very important, but I just hope that people take the time to educate themselves and make an informed decision. Either way [vote for or against] because these are the community schools. Dr. A [Dr. Elmer Avellaneda, GISD superintendent] has that right when when he said that," Smith concluded.

PARKINSON'S

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

these opportunities to meet people with PD, join in fellowship, learn and discuss/ask questions about topics dealing with Parkinson's Disease.

Local support group:

Oct. 5, 2023, Presbyterian Church of Gonzales, 6 p.m.
Lone Star Parkinson Society Symposium: Oct. 21, 2023, New Braunfels McKenna Event Center, 801 W. San Antonio

Street, 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

For questions or more information contact Joe Pat Nance, 830-519-4466 or Virginia (Ginny) Lockard, 512-321-8370.

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CTI

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Again there will be things to see and do for the whole family, including the re-enactment of the Battle of Gonzales; the chicken flying contest; the parade; live music featuring Doug Stone, Little Texas and Confederate Railroad; the mullet contest; a carnival; a car show; the Lions Club cookoff; the CTI Art Show; the CTI Golf Tournament and much, much more.

CTI Committee Chair Daisy Scheske Freeman, Activities Chair Kasey Condel Rhodes and Finance Chair Darla Machacek spoke about what's new at CTI this year, what it takes to pull it off and their favorite events and memories.

What are some of the newest features of CTI this year?

Freeman: To accommodate our cherished Gonzales Classic Cruisers and participants, we've extended street closures north on St. Joseph Avenue, enhancing their experience. We've also expanded our commercial food vendor spaces, offering an even wider array of culinary delights for our attendees.

The Committee has also waived the small percentage fee traditionally paid by participating nonprofits food booths since our return from the COVID-19 cancellation in 2020.

Moreover, we introduced mixed beverages and air-conditioned bathroom options on-site last year for a small fee, further elevating the comfort and enjoyment of our visitors.

This year we have extended street closures north on St. Joseph to help assist the Gonzales Classic Cruisers to provide more room for participants. We will also be providing COW's (cell on wheels) for better phone service.

Machacek: Bringing in more commercial food vendors for a variety. Lighted port o potties. Back for the second year, Hoity Toity, for those that appreciate an air conditioned AND clean restrooms, for both men and women. Mixed Drinks back for the second year for those that like something other than beer. Knowledgeable volunteers that are not only there to assist in

the celebration of CATI, but are always researching new ideas to make Come and Take It better than previous years. CONTINUING feature is free admission! Towns surrounding Gonzales charge fees to attend.

HOW MANY VOLUNTEERS WORK DURING CTI TO MAKE IT SUCCESSFUL?

Freeman: The dedicated support of volunteers is truly the backbone of our event. In total, we have a diverse group of volunteers who play pivotal roles at various stages of the event. At the heart of our operation are 12 dedicated committee members who work tirelessly throughout the year. They make critical decisions to enhance the event and start planning for the next year immediately after our 'Come and Take It' celebration. This post-event meeting allows us to assess what worked, identify areas for improvement, and refine our preparations.

Beyond our core committee, we collaborate with numerous volunteer-led groups, especially our nonprofit organizations, who bring in a considerable number of volunteers. These dedicated individuals contribute to various event programs, including the battle reenactment, chicken flying, food booths, memorial services, museum tours, and other engaging activities.

During the event, our volunteers continue to shine, assisting with setup and teardown, parade coordination, merchandise sales, vendor support, ticketing services, and the logistical intricacies that make CTI run smoothly.

We're also fortunate to have an active online volunteer community that helps us spread the word through social media.

Furthermore, we have volunteers who handle tasks like answering phones, folding hundreds of t-shirts, and creating tour packets to ensure that our visiting guests have a memorable experience.

CTI owes its success to the unwavering dedication and passion of these incredible vol-

unteers. Their collective efforts create the magic that makes our event a cherished tradition in our community.

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE THINGS TO DO AT CTI?

Freeman: To rack up as many steps as I can over the weekend (just kidding!). My favorite thing is the chicken flying contest! I also love seeing the event as a whole coming together seamlessly and watching everyone enjoy themselves to the fullest extent!

Rhodes: The parade and seeing old friends.

Machacek: People watch and visit with old and new friends.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PAST CTI MEMORY?

Freeman: My cherished CTI memories span my entire life, from my childhood when I volunteered alongside my parents, to the carefree days of riding carnival attractions with friends. In high school, I had the privilege of working at the Pilot Club drink booth and proudly participating in the parade. Later, during my college years, I introduced my friends and sorority sisters to the event, establishing a tradition that continues today.

For me, CTI symbolizes the kickoff to the fall season, resonating with the spirit of football, hunting, and the imminent holiday season. What makes it truly special is the sense of community that encompasses the atmosphere, providing a safe and family-friendly environment to commemorate our history. It's immensely gratifying to contribute to the creation of positive memories for my loved ones and witness our community unite in celebration year after year.

Rhodes: It's not one certain thing for me. For me it's the nostalgia CTI brings to me that is my favorite memory.

Machacek: I remember always having a tractor pull and rodeo WAY back. That was always something fun to attend.

For more information about CTI, go to <https://gonzalestexas.com/come-and-take-it/>.

VEHICLES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

area in Gonzales County whenever their shift ends once the new policy goes into effect Oct. 1. That includes all Gonzales County Sheriff's Office deputies as well as County Emergency Management Director Jimmy Harless, who lives in neighboring Guadalupe County.

It follows discussion earlier in the month as several commissioners have been vocal about not wanting to see county assets being taken out of Gonzales County. Ten GCSO patrol vehicles were being driven out of the county, including one that was being driven to a home between Marion and New Braunfels.

During Monday's meeting, Sheriff Keith Schmidt presented a new policy he had drafted for his department that would go into effect Oct. 1 and would prohibit taking home vehicles outside Gonzales County.

"Historically, we've allowed our deputies to take them home, but starting Oct. 1, we're no longer going to allow them to take them out of county," Schmidt said. "If you look at item number 7, off-duty parking, effective Oct. 1 we will no longer allow our vehicles to be parked outside of the county."

"If I have a deputy that lives somewhere near Seguin, he'll have to leave it somewhere in Gonzales County. He can either leave it at the Sheriff's Office or we've talked to the Belmont fire chief and he will allow us to park them at the Belmont Fire Department. Our deputy that lives over near Flatonville will be parking that one at the Waelder PD. No take-home vehicles will be allowed to go outside the county."

Schmidt said he asked for an Oct. 1 rollout date because they are making sure the facilities where cars will be parked will be secure.

"Belmont Fire has offered (space) but we really want to maybe put up a camera

or something there," said Schmidt, who indicated other cars may be parked at the Nixon Police Department for those living south of Gonzales County.

Harless asked commissioners for their guidance regarding his situation, especially as he has been seeing a number of after-hours calls requiring him to go to fires and other emergencies in Gonzales County.

"I can tell you I'm averaging about one return trip after hours to Gonzales County, usually in the middle of the night, sometimes on the weekends," Harless said. "I would say about 60 to 70 percent of my calls on-call after hours is the interstate or will be Waelder. The sheriff can obviously set his policy, but since I am appointed by the court, I need some guidance."

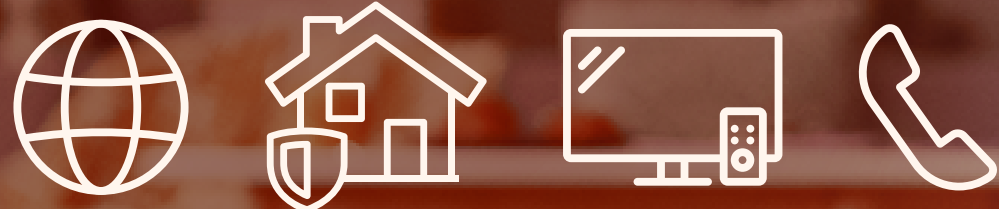
"Jimmy's deal is completely different from mine," Schmidt added. "He's on call and you never know when he's going to get a fire or they're going to have something he's going to have to roll to. Every one of his are emergencies, so I see his being a little different than mine."

County Judge Pat Davis said he thought that if the county was going to put a policy into effect, it should be "the same all the way around."

"I know we've got to respond to stuff and we still respond but you get there when you get there," Davis said. "I've just had a lot of calls and I know you've had a bunch of calls, too about this. Maybe we can fade the heat from what it is on some of these calls we've gotten."

Precinct 3 Commissioner Kevin La Fleur said he believes there shouldn't be a problem with Harless parking his truck in Belmont as well as that would be within 15-20 miles of Seguin, where Harless lives.

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