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Vol. 171, No. 23

Thursday, November 2, 2023



GONZALESINQUIRER.COM • F /GONZALESINQUIRER • ESTABLISHED IN 1853 • GONZALES, TEXAS: HOME OF LARRY J MERCER

GISD contracts with Caldwell Co. for bond vote

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Gonzales ISD board members voted unanimously to contract for a joint election with Caldwell County Elections Administrator Devante Coe's

office for the Nov. 7 GISD bond election during a special called meeting Monday, Oct. 30.

Board members also voted to name Coe the early voting clerk for the November election for Caldwell County and approving an amended and restated order calling for the GISD school building bond election.

These steps were taken Monday after an "oversight" led to the election not appearing on the Caldwell County ballot

when early voting officially began on Monday, Oct. 23, despite a portion of Gonzales ÎSD's boundaries being in Caldwell County.

"We received a call early last week from the Caldwell County elections administrator about an oversight that needed to be addressed," GISD Superintendent Dr. Elmer Avellenada said. "We met with them, took swift

See CALDWELL, page 16

TRUNK OR TREAT!





Gonzales children and parents celebrate Halloween in costume for the annual Gonzales Ministerial Alliance and Main Street's annual Trunk or Treat event at Texas Independent Square Saturday, Oct. 28. Children dressed up as ghosts, princesses, dinosaurs, horror movie classics walked around the square to receive candy from many local

PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS

GCSO, GPD apprehend fugitive child sexual predator Donnie Holland Jr.

BY LEW K. COHN Inquirer Publisher

"You know who I am." Those five words confirmed to Gonzales County authorities on Thursday, Oct. 26, they had, indeed, found fugitive child sexual predator Donald Paul "Donnie" Holland Ir. at a Gonzales residence.

The same Donnie Holland Jr. who was arrested and charged with seconddegree rape as part of an investigation into the disappearance of his cousin, Brittney Wood, in Alabama in 2012, as well as a child sexual ring that involved passing children back and

See HOLLAND, page 15

UIL 'Snapshot Day' reveals local school enrollment figures

Nixon-Smiley could see a familiar foe return in 2024

BY LEW K. COHN

Inquirer Publisher

The University Interscholastic League held its biennial "Snapshot Day" — the day when schools must turn in their grades

9-12 enrollment figures to determine their classifications — on Friday, Oct. 27.

For schools in Gonzales County and their conference opponents in neighboring counties, most will find themselves remaining in the same classification if the thresholds for those classifications remain similar for the fall 2024 through spring 2026 seasons.

Jury finds

man guilty of

continuous

sexual abuse

of young child

See UIL, page 15

Early voting continues through Nov. 3

BY LEW K. COHN

Inquirer Publisher

Voters still have from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 2 and Friday, Nov. 3, to vote early in the Gonzales ISD and Waelder ISD bond elections and the Texas constitutional amendment election.

Early voting is being held in Gonzales County at three loca-

• Randle Rather Building, 427 Saint George St., Ste. 100, Gonzales.

See VOTING, page 16

EDWARDS ASSOCIATION FALL FEST





The Edwards Association held its annual Fall Fest at the Edwards Community Center for the children and parents Saturday, Oct. 28. Many children participated in many activities from hayrides, hula hoop contest, face painting, and many more.

PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS





A former Gonzales County resident has been found guilty of sexually abusing a young child following a week-long trial at the Gonzales County Courthouse.

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

On Thursday, Oct. 26, a Gonzales County jury found Alfred Howard Jr., 48, guilty of one count of aggravated sexual assault and one count of continuous sexual abuse of a young child. Howard, who had lived in the Nixon-Smiley area for several years, had moved to Denver, Colo., around 2017 or

The Gonzales County grand jury indicted Howard in January 2020 after determining

See ABUSE, page 14

1 SECTION 16 PAGES



New defense attorney appointed in murder case

FROM STAFF REPORTS

A Gonzales County man who shot and killed another during a deadly argument

near Nixon had his case reset until Nov. 29 while his new attorney prepares for his defense.

Discovery was also

ordered to take place in the case of Samuel Garcia-Mendiola and James Milan

See MURDER, page 13

A Gonzales County Sheriff's Office sergeant made a traffic stop which caught a driver with an outstanding felony warrant from Guadalupe County.

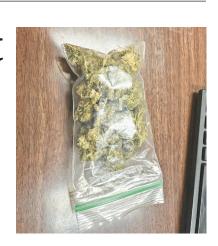
At 9:45 a.m. Friday, Oct. 27, the sergeant was working overtime through the Operation BorderStar grant given to GCSO by the state of Texas. The sergeant conducted a traffic stop on a passenger vehicle on Interstate 10 for an expired registration.

During the stop, the sergeant learned the male driver had a felony warrant for manufacturing and delivering a controlled

substance. That individual was taken into custody without incident. A further search of the vehicle located approximately an ounce plastic baggie of marijuana, which also belonged to the suspect, netting him a possession of marijuana charge as well.

"This is twice this week the

Border Star grant has allowed our deputies the opportunity to work extra and take two different felons off the streets," GCSO said in a press release. "This is all towards our mission of trying to make the Gonzales County community a better and safer place to live for all of our residents."





Rusted Gingham makes plans for 16th annual Barn Sale

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Rusted Gingham is once again excited to be hosting the 16th annual Barn Sale at JB Wells Park in Gonzales, Texas. Make plans to be in the barn Friday, Nov. 3, from 4 p.m. to 9: p.m., and Saturday, Nov. 4, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The famous orange truck will be ready to greet you at the entrance to the barn!

This annual gathering of talented artists is a great community event and a time to let Gonzales shine! Vendors from across the state will be setting up to show and sell their vintage, antique, unique, handmade, upcycled and otherwisemade goods.

Live music by Brandi Behlen and Dawson DeBord will fill the air Friday night and Saturday patrons will be treated to the voices of Christian Cook and B&B Band, who will be taking the mic Saturday from 9:30 a.m.and noon, respectively.

Eye catching displays will draw you into each booth — take a thought to buying local and from small businesses this holiday season. These vendors work hard to find, fix, create and curate fabulous displays for you to shop from.

Vintage, antique and salvaged repurposed items are keeping things from landfills and often find new lives in modern homes. Barn Sale vendors take pride in their work and bring their best to the barn! Small businesses and local 'Mom and Pop' stores are the ones keeping communities

going by supporting and sponsoring local organizations, scholarships, youth sports leagues, stock show sales and the list goes on and on. Artisans such as the ones under the barn survive by shoppers coming and supporting them at markets like the Barn Sale.

The Barn Sale has been recognized in Flea Market Style Magazine as one of the top 50 Barn Sales in the nation. That recognition confirms what vendors and shoppers say about the sale: they look forward to it every year!

Several food options are available, ranging from tamales and chili by the local Gonzales County A&M Club, the infamous Royer's Pie Haven sweet pies, brownies, snack mixes, popcorn, toffee, spiced nuts and more. Various drink options to warm you up or cool you down will be available as well.

Many shoppers come with a list in-hand, whether for Christmas, birthdays, graduations, weddings, showers or vourself as the variety in the barn has something for just about everyone! Rusted Gingham is encouraging everyone to shop small and support families involved in small businesses.

Admission for the Barn Sale is \$5 for anyone 13 and up; under 12 and 85 and over are free. Parking is free.

Bring your big rig – you're going to need it for all your fabulous finds! No pets allowed, the barn is just for people at this event as animals are a safety concern for all ages. We hope to see you at the barn!

I-10 traffic stop yields two arrests, sends three to immigration authorities



FROM STAFF REPORTS

A traffic stop on Interstate 10 as part of Operation BorderStar has resulted in the arrest of two people on multiple charges and the apprehension of three individuals believed to be in the country without legal permission.

According to a press release from the Gonzales County Sheriff's Office, a deputy working overtime on a Texas state grant for Operation BorderStar conducted a traffic stop at 8:50 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 25, on I-10 on a vehicle for having no insurance.

There were five individuals in the vehicle, and during the investigation, three of those admitted to being in the United States illegally and to paying the driver to transport them to Houston. The

deputy also located five grams of cocaine and recovered a handgun which had been reported stolen in Louisiana in 2014.

Two of the occupants — a male and female whose names have not vet been released - were arrested and charged with smuggling of persons, possession of a controlled substance, and theft of a handgun. The three individuals believed to be in the country without permission were handed over to the United States Customs and Border Protection.

"The sheriff's office is grateful each year we are awarded grants from the state allowing our deputies to work extra in order to provide a more safe community for all citizens in Gonzales County," the press release stated.

RWOYA to host Constitution Essay Awards Luncheon

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Republican Women of Yoakum Area invites the public to attend the annual Awards Luncheon at the Yoakum Community Center, 105 Huck St., at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Nov 8.

More than 120 senior students and their teachers from three counties; Lavaca, DeWitt, and Gonzales counties, from the public, private, and home schools are competing in the Constitution Essay Competition. Both the schools and students names are anonymous to the judges.

Students must write a threepage, double-spaced essay on a Constitutional question composed by the Education Committee.

First Place Essay winner receives \$1,300, 2nd Place \$800, 3rd Place \$400, and the teacher who has the most students in the final round of Judging receives \$300.

A free lunch is served to students and teachers with a freewill donation appreciated from the public.

This year, the awards will be presented by Mark Longoria, district director for Congressman Michael Cloud of the Victoria Regional Office.

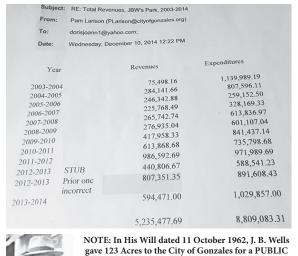
As the district director, Longoria works alongside Congressman Cloud serving the citizens of District 27. Mark also serves as president of the Victoria County

Hurricane Harvey Recovery Group and he is the Marine's "Toys for Tots" coordinator, which provides Christmas toys for less fortunate children.

Mark also has worked for more than 11 years with young people at Faith Family Church as Youth Outreach Pastor. Mark is married to Shannon Longoria and they have three children.

Mark will deliver information to the graduating students and audience from Congressman Cloud, and he will speak on Constitutional Foundations, Principles, Capitalism, and Protections by the Supreme Law of the Land, which lead to opportunities and protections for citizens.

At the 10-19-23 City Council Meeting, Councilman Hernandez said "It is horrendous the way JB Wells Park is losing money." (See chart below from the City of Gonzales to know what he's talking about).



PARK with written agreement by the City and, if the Public Park wasn't built in 2 years, according to JBW's Trustee's Deed, the land was to be sold and the money given to Austin Presbyterian Seminary, in Austin.

Chelsea Schellenberg

November 7th

John Calendar

Sandra Gorden

Lucy Hernandez

Jo Mercer

Gregory Mikesh

Denise Navarro

November 8th

Tammy Kelso Bell

Deanna De La Cruz

Lois Faye DuBose

Jaymie McMains

Courtney Rey

Susan Simper

Catherine Winegeart

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Birthdays

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Stanley Tieken Ruth Trimble

November 3rd Elizabeth Brelsford-Bennett Karyli De La Garza

Hope Mills Heather Shelton Charlee Zella

November 4th Jacob Bakken Debbie Malatek

Jennifer Riker

Alex Trevors

November 5th Tracey Edwards Bailee Franks Jewel Helmke Scott Jansek Richard Koch

Michael Oakes Lee Ann Wyatt November 6th

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Gonzales Weather



November 2 68°/45°

Plenty of sunshine 6% chance of rain ● RealFeel 70



November 3 68°/56°

Sunny 1% chance of rain • RealFeel 69



November 4 76°/58°

Sunny to partly cloudy 2% chance of rain • RealFeel 75



November 5 74°/57°

Plenty of sunshine 1% chance of rain ● RealFeel 74



November 6 74°/57°

Clouds and sun 4% chance of rain • RealFeel 73



November 7 75°/58°

Cloudy with a thunderstorm in the area



November 8 76°/56°

Periods of rain in the morning; otherwise, cloudy

72% chance of rain • RealFeel 73

40% chance of rain ● RealFeel 72

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Savay Sexton earns \$10,000 Vanier Family Scholarship

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Ten National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) members received the prestigious \$10,000 Vanier Family Scholarship during the American Hereford Association (AHA) Annual Meeting and Conference in Kansas City, on Oct. 20.

Since 2008, the Vanier family of CK Ranch in Kansas has awarded scholarships to Hereford youth, and since 2016, they have annually given \$100,000 in HYFA scholarships, totalling more than \$800,000 to assist NJHA members as they work hard to better their education.

"The Vanier Family name and HYFA are synonymous with supporting Hereford youth and over their lifetimes, the late Jack and Donna Vanier gave so much to so many, in the most humble way," said Amy Cowan, direc-



Sexton

tor of youth activities and foundation for the AHA.

"The foundation is built on the pillars of scholarship, leadership, research and education, and we are so grateful to the entire Vanier family for all they have given and all they have done to pave the way for youth in agriculture through scholarship and education."

The Vanier family is proud of the NJHA members and believes the work ethic young

people learn growing up in the Hereford breed sets them apart in today's workforce. The foundation is proud to carry on Jack and Donna's legacy through this prestigious scholarship program.

The 2023 Vanier Scholarship recipients are:

• Molly Biggs, Dixon, Ill. •Blake Bruns, North

Platte, Neb. •JW Cox, Flemingsburg,

•Lauren Gatz, Fairview,

•Clayton Hayes, Ada, Okla.

•Trevor Johnson, Centerville, S.D.

•Lauren Jones, Darling-

·Savay Sexton, Cost,

Logan Topp, Carrington, N.D.

•Rusty Wolf, Alexandria, Ky.

Savay Sexton, Cost, Texas, is a freshman at Texas A&M University studying agriculture

See **SEXTON**, page 14





On acorns, bluebonnets and controlling weeds

Q. Tell us why it is recommended to float acorns in a pail of water to determine which are more likely to grow (those that sink) and which aren't likely to grow (those that float)?

A. If the acorn does not sink it indicates that it has more air within the shell than the necessary nutrients and parts that are required to initiate and accomplish growing.

Q. You and Dr. Parsons talk on your radio show about the poor production of seed by bluebonnets over the last several years in areas close to San Antonio. You also described how several areas that had not produced seed over the last several years suddenly produced a good crop this last spring. Explain how a variety of plants like bluebonnet can suddenly recover its production of blooms and seeds when it didn't produce much in the recent past. Where did the seed

A. One of the characteristics of plants such as bluebonnets (and many weeds and wildflowers) is that the seed is capable of staying inactive until there is adequate moisture at the right time to produce a full crop. It could even be in some cases for 20 years or more! The seeds often have protective coatings that are penetrated only when the conditions are right for bloom and seed production.

Q. We grow all our vegetables and flowers in containers. We like to use transplants from six-packs because they do well when grown in containers and we enjoy witnessing the longer growth period that you experience when you use smaller seedlings. The lower cost of six-packs compared to 4 or 5 inch pots is also important. What is your advice?

A. Some retail nurseries still sell the six-packs, seek them out. Also keep asking your former source if they can get you some. That is mostly to let them know there is still a market for the 6-packs. If the 4- and 5-inch pot option continues to become more dominant, you may have to start more of your plants with seeds. Such a change may mean it will take you longer to produce a crop or you may have to change the vegetable and flower varieties you use.

Q. What is that sod that you can plant that you can use Round-up to control the weeds without hurting the lawn?

A. The grass is ProVista. It was developed from Floratam. Both St Augustine selections have good drought tolerance but only the ProVista can tolerate the Round-up for weed control. It is available in several area nurseries.

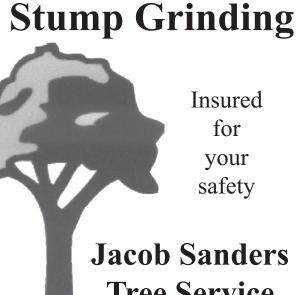
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GONZALES LIVESTOCK MARKET

Compared to our last sale:

October 28th Cattle - 738

Number 1 choice calves and vearlings sold fully steady to 2.00-3.00 lower. Less quality calves and yearlings sold 4.00-7.00 cheaper. Packer cows sold steady & bulls sold 2.00 higher. Stocker-feeder Steers: Medium and large-fame No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 355-340; 300-400 lbs., 310-325; 400-500 lbs., 247-285; 500-600 lbs., 237-241; 600-700 lbs.. 205-225; 700-800 lbs., 185-195. Bull Yearlings: 700-900 lbs., 80-115. Stocker-feeder heifers: Medium

and large-frame No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 229-275; 300-400 lbs., 225-228; 400-500 lbs., 218-224: 500-600 lbs., 213-215; 600-700 lbs.,

Packer Cows: Good lean utility and commercial, 72-88; Cutters, 89-96; Canners, 52-78; High yielding fat cows, 84-90. Packer Bulls: Yield grade 1 & 2, good heavy bulls, 118-135; Light weights and medium quality bulls, 100-110.

Stocker Cows: \$750 to \$1,250. Pairs: \$1,100 to \$1,650.

HALLETTSVILLE LIVESTOCK COMMISSION CO., INC. Sale date: October 24th Cattle on hand: 1855 Packer Cows:

Canner and Cutter Cows: \$76-Utility & Fat Cows: \$74-98 Light Weight Canner Cows:

\$50-70 Poor/Weak: \$35-52 Packer Bulls: Heavyweight Bulls: \$108-115

Utility & Cutter Bulls: \$100-110 Lightweight Canner Bulls: \$86-

Stocker Cows: Good Stocker/Cows & Heifers: NONE

Medium Stocker Cows & Heifers: \$1000-1350 Good Cow & Calf Pairs: NONE Medium Cow & Calf Pairs: NONE Stocker & Feeder Calves & Yearlings:

Number 1 steer & bull calves: Under 200 lbs.: \$210-320 200-300 lbs.: \$230-320 300-400 lbs.: \$230-320

400-500 lbs.: \$225-285 500-600 lbs.: \$215-252.50 600-700 lbs.: \$210-240 700-800 lbs.: \$190-227.50

Number 1 heifer calves: Under 200 lbs: \$200-300 200-300 lbs.: \$220-300 300-400 lbs.: \$240-290 400-500 lbs.: \$210-267.50

500-600 lbs.: \$205-255 600-700 lbs.: \$190-218 700-800 lbs: \$180-214

Replacement Heifers: 350-700 lbs.: \$230-280 The calf market was lower this week. The heavier weight calves sold mostly \$3 to \$6 lower. Light weights sold mostly \$10 to \$15 lower. Lack of grazing demand. Average of all calves sold was \$8 lower, Packer cows & bulls sold fully steady & strong on a

SEGUIN CATTLE CO. October 25th

total supply of 300 head.

Quality not very deep. Stocker cattle fall 10 dollars off with packer cows and bulls 2-3 soft-

Cattle - 589 Sheep & goats - 570 Medium & large frame #1

LIVESTOCK WEEKLY REPORTS

Steers: 200-300 lb. .95-2.25-3.25 300-400 lb. .25-2.06-3.20 400-500 lb. .40- 1.83-2.50

500-600 lb. .18-1.62-2.36 600-700 lb. .45-1.34-2.30 700-850 lb. .90-1.63-2.12 Medium & large frame #1

Heifers: 200-300 lb. .65-2.15-2.90 300-400 lb. .85-1.94-2.55 400-500 lb. .70-1.98-2.36 500-600 lb. .60-1.74-2.20

600-750 lb. 45-1.32-2.10 Cows: Utility & commercial - .63-.83-

1.02 Cutters - .40-.60-.80 Canners - .45-.54-.63 Palpated cows - NONE Cow/Calf Pairs - 1300-1450

Bulls: Heavy High Yielding - 1.10-1.25 Light & Low Yielding – .70-1.09

Sheep & Goats: Nannies - 75-220 Kid Goats (Fat) - 2.20-3.30 Wethers -1.20-3.45

Billies - 1.50-2.40 Dorp. Ewes - 45-130 Dorp. Lambs (Fat) - 1.80-2.55 Wooled Ewes - NONE Wooled Bucks - 1.00-1.40 Lambs - 1.57-1.67 Barb. Bucks - 250-450

CUERO LIVESTOCK MARKET October 27, 2023

Number of head 1.105 There were 135 cows and 22 bulls. Top packer bull was at \$115/cwt while tops on packer cows was at \$95/cwt. A small supply sold well in light of heavy marketings on packer cattle this time of year.

The calf market was higher on weights under 500 pounds and steady on weights above 650 pounds. Weights between 500 and 650 were weaker. The average weight was almost 24 pounds lighter. The average price was \$1.05/cwt lower. Market was strong on all classes with some being at a lower level. 98.00-115.00 Packer bulls: Packer cows: canners & cutters

80.00-95.00 poor & weak 30.00-57.00 Palpated: 10 BRED 95.00-138.00

PAIRS: NONE Steer Calves: (AVG-HIGH) Under 200 lbs. NONE 200-249 lbs. NONE 250-299 lbs. 217.00-300.00 300-350 lbs. 224.00-335.00 350-400 lbs. 228.00-312.50

400-450 lbs. 252.00-332.00 450-500 lbs. 242.00-316.00 500-550 lbs. 233.00-250.00 550-600 lbs. 229.00-242.00 600-700 lbs. 219.00-235.00 213.00-224.00 (AVG-HIGH) 195.00-240.00

700-800 lbs. **Bull Calves:** Under 250lbs 250-300 lbs. 224.00-320.00 240.00-342.50 300-350 lbs. 350-400 lbs. 251.00-330.00 400-450 lbs. 225.00-315.00 450-500 lbs. 219.00-252.00 500-550 lbs. 550-600 lbs. 600-700 lbs Over 700 lbs. **Heifer Calves:** under 200 lbs. 200-250 lbs. 250-300 lbs 300-350 lbs.

221.00-250.00 217.00-233.00 208.00-244.00 211.00-232.00 (AVG-HIGH) 199.00-232.50 176.00-230.00 179.00-220.00 198.00-300.00 350-400 lbs. 206.00-245.00 400-450 lbs. 212.00-225.00 209.00-221.00 450-500 lbs. 500-550 lbs 205.00-220.00 207.00-226.00 550-600 lbs. 200.00-215.00 600-700 lbs.

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OPINION

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear editor,

Gary Thomas Schurig served the City of Gonzales as the Director of the Gonzales Memorial Museum for seven years. Not only was he the Director, but he was also a talented teacher of the history preserved within its walls.

Classes of schoolchildren from Gonzales and many other Texas communities visited the museum. Gary would spend time with each class telling the Come and Take It story. He would tell of the artifacts and especially the little cannon.

His joy was seeing their eyes light up with interest. There were questions, like: "you mean this little cannon was in a war", or something like that. One morning. many months ago. I was at the museum with other DAR ladies. We were working on an inventory of the items at the museum. We witnessed 30 excited elementary students file into the North wing.

Gary was good with details and helped guide much of the ongoing repair and renovation of the museum. He was thrilled that the reflection pool, after many years, was finally repaired. Gary was an integral part of tourism in Gonzales. He greeted hundreds of visitors who came to see all the things archived in the museum relating to the pioneers and the rich history of

I was visiting with Gary one day when he greeted six people from England and Australia. They had driven off I-10, just to see the museum. Gary's hospitality was professional and sincere. His message was appreciated by everyone he hosted.

He will be missed by many. I know first- hand how big his commitment and love of Gonzales was. I served as President of the Museum Board for a couple of years; then served on the Museum Board Committee with Gary. He was a valued member of the Gonzales city staff.

I encourage you to consider a donation to the Memorial Museum 501(c)(3) fund in honor and memory of Gary. It will assist in the perpetuity of the Texas Heritage landmark in the City of Gonzales and the State of Texas.

> **Ann Covert** Former Gonzales resident

GONZALES CO. HISTORY

- 1832 November, first municipal government appointed by Jose Antonio Navarro, Mexican commissioner of the colony. Ezekiel Williams became Alcalde.
- 1838 in the fall, five children, Lockharts and Putnams, captured near residence of Andrew Lockhart by Indians. November 18, neat white
- mattings are being put down on office floors in the courthouse because the stone floors are so cold in the winter. November 18, Frank Teich,
 - future sculptor for the Confederate monument, placed a family monument for Miss Emma Fischer in the Masonic cemetery where her family is buried.
- November 14, the Honorable 1910 William Jennings Bryan will speak at the Opera House on -November 23 at 9:30 a.m. under the sponsorship of the Mothers Club.
 - -November 21, many local businesses advertise that they will close from 9:30 to 11:30 on the 23rd so that everyone may attend the W.J. Bryan lecture at that time. Tickets are selling fast at \$1 for a seat on the floor and \$.050 for a balcony seat. -November 23, Mr. Bryan was picked up in Harwood by a caravan of local citizens in automobiles. He was housed at the Plaza Hotel. Portions of his speech were printed in the Inquirer. It ended with "Speed the day when the badge of disgrace be put upon the idler."
- 1928 - November 1, group of Gonzales farmers protesting the three "mammoth" dams that are to be built by Hunt Development Company of Delaware across the Guadalupe River in Gonzales County.
 - November 8, the old George Jefferson Boothe building at the corner of St. Louis and St. Joseph streets will be razed and a modern filling station will be erected in its place by Dr. J.A. Maness. The Boothe family had conducted business there for more than sixty years and this intersection was known as "Boothe Corner".
- 1931 first public library opened, sharing a space with the Chamber of Commerce in the 400 block of St. George Street. Project sponsored by the Woman's Study Club and the Sesame Study Club.

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Timing is everything...

n older woman, her age near-

ing the century mark, deeply desired to attend the recent Howard Payne University homecoming. She received her baccalaureate degree there some 75 years ago, and this was her first trip back to Brownwood since her graduation. "I wanted to see Old Main one

last time," she said, remembering that most of her classes were held in the old three-story sandstone structure which was HPU's only building when classes began in 1890.

Other alumni would have enjoyed seeing it, too, that regalcenterpiece where students kidded that ivy crept around on the outside and faculty crept around on the inside. Too bad the old grad didn't hear that Old Main had gone up in flames back in 1984....

My ancient Uncle Mort in The Thicket is shaking his head about the many controversies that dominate news cycles.

He was saddened that several hundred persons protested recently in front of the Dallas Morning News. Groups included the Palestinian Youth Movement, Indian American Muslim Council, Dallas Anti-War Committee and the Party for Socialism and Liberation.

He doubts that there are many youngsters hawking newspapers around the newspaper headquarters these days.....

Though Mort knows little about astronomy, he is fascinated by news about outer space.

"As a kid, the closest I got to

astronomy was singing, 'Twinkle, twinkle, little star," Mort laughed. He said that astronomers have confirmed the most distant radio burst ever came in on radio waves

lasting less than a millisecond from a galaxy so far away that its light took eight billion years to reach us. I can't wrap my head around this, either, but will whistle the melody about the twinkling star much of the day....

Mort knows I don't cotton to use or promotion of alcohol, and rarely make any reference to it. An item from across the pond, however, confounds, amuses and amazes!

Sotheby's is gearing up for an auction next month, and obviously places a high value on, uh, "ancient hooch." It promises to take the highest bid for a "96-year-old bottle of single malt from distiller Macallen--The Macallan Adami 1926." It will come under the hammer on Nov. 18, and the likely winner will need to pony up with

\$1.46 million. That's a hefty price to celebrate anything, and for those who decide to drown their sorrows in alcohol, there are many brands available that produce the same results at a fraction of the price....

This reminds me of the yard maintenance guy whose boss gifted him with a bottle of whiskey.

The worker thanked him profusely for the "just right" whiskey.

Asked what "just right" meant, he answered thusly: "If it had been any better, you wouldn't have given it to me, and if it had been any worse, I couldn't have swallowed it."...

I began this piece referencing my alma mater, where I was a student from 1956 to 1961 and president from 1985-1997. I'll end it with an observation made by my friend Dave Lieber, who writes twice weekly "watch dog" columns in the Dallas Morning News.

He remembered the late Blackie Sherrod, nationally renowned sports columnist for the DMN who retired in 2006 and died a decade later at age 96. He cited Sherrod's unique ability to weave stories together, usually under a "scattershooting" headline.

See NEWBURY, page 14



See HISTORY, page 14



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THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

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Staying on Track

Kevin loves collecting toy racing cars. But the price of these little cars went up recently. His family is spending more on groceries, too. Kevin wanted to help.

> He didn't ask his mom to buy him another car on this week's grocery shopping trip. Instead, Kevin traded some cars with his friends Evan and Oscar. Now all three have different cars to play with

from time to time. For each of the boys, it's like getting a new car without spending any money at all!

Find the two identical cars.















What would it cost?

If you bought a \$2 candy bar every week for a month?

If you bought a \$2 candy bar every week for a year?

Standards Link: Math: Solve word problems in two or more steps

Replace the missing words. SAVINGS AVOIDED



Olivia wanted a new soccer ball. There wasn't anything with the one she already had, but the new one had cooler colors. It was expensive, but she had enough money in her _ to buy it.

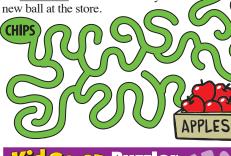
Olivia decided not to buy it right away. She making an impulse buy

Each time she went to the store, Olivia

at the new ball but didn't buy it. Instead, she went home to about it. Did she really

need it? She found that the longer she waited, the less she thought about the new ball. And her ball was still in

If her ball starts to wear out, she has saved and can buy the



You Have the Power! Circle every other letter to reveal one of the most powerful ways

Standards Link: Economics: Students learn to differentiate between wants and needs.

Avoid the

Steer this shopping cart to the produce aisle, avoiding the impulse-buy items along the way.

you can help your family save money at home.

ATBOULRYNZOCFVFC LHIJGUHBTNSKAHN LDSEGLHEJCVTSRIO **PNHIUCWSVWTHO EGNIYTOSUILVEPATV JECTVHLENRIOEOHM**



Money-Saving Headlines

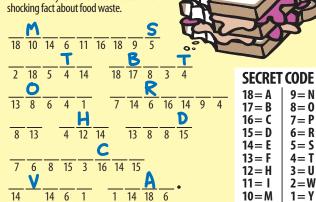
Extra! Extra

Cut words out of newspaper headlines to make a message about saving money. Use magnets to post the message on your refrigerator. Example:

DON'T WASTE FOOD

Standards Link: Reading imprehension: Follow multiple step directions.

Don't Waste It! Steven was hungry. He made a huge sandwich After a few bites, he was full! Wasting food wastes money. Use the code to discover a shocking fact about food waste.



Double **Word Search**

ADDS BILLS BUY CART HELP HOME IMPULSE LESS MONEY **NEED SPENDING STORE TEMPTING** THINKING

WRONG

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

AWBIMPULSE TLNULWONLT H C E B Y R D Y L E IEASCOARIM NMLRSNDCBP KOVPTGDEYT IHWDOHSBEI NZAQRCTRSN G W S P E N D I N G FJOLVYENOM

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

Kid Scoop Together Saving Together

Work with a family member to come up with ideas to save money on each of these items.

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Gonzales Inquirer





Registration begins for VC's Spring 2024 classes on Monday, Oct. 30.

Registration now open for VC's Spring 2024 classes

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Registration for Victoria College's Spring 2024 traditional classes - those that lead to a degree, certificate, or university transfer - will begin Monday, Oct. 30, with registration periods continuing through March 8.

VC's Spring 2024 semester is made up of several terms, including Winter Interim (Dec. 18-Jan. 3), 16-week (Jan. 16-May 9), first 8-week (Jan.

16-March 8), and second 8-week (March 18-May 9)

Eligible students can register online via the Pirate Portal or by scheduling an appointment with an advisor. Appointments can be scheduled by visiting VictoriaCollege.edu/Advising.

Payment plans are available, with 25% due by noon on Nov. 16 for students who enroll through Nov. 16; 25% due by noon on Dec. 8 for students who enroll Nov. 17-Dec. 8; 50% due by 5 p.m. on Jan. 19

for students who enroll Dec. 9-Jan. 11; or 50% due by noon on March 8 for students who

enroll Jan. 16-March 8. Students can also apply for

financial aid and scholarships. Administrative offices for Victoria College will be closed Nov. 19-25 for Fall Break and Dec. 17-Jan. 1 for Winter Break.

For more details on registration and to search course offerings, visit VictoriaCollege.edu/ ClassSchedule or call (361) 573-3291.

Public can suggest speakers for VC's Lyceum Lecture Series

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Victoria College students, employees, and the community are invited to recommend speakers for VC's 2024-25 Lyceum Lecture Series.

Those wishing to make suggestions for the 2024-25 series can do so by

visiting VictoriaCollege. edu/Lyceum and clicking on the "Recommend a Speaker" link at the bottom of the page. Speaker suggestions are limited to two submissions per person.

The deadline to submit speaker suggestions is

Friday, Nov. 3. The mission of the Victoria College Lyceum is to

bring the world to Victoria by giving students and community members the opportunity to hear firsthand the ideas, experiences, and aspirations of individuals who have had a direct impact on world events, made major scientific discoveries, touched people's hearts and imaginations, and molded public debate.

'Surviving the Holidays' helps those who have experienced loss

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

For someone who has experienced a loss, the holidays can be the hardest time of the year. Many find themselves wondering how they will survive the weeks surrounding Thanksgiving and Christmas, feel increased loneliness, and simply dread the holiday season.

Surviving the Holidays is a GriefShare 2-hour holiday ministry program that is especially for people who are grieving a loved one's death and uses the same format as the regular 13-week GriefShare program. Through video, discussion time and receipt of

a survival guide book, attendees will learn how to deal with the many emotions they'll face during the holidays, what to do about traditions and other upcoming changes, as well as helpful tips for surviving social events.

Abiding Word Lutheran Church currently hosts the 13-week Grief-Share program and will be offering Surviving the Holidays twice over the coming months.

The first session will be held on Saturday, Nov. 11 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and the second session will be held on Saturday, Dec. 9 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Both sessions are free and open to the public. For more information or to register for Surviving the Holidays, call 713-582-0794. For information on the regular 13-week GriefShare program, please go to www.griefshare.org.

Shiner Heritage Quilters to meet Nov. 7

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Attend the Shiner Heritage Quilters meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 7, and learn about special techniques for making quilts. Members will share the

many tips, tricks, and unique quiltmaking ideas that they have learned through the years.

Members gather at the Shiner Methodist Church Fellowship Hall at 5 p.m. to socialize and enjoy light refreshments. The meeting begins at

5:30 p.m. Show and Tell, block-of-the-month and door prize drawings are included. Visitors and new members are always welcome!

Log onto www.shinerheritagequilters.org for more information about our guild.

SHINER CATHOLIC SCHOOL HONOR ROLL - FIRST QUARTER

(High Honors-All grades 94 and above; Honors-All grades 85 and above)

ST PAUL HIGH SCHOOL HONOR ROLL Q1

SENIORS

High Honors: Tate Anders, Julia Barecky, Nate Boedeker, Alex Brown, Maurin Knesek Honors: Zane Barta, Brooke

Cerny, Joseph Davis, Faith Machart, Gracie Machart, Carter Novak, Stefany Pokluda, Gabrielle Rodriguez, Emi Stamport, Nathan Timmons, Tori Walker

JUNIORS

High Honors: Dallyn Pesek Honors: Gus Collins, Kennedy Dodson, Jessica Fikac, Erica Hunke, Holden Jacobs, Petra Koch, Emersen Linn, Cody Malinovsky, Emily Moeller, Samantha Moeller, Avery Pesek, Hunter Zella

SOPHOMORES

High Honors: Karis Barta, Hailey Radicke

Honors: Annslie Callais, Kristin Cerny, Nora Koch, Sally Machacek, Riley Mozisek, Reese Seibert, Jenna Stock, Adalyn Stoll, Audrey Thibodeaux, Presley Tuch

FRESHMEN

High Honors: Gabe Darilek, Frances Filip, Sloane Kocian, Addison Matias, Gabriela Rivas, Eden Rodriguez, Tatum Walker

Honors: Jacob Arriola, Faith Brown, Carter Chilek, Michael DeSarro, Jack Ehrig, Autumn Jackson, Rylan Jalufka, Donnie Jones, Kylie Kelso, Clara Kinney, Jack Leonard, Skylar Mozisek,

ST LUDMILA ELEMENTARY HONOR ROLL Q1 EIGHTH GRADE

High Honors: Noah Bonorden, Rebecca Brown,

Honors: Reese Chilek, Celestine Filip, Robert Garrett, Lana Lucas, Jace Matias, Levi Morkovsky, Lexie

SEVENTH GRADE

High Honors: Ashlin DeSarro,

Reese Patek Honors: Eli Barton, Annabelle Collins, Jane Davis, McKinley Jacobs, Grayson Kisamore, Levi Leonard, Reagan Robles, Emori Rodriguez, Hayden Rother, Presley Rother

SIXTH GRADE

High Honors: Jude Boedeker, **Evangeline Chilek**

Honors: Ellie Bargmann, Claudia

Escobar, Briana Hernandez, Hannah Machacek, Matthew Mozisek, Jacey Picha, Elijah Rodriguez, Emma

FIFTH GRADE

High Honors: Ryan Bays, Anna Boedeker, Matthew DeSarro, Harper

Honors: Luke Barton, Reese Blaschke, Sarah Bower, Wren Chilek, Paul Filip, Jake Good, Gracyn Kennedy, Lexi Lamson, Alaina Luedke, Ayden McCord, Tenley Wagner, Kolton Wilgus

FOURTH GRADE

High Honors: Emma Bargmann, Elena Basquez, Bowen Davis, Alexis Dodson, Fallon Foxell, Jesslyn Garrett, Brooke Hermann, Ricardo

Gonzales Moncada, Hudsyn Parker Honors: Wyatt Decker, Kace Kocian, Wyatt Lake, Remi Radicke, Caleb Werner

THIRD GRADE

HEARING CENTERS

LIMITED AVAILABILITY!

High Honors: Eli Bays, Brody Blaschke, Adella Davis, Gage Janak, Tate Kutzer, Dario Lekgegaj, Andrew Machacek, Ainsley McCord, Hazel Meischen, Evelyn Picha, Alexandra Rivas, Ezra Rodriguez, Sonney Tuch

Honors: Brunes Davis, Grady Hurt, Phinn Ince, Clay Wyant





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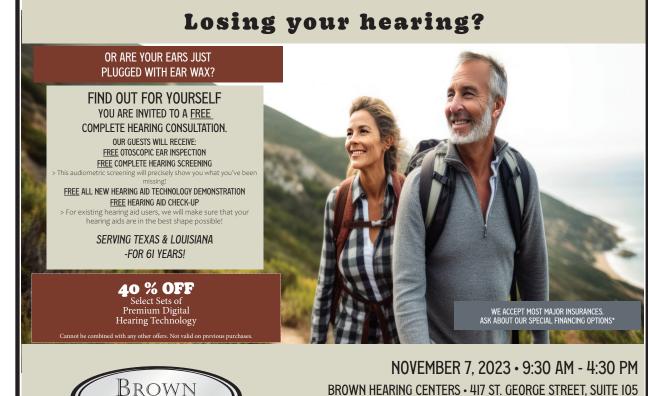
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ERRORS

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

CALL TODAY 830-672-2861

050 **GARAGE SALES**

HARWOOD COMMUNITY GARAGE Sale, Saturday, November 4th, 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Harwood Community Center.



055

ESTATE SALES

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190

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names

"Mikey

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& 4th, 7-4

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LOST:

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055 **ESTATE SALES**

GARAGE SALES

670 **APARTMENTS FOR RENT OR LEASE**

APARTMENTS FOR RENT OR LEASE

850 **HELP WANTED**

850 **HELP WANTED**

850 **HELP WANTED**

850 **HELP WANTED** 850

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> Est. 1925 The Division of Allied Health is hiring part-time Adjunct Instructors for the for the clinical setting of the ADN and VN Nursing Programs. Instructors are needed at our Victoria campus as well as in the Gonzales, Cuero, and Hallettsville locations. For more information and to apply go to www.victoriacollege.edu

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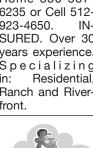
Gonzales Economic Development Corporation

In accordance with the Development Corporation Act, Section 505.160 of the Texas Local Government Code, the Gonzales Economic Development Corporation, a Type B economic development corporation, is publishing this notice of the following project: provide economic development assistance to Gonzales Main Street, Inc., a Texas non-profit corporation, in an amount not to exceed Two Hundred Sixty Thousand and No/100 Dollars (\$260,000.00).

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The Gonzales Inquirer

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950 **PUBLIC NOTICES**

Meeting Notice

The Annual Meetings of the

Nixon Cemetery Association, Inc.

and the Nixon Perpetual Care

Cemetery, Inc. will be held jointly

at the Nixon Methodist Church

Annex, Nixon, Texas on Tuesday

November 14, 2023 at 6:00PM. All members are urged to attend.

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICES

Application has been made

with the Texas Alcoholic

Beverage Commission for a

Package Store Permit (P Permit)

by Tooties Liquor Store, LLC, to

be located at 102 W. Wallace,

Gonzales, Texas. Officer of said

Limited Liability Company is

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900 **BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES**

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

October 26 **Puzzle Answers**



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> 3 9

> > 8 9

6 3

5

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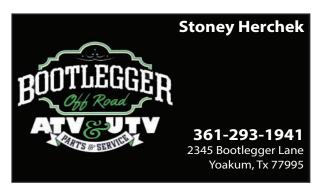
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Synthetic Humans Among Us

Happy November, y'all. First off, thank you Lord for all of the rain, it's much appreciated and the ranchers and livestock are happy again. Secondly, kudos to our



local DPS office. I recently had to renew my drivers license and while waiting in line was encouraged by the women working the counter, as regardless of the situation did a great job, and handled the customers with respect, even under pressure. One young girl was up for her first driver's license test and was visibly intimidated and scared about it. The woman helping her went out of her way to calm her down and encourage her, helping to ease her fears. Overall it was a pleasant experience, however the rules have changed drastically in recent years. A heads up: it's basically by appointment only, and they will need to see your birth certificate or current passport. The Texas.gov website has all the information you need, but researching it may not be as quick and easy as you would like, but is highly recommended, as many were turned away because of lack of appointment or not having the correct documentation. Getting started way ahead of your deadline will ease the stress as some documentation may need to be ordered and may take awhile to come in, if you don't have it already. Ducks in a

After doing more research on our current, and long-term use of AI technology, I ran across some interesting developments. According to a recent

article published in Wired, a New York based company called Fantasy is using AI to create artificial characters they call "synthetic humans", capable of talking with each other. Now interacting within human focus groups, are being used by leading companies for market research and product development. Even our smart appliances are collecting information about us and uploading it to giant mainframes for future use. Guess we better make friends with our gadgets like they're a cute little horse...yep, a Trojan

A recent "60 Minute" interview with the godfather of AI, Geoffrey Hinton was both interesting and enlightening. In the 1970s he started developing artificial neural networks to help with his college research of neural pathways in the human brain. Pressed to abandon his pursuit by professors, claiming that computers could not be programed to process information like a human would, yet 50 years later, here we are. While he believes that AI can do tremendous good, especially in the field of medicine, he also sees the potential drawbacks and dangers, warning that AI may be more

intelligent than we know, and could take over. Humans created the learning algorithm, but once it combined with data, AI creates its own neural networks, and is not yet fully understood. Basically, it works by software created in layers, and once a goal is achieved a message is sent through the layers confirming this was the correct path, eventually maximizing the positive results and minimizing the negatives, much like humans do.

At present our most powerful chatbots contain about one trillion connections, while the human brain contains 100 trillion, yet these chatbots know more, even being 100 times smaller, and we're just getting started. Hinton also warns that while AI is not fully self-aware, it will happen, which runs the very real risk of it writing new lines of code, literally upgrading itself as it learns. The developers are all warning us diligently about these dangers, saying we need to slow down, implement global regulations for our own safety, but profiteers are throwing caution to the wind. Seeing as this technology will literally be connected to everything humans do; food, medicine, finances, governments and military arsenals, it's kinda scary. Even Robert Oppenheimer who invented the atomic bomb, campaigned against the hydrogen bomb, realizing he'd unleashed Pandora's box and was now beyond control... may God help us.

Love you guys, Eric.



Thomponsville Ladies Club to give thanks

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Thompsonville Ladies Club will hold their annual Thanksgiving luncheon on Friday, Nov. 10 at noon at the Thompsonville Community Center, 2774 County Road 423, Waelder, off US 90.

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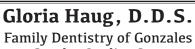
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SPORTS







Above: Gonzales Apaches head coach Joey Rivera in the huddle with his players in the 45-27 win over La Grange. The Apaches clinched a playoff berth for the first time since 2019. Left: Apaches coach Jeremiah Lopez hugs linebacker Kamren Leal (4). Far left: The Gonzales Apaches' defense lines up against La Grange's offense Friday, Oct. 27 at Apache Field. Brandon DuBose (5), Isaac Gonzales (7), Jermane Upshaw (0), Omar Borjon (79), Kamren Leal (4) and Jessiah Barr (18).

PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS

Apaches Playoff Bound! Gonzales defense leads

42-27 rout over La Grange

BY VANDY VAN EPPS Gonzales Inquirer

For the first time since 2019, the Gonzales Apaches are back in the playoffs following a 42-27 win over the La Grange Leopards Friday, Oct. 27. This will mark the 25th time the Apaches have made the UIL football playoffs.

The Apaches put out a strong defensive performance against the Leopards; they forced eight turnovers on downs, three fumble recoveries and two interceptions.

Gonzales head football coach Joey Rivera said his defense came up huge against a team with a very good offense.

The Apaches stalled the Leopards' offense in the red zone multiple times, and made a key stop on the one-yard line on fourth and goal.

"I don't know how many times they got into red zone, but whenever we needed a stop, we bulled our backs up and got a stop," Rivera said.

Rivera was greeted with a Gatorade shower in celebration of the playoff

"It was cold but awesome. It feels great to get what we set out for, but like I told the guys, we're not finished. We want to go get that two seed next week and finish this thing out right and then head to the playoffs set as a two seed and go win a playoff game and continue playing," Rivera said.

Junior defensive end Jermane Upshaw recorded a key defensive stop on the one yard line on fourth and goal by La Grange.

"What was going through my mind was I did it before. That don't mean I can't do it again. So I went out there and did it again. Tried my hardest, bit on my mouthpiece and did what I had to do," Upshaw said.

The Apaches' running game put

out huge numbers in the win over La Grange, putting up 497 yards from the ground and scoring six touchdowns.

Senior running back Rocky Gallegos lead the team in carries with 22 for 149 yards and tied with fellow senior Davonte Smith with two touchdowns; and Gallegos was a key part of a 99-yard scoring drive in the fourth quarter.

"It was just a bunch of emotions in my head, knowing that this is the last time I'm playing on this field. I was so ready to win the game," Gallegos said.

The second seed in District 12-4A-2 is on the line Friday, Nov. 3, when the Apaches and the Giddings Buffaloes face each other.

"I think they're going to be ready. We're going to ride this momentum and, like I said, we're not done coaching these kids. We're not done playing together as a team, and we're going to fight each week for each other for one more week," Rivera said.

The Apaches hit the road this Friday at Giddings. Kick off is set for 7:30 p.m.

STATS

--OFFFNSF--**PASSING:**

Cole Duty: 2/8 for 24 yards **RUSHING:** D. Smith: 12 carries for 179 yards and two touchdowns R. Gallegos: 22 carries for 149 yards and two touchdowns C. Duty: 12 carries for 131 yards and one touchdown David Clack III: three carries for 36 yards and one touchdown Omar Borjon: one carry for two yards

RECEIVING: Brandon Dubose: one

reception for 13 yards D. Smith: one reception for 11 yards

--DEFENSE--TACKLES:

Travis Malveaux III: 27 total Kamren Leal: 26 total tackles J. Upshaw: 20 total tackles B. Dubose: 14 total tackles Blake Wright: 13 total tackles D. Clack III: 12 total tackles Dakota Dubose: 10 total Rafael Rodriguez and R. Gallegos: seven total tackles Kaden Deleon and Dylan Hunt: five total tackles Davien Pitts: four total tackles O. Borjon: three total tackles D. Smith and Jessiah Barr:

Isaac Gonzales: 21 total tackles

--FUMBLE RECOVERIES--T. Malveaux III, J. Upshaw and W. Ruddock: one fumble

Weston Ruddock: one total

two total tackles

--INTERCEPTIONS--T. Malveavux III and D. Clack III: one interception



CONTRIBUTED

Yaritza Angel (center) finished 46th overall at the regional cross country meet in Corpus Christi on Tuesday, Oct. 24.

Gonzales Cross Country finishes strong at regionals

STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales varsity cross country teams competed in the regional cross country meet in Corpus Christi on Tuesday, Oct. 24.

Ckirstopher Ramos and Youahi Huerta finished in the top 50 in the regional meet; Ramos finished 42nd and Huerta finished 48th.

Carlos Pedraza (70th), Kevin Reyna (73rd), Jesus Huerta (74th), Miguel Moreno (87th) and Christopher Gonzales (95th) all finished in the top 100 out of 172 runners at the regional meet in Corpus.

The Apaches finished ninth overall at the regional meet.

The Lady Apaches finished 17th overall at the regional meet; Yaritza Angel finished 46th overall and cracked the top 50.

Marianelly Martinez (72nd) and Jordan Gonzales (99th) finished in the top 100, and Kaylie Ramirez (109th), Tianna Smith (130th), Kassandra Menez (145th) and Natalia Martinez (160th) all finished in the top

Dana Sestak was extremely proud of how the season concluded.

"All male and female runners improved their times from when we ran the course in September, which is something to be proud of, especially with the windy conditions. We are really proud of them for all of their hard work and improvement they made this season."

Cross Country teams will return in fall 2024.

160 out of 172 runners. Cross Country head coach

Sestak said. The Gonzales High School

--FINAL RESULTS-

APACHES:

C. Ramos: 42nd place with a 18:43 time Y. Huerta: 48th place with a 18:54 time C. Pedraza: 70th place with a 19:32 time K. Revna: 73rd place with a 19:37 time J. Huerta: 74th place with a 19:38 time M. Moreno: 87th place with a 19:53 time C. Gonzales: 95th place with a 20:10 time TEAM FINISH: Ninth overall

LADY APCHES:

Y. Angel: 46th place with a 13:26 time M. Martinez: 72nd place with a 13:54 time J. Gonzales: 99th place with a 14:29 time K. Ramirez: 109th place with a 14:42 time T. Smith: 130th place with a 15:07 time K. Mendez: 145th place with a 15:33 time M. Martinez: 160th place with a 16:18 time

Lady Apaches historic volleyball season ends with Wimberley

BY VANDY VAN EPPS

The Gonzales Lady Apaches howed their strength against No. 10 Wimberley Monday,

The Lady Apaches went toeto-toe against the Lady Texans in their three-set loss (16-25, 13-25, 7-25), keeping the first two sets as close as possible before Wimberley just outmuscled their way to wins.

"At one point in the first set, we did take the lead and I think that gave us a lot of momentum and we just had put our foot on the gas and tried to take off with it. I'm very proud of the girls. They fought really, really hard," Lady Apaches head volleyball coach Jillian Gonzales said.

The Lady Apaches improved from last season with an 8-4 district record and finished third place for the first time since 2011.

This was Coach Gonzales's first season as the head varsity coach, and she gives a lot of the credit for the successful season to her players.

"I owe it a lot in part to my team. They came out this season with a lot of determination, trying to reach our goals and they fought hard for them," Gonzales said.

"So I give a lot of our success to the team. There's some fighters throughout the whole season. We never gave up and we just had our setbacks, but we just had our goal in mind and we fought for that goal," Gonzales added.

The Lady Apaches fought hard against a squad ranked in the Top 10 for all of 4A, and seniors Sydney McCray and Macy Sample were very proud



The Gonzales Lady Apaches in their pre-match huddle for the bi-district match against the Wimberley Lady Texans Monday, Oct. 30.

of how they faced them to the very end. McCray said she was proud of everyone of how the way they played Wimberley and worked very hard throughout the match.

"They were really good. They had some strong swings, but I think especially in the first and second set, we played really well and played to their tempo," Sample said.

Eight Lady Apaches seniors played their last volleyball games for this program: Mc-Cray, Sample, Tara Lester, Kelly Breitschopf, Dakota Schmidt, Mallory Clack, Hannah Avant



Gonzales Sophomore Isabella Ikard (15) records a block for the Lady Apaches against Wimberley Monday, Oct. 30.

and Samantha Baker. "I thank them for their service into the program. There's eight seniors, that's says a lot. Those eight seniors have been playing for eight years plus volleyball together and they've become like family out on that court, and they know how to work well with

each other," Gonzales said. The future is bright for the Lady Apaches volleyball program; the eight grade A and B teams clinched the district title to close out their junior high

career. McCray and Sample has a message for the upcoming Lady Apaches heading into the high school level.

"Just keep working hard and they know what they got to do, so they can get it done." McCray said.

Sample said they'll have a really good coach entering high school and to take advantage of that.

The Lady Apaches finished 16-22 overall with an 8-4 third place district record.

The Lady Apaches will return to the volleyball court in Fall 2024.

Lady Apaches fall to Edna in three sets

STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Lady Apaches hosted the Edna Cowgirls in a pre-playoff warm up match Friday, Oct. 27 at home. The Lady Apaches fell in

three sets to the Cowgirls (13-25, 16-25, 25-27), losing in extra points in the final set.

Gonzales capped off the regular season with a 16-22 record and an 8-4 third-place finish in 4A District 28; It's

their highest finish since the 2011 season.

The Lady Apaches took on the Wimberley Lady Texans Monday, Oct. 30 in the bidistrict round of the 4A UIL State Volleyball playoffs.



Carlos Pedraza placed 70th in the regional cross country meet in Corpus Christi, Oct. 24.

Battle of Mustangs will decide fourth place in district

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Nixon-Smiley and Natalia share the name of the same mascot — Mustangs — but no feelings of goodwill when these two teams battle on the gridiron. On Friday, Nov. 3, the grudge match

will decide which Mustangs get the fourth seed for District 15-3A-2 in the playoffs, and a playoff game versus Odem the following week, and which team hits the gymnasium for the start of basketball season. Kickoff at Natalia will start at 7:30 p.m. Friday.

Both Nixon-Smiley and Natalia sit at 2-3 in district play, both with wins over Karnes City and South San Antonio West and with losses to Poth, Dilley and Comfort. Both teams also have identical overall 2-7 records, with Nixon-Smiley having non-district losses to Wallis

Brazos, Flatonia, Three Rivers and San Antonio Christian. Of those, only Flatonia will not make the playoffs this year.

Natalia has non-district losses to Jourdanton, Marion, Devine and Lytle, with all four expected to be playoff teams should Marion win Friday night.

EIGHT GRADE APACHES REMAIN UNDEFEATED



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO | LENORE ESTRADA

Congratulations on a VICTORIOUS WIN Tuesday Oct. 24 against eighth grade Lockhart Lions ending the game with a final score of Apaches 19-Lions 0. Apaches will continue to fight for the 2023 DISTRICT CHAMPS TITLE on Wednesday, Nov. 1 at 6:30 p.m. on the Apache Field. Pictured from Left to right: Coach Jeremiah Lopez, Servando Govea, Noah Navejar, Collin Sanders, Homero Ruiz, Ayden B. Ramírez, Ayden E. Ramirez, Dillon Rosales, Jayvion Gonzalez, Braleontay Suniga, Criss Mancilla, Isaak Ibarra, Charles Haufler, Deltin Pape, Fleatcher White, Coach Keith Cubit, Jordan Ontiveros, Michael Ikard, Jeremiah Mariscal, William Miller, Dylan Storey, Coach Burtram Knight, Braydon Garcia Players not pictured above: Joshua Anthony, Fabian Gonzales, David Izaguirre and Joseph Lopez.

Gonzales JH Cross-Country finishes strong in district

STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Apaches and Lady Apaches junior high cross country teams competed in the district meet in Lockhart Saturday, Oct. 14.

The Gonzales Apaches seventh grade team took home the district title at the Lockhart meet; seventh grader Nick Villa was named district champion with 12:22 time.

Kevyn Huerta (seventh), Dylan Moreno (eighth) and Conrad Canales (ninth) finished in the top 10 to to clinch the district title.

The Lady Apaches seventh grade team finished strong as district runner-ups; and seventh grader Ellie Lester was named district champion with 13:30 time.

Emma Stewart (fourth) and Maya Shoulders (seventh) finished in the top 10 for the Lady Apaches.

The eight grade Lady Apaches finished third over all in the district meet: Advsen Janacek (ninth), Mardenis Suarez (15th) and Marah Ramos (21st) finished in the top 25.

Eighth grader Homero Ruiz finished as district runner up in the eight grade boys division with a 12:04 time.

--FINAL RESULTS-

Seventh GRade Lady Apaches: District Runner Ups

First Place District Champion: Ellie Lester -

Fourth Place: Emma Stewart - 15:25 Seventh Place: Maya Shoulders - 17:27 21st - Jasmyn DelaRosa - 18:32 23rd - Kamila Vivas - 18:41

Seventh Grade Apaches: District

Champions First Place District Champion - Nick Villa - 12:22



The Gonzales Apaches and Lady Apaches seventh grade cross country teams holding their trophies medals from

were crowned district runners-up at Lockhart meet.

their district championship trophy at the Lockhart meet.

Seventh Place: Kevyn Huerta - 13:36.37 Eighth Place: Dylan Moreno - 13/36.39 Ninth Place: Conrad Canales - 13:48 15th Place: Zane Magallanes - 14:33 25th Place: Jesus Moreno - 15:41 26th Place: Dutch Zaitz - 15: 46. 27th Place: Coby Witzkoske - 15:47 30th Place: Giovanni Rodriguez - 15:54 34th Place; Tristen Buchans - 16:22 39th Place; - Kristopher Garcia - 17:08 42nd Place - Enrique Hernandez - 17:26

the district meet in Lockhart.

Eighth Grade Lady Apaches

- Third Place

Ninth Place - Adysen Janacek - 15:23 15th Place - Mardenis Suarez - 15:53 21st Place - Mariah Ramos - 16:27 26th Place - Melanie Soto - 16:32 28th Place - Alexia Kuntschik - 16:46 34th Place - Almira Nanez - 1814

Eighth Grade Apaches:

Second Place - Homero Ruiz - 12:04.11 16th Place - Braydon Garcia - 13:29 55th Place - Michael Flores - 18:31



The Gonzales Lady Apaches eighth grade team. The eighth grade team



The Gonzales Apaches eighth grade cross country team. Homero Ruiz finished second in the boys division, Braydon Garcia finished 16th and Michael Flores finished

Admission to Texas state parks will be free on Nov. 5

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Texas State Parks Day is Nov. 5 and, as part of continued centennial celebrations, visitors will get free day-use entrance at all Texas state parks.

"Texas Parks and Wildlife Department wants to continue to connect everyone to our beautiful parklands and we hope that Texas State Parks Day will give someone new the opportunity to discover what makes our state parks special," said Rodney Franklin, State Parks Division Director. "This centennial has highlighted the work that past and current staff have accomplished in the last 100 years to make parks welcoming places for all visitors. We hope that folks take advantage of the opportunity to see these unique pieces of Texas this weekend and for the next 100 years."

Texas has more than 80 parks throughout the state to offer a wide variety of outdoor dayuse activities such as wildlife watching, walking or hiking, park programs, camping, biking swimming, paddleboarding and many more. Visit the TPWD website for a list of activities and events in a park near you.

Ahead of Veteran's Day, Texas State Parks reminds visitors of new Parkland Passports available to Veterans. These passports are available at no cost and grant the cardholder free entry to all Texas State

"Texas has always valued it's veterans, which is why they now have the option for free access to state parks through the new parklands passports,"

said Franklin. Reservations are recommended and can be made online. Parks will operate as they normally do and will control admissions by their established capacity limits. All other fees

will still apply on that day. For more information about the passport visit the Texas Parklands Passport page on the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department website.

Junior High Lady Apaches dominate at the District Tournament

The Gonzales Lady Apache 7th grade A & B teams both placed, and 8th grade A & B teams won first place in their district tournament on Saturday, October 28th.

The 7th grade B team played Bastrop's Cedar Creek Middle School in their first match of the day, and won in two sets. On to the second game against Miller Middle school. The Lady Apaches lost in three close sets. The final game was against the Lockhart Lions. 7th grade B had an exciting 3 set match and ended up pulling out the win. 7th grade B finished out the season being 8-2 in

7A won their first match against Lockhart in two sets. The Scores were 25-15 and 25-20. The second game of the tourney was versus the Goodnight Rattlers. The Lady Apaches won, again, in two sets. Final scores were 25-18 and 25-13. The Lady Apaches then went on to face Barnes Middle School for the 7A championship. The Lady Toreadors took the Lady Apaches to 3 sets, but Gonzales fell short in the third set with a score of 15-13.

Strong consistent serving, amazing back row defense, and a great offensive led the Lady Apaches through a great year. 7A will finish out the season being 9-1 and 7-0 in district!

First game, the Lady Apaches faced a very determined Lockhart Lions team, after just losing to the Lady Apaches in the prior Thursday night game. The Lions took the Lady Apaches to 3 sets, but Gonzales matched the enthusiasm in the gym and won! The second tournament game was battled against Miller Middle School and the Lady Apaches caged The Rattlers in two sets. After two wins, the Lady Apaches advanced to the championship game versus Barnes Middle School. The Lady Apaches played two sets against Barnes and defeated the Toreadors to win the gold medal for the day. Strong serving throughout the day complimented with an excellent offense were the Apache's assets that put them ahead each match. Kianni Rodriguez, Melanie Soto, Sophia Castro, and Jade Rosas were the top players of the tournament. The Lady Apaches

end their season with a record of 7-3 and a district championship for the

second vear!! The 8th grade A team won the first match against AJB middle school in 2 sets. Second game, the Lady Apaches faced a very determined Bastrop Bears team, however the bears were no match for the 8th grade A team, who battled and won the match in only two sets. After two wins, the Lady Apaches advanced to the championship game against Miller Middle School. The Lady Apaches were on a roll and could not be stopped, they defeated Miller in just two sets and took home the district title for the second year in a row. Strong serving, an aggressive offense, consistent setting, and near perfect defense was what kept the Apaches ahead. Top players of the tournament were Lyndie Blackwell, Carsyn Carrizales, Parker Petras, and Gabriella Cobler. 8A will finish the season with a very impressive undefeated record of 10-0, 7-0 in district. Their two year undefeated district record is 20-0!!! Way to go Lady Apaches!!



The 8th grade Lady Apaches A team.



The 8th grade Lady Apaches B team.



The Gonzales Volunteer Fire Department will use its Power Up grant to assist with the purchase of necessary equipment needed to perform OSHA-defined confined space rescue operations.

GVEC awards Power Up grants to local organizations

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Power Up community grant program continues to grow, with eight more nonprofit organizations receiving approximately \$155,000 in grants. These grants, which provide funding assistance for community projects, are made possible by the generous donations of GVEC members supporting the charitable Power Up program.

Since the first grant distribution in 2012, more than \$3.7 million in grants have helped fund 229 community projects benefiting GVEC members and citizens in communities GVEC serves. These projects range from the purchase of life-saving equipment for first responders and medical facilities to the renovation of local museums, parks, historic places and community meeting spaces.

In the most recent round of Power
Up grant distributions, Gonzales Dog
Adoptions received \$20,000 and Gonzales Volunteer Fire Department received

\$19,213.46:
• Gonzales Dog Adoptions will apply its Power Up toward constructing a modern and more compassionate kennel building adjacent to the existing facility. The new building will be a significant upgrade to the current facilities – ensuring appropriate animal welfare standards and the best possible care for stray and abandoned dogs in

the Gonzales area.
• The Gonzales Volunteer Fire Department will use its funds to assist with the purchase of necessary equipment needed to perform OSHA-defined confined space rescue operations. A cargo trailer outfitted with response gear, ventilation kit and retrieval hoist and rigging will enable the Gonzales VFD to respond to emergencies of this nature rather than

call in a specialized team from neighboring counties.

Other Power Up grants awarded during this cycle include: \$20,000 to City of Moulton for a patrol vehicle; \$20,000 to DeWitt County Vietnam Veterans of America #1029, Yorktown, to replace the HVAC system in the main hall of the DeWitt County Veterans Center; \$20,000 to Hallettsville ISD, Hallettsville, for exterior LED lighting of the Hallettsville school campuses; \$20,000 to La Vernia Historical Association, La Vernia, for the final phase of the La Vernia Veteran's Memorial; \$15,565.63 to Schertz Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association, Schertz, for an Unmanned Aircraft System (drone) for public safety and wellness; and \$20,000 to St. Peter's Lutheran Church of Ander, Goliad, for renovations to the St. Peter's gathering

"The program is designed to give preference to first-time applicants, so we're always excited to see organizations bring new projects to us for consideration. We're also pleased to see organizations utilize the grant funds wisely and often have organizations reapply when they're eligible," says Christine Presley, GVEC Community Relations Representative. "We hope to continue spreading the word to the organizations in our area in need of financial support. It is a competitive process, but we are here to answer your questions, assist you with the application process and ensure your application packet is complete."

The next application deadline for the Power Up community grant program is February 15, 2024. For program qualifications and an application, visit gvec. org, or call Presley at 830.857.3424 for assistance. Grant applications are also available at GVEC's five area offices.



Gonzales Dog Adoptions will apply its Power Up toward constructing a modern and more compassionate kennel building adjacent to the existing facility.







OBITUARIES

KAINAH GRACE CRANFILL-BARRIE

Kainah Grace Cranfill-Barrie was born in Angleton, TX on August 14, 2001, to Amanda Barrie. She went to be with Jesus on Thursday, October 26, 2023. Her wings were ready, our hearts were not.

Kainah graduated from Cuero High School in May of 2020 and began attending Victoria College for a business degree, where she was set to graduate in May of 2024. While in college, Kainah simultaneously helped with the opening and running of their family business, Happy Apache Academy. Before opening, she was knocking out walls and building furniture. Once open, she stepped into the role of Administrative Assistant and quickly became the smiling face that the preschool families adored. In recent months, she promoted to Assistant Director, where she gave her all, like a boss, just as she had done since the beginning. Most importantly in the 3 years she was at the preschool, she was her mother's sidekick, her partner in crime, with an unimaginable bond.

Kainah loved her babies, her cats Hannah Nanna and Ashby, who she often cradled like babies as they clawed to get away. She was a lover of all animals, with dreams and determination to open an animal rescue. Her favorite thing to do was read while sitting on the balcony of a cruise ship. She'd been on 11 with her family, and looked forward to going to Aruba for the first time

If you need homeowners insurance for

your manufactured home, you have options

When you're talking to companies

about a policy, ask questions to be

sure you're getting the coverage you

 How much coverage do I need for my house and personal property?

Should I get replacement cost or actual cash value coverage?

through the Texas FAIR Plan Association.

4. Other policies you might need

from hurricanes or other storms.

2. Use an independent agent

What discounts do you have to lower my premium?

· Do I need other coverages, like flood or windstorm?

agent. Or look online to find one with good reviews.



next year. She also loved music. Koe Wetzel was the latest obsession, who she recently saw in concert with her parents. When she wasn't at work or doing homework, she could be found starting her own side business making car freshies, on the couch with her daddy watching Supernatural or scary movies, or play fighting with him (all in good fun, but she sure could hit). She wrapped up every night by asking her daddy to "tuckie" her into bed.

She is preceded in death by grandfathers Rickey Cranfill (Pots) and Robert Barrie (Grandpa Barrie), and great grand parents William (Bill) Rouse (Paw Paw) and Robbie Rouse (La La).

She is survived by her parents, James and Amanda Barrie along with brother Cody, grandparents Julie Cranfill (Minnie), Wendy and Bill Bodine, along with numerous aunts and uncles.

Please consider donating to your local animal shelter or rescue in Kainah's name.

RITA IRENE (STATON) LUEDECKE

Rita Irene Luedecke, 74, of Del Valle, Texas, claimed the promise of her baptism on Monday, October 23, 2023 in Austin, Texas. Rita was born in Gonzales, Texas on December 18, 1948, to Stanford and Viola Staton. Rita attended Gonzales High School where she was a proud Orange Jacket. She shared schoolgirl memories of being the first one to be picked for a spelling bee and last one for athletic competitions.

Rita met the love of her life, Lynn Luedecke in 1965 at a dance at Turner Hall. Excited to start their new lives together, the two were married on October 14. 1967 at St. James Catholic Church. They shared fifty-six years of devoted marriage together and enjoyed attending dances and live music shows with family and friends.

Rita and Lynn couldn't wait to start a family of their own, and their children meant the world to them.

Though Rita loved attending musical events and reading, her favorite



role was that as a grandmother. She treasured her time with her grandkids and loved being their Nanny, never failing to keep their favorite foods on hand or make time to watch them whenever needed.

Rita was passionate about her many roles at the United States Postal Service. Working for the company for thirty-six years, she made lasting friendships that she cherished. She held the honor of Miss Zip promoting the use of zip codes in mailing addresses.

Rita was an active member of Salem Lutheran Church, devoting her time and energy to anything that was needed which included being on the church council, serving as treasurer, as well as writing and printing the bulletins for each service. Rita also served on the East Travis Gateway Library District as Board President and shared the importance of keeping libraries available to the public.

Rita will always be remembered for her beautiful smile and the way that she was always willing to help her family and friends. We couldn't have asked for a better wife, mother, grandmother, and sister, and will miss Rita every day. Her memory will live on in the hearts of all those who loved her.

Rita was preceded in death by her parents, second mother Fran, sister Ruby, brother Woody, and daughter Sheila and is survived by her husband Lynn, sons Dale and Daniel (Davina), her daughter Julie, brother Tim Staton (Misty), Joe Staton (Cindy), Mike Staton, Harry Staton (Lauren),

her sisters Rose Jensen (Bo), Margie Cooley (Jim), Judy Cruse (Ervin), Carol Payne, Beth Thayne (J.D.), her grandchildren Mackenzie, Maxwell and Amelia and numerous nieces and nephews.

Visitation was Thursday, October 26, 2023 from 5-7 pm at Seydler-Hill Funeral Home 906 St Paul Street Gonzales, TX 78629 and the funeral service was Friday, October 27, 2023 at 10 am at Salem Lutheran Church 9322 FM 812 Austin, TX 78719. Pallbearers were JD and John Thayne, Harry, Darrell, Jason, and JR Staton. The alternate pallbearer was Mikey Staton. Honorary pallbearers were Linda, Nell, and Sudie.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to Salem Lutheran Church or your favorite charity. Friends may leave their condolences to the family by visiting www. seydlerhillfuneralhome. com. Services are under the care and direction of Seydler-Hill Funeral Home.

LAW ENFORCEMENT WEEKLY REPORTS

Gonzales County Sheriff's Report 10/15/23 – 10/21/23

10/16/23

• Chavez, Crescencia
Del Carmen, 11/1979,
Waelder: Local Warrant –
Assault Family/Household
Member w/Prev Conv,
Local Warrant – Assault
Fam/House Mem Impede
Breath/Circulat, Local
Warrant – Assault Family/
Household Member w/
Prev Conv, Requires
\$75,000 Bond; Remains
in Custody

Prince, Andrew
 Jefferson, 07/1981, Glen
 Rose: Other Agency Hold
 Unauth use of Vehicle,
 Released - \$250,000 Bond

10/17/23

Jones, William
 Harrison, 09/1989, San
 Antonio: Warrantless/On-

*High Performance

*Tool Boxes

*Bed Covers

Exaust Systems

View - Tamper/Fabricate Phys Evid w/Inten to Impair, Requires \$8,000 Bond; Other Agency Hold - Assault Fam/House Mem Impede Breath/ Circulat, Requires \$2,500 Bond; Warrantless/On -View - Poss Marij <2 oz, Requires \$1,000 Bond; Remains in Custody

10/18/23

• Fontenot, Ronald James JR., 01/2005, Houston: Warrantless/ On-View – Evading Arrest Detention w/Veh or Watercraft, Warrantless/ On-View – Unauth use of Vehicle, Released -\$8,500 Bond

 Nance, Jim Stayton, 01/1987, Gonzales:
 Commitment/Sentence – Poss CS PG 1 <1G, Remains in Custody

Acosta, Joseph
 Christopher, 01/1983,

*Performance Tuning

*Bumpers

*Steps

*Grill Guards

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

· Aviles, Valorie, 08/1990, Seguin: Commitment/Sentence -Abandon Endanger Child Imminent Danger BI, Commitment/Sentence -**Driving While Intoxicated** w/Child under 15 YOA, Commitment/Sentence -Abandon Endanger Child Imminent Danger BI, Commitment/Sentence -Abandon Endanger Child Imminent Danger BI Commitment/Sentence -Abandon Endanger Child Imminent Danger BI, Commitment/Sentence -Abandon Endanger Child Imminent Danger BI,

Remains in Custody

• Jones-Miller, Joshua
Deonta, 05/2000,
Waelder: Local Warrant –
Tamper/Fabricate Phys
Evid w/Inten to Impair,
Remains in Custody

10/19/23

Ramos, Gabriel
 Nathaniel, 04/2001,
 Victoria: Warrantless/
 On-View – Poss Marij
 >2oz <=4 oz, Released -
 \$2,500 Bond

10/20/23

• White, Shelton Lamar, 12/1974, Gonzales: Commitment/ Sentence – Poss Marij <2 oz, Released – Weekender

Hunt, Darren
 Deshawn, 11/1980,
 Gonzales: Local Warrant

Man Del CS PS 1>=4G<200G, Released –Work Release

 Oden, Wesley Alan, 08/1985, Brenham: Local Warrant – Agg Sexual Assault Child, Released – Weekender

Goolsbee,
 Christopher Edmond,
 11/1982, Houston:
 Commitment/Sentence –
 Driving while Intoxicated,
 Released – Weekender

Doebber, Diana
 Rose, 06/1979, Smiley:
 Warrantless/On-View –
 Criminal Trespass,
 Released - \$2,000 Bond

10/21/23

Garza, Lisa, 06/1979,
 Gonzales: Commitment/
 Sentence – Fals Report
 Statement Officer/Agent
 HMO, Released Weekender

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

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

> > 27

Total

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How to get insurance for a

manufactured home

Independent agents sell insurance for several companies. It might be easier

to ask them to shop for you. Ask family and friends if they use an independent

If you can't find a company to sell you a policy, you might be able to get coverage

You can get FAIR Plan coverage if two insurance companies have turned you down. For more information, call your agent or the FAIR Plan at 800-979-6440

Depending on where you live, you might need to buy coverage for floods or

windstorms. Flood insurance is separate from your home policy. If you live on the Gulf Coast, you probably need a separate windstorm policy to cover damage

1731 Seydler St. Gonzales, TX 78629

- о 830-672-7518 м 830-857-6296
- E BJonesCaka@txfb-ins.com

FARM&RANCH / ANNUITIES / MEDSUP





MURDER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of San Antonio was appointed to replace Travis Hill as his attorney after a motion to withdraw by Hill was granted by 25th District Judge William Old III

Garcia-Mendiola, who just had his bond reduced last month by Old, faces a charge of murder in connection with the shooting death of Jose Robles Quintana on Sunday, May 28.

Old reduced his bond from \$750,000 to a \$500,000 cash/surety bond during a pre-trial hearing on Sept. 20 at the Gonzales County Courthouse.

Courthouse.
According to Gonzales
County Sheriff's
deputies, the GCSO
received a call at 12:54
a.m. Sunday about shots
being fired in the 100
block of County Road

168, which is off Texas

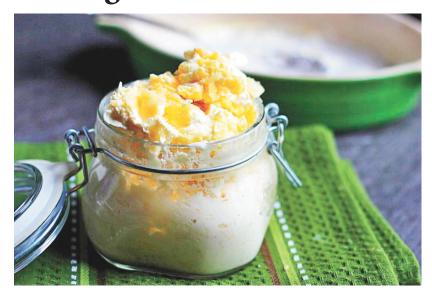
Highway 80 near Clear

Fork Creek, north of the Nixon-Smiley High School campus.

Upon arrival, deputies found the body of a gunshot victim later identified as Robles Quintana. He was pronounced dead at the scene. A second individual who reportedly had been assaulted during an altercation with Robles Quintana — later identified as Garcia-Mendiola — was transported to Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC) for treatment of injuries. After determining that

Garcia-Mendiola had shot and killed Robles Quintana, Gonzales County Sheriff's deputies and the Texas Rangers, who were investigating the incident, arrested Garcia-Mendiola and charged him with murder.

Cooking with Parind



Devon cream makes any brunch menu more luxurious

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

We have been working on our new menu additions and are super excited.

This will be an addition to our Sunday brunch menu and will be an accompaniment with our basket of homemade biscuits along with our homemade jellies.

We will be making Devon cream or Devonshire cream, otherwise known as clotted cream.

This will be the easiest recipe I have ever featured on cooking with Parind as it only requires one ingredient: heavy cream. But it will be an exercise in hurry up and wait. You will need to start as soon as you get up in the morning. Try to buy the best quality cream you can get, so it may warrant a trip to the whole paycheck type grocery

So let us get started.

FOR THIS RECIPE YOU WILL NEED:

A glass/porcelain or non-metallic casserole dish or any flat type dish with increased surface area.

Large strainer

Cheesecloth And a large enough bowl to hold the strainer

INGREDIENTS:

1-quart heavy whipping cream with a minimum 36% milkfat

In the morning after the usual chaos put all of the heavy cream into a clean non metallic casserole dish (large surface area) and put in to a 175-degree F oven in the middle rack. Set your alarm for 12 hours. When your alarm goes off. Let cool for an hour or so.

Pour the content into a cheese cloth lined strainer over a bowl. The milk with go into the bowl while the cream will be collected in

the cheese cloth. Use the milk in the biscuit recipe and any leftover as you wish.

Transfer the 'clotted' cream in the cheesecloth into a clean vessel like

a crock or a glass jar. Chill in the refrigerator until the morning.

Now your Devon cream is ready to enjoy. What does it taste like? The butteriest cream you have ever had....so close to cheese but so

Traditionally it is a staple at afternoon tea, so a good Darjeeling or an Irish breakfast or even a smoky Russian caravan tea goes perfectly with this — as of course the usual accompaniments like biscuits/scones and good jam or jellies. I say, do enjoy this indulgence anytime. Cheers.



ABUSE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

probable cause existed for felony charges and he was arrested in Denver later that year.

Howard rolled the dice and elected for the jury to assess his punishment. On Friday, Oct. 27, a jury of nine men and three women returned a verdict of 99 years in prison on the aggravated sexual assault charge (count 1) and life in prison on the continuous sexual abuse of a young child charge (count 2). 25th District Judge William Old III then sentenced Howard in accordance with the jury's verdict.

"Gonzales County protects its children," said County Attorney Paul Watkins. "I want to commend this jury for guaranteeing that this abuser will never

Gonzales County protects its children. I want to commend this jury for guaranteeing that this abuser will never hurt another child and for sending a strong message that Gonzales County jurors bring the maximum punishment for anyone convicted of sexually abusing a child."

-Paul Watkins, County Attorney

hurt another child and for sending a strong message that Gonzales County jurors bring the maximum punishment for anyone convicted of sexually abusing a child."

Due to the life conviction for continuous sexual abuse of a child, Howard is not eligible for parole and will remain behind bars for the rest of his

natural life. This is a special aspect for sentencing of these types of sexual abuse cases. His cases are running concurrent, but the life sentence takes precedence.

Assistant County Attorneys David Smith and Carrie Moy prosecuted the case. Attorney James Reeves represented the defendant.

SEXTON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

leadership and development. "My career goal is to work in international agritourism, bringing people together to have agricultural experiences to grow their understanding of agriculturists' dedication to creating a safe and wholesome food supply," Sexton says. "I will do this by coordinating tours across the United States and Europe, showcasing agriculture entities and how the effects of policy, culture, technology, his-

tory and legacies weave together."

The scholarship fund is the bedrock of HYFA and countless youth are benefactors of its mission. This last fiscal year, the foundation celebrated net assets reaching \$6.3 million and in total \$221,500 was given back to Hereford youth to assist with their college educations.

The Hereford Youth Foundation of America (HYFA) was established in 1986 and is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation dedicated exclusively to scholarship and educational support of youth in the business of raising Hereford cattle.

The mission of the Hereford Youth Foundation of America is to encourage, recognize and reward the development of life skills and values in the next generation of leaders by providing education, scholarship and leadership opportunities for Hereford Youth.

HISTORY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

1935 - November 5, Gonzales County Centennial Exposition began. On this date: at 1 p.m. a milelong parade; at 4:30 a polo game between Gonzales and a San Antonio team from Fort Sam Houston; at 7:30 the pageant began with a reenactment of Texas history performed on a 200-foot long stage. Attendees for the day included Governor James Allred, Attorney General William McCraw, and Congressman Kleberg. The Exposition ran until Sunday, November 10, when at 2:30 p.m. a statewide Sunday School Centennial was dedicated to the memory of Thomas J. Pilgrim who founded the first Sunday School in Texas in San Felipe in 1829. In 1840 he moved to Gonzales and remained active in education.

NEWBURY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Sherrod, too, was an HPU graduate. Though he never took a journalism class, he credited the late Dr. Cleo Mc-Christy, a masterful English teacher, for teaching him much. She was in the early years of a brilliant career and was also my mentor a couple of decades later. However, she "lernt" him a heap more than she did me!

Lieber quoted the light-hearted Sherrod who once wrote, "Freeways come in two models--over-crowded and under construction." On Sherrod's first day of retirement, he wore a t-shirt inscribed thusly: "You have mistaken me for someone who cares."...

Dr. Newbury, longtime university president, continues to write weekly and speak throughout Texas. Contact: newbury@ speakerdoc.com. Phone: 817-447-3872. Facebook: Don Newbury



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TEXAS

CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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ACROSS

won 1971 Masters 5 Texas has

on smoking in public buildings 6 Pampa hosts the '_ Texas Rodeo" each July

1 "the

existence'

7 actor Martin of "Relative Strangers" with SMU-grad Kathy Bates 8 TXism: "mad as

San Antonio handcrafted shoe maker Texas infielder, "Mr. Cub" (2 wds.)

Tom of "Concrete Cowboys" with TX Fairchild (init.) 22 fancy party

23 TX Janis Joplin album: "I Ol' Kozmic Blues Again, Mama!"

24 watch out Trump carried the 2020 in Texas 30 former Cowboy

quarterback, Aikman TX Nolan Ryan threw 7 -hitters

32 TXism: "risky nest'

__ moss

35 slang for "tattoo"

36 informal for "news conferences"

start of a football

game: coin 38 pecan is the Texas

state

39 home of Stephen F. Austin State University TX Charles golfer who 42 this Howard directed 1995 film "Apollo 13" with TX Bill Paxton

43 TXism: "smoke ' (find someone) TX Willie sang "On the Side of the Street"

32

45 Jake Ferguson pos

46 make a mistake 47 Canton's "First Monday" is on 400 48 TXism: "green 50 UT residence hall soloist on "We

51 TX Willie was a the World" (1985) 52 "si" in Mexico

53 " _ up shop' **DOWN** 1 this gunfighter

fought at the Texas battle of Adobe Walls (2 wds.)

2 TXism: ' clear as Red River mud" (unclear)

3 in Morris County on U.S. 67 WWII atom bomber

_ Gay"

9 chairs

19 "K" of JFK 20 TX "Mean Joe Greene" was in and the Bandit II" (1980)

10 honorary Texas Ranger: Stanley Gardner 11 ID evidence in court 12 "yes" in Mexico

13 across the Rio Grande from Eagle Pass: Piedras 14 worn on a cowboy's foot (2 wds.)

15 city on the western edge of Houston 16 TXism: "the tail " (last)

40

22 a response to "want some?" (2 wds.) 24 undergrad deg.

25 paranormal ability 26 alert someone 27 TXism: "got _

52

53

as big as Texas"(kind) 28 in Nolan County on I-20 29 Val County

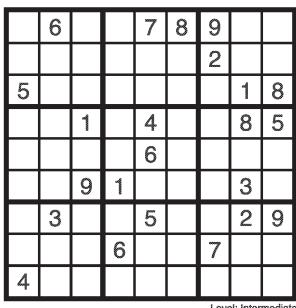
P-1661 30 actress Harper of Texas-based "Tender Mercies" 33 "no" (abbr.) Laureate of Texas" 35 brandin'

37 before Fridays 38 sound qualities

40 "Old ____": first courthouse of Comanche County 41 mongrels

44 dishonest scheme 47 take into custody 49 in Knox County

on U.S. 277



Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending

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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.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

f/GonzalesInquirer

GONZALES HIGH SCHOOL

Gonzales High School reported an enrollment of 760 students in grades 9-12 on Oct. 27, a decrease of 72 students from the 832 that were reported in October 2021. This decrease should not impact what classification the Apaches play in football as they are the largest school in District 12-4A-2 in terms of enrollment. The other schools in the football district (with Snapshot Day 2023 enrollment figures) include Cuero (641). Giddings (623), La Grange (608), Smithville (559) and Caldwell (572.5 reported in 2021; new figures not available).

Enrollment for Class 4A for the 2022-24 biennium was set at 545 to 1,299 students, with football broken down into Division 1 (880-1,299) and Division 2 (545-879). Unless the bottom number for Division 2 were to go up by more than 15 students, all six schools in District 12-4A-2 will remain in that same classification and most likely will remain together in a district due to being reasonably close, geographically.

The unknown is whether UIL would keep this district in Region III (where districts are numbered 9-12 and are closer to San Antonio and Austin), or place it in Region IV (where districts are numbered 13-16 and are closer to the Greater Houston area).

Currently, the Apaches are aligned with Cuero, La Vernia and five San Antonio schools when it comes to basketball, volleyball, cross country, academics and spring athletics except for baseball and softball and play in Region IV in District 28-4A. In softball and baseball, Gonzales plays Cuero, La Vernia, Navarro, SA Kennedy and SA Memorial. In soccer, the Apaches play against La Vernia, Yoakum and five San Antonio schools in District 27-4A.

NIXON-SMILEY HIGH SCHOOL

Nixon-Smiley High School reported an enrollment of 287 students in 9-12, an increase of three above the 284 reported in 2021. That should keep Nixon-Smiley in District 15-3A-2 for football along with some of its district mates, including Poth (287),

UIL enrollment numbers for area schools

All figures from 2023 unless noted

Gonzales

Cuero

760

641

623
608
572.5 (in 2021)
559
537.5
519
400
490
472 (in 2021)
458 (in 2021)
447
432 (in 2021)
427
364
345
310
287
287
274
267
251
210
204
199
181
153 (in 2021)
123
75 (in 2021)



Dilley (267), Karnes City (310), Comfort (364) and Natalia (345), as the threshold for 3A last time was 250-544, with Division 1 being from 360-544 and Division 2 being from

One member of the district will be headed for Division 1: South San Antonio West, which reported an enrollment jump from 354 in 2021 to 519 this year. But that should leave a spot in the district for an old familiar foe for the Mustangs — the Stockdale Brahmas, who dropped to 2A-Division 1 for the 2022-24 biennium.

However, Stockdale has reported an enrollment jump from 248 to 274, an increase of 26 students, which would put them 24 students above the old threshold for 3A of 250. It is highly likely Stockdale will be rejoining Nixon-Smiley to renew their football rivalry as the two schools are just about 12 miles apart on US

The Mustangs play in Region IV and appear likely to remain there unless UIL decides to move them into Region III, which is closer to the San Antonio area schools.

Currently, the Mustangs are aligned with Luling, Marion and four San Antonio schools (Monte Vista, Northern Oaks, Cole and Randolph) when it comes to basketball, volleyball, cross country, and spring athletics except for baseball and softball and play in Region IV in District 26-3A. In softball and baseball, Nixon-Smiley plays Luling, Marion, Northern Oaks, Cole and Randolph in District 26-3A. In academics, they are put into District 26-3A with Comal Memorial Early College, Hill Country College Prep, Luling, Marion, SA Brooks Academy of Science & English, SA Brooks Collegiate, Cole and Randolph.

OTHER SCHOOLS

In football, Marion (490), Cole (447), Randolph (458 in 2021), Luling (432 in 2021), Yoakum (472 in 2021), Yoakum (472 in 2021) and Hallettsville (427) should all remain in 3A-Division 1, barring any drastic changes to the threshold.

Shiner (181), Flatonia (210), Three Rivers (204) and Weimar (199) all seem primed to remain in 2A-Division 1, which had a threshold of 164.5-249, while Falls City (123) and Yorktown (153) will likely stay in 2A-Division 2, which had a threshold of 105-164.4. However, Schulenburg has seen its enrollment rise to 251 from 240 in 2021, which puts it on the bubble of moving up to 3A-Division 2.

Waelder (75) does not play football, but is firmly in Class A for volleyball, basketball, cross country, spring sports and academics.

HOLLAND

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

forth among family members and friends of the Wood and Holland families for sex.

Holland had apparently cut off a court-ordered ankle monitor while in Florida and had absconded to Texas, settling in Gonzales.

"We had some good intel on him and we were able to go and locate him and make sure it was him," Gonzales Sheriff Keith Schmidt said. "He came outside the home and our deputies went up to him and one of them asked him if he was Donnie. He said, 'You know who I am.' He knew we had him at that point.

'We were able to take him into custody without incident. We really didn't give him any other options. There were some kids nearby we were concerned about because we didn't want him getting any ideas (of using them as human shields)."

Schmidt said he does not know what prompted Holland to choose Gonzales for a hiding place and did not know for sure how long he had been in the community, but speculated that it had been for "the last several months," meaning Holland was in Gonzales during Back to School Night and Come & Take It — large events which brought a great number of children to Independence Square downtown.

"We don't think he did anything while he was in Gonzales," Schmidt said. "We haven't had any reports yet and we think he was trying to hide and not draw attention to himself."

A three-part miniseries which aired on Peacock TV, titled "Monster in the Shadows," chronicles the investigation into the disappearance of Brittney Wood and the charges that were brought against 11 people — including eight members of the Wood and Holland families — for their role in an incestuous underage sex ring in the aftermath.

It was believed that Brittney Wood, who was a 19-year-old mother of a two-year-old toddler at the time of her disappearance, had gone to visit her uncle, Donnie Holland — Donnie Holland Jr.'s father — on May 30, 2012, based on a cell tower ping that happened near his residence. Two days later, the elder Holland allegedly shot himself in the head and would die several days later.

Family members realized Brittney Wood was missing when they couldn't find her to tell her about her uncle's reported suicide. The ensuing investigation would unveil secrets and crimes that would shock not only Alabama residents, but the nation.

The elder Holland was considered by authorities to be the ringleader of the criminal activity committed by the family and was under investigation at the time of his death. His widow, Wendy Holland — Donnie Jr.'s mother — was charged with first-degree sodomy, sexual torture and sex abuse.

Donnie Holland Jr. was charged with seconddegree rape for sexually assaulting a 12-yearold girl. His cousin Derek Wood — Brittney's brother — and one of Donnie's friends, William Brownlee, were also charged with raping the same victim.

While Wood and Brownlee were charged as adults, Holland succeeded in getting himself charged as a "youthful offender," which allows someone who committed a crime while under the age of 21 to plead guilty to their crime, gain a lighter sentence, and have record of the crime permanently sealed from the public.

Holland was registered as a sex offender with a last-known address online in Millry, Alabama. After his arrest, he is currently in the Gonzales County Jail, awaiting extradition to Florida.

'The Gonzales County Sheriff's Office would like to thank the City of Gonzales Police Department for their assistance in getting this violent criminal out of our community. As always, our number one priority is to keep our community safe," Schmidt said.

> Information from prior reporting by AL.com contributed to this report.

How UIL alighnment works

Enrollments for UIL member high schools — also known as Average Daily Memberships — are used to place schools within alignments so that schools of roughly the same size are playing against each other.

The largest schools are placed in Conference 6A, which shall consist of a minimum of 220 schools and a maximum of 250 participating in high school football — not including any schools which opt up to play in a higher classification than their enrollment numbers would otherwise indicate. Schools may opt to play up in classification, but never down.

Meanwhile, schools in Conferences 2A through 5A shall have a minimum of 200 schools per conference, to the best extent possible, and be arranged so that the enrollment ratio for grades 9-12 between the largest school in the conference and the smallest is about 2.0.

With the exception of academics, wrestling, Conference A-5A football, and in activities that do not have enough schools, there are 32 districts per conference. For Conferences A-5A football, there are 16 districts each for Division 1, where the largest schools in each classification play, and Division 2, which is reserved for the smaller

schools.

While schools are placed into football districts in even numbered years, they are placed in districts annually for all other UIL-sponsored activities.

Except in urban areas, geographically contiguous schools shall be placed into districts of no more than ten (10) schools, unless approved by the District Assignment Appeals Committee. There shall be no attempt to perpetuate or avoid "old rivalries" and socioeconomic factors are not considered. However, a school may be placed in different districts for different activities to alleviate travel burdens.



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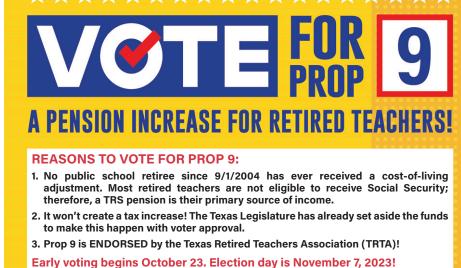






Waelder ISD reminds everyone to vote in the upcoming November 7th election. Every registered voter is entitled to vote on all ballot items, whether or not they have children that attend school.

Waelder ISD les recuerda a todos que voten en las próximas elecciones del 7 de noviembre. Cada votante registrado tiene derecho a votar en todos los puntos de la boleta, tenga o no hijos que.





TO LEARN MORE ABOUT PROP 9!



COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ENDORSED BY THE TEXAS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION (TRTA)

CALDWELL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

action, met with them on Tuesday and coordinated a plan to make sure that our bond election was on the ballot. That plan was created and approved at the local, regional and the state level.

"On Friday, we met with them again to make sure the ballots were following the systems and process that needed to be and they were. Starting today, those voters have that ballot to vote accordingly."

When questioned by Trustee Josie Smith-Wright, Avellenada said Caldwell County and GISD had reached out to voters who had already cast early votes in the constitutional election to inform them what they would need to do to vote in the GISD bond election.

It was unclear whose oversight had caused the \$95.08 million bond issue to be left off the Nov. 7 Caldwell County ballot in the first place.

Caldwell County Public Information Officer Miles Smith noted that the Caldwell County Elections Office "has specific roles and responsibilities in the case of elections ordered by governmental bodies."

"The elections office's administrative duties regarding elections are activated after an entity informs the elections office of its intent to conduct an election," Smith said in a statement on behalf of the county.

"When the Gonzales ISD Bond Election was brought to our attention we immediately reached out to contract election services as required by the election code."

In a letter sent to Caldwell County voters residing in GISD's boundaries and shared with the Inquirer, Coe wrote the district would be conducting "a separate election for their bond initiative."

"This means that the Gonzales ISD Bond will not be part of the regular November ballot that features the State Constitutional amendments or any other measure or race you might be expecting," Coe stated in the letter. "Early voting for the Gonzales ISD election begins Monday, Oct. 30. Voters from within the Gonzales ISD school district who already voted in the constitutional election may return to the polls and vote in the Gonzales ISD Election.

"This election is separate from the current November Election, and voters will need to check in at the Gonzales ISD Election Table and vote on the dedicated machines assigned for that

Voters who cast ballots in early voting or on Election Day will have a "two-step process" to follow, Coe wrote. First, they should vote on their regular Nov. 7 joint



Hours of Early Voting / Horas de Votación Anticipada Monday, October 30 - Friday, November 3 (7AM-7PM) Lunes, October 30 - Viernes, November 3 (7AM-7PM)

> **EARLY VOTING POLLING LOCATIONS** LUGARES DE VOTACIÓN ANTICIPADA

Luling Civic Center: 333 E. Austin St, Luling, TX 78648 Main Early Voting Branch & Special Forms of Early Voting: 1403 Blackjack St, Lockhart, TX 78644

ELECTION DAY POLLING LOCATIONS ELECTION PRECINCT ELECCIÓN RECINTO LUGARES DE VOTACIÓN EL DÍA DE LAS ELECCIONES

(7AM-7PM)

Southside Clubhouse: 202

1035 S. Magnolia Ave, Luling, TX

McNeil Baptist Church: 203 14304 FM 1322, Luling, TX

Caldwell County Elections 1403 Blackjack, Suite A, Lockhart, TX 78644 Phone: (512) 668-4347 Fax: (512) 398-1821 Email: caldwellec@co.caldwell.tx.us

election ballot "as you would for the State Constitutional amendments and other measures or races."

"After casting your regular ballot, locate the designated check-in for the Gonzales ISD Bond Election. Here, you will vote on the school district's bond proposal. This voting will be facilitated on a separate machine, and the ballot will be deposited into a different tabulator from the initial ballot," Coe

Early voting will be held at the same locations as the constitutional amendment election — the Luling Civic Center, 333 E. Austin St., Luling, and The Scott Annex Building, 1403 Blackjack St., Lockhart, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. through Friday, Nov. 3.

Election Day voting will be held for Precinct 202 at Southside Clubhouse, 1035 South Magnolia, Luling and for Precinct 203 at McNeil Baptist Church, 14304 FM 1322, Luling.

VOTING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

- Nixon City Building, 302 E. Central St., Nixon.
- Waelder City Hall, 300 Hwy 90 W., Waelder.

Early voting in Caldwell County for both bond issues is being held at two locations

- Luling Civic Center, 333 E. Austin St.,
- The Scott Annex Building, 1403 Blackjack St., Lockhart.

Election day voting will be held from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 7, at the following locations in Gonzales County:

- Randle Rather Building Precincts 1, 14 and 15.
- Emmanuel Fellowship & School, 1817 Saint Lawrence, Gonzales — Precincts 2 and 11.
- Gonzales City Building, 820 Saint Joseph, Gonzales — Precincts 3, 5, 7 and 8
- Nixon City Building Precincts 4, 6,
- Waelder Community Center, 311 Hwy 90 W., Waelder — Precinct 9
- Riverside Community Center, 200 Saint Lawrence, Gonzales — Precinct

Election day voting in Caldwell County for the GISD bond issue will be held during the same time period at:

- Precinct 202, Southside Clubhouse, 1035 South Magnolia, Luling.
- Precinct 203, McNeil Baptist Church,

14304 FM 1322, Luling. Election day voting in Caldwell County for the Waelder ISD bond issue will be held during the same time period at:

• Precinct 205, McMahan Community Center, 6022 FM 713, McMahan.

GONZALES ISD

Gonzales ISD voters will be deciding the fate of two bond propositions totaling more than \$95 million. The first, Proposition A, is for \$50.6 million and includes renovations and upgrades, especially for safety and security as well as infrastructure improvements, at all five school campuses, the administration building, maintenance and transportation and the construction of a new CTE building and Ag barn on land the district owns on Stieren Road.

The second, Proposition B, is for \$44.48 million, will fund a new athletic complex

featuring a 7,000-seat lighted artificial turf football and soccer stadium as well as new facilities for tennis, baseball, softball and track and field, concessions and ADA-compliant bleachers, partial locker rooms, restrooms, parking and scoreboards, all to be built on the land off Stieren Road as well.

As of close of polls Oct. 31, there had been 891 total early votes cast in the GISD bond election between Gonzales County (890) and Caldwell County (1).

WAELDER ISD

On the ballot at Waelder ISD will be two propositions totaling just under \$7 million — more than \$3.3 million less than the district sought in its last failed attempt in May.

Proposition A, which would call for the issuance of \$5.826 million, would have four main components:

- Remodeling the existing old gym, which cannot be used as a gym and is currently being used as storage, into a cafetorium that would seat all students in two lunch periods, provide a stage for the district for fine arts and theatre arts and an auditorium for school and community functions.
- Renovations and improvements to the Middle School that includes replacement of 17-year-old carpet, replacing leaking windows, providing a monitored fire alarm system, and other renovations and improvements.
- Classrooms for fifth and sixth grade students that would provide permanent classrooms, eliminate portable buildings, and save the district the annual cost of renting portable buildings, a savings of \$76,222 per year.
- High school upgrades that include replacing 13-year-old carpet, provide an entrance safety vestibule, more efficient lighting, and interior and exterior painting, and other building improvements.

Proposition B, for \$1.1 million, calls for renovating the open pavilion into a climate-controlled gymnasium that will serve as many as 14 different student groups that utilize gym facilities in the district. Total cost of the project is \$2.1 million, with the district using current tax maintenance notes to pay \$1 million toward the project.

As of close of polls Oct. 31, there had been 94 total early votes cast in the WISD bond election between Gonzales County (84) and Caldwell County (10).

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Fourteen amendments to the Texas Constitution are being proposed on the Nov. 7 ballot. Some, like Proposition 4, would raise the homestead exemption for homeowners from \$40,000 to \$100,000, while others would create tax exemptions for child-care facilities (Prop 2) or medical or biomedical equipment (Prop 10) or ban the imposition of so-called "wealth taxes" without voter approval (Prop 3) or make it tougher to restrict farming, ranching, timber and horticulture in certain areas (Prop 1).

Others would create or alter funds to support higher education research

(Prop 5), water infrastructure (Prop 6), natural gas-fueled power plants (Prop 7), broadband infrastructure (Prop 8) and maintenance and creation of state parks (Prop 14).

There are also amendments that would raise the mandatory retirement age for judges (Prop 13) and provide a cost-of-living adjustment for retired teachers (Prop 9) as well as specific amendments which impact El Paso County parks and recreation and the Galveston County treasurer's office.

A total of 1,139 early and mail-in votes, equal to 8.9 percent of the county's 12,800 voters, have cast ballots so far in the constitutional amendment election in Gonzales County as of close of polls on Oct. 31. Of those, 1,092 were cast in person and 47 were mail-in bal-



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