

The Gonzales Inquirer

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Nixon fires city manager at special meeting

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

Nixon City Manager Harold Rice was fired from his position with cause — effective immediately — during a special called Nixon City Council meeting Monday, Dec. 4 at

City Hall.

However, an attorney representing Rice, Lori Hanson of Hanson Law P.C. of Schertz, told the Inquirer Tuesday afternoon the allegations made by the city against her client are “baseless” and the city has violated her client’s contract

by ending his employment without any warning.

“We believe they violated his employment contract in the way (his termination) was handled,” Hanson told the Inquirer. “We believe they violated the city employee handbook in the way it was handled and

we believe they violated the Texas Open Meetings Act in the way they handled the closed session last night.”

A call was made by the Inquirer to Nixon Mayor Dorothy Riojas,



Rice

See RICE, page 18

Port Neches man dies in crash on I-10 Dec. 1

FROM STAFF REPORTS

A Port Neches man was killed early Friday morning, Dec. 1, in a one-vehicle rollover accident on Interstate 10 in Gonzales County.

Texas Department of Public Safety Sgt. Ruben San Miguel said the accident happened at about 6:15 a.m. near the 643 mile marker on I-10. A 2005 Chevrolet Tahoe driven by Justin Dane Merritt, 37, was traveling west in the inside lane of I-10 when, for reasons still under investigation, his vehicle drifted into the center median as he failed to maintain a single lane.

See FATALITY, page 17

GISD hosts bond project workshop with Region 13 representative

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales ISD school board met Monday, Dec. 4 for a special called workshop meeting at the administration building.

The board discussed the approved Proposition A bond for the new CTE Building and upgrades to the campuses and security.

GISD Superintendent Dr. Elmer Avellaneda explained in the last meeting that it was first time he felt overwhelmed regarding the bond.

That includes the next steps after the bond election from construction, renovations and how much money the district had, he added.

See GISD, page 7

WINTERFEST KICKS OFF HOLIDAY SEASON



LEW K. COHN

Santa Claus visits with a youngster at the old train depot in Gonzales on Friday, Dec. 1. TXGN Railway brought in Saint Nick to “the land of Saint streets” by way of the Polar Express. See more photos on page 17.



PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS

Santa Clause arrives into Gonzales for the 2023 Main Street Winterfest parade Saturday, Dec. 2. Come and Take It dance performs at Texas Independence Square for the 2023 Gonzales Main Street Winterfest.

Gonzales Health System celebrates 45 years, unveils future of care

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

Gonzales Healthcare Systems (GHS) hit a milestone Wednesday, Nov. 29 by celebrating 45 years of service to the community.

Doctors and staff gathered at the GHS outpatient clinic building to take a look back at the history of the healthcare system in Gonzales, from old Inquirer newspapers, old flyers and photos of the hospital.

“Celebrating such a milestone is undoubtedly a significant achievement and a testament to the dedication, hard

work, and commitment of the entire GHS team,” GHS CEO Brandon Anzaldúa said.

Anzaldúa appreciated the hard work from the doctors and nurses from past and present that was put into the 45 year history of the hospital.

“The efforts of doctors and nurses can never fully be measured. These professionals dedicated years to education and training to acquire the necessary skills to provide quality healthcare. Their hard work and commitment is an inspiration to us all,” Anzaldúa said.

See HOSPITAL, page 17

Dec. 11 is deadline to file for Gonzales Co. primaries

FROM STAFF REPORTS

With just a few days left until the 6 p.m. Dec. 11 filing deadline to run for county office, there have been 11 individuals who have tossed their hats into the ring for the 2024 Gonzales County Republican Primary so far, Gonzales County GOP Chair Liz Hernandez said.

On the Democratic side, Gonzales County Democratic Party Chair Yolanda Messman said she expects one candidate to file to run for office, but has not received the completed paperwork and filing fee yet.

Incumbent Sheriff Keith A. Schmidt has filed for re-election to a full term as the county’s top law enforcement

See FILINGS, page 17

Gonzales man sentenced to prison on aggravated assault charges

FROM STAFF REPORTS

A Gonzales County man was sentenced last week to spend at least the next 10 years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice — Institutional Division for multiple charges, including aggravated assault against a member of his family with a weapon.

Joshua Matthew Tristan appeared before 2nd 25th District Court Judge Jessica R. Crawford on Tuesday, Nov. 28, for a sentencing hearing. Tristan had already pleaded guilty to the charges against him and sought probation from Judge Crawford, who reviewed the pre-sentence investigation report previously prepared by the Gonzales County probation office.

See ASSAULT, page 7

Jobless rate falls to 3.3 percent in Gonzales County

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

The unemployment rate in Gonzales County dipped yet again, dropping in October

2023 by 0.2 percent to 3.3 percent, according to state Labor Market Information (LMI) figures released by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). Gonzales saw its labor force

decrease by 189 workers from 9,607 in September 2023 to 9,418 in October; however, the number of employed workers only dropped by 161 from 9,268 to 9,107 and the number filing

jobless claims dropped from 339 to 311, a difference of 28. Earlier this month, the U.S. Department of Labor reported

See JOBS, page 7



Gonzales County 4-H hosts Christmas military tribute

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Gonzales County 4-H members are hosting a Christmas military tribute program on Saturday, Dec. 16 at 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at Heroes Square in Gonzales. Gonzales 4-H chose this date because this year, National Wreaths Across

America Day will be celebrated on Dec. 16. Join the estimated 2 million volunteers and supporters who will gather in participating locations in all 50 states, at sea, and abroad. The Military Tribute will be a time to remember the fallen and honor those who serve. The program will teach the

next generation the value of freedom. Every fallen veteran in Gonzales County will be honored. During December 4-H members will travel to cemeteries in Gonzales County and place flags at each veteran's grave site. The public is invited to help honor the military. Rachel Simper will sing the

National Anthem. Lieutenant Colonel, retired, Jeff Irving will be the speaker. USMC Lance Corporal Hannah Graczowski will lead the presentation of the wreaths. A children's choir will sing God Bless America. The 4-H members will serve light refreshments.

LCRA awards \$12,908 grant to Gonzales Healthcare Systems for life-saving equipment

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Thanks to a \$12,908 grant from the Lower Colorado River Authority, Gonzales Healthcare Systems will purchase equipment that can help save the lives of people in cardiac crisis.

The Community Development Partnership Program grant, along with \$3,227 in matching funds from the hospital, will enable Gonzales Healthcare Systems to purchase a new mechanical chest compression system for its emergency room at Memorial Hospital.

"This grant is greatly appreciated by Gonzales Healthcare Systems," said Holly Danz, hospital public relations director. "To be able to purchase new technology such as the heart compressor is allowing the best outcome for all of our patients. This is truly going to be the difference between life or death in our emergency room."

The equipment provides consistent chest compressions and can be operated by one person instead of the team required for manual CPR.

"With the use of the heart compressor, compressions are delivered correctly, evenly and without exhausting staff who are needed in other aspects of lifesaving care of the patient," Danz said.

Gonzales Healthcare Systems is an hour away from the nearest major hospital, so it's crucial that patients are stabilized before being transported to larger facilities



CONTRIBUTED

Lower Colorado River Authority representatives present a \$12,908 grant to Gonzales Healthcare Systems for a new chest compression system. The grant is part of LCRA's Community Development Partnership Program. Pictured, from left to right, are: Rick Arnic, LCRA Regional Affairs representative; S.H. "Steve" Sucher, Gonzales mayor; Charlotte Brecosky, being held by her grandmother, Ronda Miller, Gonzales City Council member, District 4; Wayne South, hospital board of directors, Precinct 4; Amber Pawlik, hospital emergency department manager; Patrick C. Davis, Gonzales County judge; Margaret D. "Meg" Voelter, LCRA Board member; Karen Iacuone, hospital chief nursing officer; Kenneth Gottwald, hospital board president, Precinct 2; Brandon Anzaldúa, hospital chief executive officer; Matthew L. "Matt" Arthur, LCRA Board member; Greg Ticken, hospital board vice president, Precinct 3; and Holly Danz, hospital public relations director.

equipped to provide intensive cardiac care.

The community grant is one of 45 grants awarded recently through LCRA's Community Development Partnership Program, which helps volunteer fire departments, local governments, emergency responders and non-profit organizations fund capital

improvement projects in LCRA's wholesale electric, water and transmission service areas. The program is part of LCRA's effort to give back to the communities it serves.

Applications for the next round of grants will be accepted in January. More information is available at lcra.org/cdpp.



Gonzales County 4-H Food Challenge teams place at District

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Gonzales County 4-H Food Challenge teams traveled to Kerrville for the D10 Food Challenge Contest on Nov. 30.

The contest is like the television show "Chopped." The teams get a key ingredient and are given 40 minutes to create a dish. They must also create a presentation that includes MyPlate, facts from USDA dietary guidelines, nutrition, healthy substitutions, safety, and a recipe.

The winners were: 3rd Place Senior Team Healthy Dessert — Ellie Irving, Abby Irving, and Evan Roehr

3rd Place Intermediate Team Main Dish — Ahren Hattenbach, Jayden Cheatham, and Christo-

pher Burgess 3rd Place Intermediate Team Side Dish — Libby Milosky, Brenley Massie, Ava Cook

3rd Place Junior Team Side Dish — Emily Fogle, Elliot Hill, Olivia Remschel, Ellie Kuehn

These teams have practiced since August. Some members will represent Gonzales County at the San Antonio Livestock Show Food Challenge Contest in February and the Houston Livestock Show Food Challenge Contest in March 2024.

"I am so happy that these 4-H members are learning about nutrition, food safety, and public speaking. These life skills will be valuable to them in the future," said Texas A&M AgriLife County Extension Agent Gayle Bludau.

Regional job fair to connect employers, job seekers

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Economic Development Corporations (EDC) of Cuero, Gonzales, Hallettsville and Yoakum are thrilled to announce the next South Texas Regional Job Fair, taking place at the Cuero Municipal Clubhouse in Cuero, Texas, located at 201 Leonard Roy Harmon Drive, Cuero.

This collaborative initiative aims to bridge the gap between employers and job seekers in the region, fostering economic growth. The job fair welcomes both employers and job seekers.

"Job seekers will have the opportunity to explore diverse career prospects in our dynamic South Texas region," remarked Maggie Cromeens, Executive Director of The Cuero Economic Development Corporation. "The event will showcase companies from various industries, providing a platform for job seekers to engage with potential employers." Cromeens

strongly recommends attendees bring copies of their résumés and be prepared for potential on-the-spot interviews.

Participating employers can spotlight their companies, recruit top talent, and engage in an exclusive Round Table discussion from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. Job seekers will have the chance to explore a wide array of job opportunities and network with local employers from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Businesses in the South Texas region are urged to secure a table at this complimentary event to connect with skilled job seekers and bolster their workforce. Each participating business will receive a table, two chairs, along with WiFi access. Employers are advised to bring their own tablecloth, backdrops, standing banners, pamphlets, and other collateral. Electrical outlets will be available, however employers should bring extension cords if needed.

The South Texas Regional Job Fair

is a biannual event, with the next job fair planned for Summer 2024, hosted by the Hallettsville EDC. The four collaborating EDCs have committed to hosting the event for the next two years under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to support the economic development of the South Texas region.

This MOU illustrates their concerted aim to bring together the local workforce and shape a prosperous future for the region.

Representatives from each of the EDCs expressed their excitement for this collaborative effort and for the opportunity to bring the region a job fair of this magnitude.

To RSVP for the South Texas Regional Job Fair, visit stxjobfair.com and complete the contact form by Dec. 31. For more information about the South Texas Regional Job Fair, visit the event website at stxjobfair.com or follow them on Facebook: South Texas Regional Job Fair.

CORRECTION

A story from 2022 about a Christmas party held by the Marshalls was inadvertently run in last week's paper. The Inquirer regrets the error.

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Birthdays

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December 8th: Trisha Becker, Daisy Freeman, Teresa Heximer, Joan Walshak
December 11th: Aaron Etzler, Randy Joshua Tovar








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Gonzales Weather

	December 7 73°/54°	Times of sun and clouds 12% chance of rain • RealFeel 68
	December 8 74°/60°	A blend of sun and clouds 3% chance of rain • RealFeel 73
	December 9 77°/58°	Intervals of clouds and sunshine with a passing shower; warm 55% chance of rain • RealFeel 77
	December 10 69°/50°	Rain at times 60% chance of rain • RealFeel 66
	December 11 55°/39°	A shower in the area in the morning; otherwise, mostly cloudy and cooler 40% chance of rain • RealFeel 50
	December 12 58°/40°	Rain and a thunderstorm 70% chance of rain • RealFeel 55
	December 13 56°/41°	Plenty of sunshine 0% chance of rain • RealFeel 61

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December 9th – 11th
South Texas Tour

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Protecting poultry from bird flu

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

With winter approaching, birds are migrating south to escape the cold and take advantage of more abundant food sources.

But birds aren't the only ones taking advantage of this migratory ritual. Avian influenza viruses, more commonly known as bird flu, can spread across the country if migrating birds carry the viruses with them on their pre-winter journey.

As a result, Dr. Isabelle Louge, a clinical assistant professor at the Texas A&M School of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, advises poultry owners to remain vigilant against the spread of bird flu this winter because it can be deadly for our avian counterparts.

THE DANGER OF BIRD FLU

Bird flu typically follows migratory patterns, particularly through waterfowl (ducks and geese) droppings. Yet, Louge says the virus can also spread through infected poultry or people and through contact with contaminated equipment, including clothing and shoes.

"Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), or highly contagious bird flu, is a periodic problem in poultry flocks and is spread both bird-to-bird and when birds come

into contact with contaminated objects and surfaces," Louge said. "The past few years have seen outbreaks of HPAI spreading very easily among birds and often causing high losses in a flock."

Because HPAI is contagious, Louge says owners should be familiar with and watch for signs of bird flu. If signs are present, humans and other animals will need to steer clear so that they don't become infected as well.

"The first sign of the disease among poultry is dead birds, but other signs include ruffled feathers, depression, gasping, difficulty breathing, swelling of the head and neck, and diarrhea," Louge said. "The virus that causes avian influenza also can recombine with other influenza viruses found in humans, pigs, and other species."

If owners find that their birds are exhibiting these symptoms, Louge strongly suggests reporting the outbreak to the state veterinary office or the U.S. Department of Agriculture to receive professional help.

"It is important for all of us to work together to keep the spread under control," Louge said.

In addition, owners should stay up to date with nearby outbreaks so that they can implement safety measures

See POULTRY, page 7

Garden Q&A with CALVIN FINCH



Q. Why don't the area water systems count soaker hose systems the same as a dripline system in a landscape. In some systems including the City of San Antonio drip irrigation system has a special status that equates to almost as liberal as hand watering but soaker hoses which are basically just a temporary drip system are treated as an inefficient irrigation apparatus?

A. You hit one of the key differences between soaker hose systems and drip systems. Drip systems are more permanent with long term flow controls and a soaker hose is a temporary system where efficient flow relies on the gardener each time it is initiated. A drip system will usually average 10 years of operation and a soaker system only 1 to 2 years. Some water conservation technicians say there is a major difference in water use between the 2 systems.

Q. We still have mistflower, zinnias, lantanas and tropical milkweed producing blooms that are attracting Monarch Butterflies. As far as we can tell the Monarchs are not laying eggs on the milkweed but is there anything we should do to encourage them to move on to their wintering ground. We don't want to do anything to increase the likelihood that the adult will lay eggs and both generation will die.

A. With the availability of the tropical milkweed foliage there is more potential

for that to happen. Naturalists suggest that it is better that the tropical milkweed tops are pruned off the plants in October so the Monarch egg layers are not tempted to try and produce a late generation. Both the adult and young would probably not survive such a production of caterpillars. Note that the native milkweeds have long since lost their foliage.

Q. My broccoli plants have already produced large heads that we have harvested. Is it recommended that we pull the plants now?

A. No, most of the broccoli varieties sold by area nurseries produce a large initial head but go on and produce a set of smaller heads through December and January. I like the smaller heads for fresh vegetable plates and for most recipes.

Q. Which of the shade requiring blooming plant cyclamen or primrose is the best for the winter garden here in Central Texas?

A. Wow, tough question. Both plants are spectacular and last until about May when warm weather arrives. They are equally expensive but usually maintain a bloom the whole time. Both have intensely colored flowers and patterned leaves. Cyclamen produce a larger, showier plant but primrose is slightly more cold tolerant. Slugs and snails are less likely to harm Cyclamen. I would select cyclamen to produce a longer distance bed and primrose for more intimate planting.

WEEKLY LIVESTOCK REPORTS

GONZALES LIVESTOCK MARKET

December 2nd
Cattle - 1637
Compared to our last sale:
Number 1 choice calves and yearlings sold fully steady. Less quality calves and yearlings sold steady. Packer cows sold steady & bulls sold steady 2.00-3.00 cheaper.
Stocker-feeder Steers: Medium and large-frame No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 285-335; 300-400 lbs., 275-345; 400-500 lbs., 250-320; 500-600 lbs., 210-282; 600-700 lbs., 210-225; 700-800 lbs., 185-217. Bull Yearlings: 700-900 lbs., 90-155.
Stocker-feeder heifers: Medium and large-frame No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 285-295; 300-400 lbs., 275-315; 400-500 lbs., 210-305; 500-600 lbs., 195-220; 600-700 lbs., 185-200.
Packer Cows: Good lean utility and commercial, 72-87; Cutters, 89-100; Canners, 52-78; High yielding fat cows, 87-95.
Packer Bulls: Yield grade 1 & 2, good heavy bulls, 112-127; Light weights and medium quality bulls, 100-110.
Stocker Cows: \$750 to \$1,500. Pairs: \$1,100 to \$1,600.

NIXON LIVESTOCK

December 4th
Cattle - 1350
Steers:
200-300 lbs - \$265-255-335
300-400 lbs - \$266-276-335
400-500 lbs - \$247-257-320
500-600 lbs - \$221-231-285
600-700 lbs - \$195-205-258
700-800 lbs - \$195-204-214
Heifers:
200-300 lbs - \$214-224-310
300-400 lbs - \$229-239-320
400-500 lbs - \$213-223-300
500-600 lbs - \$193-203-265
600-700 lbs - \$186-196-250
700-800 lbs - \$174-184-192
Slaughter Cows - \$48-101
Slaughter Bulls - \$81-112
Stocker Cows - \$600-1000
Pairs: 1 pair @ 1610
OUR LAST SALE OF 2023 WILL BE ON DECEMBER 18, 2023
HALLETTSVILLE LIVESTOCK COMMISSION CO., INC.
Sale date: November 28th
Cattle on hand: 2002
Packer Cows:
Canner and Cutter Cows: \$88-105
Utility & Fat Cows: \$65-88
Light Weight Canner Cows: \$55-68
Pair/Weak: \$35-54
Packer Bulls:
Heavyweight Bulls: \$113-122
Utility & Cutter Bulls: \$100-112
Lightweight Canner Bulls: \$88-100
Stocker Cows:
Good Stocker/Cows & Heifers: \$1350-1575
Medium Stocker Cows & Heifers: \$1025-1325
Good Cow & Calf Pairs: \$1725-1850
Medium Cow & Calf Pairs: \$1100-1325
Stocker & Feeder Calves & Yearlings:
Number 1 steer & bull calves:
Under 200 lbs.: \$240-320
200-300 lbs.: \$245-330
300-400 lbs.: \$252-50-330
400-500 lbs.: \$240-320
500-600 lbs.: \$230-272.50
600-700 lbs.: \$205-245
700-800 lbs.: \$190-230
Number 1 heifer calves:
Under 200 lbs.: \$220-310
200-300 lbs.: \$240-315
300-400 lbs.: \$235-300
400-500 lbs.: \$230-290
500-600 lbs.: \$210-255
600-700 lbs.: \$190-220
700-800 lbs.: \$170-205
Replacement Heifers:
350-700 lbs.: \$130-185
Compared to our sale 2 weeks ago, the calf market held up very well. Heavier weights sold \$2 to \$3 lower, but all lighter weight

classes sold steady to stronger. Demand was very good. Packer cows and bulls sold \$2 higher on a total supply, 325 head. Last sale of the year will be December 19th.

SEGUIN CATTLE CO.

November 29th
Quality very deep. Market steady on all classes with packer cows & bulls 2-3 softer.
Cattle - 816
Sheep & goats - 907
Medium & large frame #1 Steers:
200-300 lb. .55-2.51-3.32
300-400 lb. .60-2.74-3.28
400-500 lb. .30-2.42-3.18
500-600 lb. .70-2.12-2.84
600-700 lb. .90-1.69-2.31
700-850 lb. .70-1.59-2.15
Medium & large frame #1 Heifers:
200-300 lb. 1.15-2.59-3.40
300-400 lb. .45-2.35-2.93
400-500 lb. .55-2.26-2.90
500-600 lb. .54-1.85-2.33
600-750 lb. .85-1.67-2.29
Cows:
Utility & commercial - .60-.82-1.0
Cutters - .56-.63-.70
Canners - .45-.53-.60
Palpated cows - 700-1475
Cow/Calf Pairs - 1300-1375
Bulls:
Heavy High Yielding - 1.10-1.20
Light & Low Yielding -.75-1.09
Sheep & Goats:
Nannies - 60-285
Kid Goats (Fat) - 2.40-3.15
Wethers - 1.55-3.22
Billies - 1.42-2.60
Dorp. Ewes - 50-170
Dorp. Lambs (Fat) - 2.20-3.30
Woolled Ewes - 90-120
Woolled Bucks - .85-1.56
Lambs - 1.80-2.50
Barb. Bucks - 200-275
CUERO LIVESTOCK MARKET
December 1, 2023
Number of head 1,844
There were 208 cows and 26 bulls. Top packer bull was up to \$123/cwt while tops on packer cows held at \$100/cwt. A good supply sold well. Demand is very strong. The calf market was steady with last sale's higher levels. Middle weights continue to command a premium while higher weights continue at past levels. Overall the market was little lower by 3/cwt. Most classes had new highs indicating that quality was not as good overall.
Packer bulls: 94.00-123.00
Packer cows:
canners & cutters 78.00-100.00
poor & weak 30.00-57.00
Palpated: 22 BRED 90.00-147.00
1 PAIRS: one \$1,450
Steer Calves:
Under 200 lbs. NONE
200-249 lbs. 269.00-306.00
250-299 lbs. 280.00-338.00
300-350 lbs. 294.00-334.00
350-400 lbs. 272.00-342.00
400-450 lbs. 258.00-328.00
450-500 lbs. 252.00-295.00
500-550 lbs. 234.00-280.00
550-600 lbs. 234.00-258.00
600-700 lbs. 210.00-270.00
700-800 lbs. 206.00-226.00
Bull Calves: (AVG-HIGH) 252.00-306.00
Under 250lbs 280.00-338.00
250-300 lbs. 271.00-338.00
300-350 lbs. 259.00-340.00
400-450 lbs. 262.00-332.00
450-500 lbs. 245.00-296.00
500-550 lbs. 235.00-285.00
550-600 lbs. 227.00-255.00
600-700 lbs. 212.00-230.00
Over 700 lbs. 184.00-208.00
Heifer Calves: (AVG-HIGH) under 200 lbs. 217.00-254.00
200-250 lbs. 229.00-260.00
250-300 lbs. 235.00-337.50
300-350 lbs. 246.00-332.00
350-400 lbs. 242.00-318.00
400-450 lbs. 227.00-315.00
450-500 lbs. 215.00-288.00
500-550 lbs. 210.00-250.00
550-600 lbs. 207.00-264.00
600-700 lbs. 195.00-238.00
Over 700 lbs. 175.00-212.00

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TxDOT needs to address dangerous intersections before more lives are lost

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

Wednesday, Nov. 29, marked the 18th anniversary of the loss of my stepdaughter, Sarah, who died in an automobile accident near DeKalb in Bowie County. She was just 23 years old with her whole future ahead of her, but lost her life in a one-vehicle rollover because she was trying to make it to work on time on a back county road.

In the years that have followed, I have sadly had to report on the loss of many lives way too soon due to car wrecks — some in areas where intervention could have led to prevention.

This includes the June 8 accident at the intersection of FM 304 and US 90 which killed truck driver Allen Groff, who sacrificed his own life by trying to minimize the collision his tractor-trailer had with another vehicle that failed to yield at the stop sign they had on FM 304.

The Texas Department of Transportation recognized how dangerous this intersection was and converted it in October to a four-way stop with flashing red lights both overhead and on the stop sign as well as adding warning lights prior to the intersection in order to make sure drivers were alerted. Sadly, it took Groff's bravery and his passing for TxDOT to intervene four months later.

On the night of Wednesday, Nov. 29, as I was delivering newspapers to local post offices in Smiley, Nixon, Leesville, Luling and Waelder, I made the stop at that intersection as I usually do and said a silent prayer for Mr. Groff and his family as well as for my stepdaughter and for others who have died as well.

Before and after that, however, I passed by a pair of dangerous intersections in Gonzales County that also need intervention before more lives are needlessly lost due to a failure by authorities to do the right thing and make them safer. I am specifically referring to the intersection of Texas 97 with Texas 80 north of Nixon and the intersection of Texas 97 and FM 304 north of Gonzales.

Traffic on Texas 97 has a warning light on a sign prior to the intersection and a stop sign with a red flashing light attached, but there are no overhead lights, flashing or otherwise, to warn drivers as they approach the intersection either on Texas 97 or Texas 80.

Traffic on Texas 80 does not stop at all unless someone southbound is trying to turn left onto Texas 97, for which they do have a left turn lane — there is a dedicated right turn lane for Texas 80 south of the intersection which allows vehicles to merge onto Texas 97 without stopping.

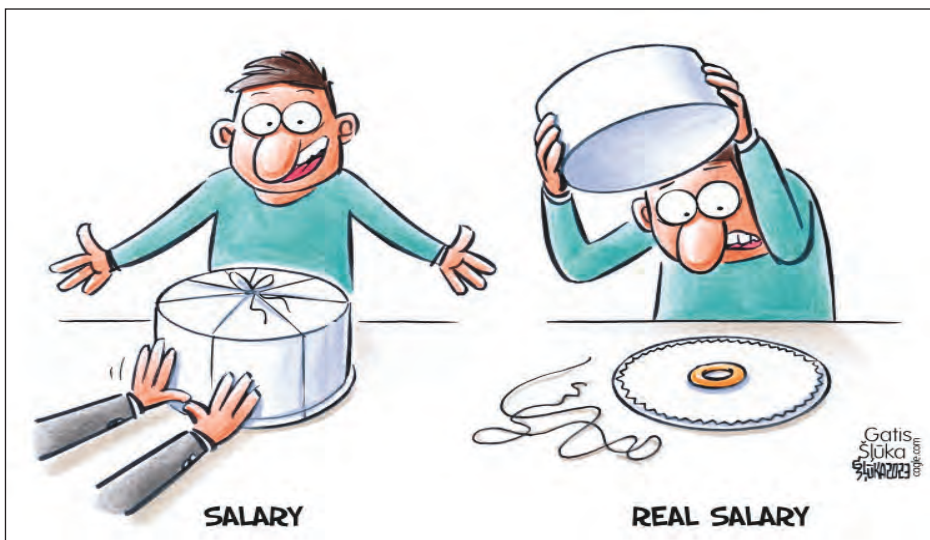
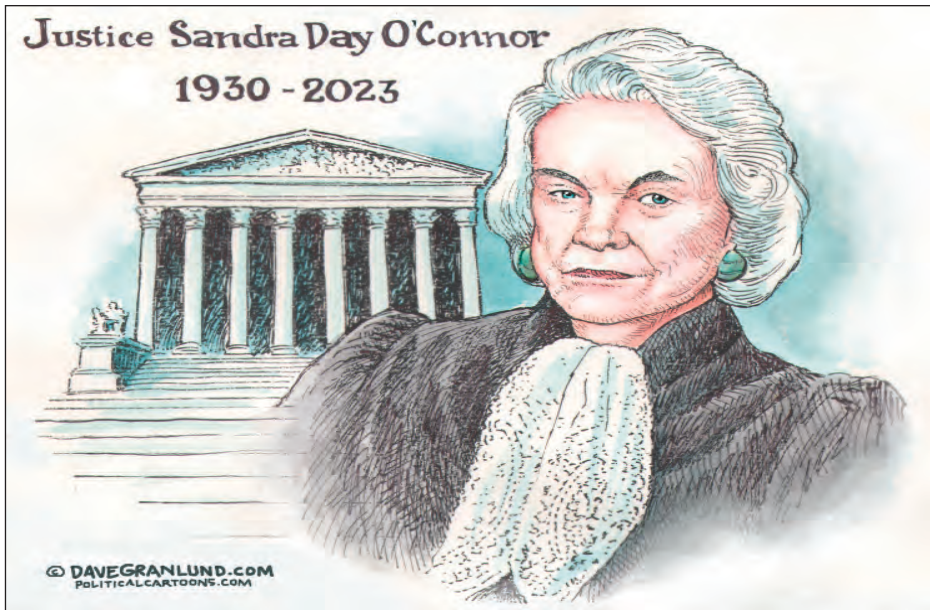
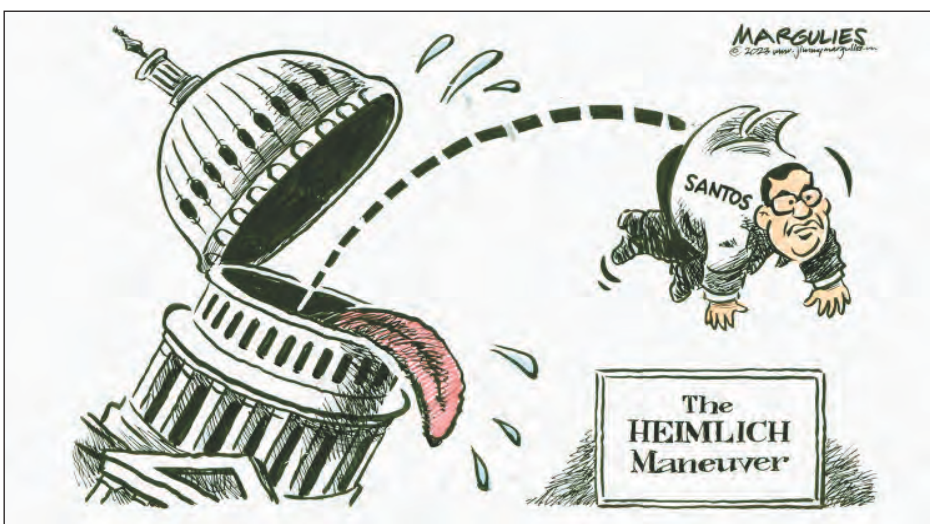
Texas 80 and Texas 97 are both very important arteries for traffic for both the poultry industry and the natural gas industry. This means there are a great number of large trucks on the roadway at any given time, which increases the potential for deadly accidents at this intersection.

TxDOT is doing something to help out the flow of traffic on Texas 80 by earmarking more than \$78 million in funding to revamp Texas 80 from the Guadalupe County line to FM 1681 into a Super 2 Highway, a two-lane rural highway in which a periodic passing lane has been added to allow faster vehicles to pass.

However, there has been no indication that TxDOT will make any changes to the Texas 80 and Texas 97 intersection similar to the four-way stop that was created at FM 304 and US 90.

While the Texas 80 intersection at least has a stop sign with a flashing light, there is no traffic assistance afforded to the Y intersection of FM 304 with Texas 97. This time it is traffic from Texas 97 which does not stop unless it is to turn onto FM 304 to head towards Bastrop.

Traffic from FM 304 has just a stop sign for those vehicles wishing to turn left onto Texas 97 to head towards Waelder, but vehicles headed towards Gonzales and wanting to merge onto Texas 97 have only a yield sign. There are no warning



GONZALES CO. HISTORY

- 1827** — a fort was built, where St. Louis Street now meets Water Street (Block 3) and in December, colonists return to Gonzales.
- 1829** — December 11, first Anglo child born in Gonzales, James Columbus Burns, son of Arthur and Sarah Burns.
- 1829** — December, population of DeWitt Colony approximately 186
- 1837** — December 14, legislature of Republic of Texas created Gonzales County (same area as DeWitt Colony) First County Court organized with B.D. McClure as Chief Justice. San Antonio and Victoria were also incorporated.
- 1845** — December 29, Texas became a state, and Gonzales County is formed into present size and shape.
- 1853** — December 10, The Inquirer suggests that a sufficient number of seats be provided in future houses of worship because the previous Sunday there were about 250 people at the courthouse for services and some had to leave due to lack of seating.
- 1899** — December 12, The Inquirer states, "Send your children to school regularly. There is nothing so injurious to their progress as irregular attendance."
- 1907** — J.M. Mohrmann bought out his partner, Kelly, to found Mohrmann's Drug Store in the west corner of the Randle-Rather Building (Later moved to 407 St. George Street and then in 1974 to 413 St. George Street. During this time the store changed hands at least once and was re-purchased by the Mohrmanns after WW II).
- 1924** — December, Mrs.W.H. Boothe sent one of her three pet alligators to the zoo in Sweetwater, Texas
- 1938** — Total number of fires in Gonzales in 1938 is forty-two. Fire Chief is C.E. Ince
- 1944** — eighty-five acres of land bought on south end of Fair Street by Dailey Brothers Circus to be used as their winter quarters
- 1947** — December 17, KCTI radio station first aired, founded by Lawrence Walshak and Frank "Woody" Wilson
- 1949** — December 2, the Gonzales night school has 142 veterans enrolled. The government is providing \$250,000 per year to subsidize this program so that vets may get their high school diplomas. Many young men had left Gonzales High School to enlist in the military for WWII and therefore did not get their diplomas.
- 1949** — December 13, the "TeePee", a recreation and entertainment center for high school students, is expected to be operational by February 1. It is to open on Friday and Saturday nights to provide a safe place for students to gather.
- 1949** — December 29, Miss Alma McElyea, cashier at the telephone exchange, will retire on January 1 after forty-two years of service to the company.

The Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales Inquirer, 622 St. Paul, Gonzales, TX 78629 is a periodical postage paid at Gonzales, Texas and additional mailing offices.

Postmaster: For change of address, notify The Gonzales Inquirer, P.O. Box 616, Gonzales, TX 78629-0616

Mail Subscription Rates

Payable in advance

In county	
One year	\$48
Six months	\$36
Three months	\$28
Out of county	
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Six months	\$48
Three months	\$38
E-Edition	
One year	\$40
Six months	\$25
Three months	\$20

You can reach us at: 830-672-2861 OR publisher@gonzalesinquirer.com

Affiliations:
National Newspaper Association
South Texas Press Association
Texas Gulf Coast Press Association

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The Gonzales Inquirer is published every Thursday by Guadalupe Valley Publishing Co. USPS 221-740 • ISSN 1059-7158 • 622 St. Paul St., P.O. Box 616 • Gonzales, TX 78629

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DR. DON NEWBURY
The Idle American

Where did we go wrong?

Irony's definition has been stretched to the breaking point for me. Verily, Humpty-Dumpty's nursery rhyme about his "wall fall" pales greatly when compared to the fall-out of a deposed football coach who had a "falling out" with his employer. The shocker, though, is that deposed Coach Jimbo Fisher will be paid some \$76 million to leave. Why, that's nearly as much as Garth Brooks' divorce.

Words from Texas A&M University principals have been measured and vague, mostly insisting that state money isn't involved in the pay-off. They maintain that all will be well and that a new coach will be on board within days.

One of the world's all-time great sportswriters, Dr. Blackie Sherrod, might have applied one of his famous quotes to describe the Texas A&M mess: "As pure as driven slush".....

The "win-at-all-cost" approach is rampant throughout our culture. However, the scales of justice were heavily weighted toward Fisher in his employment contract.

Texas A&M has its own law school, for crying out loud. Maybe consultation would have helped to avoid the embarrassment and record-smashing expense of this madness. After all, A&M bought an up-and-running law school from Texas Wesleyan University a few years ago at a cost of \$75 million, about the same as Fisher's pay-off.

Though A&M wears the dunce cap for now, the Aggies didn't invent our current culture. There are a couple of dozen schools nationally where football wags the dog and where TV money is at the root of all substantive decisions. Money no longer talks; it screams. The current emphasis is light years away from what collegiate sports were intended to be. Until the current century, TV didn't make major decisions. Regents and trustees did. Now, some "go along," perhaps believing the NCAA's barrage of ads that their teams are composed of "student athletes." This is no doubt true in most instances, but in some, such claims are "oxy-moronish" at best (no pun intended). Some athletes wouldn't know a classroom from a broom closet.

Here's another irony involving Aggies, this time the ones at New Mexico State University. In 1963, as a woeful season wound down with only three wins, NMSU invited the Lobos of Sul Ross State University to visit Las Cruces for a Thanksgiving Day game.

The Lobos, led by dazzling quarterback Luz Pedraza, proved equal to the challenge. The Alpine institution, its enrollment less than 10% of NMSU's, could use NMSU's \$25,000 check that would greatly exceed expenses.

You guessed it: The little NAIA school upended NMSU, 42-15, with enough money left for a new transmission in the team bus, but that's a whole 'nuther story....

Fast-forward 60 years. Recently, the NMSU Aggies played the mighty Auburn Tigers of the vaunted Southeastern Conference. A "David/Goliath" slaughter loomed. The Tigers were off-the-charts favorites to smite the Aggies. NMSU would return to Las Cruces with \$1.85 million for enduring the drubbing.

The Aggies, however, didn't get the memo. They pounded the Tigers, 31-10, ending Auburn's home win streak of 49 home wins against non-power conference teams. It was NMSU's first win over an SEC team in 25 tries. Coach Jerry Kill's incentive bonuses exceeded \$100,000. (Kill, BTW, has epilepsy and a shoulder tattoo he had promised last year if his charges won the Quick Lane Bowl game.)

A dream would be to savor one more Thanksgiving with the Texas Aggies battling the Texas Longhorns, a "telly-following-turkey" observance during most of my life. This, of course, is not to be. Now, both teams are members of the SEC. Who knows how they'll fare? They're both likely to come up with the money--tainted, hush or blood--in their quest for national championships. We can but dream of simpler days, when playing fields were more level, in-state rivalries promoted and sports kept generally in context....

Dr. Newbury, longtime university president, writes weekly and speaks widely. Contact: 817-447-3872. Email: newbury@speakerdoc.com.



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THE NUTCRACKER

It started as a story called "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King." A little more than 100 years ago, this beloved tale was made into a ballet called "The Nutcracker." It has become one of the most popular ballets.



A Special Gift for Clara

Herr Drosselmeyer brings a special gift for Clara—a nutcracker in the shape of a soldier. Her brother, Fritz, wants the nutcracker, grabs it and breaks it.

Help Herr Drosselmeyer fix the nutcracker. Draw the nutcracker's missing arm and leg, then color them.

ACT 1

In a small village, guests are arriving for a Christmas Eve party at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Stahlbaum and their children, Clara and Fritz.

Clara's godfather, Herr Drosselmeyer, brings toys for all the children.

Help Clara find these toys.



Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Understand story elements: plot, conflict, resolution and structure.

The Midnight Battle

That night, an excited Clara cannot sleep. She sneaks downstairs to be with her new nutcracker doll. As the clock strikes midnight, strange things begin to happen ...

The Christmas tree grows to an enormous size and a great battle begins between the Mouse King and the Nutcracker, who comes to life to lead an army of toy soldiers.

Clara uses her to kill the Mouse King and save the Nutcracker's life.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow the sequence of events in a story.



Find at least 10 differences between the two pictures.

Standards Link: Recognize similarities and differences; visual discrimination.
 CODE: A= E= H= O= S=

Extra! Extra! Holiday Hunt

Look through the newspaper for:

- 5 holiday pictures
- 5 holiday words
- 3 five-digit numbers
- something sweet
- 1 gift for a special person

Standards Link: Classify objects according to common attributes.

Kid Scoop FIT & FUN

Ballet Moves

Can you match each kid to their ballet position? Can you stand in these poses, too?

First Position



Second Position



Third Position



Fourth Position



Fifth Position



Standards Links: Physical Education: Demonstrate a sense of balance and endurance.

ACT II

The Nutcracker takes Clara on a fantastic journey, which ends at the Sugar Plum Fairy's palace in the Land of Sweets.



Can you find the sweets that match?

Standards Link: Visual discrimination.

Double Double Word Search

NUTCRACKER
 MOUSE
 BALLET
 TOYS
 SOLDIER
 CLARA
 PLUM
 SUGAR
 FAIRY
 CLOCK
 TREE
 PARTY
 KING
 ARMY
 GRABS

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

O N E C E U A P O N
 A A E T I M R E I C
 P A R T Y N M A L L
 A M T A P S Y O T O
 F O S O L D I E R C
 A U N D U C L F A K
 I S A R M L F A G I
 R E K C A R C T U N
 Y R S B A R G K S G

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

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Winterfest

rings in the season



Gonzales celebrated Christmas with the annual Main Street Winterfest. Many attended the event including performances by the Gonzales High School Apache Flames, Come and Take It Dance, the Maggies and caroling by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. The event closed out with the lighting of the Christmas Tree and the annual Lighted Christmas parade.

PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS



GISD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“The success of the construction and the success of the \$30 million in renovations are directly tied to us as a board, and as the superintendent, so we have to make sure we’re doing this the right way,” Avellaneda said.

Avellaneda called the board together for this workshop because it is great time to discuss and ask questions about the bond, he said.

Casey Sledge, of Region 13 Education Service Center, was invited to speak to the board about the next steps regarding the bond; the board asked him multiple questions about when construction will start.

“I know we’re anxious, people are probably going ‘Where’s all the tractors and our results stuff going on?’ ‘We passed this election so many days ago, why aren’t we building it?’ We get that all the time. And I do think there’s some lower hanging projects in front of us that you can attack, I fully expect us to do some construction this sum-

mer,” Sledge said.

Sledge added they want to go as fast they can, but things are not getting cheaper and they don’t want to waste time.

“We don’t want to waste time, but we’re going to advise you not to go so fast. We trip, stumble or fall or make inefficient decisions, or poor decisions and that’s a balance. You’ll see us sprinting and slow and aspirating and slowing down and we’ll do that a lot.”

The district sent out requests for qualification for professional architectural and engineering services for the November 2023 bond construction program.

Sledge said the district received 14 responses and the bond committee spoke to 10 companies.

The board will vote in the Monday, Dec. 11 meeting on which company they’ll go with for the bond project.

One of the big questions brought up to Sledge was transparency regarding the timeline of the projects.

“We’re very used to some of your taxpayers or your public, or city or whoever it is, being very concerned with the money you’re spending — any amount of money, much less this much money, right. And so I think we’ve found most schools are transparent. I think you’re already transparent,” Sledge said.

Sledge suggested doing a monthly update on the bond status during the board meetings.

“We’ll do a public town hall open meeting. And that’s not a board meeting. So we don’t have to have a quorum that we’ll host, like I’ll be at the meeting, we’ll let them walk in this room or whatever room, we’ll have maps on the wall, project stuff, schedules, budgets laid out, walk in and ask. And we’ll do that every month, the whole time, if you like, or however often we need to do,” Sledge said.

The board will meet for their regularly scheduled meeting Monday, Dec. 11.

ASSAULT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The state presented testimony from two of Tristan’s victims, both of whom had each previously been in a dating relationship with the defendant. Another family member of one of the victims testified as well before the defendant took the stand himself.

After hearing all testimony, Crawford sentenced Tristan to the maximum amount allowable under the plea bargain agreement. He received 20 years in prison for a first-degree felony for aggravated assault with an affirmative finding that a deadly weapon was used, meaning Tristan will have to serve at least half of his 20-year sentence, day for day, before he is eligible for parole.

In addition, Tristan was charged with two third-degree felonies and received eight years each on the first count of assault with prior conviction and eight years on a count of assault by

strangulation. In all cases, there was an affirmative finding of family violence.

While he received a total of 36 years, the sentences will all run concurrent, meaning Tristan will have to serve at least 10 years before he is eligible for parole. He had been out on bond and was taken into custody at the conclusion of the hearing to begin his sentence.

First Assistant Attorney David Benning Smith prosecuted the case, while Tristan was represented by Eddie Escobar.

County Attorney Paul Watkins stated “Judge Crawford carefully listened to the testimony and considered the evidence. Her sentence provides protection for the victims as well as for the community. This sentence shows that victim’s voices are heard and abusers are held accountable in Gonzales County.”

INTERSECTION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

lights or flashing lights for drivers.

On trips to and from Bastrop and Waelder, I have seen several vehicles fail to yield or stop as necessary at the intersection, leading to some near accidents. It is only a matter of time before there is a major accident that claims a life there.

What will it take for TxDOT to create change and to address these intersections? Another needless death? Several? What is the cost we are willing to endure before action is taken?

The last thing I want to see is another family still suffering from tragedy 18 years later.

JOBS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

there were 150,000 non-farm jobs added nationally in October, below the average monthly gain of 258,000 over the prior 12 months. In October, job gains occurred in health care, government, and social assistance. Employment in manufacturing declined due to strike activity. The national unemployment rate remained steady at 3.9 percent.

For the state of Texas, unemployment fell from 4.1 percent in September 2023 to 3.8 percent in October 2023, as the number of unemployed people seeking benefits dropped from 620,012 to 578,529. The number of employed Texans increased from 14,558,101 to 14,605,351.

Gonzales County did not have either the lowest or highest jobless rate of the seven counties which comprise the Golden Crescent Workforce Development Area.

For the entire Golden Crescent Workforce Development Area, the unemployment rate for October 2023 was 3.5 percent, a drop of 0.3 percent from the 3.8 percent recorded in September 2023. This represented a total of 3,245 residents in Gonzales, Calhoun, DeWitt, Goliad, Jackson, Lavaca and Victoria counties seeking employment out of a total workforce of 92,194 people. There were 735 fewer people in the workforce and a total of 246 fewer

people filed jobless claims in the Golden Crescent area while nearly 489 jobs were added.

The counties in the Golden Crescent with the lowest unemployment rate were Calhoun County at 3.0 percent, followed by Jackson County at 3.1 percent, Lavaca County at 3.12 percent, Gonzales and DeWitt counties at 3.3 percent, Goliad County at 3.4 percent and Victoria County bringing up the rear at 3.9 percent.

Unemployment rates since October 2021 for Gonzales County are:

- October 2021, 3.6 percent
- November 2021, 3.5 percent
- December 2021, 3.2 percent
- January 2022, 3.6 percent

- February 2022, 3.4 percent
- March 2022, 2.7 percent
- April 2022, 2.6 percent
- May 2022, 2.9 percent
- June 2022, 3.5 percent
- July 2022, 3.2 percent
- August 2022, 3.2 percent
- September 2022, 3.1 percent
- October 2022, 3.1 percent
- November 2022, 3.1 percent
- December 2022, 2.7 percent
- January 2023, 3.7 percent
- February 2023, 4.0 percent
- March 2023, 3.5 percent
- April 2023, 3.2 percent
- May 2023, 3.5 percent
- June 2023, 3.7 percent
- July 2023, 4.0 percent
- August 2023, 4.0 percent
- September 2023, 3.5 percent
- October 2023, 3.3 percent

POULTRY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

sooner, preventing the disease from spreading.

“If HPAI has been detected in your area, it is best to keep your flock fully indoors — in a clean, well-ventilated coop with fresh feed and water — to avoid contact with any potential wild birds that could spread the virus,” Louge said.

PREVENTING FLOCKS FROM BECOMING INFECTED

There are various methods, or biosecurity measures, that can help prevent flocks from becoming sick when exposed to new birds. Quarantining new birds from existing flocks is one measure that can keep your birds safe from the virus.

“Owners should quarantine any new poultry brought to the farm for at least 30 days to ensure they are not sick, and they should work with these birds last so that they are clean when working with the home flock,” Louge said

Owners should also consider designing outdoor areas to completely exclude access for wild birds, not sharing farm equipment with other poultry farmers, and routinely disinfecting any equipment used around flocks.

Avian influenza can harm poultry flocks, so following biosecurity measures is necessary to keep both you and your flock safe from illness. Not only are you keeping your farm healthy, but you are helping stop the spread of illness to nearby farms.

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"SELL-OUT"

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50 - Black Cows 4-6 years old (5-8 months bred - some w/calves)

10 - Brangus Heifers (3-5 months bred)
12 - Brangus Heifers (5-7 months bred)
7 - Crossbred Heifers (Chocolates, Charbrays, Tigers 3-5 months bred)
12 - Grey Brahman Heifers 500-600 lbs.
7 - White Brahman Heifers 500 lbs.
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6 - Tiger Stripe Pairs 6-7 years old

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



Victoria College is recruiting for full-time, twelve-month, non-tenure track instructors to teach Commercial Truck Driving for the Workforce & Continuing Education Department. Classes will begin in January 2024. Position may include the role of Program Coordinator. Class size is limited to four students per tractor.

Starting earned monthly salary for the twelve-month position is \$4,944.89.

For more information and to complete an online application, please go to www.VictoriaCollege.edu and click on Jobs@VC. EEOE



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210 MISC. SERVICES

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850 HELP WANTED


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

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



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

Victoria College is an Equal Opportunity Institution.

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CITATION BY PUBLICATION

Janice Sutton
District Clerk, Gonzales County Texas
414 St. Joseph Street, Ste. 300
Gonzales, TX 78629

Andrew M. Abrameit
Abrameit Law Firm, PLLC
P.O. Box 192
Cuero, Texas 77954
Attorney for Plaintiff

THE STATE OF TEXAS

Cause No. 27,851; *Truitt Land Holdings LLC, Plaintiff v. Sustrain Goode, I Kelly Goode, Jr, Kareem Goode, Melvin Goode, Alvin Goode, Gloria Jackson, Jo Nell Miller, Eural Walker, Jr, Larry Goode, Jr, Tyrone Loving, Lionel Loving, Terry Clark, Susan Johnson, Stephanie Goode, Evonn L. Walker, Euralene Walker, Vangie Adams, Frances C. Goode, Carol White, Bambi Alford, Alfred Gene Goode, Jr., Verline Celestine, Anthony Goode, Theris Goode, Reginald Pierce, The Unknown Heirs of Latasha Loving Manuel, and The Unknown Heirs of Janice Johnson, Defendants;* in the 2nd 25th Judicial District Court, Gonzales County, Texas.


TO: The Unknown Heirs of LATASHA LOVING MANUEL, Deceased, or the Executor or Administrator of the Estate of LATASHA LOVING MANUEL

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of forty-two (42) days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. In addition to filing a written answer with the clerk, you may be required to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file your answer with the clerk. Find out more at TexasLawHelp.org."

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the PLAINTIFF'S FIRST AMENDED PETITION AND APPLICATION FOR TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER, TEMPORARY INJUNCTION, PERMANENT INJUNCTION, AND FOR IN-KIND PARTITION AND TO HAVE IMPROVEMENTS ISOLATED FOR THE BENEFIT OF PLAINTIFF at or before 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance of this citation, the same being Monday the 15th day of January, 2024 at or before 10:00 a.m., before the Honorable 2nd 25th District Court of Gonzales County, Texas, at the Courthouse in Gonzales County, Texas. Said Plaintiff's First Amended Petition was filed on the 7th day of September 2023 in this case, numbered 27,851 on the docket of said court, and styled: *Truitt Land Holdings LLC, Plaintiff v. Sustrain Goode, I Kelly Goode, Jr., Kareem Goode, Melvin Goode, Alvin Goode, Gloria Jackson, Jo Nell Miller, Eural Walker, Jr, Larry L. Walker, Euralene Walker, Vangie Adams, Frances C. Goode, Carol White, Bambi Alford, Alfred Gene Goode, Jr., Verline Celestine, Anthony Goode, Theris Goode, Reginald Pierce, The Unknown Heirs of Latasha Loving Manuel, and the Unknown Heirs of Janice Johnson, Defendants.*

A brief statement of the nature of the suit and a description of the real property is as follows, to-wit: Declaratory Relief, Application for Temporary Restraining Order, Temporary Injunction, Permanent Injunction, and for an In-Kind Partition of the surface estate of a tract of land containing 57.33 acres, more or less, located in the Prosper Hope Survey, Abstract 252, Gonzales County, Texas, and being the same land partitioned to Frances Allen in that certain Partition deed dated May 30, 1942, between Susan Allen and Frances Allen, recorded in Volume 198, Page 424 of the Deed Records of Gonzales County, Texas. The nature of the suit is more fully shown in said Plaintiff's First Amended Petition on file in this suit.

ISSUED AND GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at Gonzales, Texas, on this 27th day of November 2023.



JANICE SUTTON,
Clerk of the District Court of
Gonzales County, Texas

By: K. Alaman, Deputy

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SHERIFF'S SALE:

The following property will be sold on the Gonzales County Courthouse steps, located at 414 Saint Joseph Street, Gonzales, Texas 78629 on January 2nd 2024 between the hours of 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM.

1611 Hickston, Gonzales, Texas 78629:

Being all that certain tract of 0.529 acres of land, lying and being situated in Gonzales County, Texas, and within the Corporate Limits of the City of Gonzales, and being all of Lots Nos. 19, and 20, and part of Lot No. 18, in Juengerman's Addition to the Town of Gonzales, according to the map or plat of said Addition as the same appears of record in Volume 95, Page 122, of the Gonzales County Deed Records, and being part of those certain lots described in Warranty Deed dated July 21, 1975, executed by Donald Lee Dubose et ux., recorded in Volume 409, Page 78, of the Gonzales County Deed Records, and the particular portion thereof hereby intended to be described by metes and bounds in General Warranty Deed, recorded in Document No. 22313637, Deed Records, Gonzales County, Texas.

NOTICE

To All Customers of Guadalupe Valley Communications Systems, L.P.

On November 2, 2012, the Public Utility Commission of Texas designated Guadalupe Valley Communications Systems, L.P. (GVCS) an "Eligible Telecommunications Carrier" for its service areas for universal service purposes. The goal of universal service is to provide all citizens access to essential telecommunications services.

Guadalupe Valley Communications Systems, L.P. ("GVCS") provides voice grade access to the public switched telephone network and dual tone multi-frequency signaling or its functional equivalent. GVCS also provides single party residence (with unlimited local usage) and business service for rates which range from \$18.80 for residential customers and from \$18.00 per month for business customers. This includes access to:

- Long distance carriers
- Emergency services
- Operator services
- Directory assistance
- Telecommunications Relay Services
- Other services designed to persons with disabilities
- Toll blocking for qualifying low-income consumers

Use of these services may result in added charges. In addition, GVCS provides one copy of its annual local directory without charge. Touch Tone service is included with GVCS residential local service and is available to business customers for a charge of \$1.25 per month.

GVCS would be pleased to provide you with specific rates for your area upon request.

GVCS also offers qualified customers Lifeline Service. Single-party residential and broadband are Lifeline supported services. Lifeline is a government program. You must be eligible to receive Lifeline. You are allowed only one Lifeline discount per household. You cannot transfer your Lifeline discount to someone else even if he or she is eligible. This service includes free toll blocking for qualifying customers. For information about applying for Lifeline discounts, visit the Lifeline website at www.lifelinesupport.org as well as downloading the application.

Please call GVCS at 1-800-367-4882 if you have any questions, or visit our website at www.gvcs.com.

Construction Advertisement and Invitation for Bids

The City of Nixon will receive bids for **2022 TxCDBG Downtown and Lowery Water Plant Improvements, TxCDBG Contract CDV21-0435** until **10:00 AM on Friday, December 15, 2023** at **City Hall, 302 E. Central Ave., Nixon, Texas 78140**. The bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at **10:00 AM on Friday, December 15, 2023** at **City Hall, 302 E. Central Ave., Nixon, Texas 78140**.

Bids are invited for several items and quantities of work as follows:

1. Downtown Water Plant - Water Plant Piping, 12" Water Lines and Plant Chemical Buildings.
2. Lowery Water Plant - Plant Chemical Building.

Bid/Contract Documents, including Drawings and Technical Specifications are on file at BEFCO Engineering, Inc., 485 N. Jefferson (PO Box 615), La Grange, Texas 78945 (979) 968-6474. Copies of the Bid/Contract Documents may be obtained by depositing \$100.00 with BEFCO Engineering, Inc. for each set of documents obtained. The deposit will not be refunded. Electronic copies may be obtained at no charge by request at (office@befcoengineering.com).

A bid bond in the amount of 5 percent of the bid issued by an acceptable surety shall be submitted with each bid [for those contracts that exceed \$100,000]. A certified check or bank draft payable to the City of Nixon or negotiable U.S. Government Bonds (as par value) may be submitted in lieu of the Bid Bond.

Attention is called to the fact that not less than, the federally determined prevailing (Davis-Bacon and Related Acts) wage rate, as issued by the Texas Department of Agriculture Office of Rural Affairs and contained in the contract documents, must be paid on this project. In addition, the successful bidder must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, sexual identity, gender identity, or national origin. The City is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The City strives to attain goals for compliance with Section 3 residents and businesses where feasible.

The City of Nixon reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any irregularities and informalities in the bidding. Bids may be held by the City of Nixon for a period not to exceed sixty (60) days from the date of the bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the bidder's qualifications prior to the contract award.

City of Nixon Date
Harold Rice, City Manager

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

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

Janice Sutton Andrew M. Abrameit
District Clerk, Gonzales County Texas Abrameit Law Firm, PLLC
414 St. Joseph Street, Ste. 300 P.O. Box 192
Gonzales, TX 78629 Cuero, Texas 77954
Attorney for Plaintiff

THE STATE OF TEXAS

Cause No. 27,851; *Truitt Land Holdings LLC, Plaintiff v. Sustrein Goode, I Kelly Goode, Jr., Kareem Goode, Melvin Goode, Alvin Goode, Gloria Jackson, Jo Nell Miller, Eural Walker, Jr., Larry Goode, Jr., Tyrone Loving, Lionel Loving, Terry Clark, Susan Johnson, Stephanie Goode, Evonn L. Walker, Euralene Walker, Vangie Adams, Frances C. Goode, Carol White, Bambi Alford, Alfred Gene Goode, Jr., Verline Celestine, Anthony Goode, Theris Goode, Reginald Pierce, The Unknown Heirs of Latasha Loving Manuel, and The Unknown Heirs of Janice Johnson, Defendants*; in the 2nd 25th Judicial District Court, Gonzales County, Texas.


TO: The Unknown Heirs of JANICE JOHNSON, Deceased, or the Executor or Administrator of the Estate of JANICE JOHNSON

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of forty-two (42) days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. In addition to filing a written answer with the clerk, you may be required to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file your answer with the clerk. Find out more at TexasLawHelp.org."

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the PLAINTIFF'S FIRST AMENDED PETITION AND APPLICATION FOR TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER, TEMPORARY INJUNCTION, PERMANENT INJUNCTION, AND FOR IN-KIND PARTITION AND TO HAVE IMPROVEMENTS ISOLATED FOR THE BENEFIT OF PLAINTIFF at or before 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance of this citation, the same being Monday the 15th day of January, 2024 at or before 10:00 a.m., before the Honorable 2nd 25th District Court of Gonzales County, Texas, at the Courthouse in Gonzales County, Texas. Said Plaintiff's First Amended Petition was filed on the 7th day of September 2023 in this case, numbered 27,851 on the docket of said court, and styled: *Truitt Land Holdings LLC, Plaintiff v. Sustrein Goode, I. Kelly Goode, Jr., Kareem Goode, Melvin Goode, Alvin Goode, Gloria Jackson, Jo Nell Miller, Eural Walker, Jr., Larry L. Walker, Euralene Walker, Vangie Adams, Frances C. Goode, Carol White, Bambi Alford, Alfred Gene Goode, Jr., Verline Celestine, Anthony Goode, Theris Goode, Reginald Pierce, The Unknown Heirs of Latasha Loving Manuel, and the Unknown Heirs of Janice Johnson, Defendants*.

A brief statement of the nature of the suit and a description of the real property is as follows, to-wit: Declaratory Relief, Application for Temporary Restraining Order, Temporary Injunction, Permanent Injunction, and for an In-Kind Partition of the surface estate of a tract of land containing 57.33 acres, more or less, located in the Prosper Hope Survey, Abstract 252, Gonzales County, Texas, and being the same land partitioned to Frances Allen in that certain Partition deed dated May 30, 1942, between Susan Allen and Frances Allen, recorded in Volume 198, Page 424 of the Deed Records of Gonzales County, Texas. The nature of the suit is more fully shown in said Plaintiff's First Amended Petition on file in this suit.

ISSUED AND GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at Gonzales, Texas, on this 27th day of November 2023.

 JANICE SUTTON,
Clerk of the District Court of
Gonzales County, Texas

By: *K. Alarcon*, Deputy

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ADVERTISEMENT AND INVITATION FOR BIDS

The CITY OF SMILEY will receive bids for **WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT - WATER TREATMENT PLANT AND WELL IMPROVEMENTS, TxCDBG Project No. CDV 21-0415-GPB-01 (SWE Project No. 0028-076-23)** until **10:00AM, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2023**, at City Hall, located at 207 Steele Street, Smiley, Texas 78159 (or by mail at P.O. 189, Smiley, Texas 78159-0189). Bids must be clearly marked on the outside of the envelope or package with the words "City of Smiley TxCDBG Project". Bids received after the above-stipulated time will be rejected and returned unopened. The bids will be publicly opened and read aloud immediately after above-stipulated time. Bid evaluations will be completed at a later time and date.

Project Description:	The project consists of installation of one Water Plant Cooling Tower System, one Water Plant Chlorination System, Replacement of Well #3 Pump, upgrade Well #2 control system and all associated appurtenances.
-----------------------------	--

Bid/Contract Documents including Drawings and Technical Specifications are on file and available for examination at the **SOUTHWEST ENGINEERS, INC.** office located at 307 St. Lawrence Street, Gonzales, Texas 78629 (Phone: 830-672-7546, Fax: 830-672-2034).

A set of these Documents can be obtained from Southwest Engineers, Inc. in two different formats: **Hard Copy Set: \$80.00 (Non-Refundable) or Electronic (PDF Format) Set Downloaded: \$25.00 (Non-Refundable)**.

A bid bond in the amount of 5% of the bid issued by an acceptable surety shall be submitted with each bid. A certified check or bank draft payable to the City of Smiley may be submitted in lieu of the Bid Bond. The City requires Payment and Performance Bonds in 100% of the contract amount.

Attention is called to the fact that not less than the federally determined prevailing (Davis-Bacon and Related Acts) Wage Rate, as issued by the U.S. Department of Labor and contained in the Contract Documents, must be paid on this project. In addition, the successful bidder must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of their race, color, religion, sex, sexual identity, gender identity or national origin.

The City reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding.

Bids may be held by the City for a period not to exceed 30 days from the date of the bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the bidder's qualifications prior to the contract award.

The City is an Equal Opportunity Employer and they strive to attain goals for compliance with Federal Section 3 regulations by increasing opportunities for employment and contracting with Section 3 residents and businesses where feasible.

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

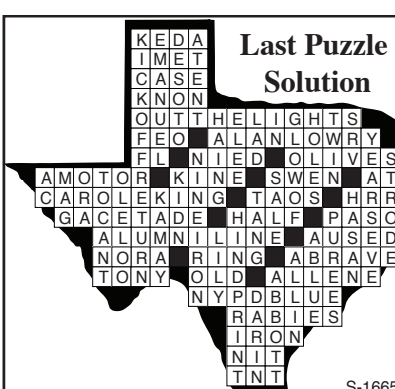
DECEMBER 7, 2023

CITY OF SMILEY
The Honorable Lisa Benavidez
Mayor

November 30 Puzzle Answers

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

Last Puzzle Solution



S-1665

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. will conduct a prescribed burn between January 12rd, 2024 and April 10th, 2024 on the Neasloney WMA. For additional information, Call 830-203-0896 or go to: http://tpwd.texas.gov/landwater/land/wildland_fire_management/

NOTICE OF PERMIT APPLICATION FOR WATER WELL

Filed By
J-B Water Supply

J-B Water Supply (J-B) has submitted a Drilling and Production permit application to the Gonzales County Underground Water Conservation District (GCUWCD) for an industrial supply well. The proposed industrial supply well will be located in the 100 Block of NE First Street in the City of Waelder. J-B proposes to produce approximately 277 acre feet of groundwater per year at an maximum rate of 200 gallons per minute. The well is completed in the Queens City Aquifer.

The GCUWCD Rules in effect at the time of this permit application submittal are the April 14, 2020 Rules. Permit notice and hearing procedures are included in Rule 24. Copies of the GCUWCD's April 14, 2020 rules are available at the GCUWCD office located at 522 Saint Matthew Street, Gonzales, Texas 78629 or online at the GCUWCD website www.gcuwcd.org The GCUWCD phone number is 830-672-1047.

Interested persons may provide written comments to the GCUWCD on the proposed public supply well permit application. Written comments must be filed within thirty (30) days of the date of publication of this notice and in accordance with Rule 24 of the rules of the GCUWCD. Comments should be submitted to the GCUWCD's General Manager at 522 Saint Matthew, P.O. Box 1919, Gonzales, Texas 78629.

If no comments are received by the end of the 30-day comment period, a public hearing may not be required and the Board may act on the permit application.

NOTICE

To All Customers of Guadalupe Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

On May 18, 1998, the Public Utility Commission of Texas designated Guadalupe Valley Telephone Cooperative (GVTC) the "Eligible Telecommunications Carrier" for its service area for universal service purposes. The goal of universal service is to provide all citizens access to essential telecommunications services.

GVTC provides voice grade access to the public switched telephone network and dual tone multi-frequency signaling or its functional equivalent. GVTC also provides single party residence (with unlimited local usage) and business service for rates which range from \$22.48 for residential customers and from \$27.00 per month for business customers. This includes access to:

- Long distance carriers
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- Directory assistance
- Telecommunications Relay Services
- Other services designed to persons with disabilities
- Toll blocking for qualifying low-income consumers

Use of these services may result in added charges. In addition, GVTC provides one copy of its annual local directory without charge. Touch Tone service is included in the monthly charges for residential and business service.

GVTC would be pleased to provide you with specific rates for your area upon request.

GVTC also offers qualified customers Lifeline Service. Single-party residential and broadband are Lifeline supported services. Lifeline is a government program. You must be eligible to receive Lifeline. You are allowed only one Lifeline discount per household. You cannot transfer your Lifeline discount to someone else even if he or she is eligible. This service includes free toll blocking for qualifying customers. For information about applying for Lifeline discounts, visit the Lifeline website at www.lifelinesupport.org as well as downloading the application.

Please call GVTC at 1-800-367-4882 if you have any questions or visit our website at www.gvtc.com.

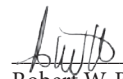
Notice to Creditors

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of James D. Gustavus, Deceased, were issued on November 30, 2023, in Cause No. PW23-0306, pending in the County Court of Gonzales County, Texas, to: Clifford Scott Gustavus and Steven Lynn Gustavus.

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

c/o: Robert W. Bland
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 119
GONZALES, TX 78629

Dated the 1st day of December, 2023.


Robert W. Bland
Attorney for Clifford Scott Gustavus and Steven Lynn Gustavus
State Bar No: 24044756
P.O. Box 119
GONZALES, TX 78629
Telephone: (830) 672-2437
Facsimile: (830) 672-2439
E-mail: rbland@gvcc.net

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Hours: Monday-Saturday 10am-9pm

Maintaining the Temple

Happy December folks! 'Tis the season to be jolly, so jolly we'll be, to the best of our ability. Unfortunately, many people experience sadness and depression during the holidays, and they are in my prayers. It seems that at a time when we're to be celebrating the birth of our Lord & Saviour, Jesus Christ, many are missing lost family members, happy times gone by, growing older, etc. The secret to feeling jolly is simply being thankful and appreciative of what we do have. There have always been, and will always be, trials and disappointments in life, but it's of paramount importance to our well-being that we keep focused on the positive aspects of life, or it can literally drive us into the ground, and this is not what Jesus or our loved ones desire for us. As in the original lyrics to the popular Christmas song reminds us: "But at least we all will be together, if the Lord allows, from now on we'll have to muddle through somehow, so have yourself a merry little Christmas now." Me and the kids will definitely be missing Eloise (among others) this Christmas, but refuse to let that get in the way of enjoying being with those we love and are here now. I pray that you, your family and friends, will all share this special season with all of the love and appreciation that God has intended for you...

Happy Holidays!

Continuing on with my series on improving our health (for anyone concerned about it), bare with me as I attempt to relate what I've learned along the way that has helped me, and hopefully, may help you as well. Not too awfully long ago I irresponsibly let myself go, not paying attention to what I was putting in my mouth, and foregoing exercise altogether. On top of that, I tended to overwork and under rest, accelerating the problem and putting not only my own well-being at risk, but those I loved as well. Funny thing is that I mentally justified it as being in the best interest of my family, when actually the opposite was true. We all tend to be easily fooled at times, if even by ourselves. Guess I'll have to plead no contest, your honor.

The seven deadly sins are listed as; lust, gluttony, greed, sloth, wrath, envy, and pride. However, out of those I'm only guilty of lust, gluttony, greed, sloth, wrath, envy, and pride! Let's just say that I'm more than thankful for God sending us a savior. Only God is perfect, and while we'll all battle these "demons" ourselves throughout our earthly existence, they are reminders that they'll all cause us problems in our day to day



ERIC ESTES
Love, Eric and Eloise

lives. While accepting Christ will forgive our sins, I'm pretty sure no one's been able to outrun them,

as hard as we may try. I've always heard that we should exercise our "demons", but after hours on a treadmill, they're still there? Oh sorry, my bad, It's exorcise your demons, as in casting out and getting rid of. No wonder satan hates that treadmill so much.

While many people have medical conditions responsible for their lack of good health, the vast majority of us are victims at our own hand. It brings to mind first Corinthians 6:19-20 "Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the holy spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, you were bought with a high price. So, you must honor God with your body." So while I'm now making more of an effort to repair and maintain my temple, and it still may be a little squidgy, the effort has really been paying off. Just showing up is half the battle, and I'll share my secret strategy for that next week.

Love you guys, Eric.

Operation Christmas Child volunteers send Christmas joy to children overseas

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Area volunteers are celebrating the collection of gift-filled shoeboxes that will send a message of joy to children around the world: God loves you, and you're not forgotten!

This year, tens of thousands of volunteers contributed to Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse, by packing shoeboxes filled with fun toys, school supplies, and personal care items. The global Christmas project will deliver these gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 100 countries, including many who are suffering from war, poverty, disease and disaster. Each shoebox is an opportunity to share the message of the Gospel and bring hope to children in need around the world.

Although drop-off locations have closed, there is still time to share hope and love with children overseas by packing a gift-filled shoebox online. Shoeboxes built online go to some of the hardest-to-reach areas in the world. Those who prefer the convenience of online shopping can browse samaritanspurse.org/buildonline to select gifts matched to a child's specific age and gender, then finish packing the virtual shoebox by adding a photo and personal note of encouragement.

For more information on how to participate in Operation Christmas Child visit samaritanspurse.org/occ.



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CHURCH DIRECTORY

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PLACES OF WORSHIP	
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD Gateway Fellowship Church 320 St. Andrew	Providence Missionary Baptist Church 1020 St. Andrew, Gonzales
First Assembly of God 509 E. 3rd St., Nixon	Stratton Primitive Baptist FM 1447, 9 miles east of Cuero
BAPTIST Clark Baptist Church FM 794, Gonzales	St. James Baptist Church Hwy 80, north of Belmont.
Country Baptist Church Highway 87, Smiley	St. Paul Baptist Church SE 2nd Street, Waelder
Eastside Baptist Church Seydler Street, Gonzales	Shiner Baptist Church
Efeso Iglesia Bautista Highway 87, Smiley	Union Lea Baptist Church St. Andrew St., Gonzales
Elm Grove Baptist Church 4337 FM 1115 Waelder, TX, 78959	Union Valley Baptist Church FM 1681, NW of Nixon
CATHOLIC St. James Catholic Church 417 N. College, Gonzales	Sacred Heart Catholic Church St. John St., Gonzales
First Baptist Church 422 St. Paul, Gonzales	St. Joseph Catholic Church 207 S. Washington, Nixon
First Baptist Church 403 N. Texas, Nixon	St. Patrick Catholic Church Waelder
First Baptist Church Highway 108 N., Smiley	St. Phillip Catholic Church Highway 87, Smiley
First Baptist Church 406 N. Avenue E, Waelder	CHRISTIAN First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) 712 Crockett, Luling
Greater Palestine Baptist Church S. of 90A (sign on Hwy 80)	CHURCHES OF CHRIST Church of Christ (Iglesia de Cristo) 201 E. Second St. Nixon
Greater Rising Star Baptist Church	Church of Christ E. 3rd & Texas, Nixon
Harwood Baptist Church North of Post Office, Harwood	Church of Christ, Belmont
Iglesia Bautista Macedonia 201 S. Congress, Nixon	CHURCHES OF GOD Community Church of God 1020 St. Louis, Gonzales
Iglesia Bautista Memorial Highway 97, Waelder	Gonzales Memorial Church of God in Christ 1113 Hastings, Gonzales
Leesville Baptist Church E. of Highway 80 on CR 121	New Beginnings 1020 St. Louis, Gonzales
Memorial Heights Baptist Church 1330 N. College, Gonzales	Episcopal Episcopal Church of the Messiah 721 S. Louis, Gonzales
Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church 100 Capes, Gonzales	EVANGELICAL La Vos del Evangelio, Mision Capilla del Pueblo W. Central at Hwy. 87, Nixon
Oak Valley Baptist Church Highway 97, Bebe	FULL GOSPEL Camp Valley Full Gospel Hwy 80, 7 mi. north of Nixon
Old Moulton Baptist Church 1121 N. College, Gonzales	Full Gospel Church 1426 Fisher, Gonzales
TO UPDATE OR CHANGE A CHURCH LISTING, CALL THE GONZALES INQUIRER AT 830-672-2861	JEWISH Adat Haderech, a Messianic shul HashemYeshua1@yahoo.com
	LUTHERAN First Evangelical Lutheran 1206 St. Joseph, Gonzales
	Abiding Word Lutheran Church LCMS 1020 St. Louis St., Gonzales
	METHODIST Belmont Methodist Highway 90A, Belmont
	Dewville United Methodist West of FM 1117 on CR 121
	First Methodist 426 St. Paul, Gonzales
	First United Methodist 410 N. Franklin, Nixon
	Flatonia United Methodist Harris Chapel United Methodist S. Liberty St., Nixon
	Harwood Methodist Church Harwood
	Henson Chapel United Methodist 1113 St. Andrew, Gonzales
	Monthalia Methodist CR 112 off Highway 97
	Smiley United Methodist 1 blk. S. of Hwy. 87, Smiley
	Webster Chapel A.M.E. 1027 Church St., Gonzales
	NON-DENOMINATIONAL Agape Ministries 512 St. James, Gonzales Bread of Life Ministries 613 St. Joseph, Gonzales
	Christ the King Church 1262 U.S. Highway 77 South Hallettsville
	Cowboy Church of Gonzales County J.B. Wells Show Barn
	El Centro Cristiano "Agua Viva" 403 Highway 90 W, Waelder
	Emmanuel Fellowship 1817 St. Lawrence, Gonzales
	Encouraging Word Christian Fellowship Highway 80, Leesville
	Lighthouse Church of Our Lord 1805 Weimar, Gonzales
	New Life Temple for Jesus Christ 16214 US 90 W, Harwood
	River of Life Christian Fellowship 207 Steele St., Smiley
	Thompsonville Community Church CR 423, Thompsonville Between Harwood & Waelder off old Hwy. 90
	Two Rivers Bible Church 1600 Sarah DeWitt Dr., Suite 210, Gonzales
	INTER-DENOMINATIONAL Faith Family Church 1812 Cartwheel Dr., Gonzales
	Living Waters Fellowship 306 St. Paul, Gonzales
	PENTECOSTAL Faith Temple Hwy. 80 (N. Nixon Ave.), Nixon
	Holy Temple of Jesus Christ No. 2 1515 Dallas, Gonzales
	Iglesia Pentecostes Filadelfia 893 S. Magnolia Ave., Luling
	Temple Bethel Pentecostal 1104 S. Paul, Gonzales
	Life Changing Church of Gonzales 3.3 miles north on Hwy 183, right on CR 235, then right on CR 236
	PRESBYTERIAN Pilgrim Presbyterian Church CR 210 off FM 1116
	Presbyterian Church of Gonzales 414 St. Louis, Gonzales
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OBITUARIES

JOSEPHINE MARGENE HERSCHAP



Josephine Margene Herschap, 89, of Cost and formerly of Gonzales, passed away Tuesday, November 28, 2023. Josephine was born November 23, 1934 in Fayette County to Sherman and Lela Marburger Ivy. She married Ross Alex Herschap in 1950 in Gonzales, Texas. She had been a member of the Eastside Baptist Church.

Josephine grew up in the Cistern area of Fayette County. She enjoyed hunting squirrels and other small animals. After marrying Ross, she helped him work in his chicken houses and maintained a lovely home for her family. Memories of her chicken fried steak will be forever treasured.

Josephine was a devout Christian and led her family with her faith in the Word of God. She was a loving and doting mother and grandmother, who always had a glass of sweet tea ready for visiting family and friends.

Josephine is survived by her loving daughter, Janet

Lindemann of Cost, grandchildren, Brian Kelley "Rachel" and Krystal Filip. She was preceded in death by her husband, parents, son, Ronald James Herschap, and brother, Buford Ivy.

Graveside services will be held at 10 am Saturday, December 2, 2023 in Gonzales Memorial Park with Rev. Paul Smith officiating. Honorary Pallbearer: Raymond Padgett. 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.

PATRICIA YESCHKE

Patricia (Pat) Yeschke passed away on November 28, 2023, peacefully surrounded by family and close friends.

Pat Yeschke was born on October 28, 1947 in Yoakum, Texas. Pat lived in Gonzales, Texas and worked for the City of Gonzales as dispatcher for many years. She was a loving and caring wife, mom, and grandmother. She also bragged on all her grandchildren. Anyone that knew Pat knew she loved all her dogs and always had the most unique names for them all. She would let

you know what she thought even if you didn't agree with it and never bought one of anything.

Patricia (Pat) Yeschke is survived by her loving husband of 41 years, William (Bill) Yeschke of Gonzales; son, Kevin Kelso (Diana Garcia), of Victoria, daughter, Tammy Bell (Keith) of Hallettsville, and son, David Huber Jr., of Mexico City, Mexico; brother, Wayne Aschenbeck of Gonzales, and sister Donna Moseley (Larry) of Gonzales; grandchildren Zhanay Drehr (Emit), Ashton Kelly (Westley), Krysta

Canham (Cody), Katelynn Bell (Zachary Laredo), Cassidy Kelso, Joshua Huber, and Kevin Huber; great grandchildren Haleigh Drehr, Mackenzie Drehr, Chelsea Drehr, Teagyn Kelly, and Taylen Kelly. Pat is preceded in death by her mother, Evelyn Aschenbeck Kocian, father, Elton Aschenbeck, daughter-in-law, Mary Kelso, and sister-in-law, Eugenie Aschenbeck.

No memorial service or funeral is planned at this time. There will be a private family get together at a later date.

JAMES SANDERS

EDNA — James Harlan Sanders, 54 years young, was called home by his Lord and Savior on Sunday, November 26, 2023. James was born in Bay City, Texas on Friday, February 7, 1969 to Jimmy and Carol Sanders. James has been survived by his loving family, mother Carol Sanders, wife Denise Denker Sanders, brother Steven Sanders and his wife Kalynn, mother-in-law, Linda Den-

ker, and most especially his beloved children; Celeste Sanders, Austin Sanders and Addisyn Sanders, also his nieces; Krista Sanders, Shaie Sanders and Shannan Sanders, and nephew, Garrett Tupa and his wife Brittany. He has been preceded in death by his father, Jimmy Sanders.

There will be a Celebration of Life Service to honor James on Monday, December 11th, 2023 at Slavik

Funeral Home Chapel with Brother Rick Dubroc officiating, beginning with visitation from 9:am to 10:am, Rosary being recited at 10:am, with Memorial Service beginning at 10:30 am.

Services have been entrusted to Russell Todish of Slavik Funeral Home, 209 N. Allen St., Edna, TX 77957, 361-782-2152.

Ornament celebrates Texas State Parks' Centennial

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Add a piece of park history to your Christmas tree this year and help Texas State Parks continue its 100-year celebration with a 2023 Texas State Park ornament.

This special ornament was designed and crafted with great attention to detail, made with vibrant colors on metal and features a laser-cutting technique used to create a distinct dot for all 89 Texas State Parks.

The ornament can be purchased exclusively for \$19.95 each and includes free shipping. Ornaments purchased by Dec. 10 are likely to arrive before Christmas. Taxes will be applied at check out.

Beginning in 2002, the Texas State Park ornament program has helped outdoor enthusiasts celebrate the

diversity and beauty of the park system with a new ornament each year featuring natural, cultural and historical resources the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) protects.

The ornaments include images of buildings, wildlife, plants and some of the many outdoor activities that visitors can enjoy at state parks across Texas. Visit the Ornament Collection Page to see every state park ornament and its availability.

Anyone visiting the Texas State Capitol during the month of December can see the Capitol Christmas Trees — delivered by Eisenhower State Park staff — as well as the 2023 Texas State Park ornament. Texas State Parks has provided Christmas trees to the Texas State Capitol for more than 40 years.

Two 12-foot trees and one 7-foot tree were

delivered to the House of Representatives Nov. 27, while a 12-foot tree also was delivered to the Texas Senate Reception Room that same day. In addition, a 23-foot tree will be transported to the Senate Chamber Dec. 4.

The trees are all Virginia Pines grown and harvested from a tree farm near Eisenhower State Park. Texas State

Park Police will escort the tree to the Capitol when it enters Austin.

The Texas State Park Online Store also has gifts for the holiday season that include the Texas State Parks Pass, a Bluebonnet metal bookmark, a wooden Texas State Park magnet and sticker, state park zipper pulls and key rings, hiking stick medallions and more.

LAW ENFORCEMENT WEEKLY REPORTS

Gonzales County Sheriff's Office 11/19/23 - 11/25/23

11/19/23

• Anele, Elvis Ikechukwu, 07/2001, San Marcos: Warrantless/On-View - Display Fictitious License Plate, Released - \$1,000 Bond
• Fisher, Brandi Renee, 04/1988, Flatonia: Warrantless/On-View - Poss Marij<20z, Released - \$1,000 Bond

11/20/23

• Jasso, Jonah Alexander, 08/2002, Dickinson: Warrantless/On-View - Poss Dangerous Drug, Released - \$1,000 Bond; Warrantless/On-View - Poss Dangerous Drug, Released - \$1,000 Bond

11/21/23

• Jones, Sharita, 11/2000, Houston: Local Warrant - Theft Prop >=\$100<\$750, Released - \$200 Bond
• Smith, Robert Joseph, Jr, 03/1984, Gonzales: Warrantless/On-View - Evading Arrest Det w/Prev Conviction, Requires \$10,000 Bond; Warrantless/On-View - Unl Poss Firearm by Felon, Requires \$30,000 Bond; Warrantless/On-View - Poss CS PG 1/1-B>=4G<200G, Requires \$35,000 Bond; Warrantless/On-View - Poss Marij <2oz, Requires \$500 Bond; Local Warrant - Interfere w/Emergency Req for Assistance, Requires \$ 8,000 Bond; Local Warrant - Assault Fam/House Mem Impede Breath/Circulat, Requires \$30,000 Bond; Local Warrant - Unlawful Restraint, Requires \$8,000 Bond, Remains in Custody
• Williams, Christopher, 11/1986, Houston: Other Agency Hold - Theft Prop <\$2,500 2/More Prev Conv, Released \$25,000 Bond

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Commitment/Sentence - Stalking, Released - Weekender

• Oden, Wesley Alan, 08/1985, Brenham: Commitment/Sentence - Agg Sexual Assault Child, Released - Weekender
• Goolsbee, Christopher Edmond, 11/1982, Houston: Commitment/Sentence - Driving While Intoxicated, Remains in Custody
• Fields, Zyshawn, 02/2000, Gonzales: Commitment/Sentence - Burglary of Habitation, Released - Weekender

11/25/23

• Rodriguez, Briana Evangaline, 04/1994, Nixon: Local Warrant - Assault Peace Officer/Judge, Requires \$50,000 Bond, Remains in Custody

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

GCSO	13
DPS	01
GPD	00
WPD	00
NPD	00
GISD	00
SMO	00
Constable 1	00
Constable 3	00
Constable 4	00
DWCSO	00
DEA	00
TPW	00
GCAI	00
Rangers	00
Other	00
Total	14

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Outdoor burning: What to know before you light the match

Most wildfires start with someone being careless. Make sure you know when you can burn outdoors and how to do so safely.

- When can you burn outdoors?**
Check with your city and county about burn bans and local rules for outdoor fires. The Texas A&M Forest Service's map lists county burn bans. Statewide, Texas limits outdoor burning to:
 - Campfires, bonfires, fire pits, and cooking fires.
 - Household trash fires on your home property and only if you don't have trash pickup.
- Keep your fire from spreading**
 - If your city and county allow outdoor burns, put trash, grass, leaves, and branch trimmings in a burn barrel or container. Top it with a screen or metal grid.
 - Don't burn on dry, windy days.
 - Stay by your fire until it's out.
 - Keep water, shovel, and a rake handy in case the fire starts to spread.
- Don't burn these items**
 - Aerosol cans or anything that could explode.
 - Electrical insulation.
 - Building / construction materials including treated lumber.
 - Plastics and asphalt-based materials.

If you see a dangerous fire, call local law enforcement. You may also call the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's Environmental Complaint Hotline at 888-777-3186.

BRITNEY JONES CAKA
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Gonzales Healthcare Systems December 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1
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Austin MFM Dr. Malik Dr. Desai	Dr. Echols Dr. Quintero	Dr. Quebedeaux Dr. Twitero	Dr. Ryan Dr. Echols	Dr. Bui
Austin MFM	Dr. Echols	Dr. Quebedeaux Dr. Miller	Dr. Ryan Dr. Malik Dr. Echols	21
Closed Christmas Day	Dr. Echols	Dr. Quebedeaux	Dr. Ryan Dr. Echols Dr. Kirchner	Closed at Noon

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Nephrology
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Yong Du, MD
361-576-0011

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Pain Management
Eric Miller, MD
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Urology
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Ophthalmology
Joseph Kavanagh, MD
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Orthopedics
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830-625-0009

Podiatry
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830-303-0005
Charles White, DPM
830-303-0005

Austin Maternal Fetal Medicine
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Victoria College recognized for helping students succeed

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Victoria College was recently recognized by the Texas Success Center (TSC) for its efforts to help more students successfully complete their college and career goals.

The 2023 Recognition of Scaling Excellence (ROSE) award was presented to VC's Pathways Team during the Texas Pathways Institute held Nov. 1-3 in Houston. The award recognizes Victoria College as one of two Texas community colleges that demonstrate the highest growth rate since 2021 for essential practices related to helping students choose and enter a career pathway.

"Victoria College has made significant progress ensuring that all students receive comprehensive advising at the start of their college experience," said Dr. Christine Bailie, TSC's Senior Director of Institu-

tional Strategy. "The Texas Success Center is proud to spotlight Victoria College's commitment to support student success with robust advising practices and corequisite coursework."

VC is among 47 Texas colleges that are implementing Texas Pathways, a student success framework designed to clarify paths to student end goals, help students choose and enter a pathway, help students stay on their pathway, and ensure students are learning.

"We are honored to receive statewide recognition for our work designed to help more students choose, enter, and successfully complete pathways leading to upward economic mobility," said Dr. Jennifer Kent, VC President. "But even more rewarding is witnessing our graduates earn a credential and enter careers with family-sustaining wages or transfer to a university to further their education."



Pictured displaying the 2023 ROSE award, from left to right, are Sabrina Romo, Director of Enrollment Services; Dr. Betsy Crane, Dean of the Division of Career & Technical Education; Bobby Cubriel, Director of Advising, Counseling, & Support Services; Darla Strother, Dean of the Division of Allied Health; Darin Kazmir, Director of Marketing & Communications; Lillian Knezek, Associate Professor of English & Faculty Senate President; Dr. Jennifer Kent, VC President; Tiffany Johnson, Director of Adult Education; Cindy Buchholz, Executive Vice President-Chief Academic Officer; and Matt Wiley, Director of Institutional Effectiveness, Research, & Assessment.

Dodge Dart recovered in Nixon area by GCSO deputy

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

A Gonzales County patrol deputy working Operation Border Star in the Nixon area recovered a Dodge Dart reported as stolen by North Richland Hills Police Department in October during a traffic stop on Wednesday, Nov. 29.

The deputy initiated a stop on the vehicle within the 300 block of East Third Avenue in Nixon, where

a high risk stop was conducted, with assistance from the Gonzales County Constable Precinct 4 office as well as the Nixon Police Department.

The driver of the vehicle was taken into custody on a charge of no driver's license. No charges were filed for the vehicle as it was determined the individual did not know the vehicle was reported as stolen.

Traffic stop recovers car reported as stolen from Harris County

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

A Gonzales County Sheriff's deputy was able to recover a car that was reported as stolen out of Harris County on Interstate 10 following a traffic stop Saturday, Dec. 2. According to GCSO, the deputy was traveling west on I-10 near mile marker 642 when they observed a maroon Infinity SUV. After a registration check was performed on the

vehicle, the deputy was alerted the vehicle had been reported as stolen out of Harris County on Friday, Dec. 1.

The deputy initiated a traffic stop on the vehicle where the female driver was taken into custody near mile marker 637. However, the driver was not arrested as it was determined she had no knowledge the car had been reported as stolen.

Whataburger scholarship application period open now through Feb. 14

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

At Whataburger, they build more than burgers — they help build futures.

As part of Whataburger's commitment to serving its communities, \$600,000 in scholarship funding is now available to eligible students across the company's 14-state footprint for the 2024-2025 academic year.

The Whataburger Feeding Student Success Scholarship, now in its third year, continues the brand's investment in students, one scholarship at a time. A total of \$600,000 in funds — \$500,000 from Whataburger and \$100,000 of support from Dr Pepper — are available to support

students pursuing higher education.

120 students will be awarded a non-renewable \$5,000 scholarship. The award can be used for tuition, fees, books, supplies, housing and applied at any college, university or not-for-profit vocational school.

"Support and funding shouldn't be a barrier to any student's success," said Whataburger Community Relations Manager Allie Watters. "We want students to know Whataburger is in their corner. These scholarships will help students across the nation build the futures of their dreams."

Since its launch in 2021, the Whataburger Feeding Student Success Scholar-

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ACROSS

1 soreness pain

5 former name for Fort Cavazos near Killeen

6 TXism: "split ___" (laughed hard)

7 TXism: "___ tight he squeaks when he walks" (miser)

8 O.J.'s judge

9 chili flavorers

15 fishing method: "___ line"

16 environment scientist

19 Italian artist POW who painted mural in Castro County

21 TXism: "risky as ___ a sailor"

22 1st US military flight took place at Fort Sam Houston by Lt. Benjamin ___

27 ___ Star State

28 TXism: "___ a hen, she'll cluck"

29 TXism: "running around like a chicken with its head ___"

30 Texas pink granite with interspersed sky blue quartz

32 ___ Pleasant, TX (abbr.)

33 Texas state flower in Mexico (2 wds.)

36 Texas Blue Bell ice cream holder

37 Irving is the headquarters of this nat'l scouting org.

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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DOWN

1 shout of triumph

2 gear tooth

3 home of the NFL Texans

4 this Cowboy was 6' 9" (4 wds.)

8 colored eye part

9 genre of TX Gene Roddenberry's "Star Trek" (2 wds.)

10 mail place (abbr.)

11 birth state of TX Goodnight (abbr.)

12 Starbucks, e.g. (2 wds.)

13 these are big on some Texans

14 weary exhale

15 triple strong eyewear

16 Jackson County seat

17 Buchanan Dam ___ flow of the Colorado River

18 "I told you ___ out of it!"

20 storytelling cowboy, "___" Trevino

22 this Couples won 1987 Byron Nelson Golf Classic (init.)

23 UT foe for "Red River Shootout"

24 El Paso univer. (abbr.)

25 lazed about

26 Texans look for quality ___ in a nursing home

28 TXism: "pay ___ never mind"

31 charged atoms dir. to Gonzales from Pleasants (abbr.)

35 TX Perot's old co.

37 TXism: "wouldn't ___ a biscuit" (harmless dog)

40 sporty ___ wheels

43 this Loetscher was South Padre Island "Turtle Lady"

44 TXism: "a sight ___ eyes"

50 TXism: "took sick"

51 TX George H.W. to TX George W.

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

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Answers found in next week's Classifieds.

UIL announces enrollment; cutoffs coming soon

Gonzales could see its tidy district broken up

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

The University Interscholastic League (UIL) released official enrollment numbers for all 1,601 schools competing in athletics and academics for the 2024-2026 biennium on Tuesday, Dec. 5.

The sport where the biggest impact will likely be felt is varsity football; however, there could be some changes impacting other sports like volleyball, basketball, baseball, softball and track.

While all of the schools in Gonzales' current District 12-4A-2 football district in Region 3 appear likely to remain in Class 4A Division 2, it is possible that the UIL could shake up this otherwise stable alignment due to big changes in far South Texas, where all but one school in District 16-4A-2 appear poised

to move either up or down in classification.

Of course, everything is dependent upon what cutoffs are announced for each classification by UIL, which could make that announcement as soon as Friday, Dec. 8, according to various media outlets which closely follow the realignment process.

As reported previously by the Inquirer, Gonzales reported an enrollment of 760 students, a decrease of 72 students from the 832 that were reported in

October 2021. It is the largest school in terms of enrollment in District 12-4A-2, followed by Cuero (639), Giddings (623), La Grange (612), Caldwell (590) and Smithville (555).

During the recent biennium, Class 4A was comprised of schools with an enrollment of at least 545 students and no more than 1,299 students, with Division 2 comprised of schools with enrollment from 545-879 — a total of 93 schools.

See **DISTRICT**, page 16

Mustangs finish second in Karnes City tournament

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The Nixon-Smiley Mustangs traveled to their first tournament of the season in Karnes City Thursday, Nov. 30 to Saturday, Dec. 2.

The Mustangs took care of business beating St. Joseph (51-48) and Karnes City (47-43) in the first games of the tournament.

Nixon-Smiley head basketball coach Carlton McKinney knew facing Gonzales will get his team ready for tough opponents.

"This place always presents a difficult challenges because the teams that are some teams that are in our district, and it's teams that we play already. So it's just a matter of trying to get our kids excited about the opportunity," McKinney said.

The goal for tournament season, McKinney said, is to make his team better before the start of district.

"For us right now we're early



PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Nixon-Smiley senior Carl White shoots the ball over a St. Joseph player in the first game of the Karnes City tournament Thursday, Nov. 30.

in the season. We're nowhere near as good as we can be. So we need to make sure we approach each game the same as an internal thing where we need to make sure we're work-

See **MUSTANGS**, page 16



PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Gavin Lekgega (1) shoots a layup towards Hallettsville's basket in a non-district contest Tuesday, Dec. 5.

Apaches earn first victory of the season over Brahmas

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales Apaches had a lot to celebrate in their 52-48 win over the Hallettsville Brahmas at home Tuesday, Dec. 5.

The Apaches earned their first win of the season for their head coach Steven Pinchback.

Gonzales trailed, 41-34, at the end of the third quarter, but outscored Hallettsville, 18-7, in the fourth quarter to seal the win.

"They were hungry for victory. We talked about it in the locker room how they weren't gonna give it to us; we had to earn it. We were down six, made a run and we taught them 'one bucket, one stop.' They believed in each other. They shared the ball," Pinchback said.

"They played as a team and they won as a team. I couldn't be more happier for these guys. I've been in a lot of big games but for these guys to



Junior Jermane Upshaw (10) defends Hallettsville junior Jorian Wilson (22) in a non-district contest Tuesday, Dec. 5.

get that victory means a lot," Pinchback said.

The Apaches started off strong with three by Carlos Martinez, Gavin Lekgega and Weston Ruddock.

"Everybody played a part.

I just love these guys. I want them to have success. And I'm working my tail off to help them find some success. Just super proud. That's the

See **APACHES**, page 16



VANDY VAN EPPS
Mustangs junior guard Tristan Mikesh shoots a layup in St. Joseph's basket in the Karnes City tournament Thursday, Nov. 30.

Mustangs roll past Stockdale for home win

STAFF REPORT

The Nixon-Smiley Mustangs returned home from the Karnes City tournament for a rivalry game against the Stockdale Brahmas Tuesday, Dec. 5.

The Mustangs beat the Brahmas, 51-32, with senior Carl White scoring 26 points for Nixon-Smiley.

Nixon-Smiley will travel to Moulton for a tournament Thursday, Dec. 7 through Saturday, Dec. 9.

The Mustangs will travel in back-to-back road games against Poth Tuesday, Dec. 12 and Victoria St. Joseph Friday, Dec. 15.

Nixon-Smiley will host their home tournament Thursday, Dec. 28 through Friday, Dec. 29.



The Gonzales Apaches celebrate coach Steven Pinchback with a Gatorade bath after his first win Tuesday.



PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS

Above: Lady Mustangs junior Madisen Yanes (0) dribbles the ball down the court against Pettus in the Karnes City tournament Thursday, Nov. 30. Right: Nixon-Smiley junior Janaelyn White (2) shoots the ball at Karnes City's basket in the tournament match. White was named to the Karnes City all-tournament team.



Lady Mustangs finish 4th in Karnes City Tournament



PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS

Above: Nixon-Smiley senior Kendall Amaya (12) moves the ball down to court to Karnes City side in the tournament match. Amaya was named to the all-tournament team. Right: Lady Mustangs freshman Grace Gomez (10) passes the ball between a Karnes City player in the tournament match.

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The Nixon-Smiley Lady Mustangs traveled to Karnes City for their second tournament of the season Thursday, Nov. 30 to Saturday, Dec. 2. The Lady Mustangs then lost to Pettus, 55-35. "First day is a little rough. We started out on fire in the first game, had a good game, good shooting game offensively. And then the second game, we kind of came out and we struggled a little bit," Lady Mustangs head basketball coach Trevor Johnson said. "That's just kind of a testament we're a young team with not a lot of experience. So this is kind of the growing pains of early on in the season. So that's kind of the day we've

had this far," Johnson added. Johnson and the Lady Mustangs hope that facing the tough competition will help get them ready for district. "This is a good tournament. There's a lot of good competition here so that's going to help us. Our district is tough as well. So this is only going to help us get better going forward. And hopefully we can gel by the time district gets here. That's what we're looking forward to," Johnson said. The Lady Mustangs beat Yorktown, 51-32, Friday, Dec. 1; and fell to Shiner, 74-26 in the final day of the tournament Saturday, Dec. 2. The Lady Mustangs host three home games; Tuesday, Dec. 5 against Kenedy, Friday, Dec. 8 against Poteet and Tuesday, Dec. 15 Lytle.



Lady Apaches fall to Lady Matadors

STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Lady Apaches traveled to Seguin for non-district match against the Lady Matadors Tuesday, Dec. 5. The Lady Apaches fell to Seguin, 47-39, on the road.

Gonzales are now 3-8 overall on the season. The Lady Apaches will travel to Goliad Thursday, Dec. 7 for their last tournament of the season. Gonzales will open up district play Tuesday, Dec. 19 against the YWLA Lady Cardinals at home.

Lady Mustangs drop close game to Kenedy's Lady Lions

STAFF REPORT

The Nixon-Smiley Lady Mustangs returned home from the Karnes City tournament to host the Kenedy Lady Lions Tuesday, Dec. 5. The Lady Mustangs fell to the Lady Lions, 49-47, handing them their 12th

loss of the season. Nixon-Smiley will host two more home games before heading on the road against South San Antonio West Tuesday, Dec. 19. The Lady Mustangs will host Poteet Friday, Dec. 8 and the Lytle Pirates Friday, Dec. 15.

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APACHES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

way we have to play. We're kind of finding our identity now," Pinchback said.

Martinez said after his first three, the basket got bigger each time as he made his next threes.

The defense shutdown the Brahmas offense in the fourth quarter; the Apaches allowed seven points from Hallettsville.

"We had to pick up the pace and we knew what we had to do, so we just came through finishing strong," Lekgega said.

The Apaches will head to Navarro for a tournament Thursday, Dec. 7, and Pinchback said they'll be facing good teams and teams from the district.

Pinchback hopes the win from Hallettsville will motivate his team heading to the final tournament of the season.

"It takes a spark to start a fire and these guys mostly feel that they're going to want that feeling. So it gives them something to reach for and something to keep working for because we're working their butts off. They finally got the victory they needed. So that's the start of it. And we're ready. We're ready to keep going and get better," Pinchback said.



Above: Apaches senior Weston Ruddock (2) shoots a free throw in the match against Hallettsville Tuesday, Dec. 5. Left: Gonzales freshman Damion Hunt (11) and junior Jermane Upshaw (10) in defensive mode against Hallettsville Tuesday, Dec. 5.

PHOTO BY VANDY VAN EPPS



VANDY VAN EPPS

Nixon-Smiley guard Tristan Mikesch (1) shoots a corner three against the St. Joseph Flyers in the Karnes City tournament Thursday, Nov. 30.

MUSTANGS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

ing on certain things to improve our basketball team in the opponent just happened to be the person to team that we're playing at that particular time," McKinney said.

Nixon-Smiley beat Kenedy, 58-41, in the second day of the tournament, setting up a tournament championship with La Vernia.

The Mustangs fell in the tournament championship, 54-34, to La Verina.

Seniors Kade Dixon and Carl White were named to the all-tournament.

The Mustangs will return home Tuesday, Dec. 5 for a match up against Stockdale, and will hit the road Moulton Thursday, Dec. 7 their second tournament of the season.



PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS

Above: Nixon-Smiley senior guard Luke Moses (2) shoots a free throw for the Mustangs against Karnes City in a tournament match Thursday, Nov. 30. Below: Sophomore guard Omar Abundis (10) moves the ball to St. Joseph's side of the court with teammate junior Ryan Paez (23).



DISTRICT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

Should the cutoff numbers remain similar to their current level, there would be four schools in Region 3, Division 2 that would move up to Division 1 — Bridge City in District 9 and Royal, Sealy and Sweeny in District 10. In Region 4, two schools would move up to Division 1 — Jarrell in District 13 and Rio Grande City Grulla in District 16.

However, there are four teams in Region 4 that appear slated to drop — Corpus Christi West Oso and Orange Grove in District 15 and Bishop and Raymondville in District 16.

If this is the case, that would leave District 15-4-2 with just three teams — Ingleside, Robstown and Sinton — and leave just Port Isabel, near the Texas-Mexico border, in District 16.

UIL rules state there must be a total of 16 districts each for Division 1 and Division 2 in Conferences A-5A in football. Because there are four playoff spots awarded to each district, each district must be comprised of at least four schools but no more than 10 schools, unless approved by the District Assignment Appeals Committee.

There shall be no attempt to perpetuate or avoid "old rivalries." Socioeconomic factors are not considered and a school may be placed in different districts for different activities to alleviate travel burdens.

In looking at Conference 4A-Division 1, there are no schools in Region 4 currently expected to drop below the current cutoff limits, though three schools (Boerne and Somerset in District 14 and Alice in District 16) likely will move to 5A Division 2 based on reported enrollments.

Most likely, Jarrell will move into District 13-4A-1 along with Burnet,

Lampasas, Marble Falls and Taylor, while Comal Canyon Lake and Comal Davenport would move to District 14 to replace Boerne and Somerset. Rio Grande City Grulla would move up to District 16 to take Alice's place.

There is only one Conference 3A-Division 1 team likely to move up in classification in Region 4 — Corpus Christi London, which would be a good fit for the district with Ingleside, Robstown and Sinton and would leave at least four schools to compete against each other.

However, there are no easy fixes identifiable for what to do about District 16-4A-2. Even if Port Isabel decided to play up against teams in District 15-4A-1 or District 16-4A-1, the UIL would still have to create another district to replace District 16-4A-2, which can only be accomplished by two ways — shifting schools from Region 3 into Region 4 or by lowering the bottom or raising the top cutoff for Conference 4A-2.

The former could mean the two schools to the furthest south in Region 3 — Cuero and Gonzales — could be forced into a district with schools like Wharton and Sweeny or with schools like Robstown, Sinton and Ingleside in order to have enough schools in Region 4.

Reported enrollments when compared to cutoffs from the current biennium leaves Region 4 in 4A-2 with just 14 total teams and Region 3 in 4A-2 with 21 teams — an obvious imbalance for the UIL, which seeks to keep regions roughly the same size when possible.

3A

Nixon-Smiley High School reported an enrollment of 287 students, 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), Dilley (267), Karnes City (315) and Natalia (345) as the Conference 3A-2 cutoff was from 250-359 students.

However, Comfort reported 364 students, while South San Antonio West reported 520 students, so if the cutoff remains near what it currently is, both schools will move up to 3A-1, which had 360-544 in the current biennium.

Other schools in Region 4 that are showing possible movement include Florence in District 13, which should move up to 3A-1, and Danbury in District 14, which would drop to Conference 2A-1. In Region 3, Hemphill would also drop to Conference 2A-1, while Trinity would move up to 3A-1.

In Conference 3A-1, there are three teams that could likely drop down to 3A-2. They include Blanco and Cotulla, which would move into the spots in District 15 being vacated by Comfort and West. The third is Vanderbilt Industrial, which could move into District 14 to replace Danbury.

There are four teams in 2A-1, however, which are above the current cutoff and their placement could depend on what UIL does with the cutoff numbers. Schulenburg (250.5), Johnson City (250), Stockdale (274) and Thrall (274) could move up to 3A-2, which means it might be easier to break up District 15-3A-2 into two districts, with Natalia and Dilley joining Blanco and Cotulla and Johnson City in one district, while Schulenburg and Stockdale join Karnes City, Nixon-Smiley and Poth in another district.

Thrall would be a good fit for the Buffalo, Lexington, Clifton, Elkhart, Rogers grouping in District 13-3A-2.



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RICE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

who referred the matter to City Attorney Eduardo “Eddie” Escobar, who said in an email that the city has “no comment” at this time about Rice’s termination, though he would reach out to the Inquirer if the city changed its position in the future.

MONDAY’S MEETING

Prior to his termination, Rice met in executive session with Mayor Dorothy Riojas, City Attorney Eddie Escobar and members of the council for about 75-80 minutes, alongside his wife Loyce and Hanson.

When the meeting reconvened in open session, Alderman Melissa Pompa moved to terminate Rice as city manager “due to the negligent misapplication or misuse by the city manager of public funds under his official capacity as city manager.”

Council members neither named nor discussed what those allegations of misappropriation, misapplication or misuse of city funds were that prompted the special called meeting Monday.

Pompa’s motion included the termination was to be effective immediately, though the city would pay out health care coverage through the end of the year for Rice and his family. Alderman Patsy Vigil Scherrer seconded the motion.

Before a vote was taken, Alderman Justin La Fleur tried to get Pompa to amend her motion to offer Rice a severance package.

“People come tonight to call me what they want and say what they want about me, but it’s put us in a tough position,” La Fleur said. “And although we’d like to have solidarity here, I’d like to offer Mr. Rice a severance package if he would so accept it. I don’t think that’s been brought to the table, so I’m trying to bring it to the table now. I don’t know if that’s part of the motion we can amend to offer him a severance package outside of his health-

“We are going to ask that they comply with his contract and pay the remaining term of his agreement, especially as he got no notice, no chance to defend himself and are saying he committed misuse of funds with no evidence.”

—Lori Hanson, Attorney representing former Nixon city manager Harold Rice

care.”

Escobar said Pompa would have to amend her motion if she chose to do so.

“I think plans to cover his family’s healthcare for the rest of the year — that’s a generous offering by the city,” Pompa replied. “I believe my motion stands.”

The council voted 4-1 to terminate Rice, with La Fleur as the lone dissenting vote. Pompa, Scherer, Ellie Dominguez and Maggie Gaytan all voted in favor of the termination, while Riojas only votes in the event of a tie.

Council members also voted to remove Rice as a signatory on the city’s accounts at Sun Coast Bank and to replace him with Scherrer. That vote was approved unanimously.

Pompa asked about going back into executive session to discuss an interim assignment of a city manager, but Escobar told council members they would be prudent to hold another meeting to make that decision.

“The way that the agenda item is written under number one, it does say regarding the position of City Manager/Administrator, job description of City Manager/Administrator, performance the City Manager/Administrator and existing contractual terms,” Escobar said. “It could be argued that the position of city manager would cover that issue. But I would have to say that, out of an abundance of caution, probably the best thing to do is to set that on a different agenda.”

The council took Escobar’s advice and moved to adjourn

the special called meeting at that point. Rice was asked by a Nixon Police Department officer to make sure he had submitted all city property and passwords before leaving the building.

Rice, a lifelong Nixon resident, was hired as interim city manager in January 2017 and appointed full-time city manager in October 2019.

ALL ABOUT RADIOS

Hanson told the Inquirer her client “has been blindsided by this whole action.”

“He was told to go home late last week and not return to his office until the meeting last night,” she said. “He was not given any warning there was any investigation or even a complaint against him. He has not been given an opportunity to respond to what that complaint was and no specific information other than it pertains to how a vendor was paid by funds the city received for the specific purpose of law enforcement radios.”

Gonzales County paid the city of Nixon \$340,750.55 last fall out of American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funds to purchase mobile and handheld radios after the county agreed to use \$1,283,295.61 of the ARPA money it received for long-needed new radios for all first responder agencies in the county.

While other entities in Gonzales County purchased their radios from Victoria Communication Systems, the area’s Motorola dealer, Nixon bought their radios from the Lower Colorado River Author-

ity, which uses L3 Harris radios, after city leadership had been vocal about their own concerns with buying the Motorola equipment.

“The radios were delivered in the spring and paid by city check put in the mail,” Hanson told the Inquirer. “A few months later, it was discovered the vendor had never received the check and it never cleared. The error was corrected and the vendor was paid and they never complained. Now, somehow, the city council is saying they had to go ahead and spend city funds and were over budget due to other matters that came up.”

Hanson said it appears council members “at some point thought they had more money in their account than there actually was” because they did not take the reissued check to the radio vendor into consideration when making other decisions about spending city money.

“The council member on the far left (Pompa) couldn’t say how it was a misuse of funds or misapplication of funds,” Hanson told the Inquirer. “The mayor couldn’t say that the city was harmed in any way. They (the city) didn’t get any penalty or interest charged against them. Everything proceeded as normal except the vendor didn’t receive their original check and a new one had to be sent.

“Again, that’s not misapplication or misuse of city funds,” Hanson added. “That was the council misunderstanding what was left in their account.”

Hanson said during the executive session with the council, she and her client “got to ask some questions, but we did not get many good answers.”

“Because we didn’t know what it was about until the meeting, we were not in position to present any sort of defense to these baseless allegations,” she said. “From the answers we got, there is no harm that has occurred to the

city that arose from this issue at all. The city paid their bills and paid this vendor and no one had any complaint. No one is saying (Rice) took any funds. In open session, they called it ‘misuse of funds,’ but the funds were used for exactly what the city was supposed to have used them for.”

Hanson also noted that no one has said anything to her about charges being referred to the county attorney’s office for theft or indicated that any money is actually missing.

She said she and Rice “are going to ask the city council to go back and reconsider their action based on the fact that they didn’t allow Mr. Rice to participate in any investigation of whatever complaint started this proceeding.”

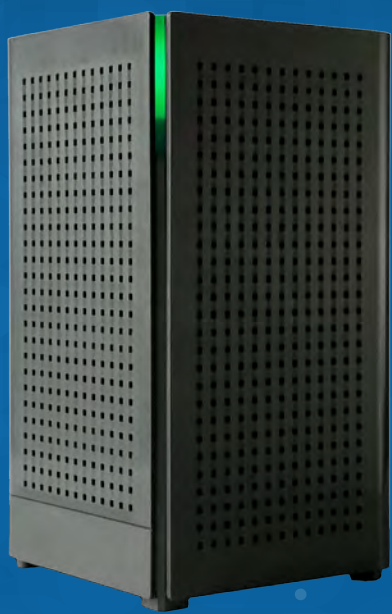
“We are going to ask that they comply with his contract and pay the remaining term of his agreement, especially as he got no notice, no chance to defend himself and are saying he committed misuse of funds with no evidence,” Hanson said. “I intend to set out how they did my client wrong by letter and how they are not allowed to terminate him without warning, immediately, and refuse to pay him the benefits he is owed, given a total lack of foundation for these allegations.”

Rice’s current contract was approved by the council on March 7, 2023, and was for five years, meaning he still had four years and four months left on his contract at the time he was terminated, Hanson said.

She noted that while La Fleur did state it was unfortunate the matter had to be brought up and indicated Rice’s dismissal would require payment of a severance package, no one else spoke up at any time in Rice’s defense, either in the closed or open session.

“We don’t know who is complaining,” she said. “If there is no victim and no one was harmed and no funds are missing, what was this about except political?”

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