



The Gonzales Inquirer

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County increases assistant attorney salary

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

Gonzales County commissioners voted unanimously Monday, March 27, to increase the salary for the second assistant county attorney position up to

\$85,000 in an effort to try to make the position more attractive to potential applicants.

County Attorney Paul Watkins had told commissioners earlier this month his office is short not one, but two attorneys, which has put a large burden

on him and his first assistant David Smith to keep up with the caseload. He has tried to fill the vacancies, but his office is "not having any response at all at the current salary levels for our third attorney."

"We've had one application filed and

one telephone call, and the conversation ends when I tell them what the maximum level salary is," Watkins said. "As best I can tell, minimum salaries (for assistant attorneys) are somewhere in

See **SALARY**, page 17

Bingo, Bags & Badges returns to JB Wells

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

Fashion and philanthropy will come together at the JB Wells Expo Center in Gonzales on Friday, April 14, when Norma's House will hold its annual Bingo, Bags & Badges fundraiser.

The event will be held from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Expo Center, 2301 County

Road 197, Gonzales. Corporate tables are available for \$450 with reserved seating for eight, plus eight bingo cards, finger foods and two bottles of wine. Meanwhile, individual tickets are \$40 each in advance (includes admission, one bingo card and finger foods) or \$50

See **BINGO**, page 18



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Gonzales Main Street Board named the Gonzales Inquirer as the business of the month for March and April for their contributions and covering all the local news in Gonzales, Nixon, Smiley and Gonzales County.

Inquirer named Main Street Member of Month

BY TIFFANY HUTCHISON PADILLA, GONZALES MAIN STREET DIRECTOR
Special to the Inquirer

The Gonzales Inquirer, located at 622 Saint Paul St., was named the Gonzales Main Street Member of the Month for both March and April!

The Gonzales Inquirer has been a weekly publication in

Gonzales Texas since 1853. It was the first newspaper in Gonzales and remains one of the oldest continuously operating newspapers in the state of Texas. The name was chosen because the people wanted to "inquire" as to what was going on.

The first issue was published on June 4, 1853.

See **INQUIRER**, page 18

INDEPENDENCE RELAY KICKS OFF



VANDY VAN EPPS

Relay racers from across the United States arrived in Gonzales Saturday, March 25 for the Texas Independence Relay. The relay races is composed of 36 relays that kicks off in Gonzales where Texas Independence started and ends in Houston, Texas.

Unemployment rate rises in Gonzales County after holiday season ends

BY BETTY COHN
Gonzales Inquirer

Unemployment in Gonzales County shot up to 3.7 percent in January 2023 and then to 4.0 percent in February 2023

as holiday employment came to an end, sending job seekers scrambling, according to state Labor Market Information (LMI) figures released by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC).

It is the first time since July 2021 that Gonzales County has had an unemployment rate of 4.0 percent or greater and the first time in a long time that

See **JOBS**, page 7



MASONIC LODGE PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The Gonzales Masonic Lodge passed out pancake breakfast plates Saturday, March 25 at the First United Methodist Church for a fundraiser for high school scholarships and other projects. Back row left to right: Butch Gandre, Dale Graham: MS, Gary Dresscher, and Dewey Smith. Front row left to right: Fayerence Smith, Charles Smith, Glen Sachetleben, Jo Sachtleben, Paula Jones, Susan Johnson, Delton Schmidt, and Dean Johnson.

VANDY VAN EPPS.

Chronic Wasting Disease discovered in Zavala, Washington, Gonzales counties

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

AUSTIN - The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) received confirmation of seven new cases of chronic wasting

disease (CWD) in three separate deer-breeding facilities in Zavala, Washington and Gonzales counties. These cases mark the first detection of the disease in each county.

Three cases in a Zavala County facility and one case in a Washington County facility

were detected through antemortem (live animal) testing conducted prior to their transfer from the properties to registered release sites. Three cases in a Gonzales County facility were detected by antemortem and postmortem testing, as required by a CWD Herd Plan

established after the facility received CWD-exposed deer from an Uvalde County deer breeding facility in which CWD was detected in 2021.

The samples were submitted to the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory in College Station and were

ultimately sent to the National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames, Iowa, where the presence of CWD was confirmed in all seven samples. Officials have taken immediate action to secure all deer at the facility.

See **DISEASE**, page 7

1 SECTION
18 PAGES



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Camp House Concerts returns to Nixon

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Camp House Concerts in Nixon on Saturday, April 1, will benefit the Nixon-Smiley Education Foundation with a full lineup of music from 4 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. on the stage, located at 926 FM 1681, Nixon.

The lineup for the concert includes headliners Two Tons of Steel, along with Alex Coba, Eley Buck Davis and Chad Richard.

The event will also include a Nixon-Smiley Education Foundation Servant Leaders Award recognition of Alfred and Lucy Posada, Donald

and Patricia Hoffman, Debbie Coleman and George Gaytan.

There also will be a silent auction and all tickets include the barbecue brisket dinner. Tickets are going fast with general admission presale tickets at \$50 each.

Sponsors of the momentous event, which starts at 5 p.m.,

include Mimari Anderson Cilfone & Watkins law firm, B&S Contracting, Lutz Auction Services, Richard Hayden Real Estate, Lions Club and Third Coast Bank.

For more information contact Dr. Wendy Fuller at 830-582-1536 ext. 103 or Bud Box at 210-275-7558.

Stations of the Cross returns to Gonzales

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Catholic Community of Gonzales and Waelder will hold its annual commemoration of the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday — Friday, April 7, — at 3 p.m. at Gonzales City Park at Texas 146-Spur and North Fair Street.

The full experience will be on display this year, as Jesus makes the journey to his crucifixion and his eventual resurrection and ascension at various stations throughout downtown Gonzales.

Sesame Study Club visits Purple Cactus Pottery

The March meeting of The Sesame Study Club was held at Shelli Shelton's Purple Cactus Pottery.

After the owner presented the history of her unique, 5-year-old business, members chose small pottery or bisque items — bunnies, pyramids, or "thumbs up" hands — to paint with small brushes and a selection of six colors of paint.

Shelly explained that tiny bits of glass in the "paint" turns into the shiny colored finish after the figures are fired. Art fills the walls of Purple Cactus Pottery and examples of colorful, finished pieces done by members of other clubs, Boy Scouts, or guests at birthday parties or wedding showers fill shelves and tables and attest to the creativity unleashed there.

The members enjoyed a variety of fruit, flower-decorated cookies, and various meat and cheese delicacies provided by hostesses Diana Foegelle and Celia Glass. President Glass asked each officer and standing committee for their reports.

Christina Menking of the Library Committee reported

last month 1,319 books were checked out, 315 books were read online, and 488 videos were borrowed. 230 visitors used computers. 4,500 entered the library and 1,000 visited the History Center. Rita Hendershot of the Civic Committee reported \$1,260 collected by Sesame members for the 2023 Friends of the Library fund drive. Members of the Sesame Study Club then voted to donate \$200 from the club.

Joan Griffin of the Book Committee presented 4,000 Years of Uppity Women by Vicki Leon, brief stories of many amazing women who made a difference. Two books on the same shocking tale of an orphanage were reviewed during Book Share by Celia Glass. Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate is fiction based on this real-life scandal, and Before and After written by the author of the novel who had researched the terrible story and Judy Christie. Survivors of the sale of children by Georgia Tann of the Tennessee Children's Home Society tell about their lives, some were good and some were not.



Nations Christian Fellowship hosts picnic, egg hunt

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Nations Christian Fellowship will host a community picnic and Easter egg hunt from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 1, at the Smiley Fire Station.

Activities include fun games, food, crafts and more, including photos with the Easter bunny.

This event is free for the whole family.

Gonzales ISD's Johannsen honored by state public relations group

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Texas School Public Relations Association (TSPRA) has announced its 2023 winners and recognized the top school public relations professionals across the state of Texas.

Gonzales ISD's Veronica Gallegos Johannsen was a recipient of one of TSPRA's coveted awards.

Despite the name of the award, Rookie of the Year, Veronica Gallegos Johannsen has more than a decade of experience in communications. She began her communications journey as a bilingual TV journalist reporting general assignment stories in the Permian Basin, Rio Grande Valley, and San Antonio area.

Veronica shared some of the most remembered stories in Texas on local and national TV outlets. The former journalist turned school PR professional then stepped into what she calls "her calling" of school safety



and communications. She has earned multiple opportunities to share positive stories on national platforms as a school PR practitioner and has won several awards.

The Rookie of the Year Award was announced in front of nearly 850 school PR practitioners and accompanied by a surprise visit from special

guest superintendent of schools, Dr. Elmer Avellaneda.

"I am honored and grateful that my school PR colleagues recognize my communications efforts," said Veronica Gallegos Johannsen. "As someone who gives 110 percent to my craft daily, I take pride in delivering compelling messaging that aims to tell the story

of Gonzales ISD, its students, and staff."

According to TSPRA, the award was given to Johannsen for her outstanding contributions to public education in Texas through effective and consistent communication practices.

Recently, Veronica was awarded membership on the Commission on Public Relations Public Education Research Panel (CRPE), where she will have an opportunity to shape the public relations industry and provide critical input on Public Relations curriculum taught in colleges and universities.

Her accomplishments include the 2021 National School Public Relations (NSPRA) Barry Gaskins Mentor Legacy Recipient, Texas School Public Relations (TSPRA) three-time Gold Award and Crystal Award recipient.

Veronica joined the Apache family in Gonzales ISD in November 2022, where she was named the Chief of Communications, Marketing,

Safety, and Security.

"Mrs. Johannsen's detailed and strategic approach to her communication efforts has made a significant difference in helping us tell the Apache story," said Dr. Avellaneda. "She not only leads our communication

department, but she also spearheads the district's safety and security initiatives. Mrs. Johannsen recently launched the Flash your Badge campaign district-wide, merging her communications skills and safety knowledge."

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Celebrations Birthdays

<p>March 30th Betty Lou Harris Amber Palmarez Brianna Rickman Sophia Silbas Betty Spahn</p>	<p>Logan Kuchynka</p>
<p>March 31st Judy Pekar Terry Tuch</p>	<p>April 2nd Kevin Brown Travis Flagg Carla Russell</p>
<p>April 1st Sue Camarillo</p>	<p>April 3rd Jean Johnson Burns</p>
<p>April 4th A.J. & Mary Lee Brzozowski Jose & Pat Bautista</p>	<p>April 5th Floyvette Sattiewhite Kellie Staton</p>

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Gonzales Weather

	March 30 84°/62°	Cloudy, a shower, windy 55% chance of rain • RealFeel 83
	March 31 79°/59°	Cloudy and less humid 4% chance of rain • RealFeel 76
	April 1 76°/60°	Decreasing clouds 0% chance of rain • RealFeel 77
	April 2 81°/61°	Mostly cloudy 25% chance of rain • RealFeel 81
	April 3 79°/57°	Mostly sunny 0% chance of rain • RealFeel 78
	April 4 74°/57°	Plenty of sunshine 0% chance of rain • RealFeel 77
	April 5 75°/57°	Partly sunny, showers around 60% chance of rain • RealFeel 74

Upcoming Events at J.B. Wells Park in Gonzales

March 30th – South Texas Tour
 April 1st – Conoco Philips
 April 5th – Two Dumb Blondes

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How to plant a sunflower patch

Q. Last year we experienced our friend's sunflower patch. It was amazing how the flowers attracted the sparrows, cardinals and especially the goldfinches. He told us how to collect the seeds and plant the patch but it did not work out for us. How do you do it?

A. Obtain seeds from someone with a sunflower patch or buy seeds at your favorite nursery or internet seed retailer. If you have a small amount of seed plant them in 4 inch containers and then transplant them spread across your targeted patch. If you have enough seed spread them across the patch so that the seed makes contact with the soil. The key is to get a few plants to produce seed which will quickly fill up the patch in full sun.

Q. We have a terrible problem with sand burs. Is there a brand that you recommend and when should we apply it?

A. Preemergent for sand burs and crabgrass work best when they are applied on or about March 1. Because of the erratic, unpredictable weather this year you may get a reasonable response if you apply a product such as

Crew or Dimension now as quickly as possible. Review the label and make a decision.

Q. We want to grow tomatoes but have a small garden that has nematodes. What can we apply to control the nematodes?

A. Unfortunately there are no pesticides that I am familiar with that control nematodes. The good news is that there are at least 3 selections on the area recommended tomato variety list that are resistant to nematode problems. Seek out Celebrity, Tycoon, or BHN 968.

Q. What do they call those small round stickers that are driving my dogs and I crazy as they imbed themselves in their fur? The plants look like carrots. How can we kill them?

A. I believe you are describing beggar's lice. The best way to control them is to apply one of the preemergent herbicides about August 1. Dimension and Crew work pretty well for both broadleaf and grassy winter weeds, or you can seek out one of the broadleaf targeting herbicides for next August.



Fertilize the lawn with slow release lawn fertilizer such as 19-5-9 as soon as you have mowed real grass twice. Which is usually sometime before May 1. Mow Bermuda grass at 1.5 inch or less. St Augustine does best at about 3.5 inches. The zoysia grasses respond well to be mowed at 2 inches. If you have buffalo grass mow it very high (5.5 inches) to reduce weed pressure.

The winter weeds are trying hard to go to seed in April. Keep them mowed or pulled. Beggar's lice will be a special problem because it produces seeds that get tangled in pet fur. The plant looks like carrot foliage. Bedstraw, another aggressive winter weed is easy to collect by raking it into sticky bundles to put in the compost pile.

It is time to plant tomatoes. Prepare the soil in a raised bed garden by incorporating 2 inches of compost and 4 cups of slow release lawn fertilizer over every 50 sq. ft. of bed. Irrigate with drip irrigation, a soaker hose or a hose with a watering wand. Live oak leaves make an excellent mulch for the vegetable garden.

Plant determinate varieties that grow quickly to their final height and then concentrate on setting fruit before it gets too hot. Indeterminate tomato varieties such as many of the heirlooms keep growing foliage deep into the summer and then are unable to set much fruit.

Among the varieties that perform best in our conditions are Red Deuce, Tycoon, Valley Cat, 444, Celebrity, BHN 968, Phoenix, and the new Rodeo tomato—

HM 1824. Cherokee Purple is the Heirloom that seems to perform the best. If your garden has nematodes use Valley Cat, it has nematode resistance.

Early in the month green beans, watermelon, cucumbers and summer squash can be planted. I use a tatum squash to replace the usually summer squash varieties because it has more resistance to squash vine borers. Eggplant and pepper transplants can also be placed in the garden. Plant okra seed later in the month.

Keep the onions and broccoli well fertilized and the English peas harvested.

In the flower garden the snapdragons, larkspur, and pansies will keep blooming for another full month but zinnias and other warm weather annuals can also be planted. Consider "Whopper" or semperfloren begonias in the shade along with coleus, pentas, and caladiums.

To accommodate the butterflies, in addition to zinnias plant mistflower, portulaca, cannas, salvias, flame acanthus, lantana, coneflower, sunflowers, and milkweed. The tropical milkweed is the most attractive but also find space for native species such as butterfly weed (A.tuberosa), and green, antelope horn, and common milkweed. Milkweed is the only species of plants on which Monarch butterflies will lay eggs.

Hummingbirds are back in San Antonio. In addition to the nectar plants such as cross vine, columbine, Salvia greggii, zinnias, and pentas. Hang one or more sugar water feeder from your eaves to observe them close at hand.

LIVESTOCK WEEKLY REPORTS

GONZALES LIVESTOCK MARKET

March 25
 Cattle: 984
 Compared to our last sale:
 Number 1 choice calves and yearlings sold 2.00-4.00 higher. Less quality calves and yearlings sold active. Packer cows sold steady & bulls sold 3.00-4.00 softer.
Stocker-feeder Steers: Medium and large-frame No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 260-275; 300-400 lbs., 252-260; 400-500 lbs., 239-245; 500-600 lbs., 210-230; 600-700 lbs., 190-203; 700-800 lbs., 172-188. Bull Yearlings: 700-900 lbs., 80-95.
Stocker-feeder Heifers: Medium and large-frame No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 235-260; 300-400 lbs., 225-219; 400-500 lbs., 191-215; 500-600 lbs., 175-185; 600-700 lbs., 155-168.
Packer Cows: Good lean utility and commercial, 63-83; Cutters, 92-110; Canners, 45-72; High yielding fat cows, 88-98.
Packer Bulls: Yield grade 1 & 2, good heavy bulls, 121-132; Light weights and medium quality bulls, 105-115.
Stockers Cows: \$750 to \$1,150. Pairs: \$850 to \$1,900.

NIXON LIVESTOCK

March 27
 Cattle – 1176
Steers:
 200-300 lbs - \$163-265
 300-400 lbs - \$201-275
 400-500 lbs - \$193-280
 500-600 lbs - \$178-232
 600-700 lbs - \$166-199
 700-800 lbs - \$146-175
Heifers:
 200-300 lbs - \$168-245
 300-400 lbs - \$172-250
 400-500 lbs - \$169-275
 500-600 lbs - \$161-204
 600-700 lbs - \$156-230
 700-800 lbs - \$142-200

Slaughter Cows - \$38-110
 Slaughter Bulls - \$80-121
 Stocker Cows - \$550-1100
 Pairs: \$860-2325

HALLETTVILLE LIVESTOCK COMMISSION CO., INC.

Sale date: March 21
 Cattle on hand: 861
Packer Cows:
 Canner and Cutter Cows: \$68-105
 Utility & Fat Cows: \$65-100
 Low dressing canner cows: \$50-70
 Poor/Weak: \$35-50
Packer Bulls:
 Heavyweight Bulls: \$115-130
 Utility & Cutter Bulls: \$98-115
 Lightweight Canner Bulls: \$86-98
Stocker Cows:
 Good Stocker/Cows & Heifers: \$1050-1350
 Medium Stocker Cows & Heifers: \$850-1050
 Good Cow & Calf Pairs: NONE
 Medium Cow & Calf Pairs: \$1150-1525
Stocker & Feeder Calves & Yearlings:
 Number 1 steer & bull calves:
 Under 200 lbs.: \$160-255
 200-300 lbs.: \$210-265
 300-400 lbs.: \$210-255
 400-500 lbs.: \$195-252.50
 500-600 lbs.: \$185-230
 600-700 lbs.: \$175-205
 700-800 lbs.: \$155-190
Number 1 heifer calves:
 200-300 lbs.: \$170-235
 300-400 lbs.: \$175-230
 400-500 lbs.: \$17-225
 500-600 lbs.: \$172-210
 600-700 lbs.: \$155-188
 700-800 lbs.: \$145-172
Replacement Heifers:
 350-750 lbs.: \$185-230
 The calf market was strong once again. Average of all calves was \$3 higher. Lighter flesh classes continue to see strong demand. Some fleshy new crop types showing up which is seasonal.

They are seeing resistance. Packer cows and bulls sold \$2 to \$3 higher on a total supply of 175 head.

SEGUIN CATTLE CO.

March 22
 Market remains steady through all classes with packer cows 2-3 better.
Cattle – 493
Sheep & goats – 624
Medium & large frame #1 Steers:
 200-300 lb. .80-1.79-2.67
 300-400 lb. .60-1.62-2.90
 400-500 lb. .45-1.88-2.67
 500-600 lb. .50-1.67-2.23
 600-700 lb. .52-1.58-2.11
 700-850 lb. 1.10-1.53-1.86
Medium & large frame #1 Heifers:
 200-300 lb. .45-1.41-2.40
 300-400 lb. .32-1.51-2.25
 400-500 lb. .35-1.60-2.67
 500-600 lb. .50-1.58-2.07
 600-750 lb. .55-1.24-1.71
Cows:
 Utility & commercial – 79-92-106
 Cutters – 60-71-82
 Canners – 48-55-62
 Palpated cow – 450-1100
 Cow/Calf Pairs – NONE
Bulls:
 Heavy High Yielding – 1.00-1.20
 Light & Low Yielding – .60-.99
Sheep & Goats:
 Nannies – 140-290
 Kid Goats (Fat) – 2.80-3.42
 Wethers -1.80-2.85
 Billies – 1.50-2.27
 Dorp. Ewes - 85-200
 Dorp. Lambs (Fat) – 2.70-3.30
 Woolled Ewes – NONE
 Woolled Bucks – 1.50-1.75
 Lambs – 1.60-2.02
 Barb. Bucks – 350

CUERO LIVESTOCK MARKET

March 24, 2023
 Number of head 1,245
 There were 121 cows and 23 bulls. The packer market was

much higher as demand remains seasonally strong. Top packer cow was at \$109/cwt while the top packer bull was at \$128/cwt. The calf market was steady with last week's big rise. Average price was over \$6/cwt higher but weight was over 29 pounds less. Once again it was a very active and strong market across the board.
Packer bulls: 90.00-128.00
Packer cows:
 canners & cutters 85.00-109.00
 poor & weak 25.00-50.00
 Palpated: 12 bred 120.00-152.00
PAIRS: 6 \$1,175-\$1,325
Steer Calves: (AVG-HIGH)
 Under 200 lbs. NONE
 200-249 lbs. NONE
 250-299 lbs. 256.00-268.00
 300-350 lbs. 209.00-266.00
 350-400 lbs. 219.00-256.00
 400-450 lbs. 212.00-252.00
 450-500 lbs. 207.00-234.00
 500-550 lbs. 203.00-234.00
 550-600 lbs. 195.00-220.00
 600-700 lbs. 179.00-209.00
 700-800 lbs. 131.00-203.00
Bull Calves: (AVG-HIGH)
 Under 250lbs 201.00-260.00
 250-300 lbs. 227.00-268.00
 300-350 lbs. 231.00-269.00
 350-400 lbs. 225.00-266.00
 400-450 lbs. 216.00-268.00
 450-500 lbs. 210.00-240.00
 500-550 lbs. 201.00-230.00
 550-600 lbs. 201.00-220.00
 600-700 lbs. 178.00-205.00
 Over 700 lbs. 164.00-193.00
Heifer Calves: (AVG-HIGH)
 under 200 lbs. 234.00-264.00
 200-250 lbs. 186.00-234.00
 250-300 lbs. 200.00-236.00
 300-350 lbs. 200.00-232.00
 350-400 lbs. 198.00-262.00
 400-450 lbs. 197.00-236.00
 450-500 lbs. 189.00-218.00
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 600-700 lbs. 159.00-214.00
 Over 700 lbs. 137.00-166.00

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

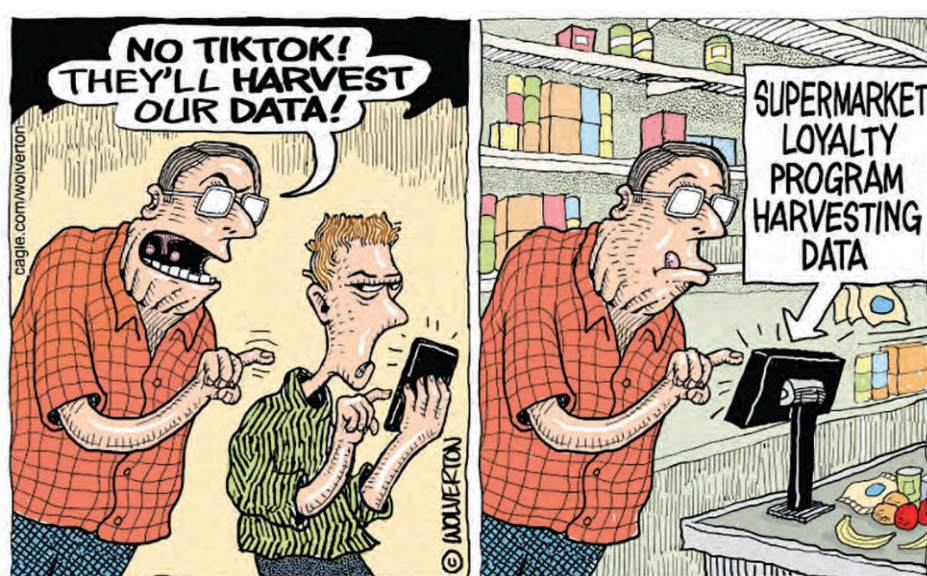
Dear editor,
House Bill 636 would allow Election Judges to carry guns in the polling place when on duty. This is very wrong. We know of no instances of polling site violence, even in instances when lines have been unusually long, paper or ballots have run out, or equipment has malfunctioned. If there is fear of violence, then professional law enforcement can be called.

What is at risk here is voter intimidation. Some voters may decide not to vote if they think guns are in the polling place. Guns and other weapons are now explicitly prohibited in polling places by Texas law for good reasons. Polling places need to be safe for all voters. Placing guns in the hands of election judges will make many feel unsafe.

Tell your elected officials to oppose HB 636.

Sincerely,

Alicia Taylor
Kyle



Transparency legislation at the Texas Capitol a bipartisan effort

BY KELLEY SHANNON

To witness bipartisanship at the Texas Capitol, look to the lawmakers who are working to improve open government laws.

Legislators from both political parties are igniting interest in transparency and creating the opportunity for all lawmakers to protect the people's right to know. They're carrying on our state's legacy of openness.

When the reform-minded 1973 Legislature enacted the Texas Public Information Act, known then as the Open Records Act, it established one of the nation's strongest transparency laws. This year marks its 50th anniversary. Court rulings and other actions have weakened the law, but as we celebrate open government during Sunshine Month throughout March let's rally around the bills Texas legislators have filed this session to fortify the landmark act:

Contracting transparency: Access to government contracts allows taxpayers to see how their money is spent. A bipartisan proposal would enhance a law passed in 2019, ensuring the release of "super public" information, including the overall contract price and description of items and services. Senate Bill 680 by Sen. Nathan Johnson, D-Dallas, and House Bill 2492 by Rep. Giovanni Capriglione, R-Southlake, are the bills addressing contracting transparency.

Public records business days: A definition of "business day" in the Public Information Act is needed to provide consistency for everyone seeking public records. Currently, governments declare on their own which days they are open or closed for handling TPIA requests. Sometimes they don't respond to requests. Proposals to correct this are contained in Senate Bill 618 by Johnson; House Bill 2135 by Rep. Terry Canales, D-Edinburg; and Senate Bills 43 and 44 by Sen. Judith Zaffirini, D-Laredo.

Dates of birth: Birthdates in criminal justice documents, such as police reports and incarceration records, and in candidates' applications for public office allow the public to accurately identify a person. Correctly identifying someone charged with a crime protects the reputation of those who have the same name but aren't facing charges. A date of birth also helps with thorough vetting of political candidates. Senate Bill 46 by Zaffirini and House Bill 2309 by Rep. Todd Hunter, R-Corpus Christi, allow access to birthdates in these records.

Public records and attorneys' fees: If a records requestor runs into roadblocks and must sue to obtain public documents, the ability to recover legal fees levels the playing field between that individual and the government, especially if a government hands over records at the last minute after months of costly litigation. This legislation is House Bill 2874 by Rep. John Smithee, R-Amarillo, and Senate Bill 2286 by Sen. Mayes Middleton, R-Galveston.

Searchable-sortable records: While some governments provide data in searchable-sortable spreadsheet form, often making it easier to analyze, others do not. Senate Bill

Letters to the Editor Policy

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

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

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

- Confusing or unclear points.
- Crude language.
- Poor taste.
- Disrespectful comments regarding a group's or individual's ethnicity, gender, religion, culture, sexual orientation or race.
- Other incendiary language or remarks.
- Endorsements for or complaints about individually named commercial products or services.
- Poetry.
- Personal attacks.
- "Thank You" letters that go beyond general thanks to the community; attempt to serve as an advertisement for a company, individual or political party; or is submitted in lieu of a paid "Thank You" advertisement.

During periods ahead of an election, The Inquirer does not accept letters to the editor urging voters to vote for or against candidates in local elections. Endorsements should be displayed

in political advertising. In light of this policy, we reserve the right to reject or edit letters for references to candidates and whether or not they should be elected. The Inquirer will accept letters expressing views on bond measures, constitutional amendments and other such issues. Letters will not be accepted once early voting has begun.

The Inquirer will not knowingly publish factually incorrect information.

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

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

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

Please send Letters to the Editor:

- Email: publisher@gonzalesinquirer.com
 - U.S. Mail: The Inquirer, P.O. Box 616, Gonzales, Texas, 78629
 - In person: The Inquirer, 622 St. Paul Street, Gonzales, Texas, 78629 (Please bring in a digital format, if possible).
- Further questions may be directed to Publisher Lew Cohn, 830-672-2861.



DR. DON NEWBURY
The Idle American

Higher Education in Cowtown...

Higher education gets news coverage in both mass and social media, and much, I'm sure, is true. Technology is changing it at warp speed, and the old descriptions we used to toss about no longer fit.

We joked that colleges had buildings where "ivy is creeping around on the outside and teachers are creeping around on the inside." Other bromides come to mind, but none seem to fit well in the ever-changing framework of what higher education is all about.

Greek philosophers considered the topic centuries ago, asking, "Whom, then, shall we call educated?" Then, they proceeded to answer their own questions, claiming that education should enable students to deal effectively with the circumstances they encounter day by day. It still fits, right?...

Truth to tell, institutions must be open to change. After all, many of them have changed their names, and several times at that. What formerly were known as "teachers' colleges" head the list.

When colleges started popping up in Texas--most of them in the early 1900s--a word included in most names was "normal."

Real old-timers, longest of tooth and grayest of beard, remember or heard tell of such colleges, including Sam Houston State Normal College, with these three last names also applying to such institutions as North Texas, Southwest Texas, Sul Ross, East Texas and West Texas.

They removed "normal" from their names, a decision perhaps worthy of applause. Many changed their three final words to "State Teachers' College," then came "State College," followed by "State University." (During the 1960s-1970s, many colleges decided "university" had a better ring to it. Later, some joined the systems of two other institutions--The University of Texas and Texas A&M University. However, those are whole 'nuther stories.)...

This column centers on unusual happenings at two Fort Worth higher education institutions--Texas Christian University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Both provided recent front-page stories mere days apart in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

TCU leaders promised placement of the "big pot into the little one" for its 150th anniversary observance this year, and Southwestern announced sale of Carroll Park--a 24-acre tract with one and two-bedroom housing--to the City of Fort Worth for \$11 million....

TCU has been its official name since 1902, but founding brothers Addison and Randolph Clark called it "Add-Ran Male and Female College" in the early years. About the time of TCU's founding 150 years ago, Fort Worth was saddled with bawdiness associated with the joint impact of railroads and Chisholm Trail cattle drives. Afraid that this setting could corrupt students' minds, the Clark brothers relocated the school to Thorp Spring, some 40 miles away, a few miles from Granbury. Enrollment grew there from a few dozen students to more than 400 from 1873-1895. It was known for being "seven miles from any known sin."

Then came another relocation, this time to Waco. In 1910, TCU moved back to Fort Worth, where the sprawling campus of some 300 acres now is home to some 11,000 students. It may be the only higher education institution in the US that has been located in three communities, one of them twice....

At Southwestern, such a sale is a head-scratcher, particularly since this was the world's largest theological seminary during the 1970s and 1980s.

News accounts indicate that Fort Worth plans to utilize the housing for homeless families.

When Christ returns, His arrival might be at the very spot where Cowtown homeless abide....

Dr. Newbury is a speaker and former university president who has written weekly since 2003. Phone: 817-447-3872. Email: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Facebook: Don Newbury.

The Gonzales Inquirer

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Kid Scoop

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World's Biggest Bee

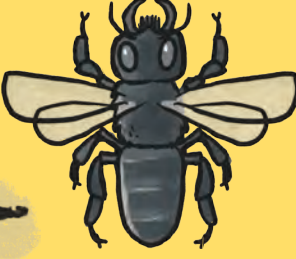
The world's biggest bee, called **Wallace's giant bee**, disappeared almost 40 years ago. Scientists thought it was gone forever, or **extinct**.

In 2019, scientists traveled into the forests of Indonesia. There, they discovered a living Wallace's giant bee!



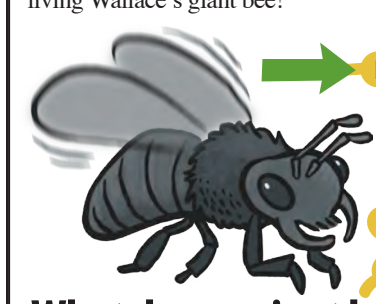
How Big?

Use the code to discover why the giant bee causes such buzz in the scientific community!



Wingspan: _____ inches (_____ cm)

About as long as an adult human thumb: _____ inches long (_____ cm)



Giant Jaws
The giant bee has enormous jaws called **mandibles**. It uses the mandibles to scrape sticky **resin** off trees. They use the resin to build burrows within termite nests, where females raise their young.

Does it sting?

Wallace's giant bee **does** sting. But, unlike the honeybee, it does not die when it stings.

What does a giant bee eat?

Like other bees, they feed on nectar and pollen but they don't make honey. Follow the maze and write down the letters along the correct path to discover how much larger Wallace's giant bee is than a typical honeybee.



How much larger is Wallace's giant bee than a typical honeybee?
F _____

The Big Bee with Many Names

Use the code to discover different names this big bee is called.


Indonesians call it *Raja Ofu* which means:
7 19 22 16 18 13 20
12 21 25 22 22 8

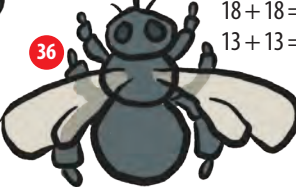
The scientists who found it called it:
21 15 2 18 13 20
25 6 15 15 23 12 20

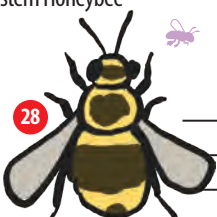
CODE	
26 = A	13 = N
25 = B	12 = O
24 = C	11 = P
23 = D	10 = Q
22 = E	9 = R
21 = F	8 = S
20 = G	7 = T
19 = H	6 = U
18 = I	5 = V
17 = J	4 = W
16 = K	3 = X
15 = L	2 = Y
14 = M	1 = Z

What bees are these?

Do the math to label each of these bees!

26  _____

36  _____

28  _____

- 14 + 17 = Pigmented Miner Bee
- 17 + 11 = Western Bumble Bee
- 18 + 18 = Valley Carpenter Bee
- 13 + 13 = Western Honeybee

Extra! Extra! Big, Bigger, BIGGEST

Look through the newspaper for pictures of three things. Cut them out and glue them to a piece of paper in order from big, bigger to biggest. Do the same thing to show things that are small, smaller and smallest.

Standards Link: Understand comparative and superlative forms.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

The Cutest Bee on Earth

These bees, with scientific name *Amegilla bombiformis*, look cute and cuddly. If you want to snuggle up with one of these bees, you're in for a treat because the male bees don't sting. These bees live in Australia. Circle every other letter to reveal the nickname for this bee.

C T R E L D N D W
Y K B C E H A J
R V B U E F E

T _____

Standards Link: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

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

BEES BUZZ CARPENTER EXTINCT GIANT HONEY JAWS MINER NECTAR NESTS RESIN STING THUMB TREES VALLEY

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

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

Kid Scoop Together

World's Smallest Bee

Unscramble the letters to find the missing words.

One bee is teeny tiny. Scientists call it the *Perdita minima*. Many people call it the **YRIAF EBE**.

The fairy bee lives in the American southwest. It lives alone and makes a tiny nest in sandy desert **LISO**.

The fairy bee grows to be less than two millimeters long. Its entire body can easily fit on the head of an averaged-size bee.

People who look for this tiny bee look for its shadow on the ground. It is easier to find its shadow than the bee.

This bee is so small that it can easily pass through the mesh of insect **TENS**.

Standards Link: Spell grade appropriate words correctly.

The numbers on the flower petals add up to the number in the center of the flower. **Oops!** All but one petal, that is! Figure out which petal on each flower needs to be plucked so that the numbers on the petals add up to the number in the center.

Standards Link: Calculate sums and differences.

Write On!

Buzzy Day

One day I woke up and I was a bee. Then ...
Finish this story.

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Cooking with Parind



Spring into homemade soup weather!

Hello everyone. My name is Parind Vora. I'm the chef/owner of Gonzales Bistro in the charming Town of Gonzales in the heart of Texas. In this column we talk cooking, tricks to cooking, and sometimes eating.

As we get to spring weather, we are also into and out of homemade soup weather. Our best selling soup at the restaurant is our tomato basil soup. You can eat it hot or cold dependent on the weather.

So let's make a soup that helps us through the chill in the air while reminding us of the warmth of a summer days.

Let's get started.

INGREDIENTS:

- 5# of stemmed and peeled tomatoes (Roma) chopped on pulse in a food processor or hand chopped with the liquid.
- 2 cups of cherry/grape tomatoes cut in half
- 1 small can of tomato paste (I use cento)
- 1 quart of heavy whipping cream
- 2 tablespoons of dried oregano
- 1 cup of fresh sweet Basil leaves (no stems)
- 1 tablespoon of sugar or to taste (only add if the tomatoes are not ripe enough)
- Kosher salt to taste
- Crushed red pepper to taste
- 1/2 cup Greek olive oil

Cut a 'X' in the pointy end of the tomato.

Blanch all the tomatoes in boiling water for 30 seconds. Remove the skin. Grind in a food processor pulsing until desired consistency is reached.

Add tomato paste, grape tomatoes (whole with the skin) and olive oil to a pot and cook over medium low heat for 3-5 min.

Add all of the crushed roma tomatoes.

Then increase the heat to medium high.

Cook 20 minutes constantly stirring.

Add about a 1/2 cup of water if gets too dry.

Add all of the heavy cream and all the seasoning. Bring to a boil and lower the heat to a simmer & cook for 30-40 minutes.

Add the sugar now if needed.

Put the fresh basil leaves in a blender with one cup of the soup in progress.

Blend on low and increase to high until it's a very smooth liquid.

Add back to the soup.

Taste and adjust seasoning.

Add more water if needed.

Reduce over medium low heat until desired thickness while stirring constantly.

Let the soup come to room temperature and then refrigerate for 1-2 days for the flavour to meld.

To re-heat, cook uncovered over medium heat stirring constantly.

Serve with croutons or grilled cheese (my preference).

My preference for wine goes to an old world red or white Grenache from the Rioja region in Spain.

Also, we will be doing an Easter Sunday Brunch from at the Bistro. We will be posting the details on our Facebook page.

STUDIO E BRINGS HOME DANCE AWARDS



CONTRIBUTED

Studio E Competition Team took home multiple first and second place national titles during the MA Dance Nationals in Arlington on March 23-25, including overall first place team, duet and trio dance awards.

TAEKWONDO STUDENTS COMPETE



CONTRIBUTED

Four students from Studio E Taekwondo class competed in Lake Whitney for a Unified Taekwondo tournament with more than 300 statewide competitors. Brandon Simpson won second place in patterns. Eli Carlile won third in patterns and in sparring. Kyle McLain won fourth in patterns. Wesley Casares won fourth place in sparring and third place in patterns.

'Jack and Louise' plays at Shiner Gaslight

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

You still have a chance to see the play "Jack and Louise," directed by Josh Kaspar, at the Shiner Gaslight Theatre. This heart-warming story takes place during World War II and involves the courtship, through letters, of two people, Jack, a soldier played by Gabe Adamek and Louise, an actress played by Jodi Adamek.

Tickets are going fast, but at this time, there are still great seats available for Fridays, April 14, 21 and 28 and Saturdays, April 15, 22 and 29.

Call 361-594-2079 to reserve your ticket! More information at www.shinergaslight.org

Shiner Heritage Quilters to learn applique technique

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Kathleen Schacherl, RaeNell Janik and Annette Meyer will demonstrate different applique techniques at the Shiner Heritage Quilters meeting on Tuesday evening, April 4, at the Shiner Methodist Church Fellowship Hall.

Applique is a French word that refers to sewing decorative fabric, either by hand or machine, to a larger piece of fabric. Applique can be elegant or simple and it can create realistic, geometric, or abstract designs. The donation quilt for the 2024 "Spring into Quilting" show has beautiful flowers, vines and leaves that are all appliqued.

Members gather at 5 for socializing and begin the meeting at 5:30. Block of the Month, Show and Tell and door prize drawings are always on the agenda. Guests and new members welcome. For more information visit www.shinerheritagequilters.org or email info@shinerheritagequilters.org.

LAW ENFORCEMENT WEEKLY REPORTS

Gonzales County Sheriff's Office

03/19/23 - 03/25/23

03/20/23

• Vesely, Joshua
Dakota, 06/1994, Smiley: Criminal Trespass, Released on \$2,000 Bond

03/21/23

• Jordan, James
Michael, 11/1971, San Antonio: Local Warrant - Unauthorized Use of Vehicle, Requires \$10,000 Bond; Remains in Custody

• Guthrie, Hunter Reed, 05/1996, Austin: Manufacture Deliver

Controlled Substance PG 1 >4G <200G, Released on \$10,000 Bond;

Manufacture Deliver Controlled Substance PG 2 or 2-A, Released on \$10,000 Bond; Possession Marijuana >2oz <4oz, Released on \$5,000 Bond

03/22/23

• Baize, Lauren Neil, 05/1985, Floresville: Local Warrant - Possession Controlled Substance PG 1 <1G, Released on \$5,000 Bond

• Martinez, Cesar Javier, 06/1997, Houston: Local Warrant - Possession Marijuana <2 oz, Requires \$1,000 Bond; Remains in Custody

• Ramos, Christopher Joe, 09/1983, Gonzales: Commitment/Sentence - Possession Controlled Substance PG 1 >1G <4G, Commitment/Sentence - Evading Arrest Detention w/Vehicle ;Remains in Custody

03/24/23

• Figueroa-Mercado, Jorge Luis, 03/1990,

Smiley: Local Warrant - Burglary of Vehicles, Released on \$1,000 Bond

• Martinez, Juan Daniel, 04/2001, Waelder: Local Warrant - Evading Arrest

Detention w/Vehicle, Requires \$100,000 Bond; Local Warrant - Possession Marijuana <2 oz, Requires \$1,500 Bond; Remains in Custody

• Melendez, Lorena Maricela, 09/1996, Waelder: Victoria PD Warrant - Fraud Destroy

Removal Concealment Writing, Released on \$500 Bond

• Hogan, Craig Phillip, 12/1995, Gonzales: Commitment/Sentence -

Possession Controlled Substance PG 1 <1G, Remains in Custody

03/25/23

Flores, Martin Rene, 02/1966, Kyle: Possession Controlled Substance PG 1/1-B <1G, Requires \$5,000 Bond, Remains in Custody

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

GCSO	11
DPS	00
GPD	08
WPD	00
NPD	01
GISD	00

SMO	00
Constable 1	00
Constable 3	00
Constable 4	00
DWCSO	00
DEA	00
TPW	00
GCAI	00
Rangers	00
Other	00
Total	20



PRACTICE OF GARY GAGE, O.D. CLOSING

Thanks to all the loyal patients who have chosen me for their eye care over the last 43 years. I had planned to hand over the practice to a worthy successor, but after several years of effort could not find one. We're closing March 31st. Records will be available for transfer with a signed written request sent to PO Box 1598, Gonzales, Texas 78629.



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Saturday - 2 PM

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DISEASE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ties; TPWD and TAHC plan to continue working together to conduct additional investigations looking into the extent of the disease within the facilities.

“It continues to be imperative for producers to stay diligent with testing susceptible species for CWD,” said Dr. Andy Schwartz, TAHC executive director and state veterinarian. “With an incubation period that can span years, the first indication of this degenerative disease in a herd may likely come through testing, rather than observing clinical signs. Early detection and proactive monitoring improve the state’s response time and can greatly reduce the risk of further disease spread.”

Since November 2021, when the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission adopted a

requirement to antemortem test deer for CWD prior to liberation, this disease surveillance tool has detected CWD in five deer breeding facilities where it was not previously known to exist. Transferring even one CWD-infected deer from a breeding facility could ultimately affect all deer in the vicinity of the transfer, with irreversible impacts.

“With disease surveillance, our goal is to monitor and identify disease expeditiously to minimize the impact of outbreaks,” said Dr. Hunter Reed, TPWD wildlife veterinarian. “This is a continuous process that hopefully results in little to no disease being detected since [ideally] our disease management strategies are effective in limiting transmission. This additional surveillance from

antemortem testing not only allows us to respond more quickly to an outbreak, but it also provides us with a robust, continuous testing baseline that can further elucidate the epidemiological uncertainties related to the origin of the disease outbreak, in addition to guiding future changes to our disease management strategy.”

In Hunt County, TPWD and TAHC received confirmation of CWD in a white-tailed doe harvested on a release site located adjacent to a breeding facility already known to have CWD. This is the first positive detection in a free-range deer in the county.

First recognized in the U.S. in 1967, CWD has since been documented in captive and/or free-ranging deer in 30 states and three Canadian provinces.

In Texas, the disease was first discovered in 2012 in free-ranging mule deer along a remote area of the Hueco Mountains near the Texas-New Mexico border and has since been detected in 471 captive or free-ranging cervids — including white-tailed deer, mule deer, red deer and elk — in 20 Texas counties. For more information on previous detections, visit TPWD’s CWD page.

CWD is a fatal neurological disease found in certain cervids, including deer, elk, moose and other members of the deer family. CWD is a slow and progressive disease. Due to a long incubation, cervids infected with CWD may not produce any visible signs for several years after becoming infected. As the disease progresses, animals with CWD

show changes in behavior and appearance. Clinical signs may include progressive weight loss, stumbling or tremors with a lack of coordination, excessive thirst, salivation or urination, loss of appetite, teeth grinding, abnormal head posture and/or drooping ears.

To date there are no known cases where CWD has infected a human; however, recent research suggests that CWD transmission from infected animals to humans should not be ruled out. Consequently, as a precaution, it is recommended that hunters test harvested cervid species for CWD, and that no one consumes the meat of infected animals.

For more information about CWD, visit the TPWD website or the TAHC website.

Source: <https://tpwd.texas.gov/newsmedia/releases/?req=20230321b>

TRANSPARENCY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

965 by Johnson, Senate Bill 45 by Zaffirini and House Bill 2493 by Capriglione would codify the ability to obtain searchable-sortable records if such a format is available.

These measures are supported by the Texas Sunshine Coalition, made up of more than 15 diverse organizations united around the principle that access to information is essential in advocating for public policy and participating in our

democracy.

Additional proposed transparency measures deal with public meetings, police accountability and other timely subjects.

For example, when someone dies in police custody, the public needs to know what happened. Some law enforcement agencies use a loophole in the Public Information Act to withhold records. Rep. Joe Moody, D-El Paso, filed House Bill 30 to

remedy the problem.

Addressing public notices, Senate Bill 943 by Sen. Lois Kolkhorst, R-Brenham, and House Bill 2178 by Hunter would require government notices that by law must be published in a newspaper to also be posted at no extra cost on the newspaper’s website and on a Texas Press Association statewide public notice website. This posting through a neutral third party provides an easy, re-

liable source for viewing public notices.

Transparency advocates will be speaking out until the legislative session ends May 29 to urge passage of these proposals that shine light on government enable us to hold it accountable.

Simply put, open government is good government.

Kelley Shannon is executive director of the nonprofit Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas, based in Austin.

JOBS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Gonzales County did not have the lowest 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 January 2023 was 4.0 percent, slightly lower to the state average of 4.2 percent. This represented a total of 3,632 residents in Gonzales, Calhoun, DeWitt, Goliad, Jackson, Lavaca and Victoria counties seeking employment out of a total workforce of 91,798 people. In February 2023, that number jumped to 4.3 percent, which again was slightly better than the state average of 4.5 percent, which represented 3,970 residents seeking work out of a total workforce of 92,996.

In January, the county in the Golden Crescent with the lowest unemployment rate was DeWitt at 3.5 percent, followed by Lavaca County at 3.6 percent, both Gonzales and Calhoun counties at 3.7 percent, Jackson County at 3.8 percent with Victoria and Goliad counties bringing up the rear at 4.3 percent.

For February, the county in the Golden Crescent with the lowest unemployment rate was Calhoun County at 3.7 percent, followed by DeWitt County at 3.8 percent, the trio of Gonzales, Lavaca and Jackson counties at 4.0 percent, Jackson County at 3.8 percent with Victoria and Goliad counties bringing up the rear at 4.7 percent.

For January 2023, there were 344 individuals in Gonzales County seeking employment out of a workforce of 9,413 with 9,069 reported as employed. In February 2023, there were 390 people seeking work in Gonzales County out of an employment force of 9,616 with 9,306 reported as employed.

Unemployment rates since January 2021 for Gonzales County are:

- Jan. 2021, 5.6 percent.
- Feb. 2021, 5.7 percent.
- March 2021, 5.4 percent.
- April 2021, 4.7 percent.
- May 2021, 4.5 percent.
- June 2021, 5.1 percent.
- July 2021, 4.3 percent.
- Aug. 2021, 3.9 percent.
- Sept. 2021, 3.8 percent.
- Oct. 2021, 3.6 percent.
- Nov. 2021, 3.5 percent.
- Dec. 2021, 3.2 percent.
- Jan. 2022, 3.6 percent.
- Feb. 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.
- Aug. 2022, 3.2 percent.
- Sept. 2022, 3.1 percent.
- Oct. 2022, 3.1 percent.
- Nov. 2022, 3.1 percent.
- Dec. 2022, 2.7 percent.
- Jan. 2023, 3.7 percent.
- Feb. 2023, 4.0 percent.

More Than You Expect!



Greater Access to Primary Care

Did you know? Gonzales Healthcare Systems and Sievers Medical Clinics offer an extensive network of primary care clinics and medical specialties, including family practice, pediatrics, obstetrics and surgical services. Staffed by a qualified team of physicians, family nurse practitioners and physician assistants, we offer three convenient clinic locations, extended hours in the evenings and on Saturdays, and same-day appointments. At Gonzales Healthcare Systems, we believe access to quality healthcare should be our top priority. It’s all part of our commitment to provide every patient with a level of healthcare excellence that exceeds expectations.

To learn more or to schedule an appointment, visit gonzaleshealthcare.com or call 830-672-7581



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

CLASSIFIEDS

HOW TO PLACE AN AD

You can place ads online at
www.gonzalesinquirer.com
 or call

(830) 672-2861

and/or email ads@gonzalesinquirer.com

All rates are net cash with order until credit is approved.
 We accept Mastercard, VISA, American Express and Discover
 or payment can be made in person with cash or check.

622 St. Paul or PO Box 616, Gonzales, TX 78629
(830)672-2861 • (800)210-5909 • Fax (830)217-8924

www.gonzalesinquirer.com

CLASSIFIED WORD AD RATES

\$10 PER RUN UP TO 20 WORDS

Pre-paid, private party ads.
 40¢ for each additional word.

4 runs for \$30

DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE FOR CONSECUTIVE RUNS
\$15.00 Garage Sale Packages

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

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

ERRORS

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

CALL TODAY
830-672-2861

050 GARAGE SALES

MULTI FAMILY GARAGE SALE:
 904 St. Michael, Gonzales. Saturday, 8-12. Furniture, mattress, jewelry, wall art, clothes, bedding.

ADVERTISE YOUR GARAGE SALE HERE
 Call 830-672-2861

850 HELP WANTED

VICTORIA COLLEGE
 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.

850 HELP WANTED

We are growing. Come grow with us.

Estamos Contratando Tiempo Completo Todas las Posiciones
 Aplicar en persona o en línea a www.kitchenpride.com
 1034 CR 348, Gonzales 830-540-4516
 Entrevistas el mismo día

850 HELP WANTED

THE CITY OF Smiley is accepting applications thru April 5th, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. for a part-time clerk. Seeking an individual with the following qualifications: H.S graduate, type at least 40 words per minute, an accounting background and familiar with Quickbooks. Previous experience working with the public, must be able to be bonded. Applications may be picked up at Smiley City Hall, 207 Steele Street, Smiley, Texas 78159. Resumes may be mailed to Smiley City Hall, P.O. Box 189, 207 Steele Street, Smiley, Texas 78159.

850 HELP WANTED

Part-time Delivery Driver
 Driver needed to distribute papers to Post Offices and Vendors.
 Wednesday evenings and Thursday mornings.
 Must be able to lift 25 lbs.
 Must have good driving record.
Call 830-672-2861 for more information.

Moving Sale

Sat, April 1st & Sun, April 2nd from 9a-4p
710 E Sarah Dewitt Dr in Gonzales, TX 78629
 No early birds, prices given prior OR presales!
Follow:
www.facebook.com/comeandorganizait
 for info, updates and photos!
 Furniture & More!
 Several consignments added to this sale and more as we pull things out!

VICTORIA COLLEGE
 Instructor needed to teach Certified Pharmacy Technician course at the Gonzales facility. Classes begin in August 2022. Prefer minimum of one year experience. For more information call (361) 572-6446 or email HealthCareers@VictoriaCollege.edu. An Equal-Opportunity Institution

VICTORIA COLLEGE

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.

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

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!
830-672-2861

190 LAWN, GARDEN

TREE TRIMMING & Removal. Yard maintenance. Serving Gonzales area since 1987. Call Dennis Droupy, 830-672-2000.

670 APARTMENTS FOR RENT OR LEASE

Apartments For Elderly, Low Income
 Rent based on Income
 Water, Sewer, and Trash Paid
 Country Village Square
 1800 Waelder Rd.
 Gonzales, TX 78629
 830.672.2877
countryvillagesquare@voatz.org
www.voatz.org

210 MISC. SERVICES

JOEL'S OUT-DOOR SERVICES. Skid Steer Service. Dump trailer & flatbed trailer for hire. Fence Cleaning, Bulldozing & Firewood for sale. Lot cleaning. Tree trimming. 830-832-6985.

700 HOUSES FOR RENT OR LEASE

3BR/2BA HOME. LARGE walk-in master closet, bonus room, and butler pantry. Rural setting on one acre approximately five miles from Gonzales. \$1,650.00 per month with \$1,650.00 deposit. Rent includes water and septic. For information or to tour property call Frank Thomas, (830)-857-4769 or Beverly Thomas, (830) 857-6454.

400 DIRT, GRAVEL

WE HAVE SELECT fill, wash rock for landscape, septic rock & pea gravel for sale. **Bobcat Driver also needed.** For more information, contact Randall, 361-243-6908, Durrett Sand & Gravel.

670 APARTMENTS FOR RENT OR LEASE

LOW INCOME APARTMENTS for rent. 1, 2, 3, 4 bedrooms. No electric deposit required. Apply at 410 Village Drive. Gonzales 830-672-3419.
 All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

W.B. FARM AND RANCH SUPPLY

Is now hiring for Yard Hand/Customer Service
 Forklift experience required. Must be dependable.
Apply in Person
2031 Water St., Gonzales, TX
 No phone calls
 We now offer Health Insurance

VICTORIA COLLEGE

Part-time Instructor needed for CDL Truck Driving Course to be held at the VC Gonzales Center.
 In partnership with HCC
 For details contact
 Melissa Robinson at
 (361) 573-3291, ext. 3461.

We are growing. Come grow with us.

Now Hiring Full-Time All Positions
 Apply In Person or at www.kitchenpride.com
 1034 CR 348, Gonzales 830-540-4516
 Same Day Interview

VICTORIA COLLEGE

Victoria College's Workforce & Continuing Education Department is hiring for the following part-time positions:
Electrical Instructor
Welding Instructor
 For more information go to www.victoriacollege.edu and click on Jobs@VC. Equal-Opportunity Institution

Advertising Sales Representative

The Gonzales Inquirer is seeking a motivated individual to assist with advertising sales across our print, digital and social media platforms.
 We are an award-winning weekly community newspaper in Gonzales County, where the fight for Texas Independence began. We are also one of the oldest continually published newspapers in the state with editions dating back to 1860. We publish daily online and have a weekly print newspaper as well as a variety of magazine and special promotional products.
 While we are very proud of our newspaper's history, not to mention the history of our community - we ARE where the phrase, 'Come & Take It' originated - we are also proud of our future and want the right person to help us take our newspaper to the next level.
 We are looking for the right person to sell advertising for us in a full-time position. We offer a competitive performance-based compensation plan, including base pay plus commissions. Successful candidates have good earning potential, plus we also offer top-notch benefits, including health insurance.
RESPONSIBILITIES
 • Partner with businesses within our communities to help them with their advertising, marketing and branding needs
 • Contact businesses via phone and email
 • Provide excellent customer service
 • Collaborate with fellow team members both in-person and virtually
 • Process paperwork
 • Accomplish project and monthly sales goals
 • Build and nurture relationships with customers and potential customers
QUALIFICATIONS
 • Strong verbal, phone and written communication skills
 • Reliable transportation
 • Computer-literate
 • Self-motivated, competitive attitude
 • Experience with Microsoft Office software, in particular Outlook, Word and Excel
 • Comfortable making phone calls to prospective customers
 • Ability to thrive, multi-task and be flexible in a fast-paced, deadline-oriented environment
NICE TO HAVE
 • Business to business sales experience — a plus, but can train the right candidate
 • Use of various social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.)
 • Knowledgeable of Gonzales County and its communities
 The Gonzales Inquirer is part of Fenice Community Media, a progressive group of Texas community newspapers that prefers to promote from within. If you're ready for an exciting job where there's always something new happening, please apply!

622 St. Paul St. • Gonzales, TX 78629
lew.cohn@gonzalesinquirer.com
www.gonzalesinquirer.com

NOW HIRING ELECTRICIAN. Experienced, Journeyman license required. Please call BNM Electric LLC, 830-857-0930 to apply.

CAL MAINE FOODS Inc. Happy Hen location is looking for Shipping and Receiving, Palletizer. Benefits include: Vacation, Sick leave, Hosp. Ins., Dental, Vision, ESOP. Apply in person: Cal-Maine Foods Inc., 1974 CR 283 W, Harwood, Tx 78632. Monday-Friday 7-4.

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

860 WORK WANTED
PLEASE CALL OR message 830-445-9451 if you're needing a personal caregiver/housekeeper. Detailed oriented and very dependable. Available in and around the Gonzales area.

March 23 Puzzle Answers

Last Puzzle Solution

J	A	M	A															
A	L	I	P															
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PARKWOOD APARTMENTS

114 West 10th
 Nixon, TX 78140
 OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays - 9:00am to 3:00pm
 PHONE: 830-582-1343
 Rates Based on Income
 Rental Assistance For Qualified Families of very-low, low, and moderate income applicants.
 CENTRAL HEAT & AIR
 ENERGY EFFICIENT
 LAUNDRY ROOM
 WATER, SEWER & GARBAGE PAID
 HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE UNITS
 Individuals with a disability wishing to request a reasonable accommodation to complete the application process should contact the apartment manager at 830-582-1343.
 Para solicitar un apartamento favor llamar a manager al siguiente numero 830-582-1343. Para solicitar una adaptacion o modificaciones razonables, favor llamar manager al siguiente numero 830-582-1343.
 Personas que hablan español y requieren un interprete, favor llamar a manager al siguiente numero 830-582-1343.
 *This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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950 PUBLIC NOTICES 950 PUBLIC NOTICES 950 PUBLIC NOTICES 950 PUBLIC NOTICES 950 PUBLIC NOTICES 950 PUBLIC NOTICES 950 PUBLIC NOTICES 950 PUBLIC NOTICES 950 PUBLIC NOTICES

Advertisement for Bids City of Gonzales Gonzales, Texas 2022 STREET IMPROVEMENT PLANS

Separate sealed bids addressed to the City of Gonzales (OWNER) clearly labeled "ATTENTION: CITY SECRETARY, 2022 STREET IMPROVEMENT PLANS" will be received at Gonzales City Hall, 820 St. Joseph Street, Gonzales, Texas 78629, until 2:00 o'clock p.m. on Thursday, April 13, 2023, and then publicly opened and read aloud immediately.

This project includes approximately 4,950 SY of pavement milling, installation of approximately 12,375 SY PetroMat and the installation of approximately 12,375 SY of 2" HMAc over entire length and width of project streets (St. Lawrence Street and a small portion of Church Street) and replacement of approximately 2,466 LF of curb & gutter and installation of 1,272 LF of valley gutter and driveway approaches, sidewalks and curb ramps along these streets. This project also includes bid alternates for the installation of several curb inlets and 372 linear feet storm sewer pipe.

The Contract Documents, consisting of Advertisement for Bids, Information for Bidders, Bid Proposal, Bid Bond, Agreement, Performance and Payment Bonds, General Conditions, Special Conditions, Notice of Award, Notice to Proceed, Technical Specifications and Plans, together with any Addenda are available at Doucet & Associates, Inc., 829 St. Joseph Street, Gonzales, Texas 78629, (512)583-2672 and online at <https://www.gonzales.texas.gov/p/government/bidrfp>. Plans, Specifications, and Contract Documents may be examined and purchased for a non-refundable fee of \$50.00, or electronic versions can be obtained upon request free of charge. Please send requests to kschauer@doucetengineers.com.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a cashier's check or certified check upon a national or state bank in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the total actual bid price payable without recourse to the City of Gonzales, or a bid bond in the same amount from a reliable surety company as a guarantee that the bidder will enter into a contract and execute required performance and payment bonds.

The contract shall be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder; however, the right is reserved, as the interests of the OWNER may require, to reject any and all bids, and to waive any informality or minor defects in bids received. Bids may be held by the City of Gonzales for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days from the date of the opening for Bids for the purpose of reviewing the Bids and investigating the qualifications of Bidders, prior to awarding of the Contract.

There will not be a pre-bid conference; however, contractors shall make their own individual site inspections and/or investigations to make themselves aware of existing conditions/issues. Failure to make adequate observations and/or ask questions shall not be grounds for requesting additional work or services. Questions shall be forwarded to J. Keith Schauer, P.E., 829 St. Joseph Street, Gonzales, Texas 78629, (512) 583-2672, kschauer@doucetengineers.com, by 5:00 o'clock p.m. Monday, April 10, 2023.

This project is funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund. Attention is called to the requirements of this funding outlined under Statement Regarding Compliance with the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Interim Final Rule and Final Rule, particularly the requirement of paying not less than the prevailing Davis-Bacon and Related Acts wage rate specified in the contract documents. These rates are minimums to be paid during the life of the contract. It is therefore the responsibility of the Bidder to inform themselves as to the local labor conditions.

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, age or national origin, and other civil rights requirements.

The City of Gonzales is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The City strives 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.

Contractors who apply or bid for an award of \$100,000 or more shall provide the required certification that it will not and has not used Federal appropriated funds to pay any person or organization for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a member of Congress, officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a member of Congress in connection with obtaining any Federal contract, grant or any other award covered by 31 USC 1352.

Conflicts Disclosure Statement. (Sec. 176.003 in Chapter 176 of the Local Government Code)

a. A local government officer shall file a conflicts disclosure statement with respect to a vendor if:

1) The vendor enters into a contract with the local governmental entity or the local governmental entity is considering entering into a contract with the vendor; and

2) the vendor:

I. has an employment or other business relationship with the local government officer or a family member of the officer that results in the officer or family member receiving taxable income, other than investment income, that exceeds \$2,500 during the 12-month period preceding the date that the officer becomes aware that (i) a contract between the local governmental entity and the vendor has been executed; or (ii) the local governmental entity is considering entering into a contract with the vendor;

II. has given to the local government officer or a family member of the officer one or more gifts that have an aggregate value of more than \$100 in the 12-month period preceding the date that the officer becomes aware that: (i) a contract between the local governmental entity and the vendor has been executed; or (ii) the local governmental entity is considering entering into a contract with the vendor; or has a family relationship with the local government officer.

(a-1) A local government officer is not required to file a conflicts disclosure statement if relation to a gift accepted by the officer or a family member of the officer if the gift is: (1) a political contribution as defined by Title 15, Election Code; or (2) food accepted as a guest.

(a-2) A local government officer is not required to file a conflicts disclosure statement under Subsection (a) if the local governmental entity or vendor described by that subsection is an administrative agency created under Section 791.013, Government Code.

b. A local government officer shall file the conflicts disclosure statement with the records administrator of the local governmental entity not later than 5 p.m. on the seventh business day after the date on which the officer becomes aware of the facts that require the filing of the statement under Subsection (a).

City of Gonzales, Keith Schauer, Contracting Officer Representative and Project Engineer, September 8, 2022.

All contractors/subcontractors must have a current SAM registration and all contractors 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.

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed bids will be received by County Auditor Becky Weston, at 427 St. George Street, Suite 302, Gonzales, Texas 78629, until 10:00 a.m., Thursday, April 13, 2023, for the purchase of Concrete, Bid #23-3610 for Gonzales County.

The bids will be publicly opened in the third floor conference room of the Randle Rather Building, 427 St. George Street at 10:00 a.m. on April 13, 2023. This is a one year contract, the term is April 24, 2023 until April 23, 2024. All bids must be in a sealed envelope clearly marked with Bid Name and Opening Date in the lower left-hand corner of the envelope.

Specifications may be obtained from the County Auditor's Office and on the county's web site at www.co.gonzales.tx.us. Bids received after the time and date specified in the specifications will not be considered.

PUBLIC NOTICE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES

The City of Waelder plans to apply for a 2023/2024 (PY) Texas Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) funded by the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA).

Accordingly, the City is seeking to contract with a qualified Engineering Firm (individual or firm) to prepare all preliminary and final design plans and specifications, and to conduct all necessary interim and final inspections. These services are being solicited to assist the City in its application preparation and project implementation of a TxCDBG contract, if awarded, to support the following: TxCDBG Public infrastructure improvements for the City of Waelder.

The City shall receive proposals no later than 1:00 pm on March 10, 2023. The City reserves the right to negotiate with all individuals or firms that submit proposals, as per the Texas Professional Services Procurement Act and the Uniform Grant and Contract Management Standards (as amended).

Section 3 Residents and Business Concerns, Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises, and Women Business Enterprises are encouraged to submit proposals.

The City of Waelder is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity and Section 3 Opportunities Employer.

ADVERTISE! 830-672-2861

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS OIL AND GAS DIVISION

DISTRICT 01
DATE OF ISSUANCE: Mar 24, 2023
NOTICE OF PROTEST DEADLINE: 5:00 PM, Apr 14, 2023
Address: Railroad Commission of Texas
ATTN: Drilling Permit Unit
P. O. Box 12967
Austin, Texas 78711-2967
Fax: (512) 463-6780
Email: SWR37@RRC.TEXAS.GOV

Rule 37 Case No. 0339531
Status/Permit No. 888727

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the WARWICK-ARTEMIS, LLC, [RRC Operator No. 899023] has made application for a spacing exception permit under the provisions of Railroad Commission Statewide Rule 37 (16 Tex. Admin. Code section 3.37). Applicant seeks exception to the LEASE LINE requirement for the AMENDED NEW DRILL permit in Sec. , Bk. , WILLIAMS, A B Survey, A-79, EAGLEVILLE (EAGLE FORD-1) Field, GONZALES County, being 4.4 miles SW direction from MOULTON, Texas.

PURSUANT TO THE TERMS of Railroad Commission rules and regulations, this application may be granted **WITHOUT A HEARING** if no protest to the application is received within the deadline. An affected person is entitled to protest this application. Affected persons include owners of record and the operator or lessees of record of adjacent tracts and tracts nearer to the proposed well than the minimum lease line spacing distance. If you have questions which are specific to the Application or the information set forth in this Notice, please contact the Commission's Drilling Permit Unit at (512)463-6751. If a hearing is called, the applicant has the burden to prove the need for an exception. A Protest should be prepared to establish standing as an affected person, and to appear at the hearing either in person or by qualified representative and protest the application with cross-examination or presentation of a direct case. The rules of evidence are applicable in the hearing. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedure, please contact the Commission's Docket Services Department at (512)463-6848.

IF YOU WISH TO REQUEST A HEARING ON THIS APPLICATION, AN INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE RAILROAD COMMISSION'S AUSTIN OFFICE AT THE ADDRESS, FAX NUMBER, OR E-MAIL ADDRESS SET OUT ABOVE BY Apr 14, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. IF NO PROTEST IS RECEIVED WITHIN SUCH TIME, YOU WILL LOSE YOUR RIGHT TO PROTEST AND THE REQUESTED PERMIT MAY BE GRANTED ADMINISTRATIVELY.

THIS NOTICE OF APPLICATION REQUIRES PUBLICATION

The location and identity of the well is as shown below:

FIELD: EAGLEVILLE (EAGLE FORD-1)

Lease/Unit Name : NICKEL RANCH A2
Lease/Unit Well No. : 2H
Lease/Unit Acres : 1102.33
Nearest Lease Line (ft) : null
Nearest Well on Lease (ft) : 506.0
Lease Lines : 331.0 F S L, 1293.0 F E L
Survey Lines : 352.0 F S L, 1308.0 F E L
Wellbore Profile(s) : Horizontal

Lateral : TH1
Penetration Point Location
Lease Lines: 1823.0 F S L
540.0 F E L

Terminus Location
Lease Lines: 210.0 F W L
1137.0 F N E L
Survey Lines: 6574.0 F S L
5778.0 F W L

Field Rules for ALL fields on the permit application are as follows:

EAGLEVILLE (EAGLE FORD-1) :
Special Rules 330/0, 80.0 acres.
Optional Rules 330/0, 40.0 acres.

This well is to be drilled to an approximate depth of 10000 feet.

If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, Tom Douglass, at (512)495-6300.

YOUR NEWS.

YOUR WAY.

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Gonzales Inquirer

Follow us on Facebook for easy access to The Gonzales Inquirer!

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LOOK!
SEE, ADVERTISING WORKS.
Place your classifieds with
The Gonzales Inquirer
830-672-2861

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR COMMERCIAL SURFACE TREATMENT/RECYCLING FACILITY PERMIT

On March 10, 2023, Waste Facilities, Inc. filed an application with the Railroad Commission of Texas for a COMMERCIAL SURFACE TREATMENT/RECYCLING FACILITY PERMIT to treat solid oil and gas waste for commercial use as reusable product.

The proposed treatment/recycling site is located approx. 3.6 miles south of Smiley, Texas, in the 360 George W Petty, Gonzales County. The proposed disposal site is located on real property owned by Copeland C Trust & Taft Linda Copeland.

Affected persons may protest this application. Protests must be in writing and must be received by the 15th day after the last date of publication of this notice. The last date of publication of this notice is expected to be March 20, 2023, which means protests should be received by April 4, 2023 (15 Days Later).

Protests must be sent to: Technical Permitting Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512-463-3840).

Construction Advertisement and Invitation for Bids

The City of Nixon will receive bids for CDBG-MIT Facility Improvements, GLO Contract No. 22-085-071-D330; Parts 3-6 until 10:00 AM on Thursday, April 20, 2023 at 302 E. Central Ave., Nixon, Texas 78140. The bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at 10:00 AM on Thursday, April 20, 2023 at 302 E. Central Ave., Nixon, Texas 78140.

This is an addendum to the initial invitation for bids.

Bids are invited for several items of work as follows:

1. Renovations to the 8th Avenue Wastewater Lift Station
2. Renovations to the Wastewater Treatment Plant Lift Station
3. Addition of a stationary generator at Water Well No. 6
4. Addition of a stationary generator at the Wastewater Treatment Plant
5. Addition of a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system to the Wastewater Treatment Plant

Bid/Contract Documents, including Drawings and Technical Specifications are on file at BEFCO Engineering, Inc., 485 N. Jefferson, La Grange, TX 78945 (979) 968-6474.

Copies of the Bid/Contract Documents may be obtained by depositing \$100.00 with the Engineer 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. 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 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 race, color, religion, sex, sexual identity, gender identity, or national origin.

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

All contractors/subcontractors must not be debarred, suspended or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in the System for Award Management (SAM.gov).

PLACE YOUR AD ONLINE

Click on the Classifieds tab at www.gonzalesinquirer.com

THEN CLICK

+ Place your ad

ARE YOU ADVERTISING?

In a tight market, keep people thinking about you **NOT THE OTHER GUY**

To advertise, call us at **830-672-2861**

The Gonzales Inquirer

HERE'S MY CARD

Advertising You Can Use

Office: 830-672-3057 Mobile: 830-857-4006

Residential & Commercial
Septic System

A&A Contracting, Inc.
DBA / WALKER PLUMBING

Sales & Service ML# M-8953
123 Bright Street Gonzales, Texas 78629
wwalker0522@gmail.com

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Things I've learned

Hello again, I hope and pray that you are doing (as Billy Crystal would say), simply marvelous. Judging by today's title, you're no doubt waiting for some life altering tidbits of profound wisdom to make life's journey more meaningful, productive, and less stressful as we forge ahead, hoping to dodge some of the obstacles that we'll undoubtedly encounter along the way, resulting in a clearer path to enjoying all of the magnificent pleasures life has to offer. Well, strap yourself in, cause here we go. The most important things that I've positively learned with absolute clarity in over six and a half decades on planet earth are...???

Yep, betcha saw that one coming. However, there are a few things I've managed to glean from this whole experience that have seemed to yield consistent positive results when applied, while others have either failed miserably, falling into the category of "Kids, don't try this at home," or have morphed and changed dramatically with time, and the ever changing situations we encounter. On the very top of positive side of the list is allowing God into my life, and doing the best I'm able to follow scriptural teachings. God's commandments were put in place, not for his benefit, but for ours. Loving God first, and others as ourselves, is what Jesus described to the Pharisees in Matthew 22:36-40 as the



ERIC ESTES
Love, Eric and Eloise

two greatest commandments. By adhering to these, I've been able to have more peace, contentment, strength, joy, forgiveness (not only of others, but myself as well), and happiness than I had ever experienced previously. Something I highly recommend people check into for themselves, if they haven't done so already.

While life definitely has many aspects to it that need to be taken seriously, we shouldn't allow (and I say this because we do have a choice in the matter) the serious side of things to over run us, causing us to implode. In a world full of stressful situations, it's all too easy to get caught up in the current and be swept downstream. While some situations are out of our control, others are not. So, be careful and mindful not to bring unnecessary drama and problems into your life, as most of us have done at one time or another. They too have the ability, not only to rob us of the good things in life, but unfortunately for some, life itself. Life is plenty tuff enough on it's own and doesn't need our help in that department. I don't have enough

fingers or toes to count the times I've been the direct cause of the problems I've had to face and find a way to solve throughout the years...highly not recommended. Just cause April fools day is just around the corner, doesn't mean we have to play the part ourselves!

I would advise to be cautious and smart with your finances during your prime earning years. While overindulging in momentary pleasures is always fun at the time, plan and save for the future, as we never know what tomorrow may bring. Life has a way of surprising us when we least expect it, sometimes good, sometimes not. Also, retirement has an uncanny way of sneaking up on us a lot faster than we thought it would, and things will be much more expensive then, than they are now. Just look at how much things have gone up in the last couple of years due to an unforeseen pandemic. Something we should absolutely learn from, in my opinion. While this life has it's fair share of challenges, it's also a phenomenally awesome experience, and should never be taken for granted. So make time to squeeze those you love, play in the rain, smell a puppies breath, nail someone with a snowball, relax, and enjoy some cold watermelon on a hot summer's day!

Until next time, Love you guys, Eric.

The Lord hath done great things for us

In Psalms 33, "rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous: for praise is comely for the upright." Comely means uncompromising. (I'm not going to allow the devil to talk me out of praising the Lord)

Surprise yourself with gladness. In Psalm 126, When the Lord turned again the captivity of Zion (the church) we were like them that dream. We would say it's too good to be true. Then was our mouth filled with laughter; and our tongue with singing: then said they among the heathen, the Lord hath done great things for them. The Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad, not sad. He turned the captivity of Israel and he's about to do it again. I've got my watch set, He's about to turn it again. I found myself laughing right in the middle of a trial. Didn't look like I could get out of it. When we begin to praise the Lord, He turns our captivity. In some Pentecostal services some folks would see someone laughing and they would say, "Oh that's so cute."

The Lord told me if you only knew what is happening in the spirit realm. Rejoice and again I say rejoice. In Romans 14:17, "For

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See **DROUPY**, page 18

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Efeso Iglesia Bautista Highway 87, Smiley	Union Lea Baptist Church St. Andrew St., Gonzales	New Life Temple for Jesus Christ 16214 US 90 W, Harwood
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First Baptist Church 406 N. Avenue E, Waelder	St. Patrick Catholic Church Waelder	Living Waters Fellowship 306 St. Paul, Gonzales
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Iglesia Bautista Memorial Highway 97, Waelder	Church of Christ E. 3rd & Texas, Nixon	Life Changing Church of Gonzales 3.3 miles north on Hwy 183, right on CR 235, then right on CR 236
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OBITUARIES

BILLIE JEAN BRUNS



Eventually every church family must bear the loss of one of its many matriarchs. There can be no exception, the God loving church family knows this, and strives to celebrate the return of one of their own to God, still, in part, the loss bears heavily on the church family and only time can soothe their pain. These truly exceptional disciples of the church seek no fame or witness to good report, they simply have a need to serve. It has been said, "As the leaders of the church look to the future, it should remember they are standing on the shoulders of the giants that came before them." To be sure every church has its early giants, for the First Methodist Church, one of them was Billie Jean Bruns.

On Monday, March 20, 2023, at the age of 92, Billie Jean Bruns of Gonzales, arm, and arm with Angels, rose swiftly to heaven to meet her beloved husband Harold within the gates of paradise. Hers was a servant's life, a commitment of goodwill to her church, its congregation, and her family, and now working side by side with those that have gone before her, enjoying the enriching work in heaven.

Billie Bruns was born May 19, 1930 in Gonzales to William "Bill" White and Ada "Baby" Keck White. She had graduated from Gonzales High School with the Class of 1948 and married Harold Edwin Bruns on November 19, 1949 in the parsonage of the First Baptist Church. She had been a member of the United Methodist Women, the Methodist Choir, and the First Methodist Church. Billie and Harold were instrumental in establishing the Methodist Church Youth Group's Spaghetti Supper. She and Harold were completely devoted to their church. They car-

centered around God, Church, and Family. Later in life she was rewarded with grandchildren, Harold and Billie drove to Houston once a week to spend a day with their grandsons, clearly, like church, spending time with their grandson was food for their souls. For all she did for her family, for all she meant to her children rise up and call her blessed; Her husband also, and he praises her" Proverbs 31:28.

Billie Jean Bruns is survived by her adoring family, son and daughter-in-law, Thomas Harold and Theresa Bruns of Kingwood, grandchildren, Christopher Thomas Bruns and his wife Carrie of Cypress, Cody Michael Bruns of Kingwood, great grandchildren, Thomas Blake Bruns and Dylan Reid Bruns of Cypress and brother-in-law, Louis Henry Bruns of Luling.

The family will receive friends from 5 to 7 pm Monday, March 27, 2023 in Seydler-Hill Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 10 am Tuesday, March 28, 2023 in the First Methodist Church with Dr. Matt Pennington, and Pastor Andy Smith officiating. Private family interment will follow in Gonzales Memorial Park. Pallbearers: Chris and Cody Bruns, Westley Hensley, Ricky Lester, Jeff Massie, and Ronnie Menking. Honorary pallbearers: Pal Lester, Tom Lester, Emmitt Currie, Steve Slaughter, Johnny Fogle and Dr. Commie Hisey. Memorials may be made to the Methodist Childrens Home, 1111 Herring Ave, Waco, TX 76708. 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.

ried on a popular tradition of coffee and cinnamon toast before Sunday worship services for many years in the church. Her corn casserole was ever present for bereavement meals as were prayers for peace and comfort. Billie was beyond supportive to the youth of the church; she was committed to youth of the church. She collaborated with the spirit of the church to love, protect, and lead its children to the Lord because it is the right thing to do. Billie worked at the First National Bank of Gonzales for over 20 years as a bookkeeper and teller. She loved visiting with the customers and made many lasting friendships there.

Billie largely devoted her life to her son, Tommy. She never missed an athletic or academic event that he was involved in. She lived her life as an example to her family. She worked beside her husband and son in the hay fields, feeding and tending cattle. Rain or shine, hot or cold Billie happily worked alongside her family. Her home kept perfectly in order and breakfast, dinner and supper were ready and delicious every day. Sundays are the Lord's days and Billie saw to it that the family was in church to worship without exception. She was a loving and devoted wife, mother, and grandmother. She earnestly held on to her Christian values that were

FLOYD (PUNK) RICHMOND ROGERS JR.



Floyd (Punk) Richmond Rogers, Jr. passed away at his home on March 22, 2023, in Gonzales TX, with his wife and two daughters by his side. He was born at the old Brackenridge Hospital on January 7, 1931, in Austin TX, to Floyd Richmond Rogers, Sr. and Cleo Belle Guthrie Rogers. He is preceded in death by his parents, his infant daughter Margaret Katherine, his daughter Lisa Marie Rogers Caper-ton, his brother Thomas P. Rogers, his sister-in-law Jo Ellen Rogers, his brother-in-law Dale Ray Roper, and his grandson Matthew Neal Kurtz. He is survived by his wife of 71 years, Anita Jo Roper Rogers, his daughters Lynda Ann Rogers and Tina Jo Rogers Kurtz, his son-in-law Gary G. Kurtz, his sister-in-law Sheila Roper, 5 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Punk attended Metz Elementary and Allen Jr. High in Austin TX. He graduated from Austin High School in 1949. While at Austin High, he played football and ran track. Austin High won the state track meet in 1948. Punk won the 100-yard dash, and at that time set a new state record. He was also a member of the winning record-setting 440-yard relay. After graduation he entered the University of Texas at Austin on a track scholarship. He ran track at Texas for four years and is a member of the T Association.

Punk married his

high school sweetheart Anita Jo on September 8, 1951. After receiving his Bachelor's degree in 1953, he began his teaching and coaching career in Weimar TX. After one year in Weimar, he was offered the head coaching job in Bertram TX. Two years later he was offered the head coaching position at the new Del Valle High School in Austin TX. In 1959 he accepted a teaching and coaching position at the Austin ISD new Johnston High School as an assistant football coach and head track/cross-country coach.

In 1964, Floyd, Anita, and their three daughters moved to Corpus Christi TX to join the staff at Carroll High School, where he was a biology teacher, assistant football coach, and head track/cross-country coach. In 1980 he left football and track to become the head golf coach, a sport he loved all his life. Many hours were spent with family, friends, and students on golf courses. He became the first coach in Corpus Christi ISD to win district championships in six different sports: Boys and Girls

track, Boys and Girls golf, and Boys and Girls cross-country. He was inducted into the Coastal Bend Coaching Association Hall of Fame in 2001 and the Carroll High School Athletic Hall of Fame in 2014. His coaching career spanned 47 years, but his love of coaching and teaching never ended.

In 2000 Floyd and Anita retired to five acres on the Guadalupe River in Gonzales TX, where he used his skills to build whatever Anita asked, mow grass, pick pecans, walk his dogs, and play golf four days a week. They are members of the First Baptist Church in Gonzales, where he sang joyously in the choir and with the Glory Bound Singers.

Punk was a great storyteller and had the gift of making people laugh. He loved his family dearly. He also loved his friends, athletes, and students. Per his wishes, there will be no service or memorial. He will be cremated, and there will be a gathering for family at a date and place to be determined. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Gonzales Dog Adoptions, PO Box 192, Gonzales, Texas, 78629, in memory of Floyd Rogers; or to a charity of your choice. Friends may sign the guestbook and leave condolences by visiting www.seydlerhillfuneralhome.com

Arrangements are under the care and direction of Seydler-Hill Funeral Home 906 St. Paul St., Gonzales, Texas.

ABELARDO R. IBARRA SR.



Abelardo R. Ibarra, Sr., 87, of Waelder, Tx passed away on March 21, 2023. He was born to Domingo and Crescencia Rodriguez Ibarra.

Abelardo is survived by Gloria Ibarra - wife; Gloria Sirilo - daughter; Dora Noyola (Freddie) - daughter; Abelardo Ibarra, Jr. - son; Carol Ibarra - daughter; Adan Ibarra (fiance), Crystal) - son; Mary Esparza - sister; Maria Almaraz - sister; Susan Castro - sister; Linda Cedillo - sister; fourteen grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Abelardo is preceded in death by his parents; five brothers; two sisters and son-in-law, Salvador Sirilo, Jr.

A visitation for Abelardo will be held on Sunday, March 26, 2023 at Smith Funeral Home in Flatonia, Tx from 4-7 PM followed by a rosary being recited at 7 PM. A funeral mass will be held on Monday, March 27, 2023 at St.

Pallbearers are Dylan Ibarra, Dominick Sirilo, Devlin Cedillo, Caleb Ibarra, Christopher Sirilo and Reyes Valdez, III. Honorary pallbearers are David Ibarra Jr, Freddie Noyola, Andrew Esparza, Amador Alvarado, Nick Tovar, Jerry Alvarado, Roque Hernandez and Benny Camarillo.

Fond memories and words of comfort can be shared with the family at www.smithfuneraltx.com

Smith Funeral Home - 128 East 5th Street Flatonia, TX 78941 Phone# 361-865-3311

Janet Cacho Finch passed to her heavenly home on Sunday, March 26, 2023, at the age of 55 years. Janet was born in Manhattan, New York, on October 24, 1967, to Angel Cacho and Flo Maria Lugo.

Janet was very young when she moved to Puerto Rico with her father and was raised there through her teenage years. As a young adult she returned to the United States. She eventually decided to go to mortuary school in Houston, Texas where she met her fellow classmate and future husband, Troy Finch. She and Troy eventually became owners of Finch Funeral Chapels which was one of her proudest accomplishments. She enjoyed spending time with family, cooking, dancing, traveling, and



just hanging out together. Janet will be forever missed by her husband of 33 years, Troy Finch; daughter, Taylor Finch Pavlas and husband Tyler; son, Trevor Finch; parents, Angel Cacho and wife, Miriam; mother, Flor Maria Lugo; siblings, David Cacho and wife Sonia, Richard Cacho and wife Grissel; in-laws, Don and Gladys Finch; brother-in-law, Todd Finch and wife Allison; nieces and

nephews, Richardo Cacho, Benjamin Finch, Claire Finch; numerous other loving relatives and many friends.

There will be a visitation Friday, March 31, 2023, from 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm.

FUNERAL SERVICE
Saturday, April 1, 2023
10:00 AM
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Pastor Terry Davis and Pastor Audrey Hewell will officiate the services with interment following at Nixon Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made in Janet's memory to the Nixon Cemetery Association, PO Box 427, Nixon, TX 78140.

The online guest book can be signed at www.FinchFuneralChapels.com.

FOR ADDITIONAL OBITUARIES, PLEASE SEE PAGE 13

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OBITUARIES

JOSE ANTONIO "TONY" RUIZ ZUNIGA



Jose Antonio "Tony" Ruiz Zuniga passed away Tuesday, March 21, 2023, in The Woodlands, Texas. He was born November 20, 1971, in Cerritos, San Luis Potosi in Mexico to his parents Alvaro Ruiz Rios and Eugenia Ruiz. He began his schooling in Gonzales, Texas in 1982 at North Avenue Elementary. He went on to excel in his academics and was a part of the American Legion Boys State where he represented Gonzales High School. In 1991, he graduated with honors at Gonzales High School and continued at Texas A&M University where he graduated as an Aggie in 1996 with his Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering. As a child, Tony often asked his father what was beyond the mountain that surrounded their hometown in Mexico, his father would respond with, "one day you'll see miijo". Tony saw the other side of that mountain where he traveled the world exploring every place he could in his career with Rah Energy and emissions testing. He was able to

travel and make connections with so many people along the way. Tony's love for travel engaged him to learn about cultures and languages. He had a passion to continue learning what the world had to offer. He traveled all around the United States where he visited 44 of the 50 states. During his international traveling for work many connections were made. His co-workers said, "he didn't collect co-workers, he collected friends". Tony always carried around a good joke and loved making people smile. He had a beautiful relationship with God and shared his love with everyone he encountered. On one of his many pilgrimages, he went to Turkey to the House of the Virgin Mary. Tony loved his work, and he aspired to make the world a better place with cleaner energy where he loved sharing his knowledge on promoting cleaner energy. Amongst his many hobbies and interests, he was also an avid reader. His hunger for knowledge was never fulfilled. Tony is survived by his

parents Alvaro and Eugenia Ruiz, his sister Maria Magdalena Ruiz Smith (Eric), his brothers Alvaro Ruiz, Jr., and Ricardo Ruiz (Alyssa Marie). His niece Triana Elena Oregon, and his nephew Reyden Noah Ruiz.

A visitation will be held at Seydler - Hill Funeral Home on Wednesday, March 29, 2023, from 5:00pm to 7:00pm, with a rosary following at 7:00pm. A Mass of the Resurrection will be held at Sacred Heart Catholic Church on Thursday, March 30, 2023, at 10:00am. Pallbearers include Alvaro Ruiz, Alvaro Ruiz, Jr., Ricardo Ruiz, Eric Smith, Alex Miller, and Ricky Lester.

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

Jose Antonio "Tony" Ruiz Zuniga falleció martes, el 21 de marzo de 2023 en The Woodlands, Texas. El nació el 20 de noviembre de 1971 en Cerritos de San Luis Potosi en México a sus padres Alvaro Ruiz Rios y Eugenia Ruiz. Comenzó sus estudios en Gonzales, Texas en 1982, en la escuela Primaria North Avenue. Continuó sobresaliendo en sus estudios académicos, y formo parte de American

Legion Boys State, donde represento a Gonzales High School. En 1991, se graduó con honores en la Escuela Secundaria Gonzales y continuo en la Universidad Texas A&M, donde se graduó como Aggie en 1996 con su Licenciatura en Ciencias en Ingeniería Química.

Cuando era niño, Tony le preguntaba a su padre qué había más allá de la montaña que rodeaba su ciudad natal en México, su padre respondió: "algún día veras miijo". Tony vio el

otro lado de esa montana donde viajo por el mundo explorando todos lugares que pudo en su carrera de emisiones. Pudo viajar y hacer conexiones con tanta gente en el camino. El amor de Tony por viajar lo comprometió a aprender sobre culturas e idiomas. Le apasionaba seguir aprendiendo lo que el mundo tenia para ofrecer. Viajo por todo Estados Unidos donde visito 44 de los 50 estados. Durante sus viajes internacionales por motivos de trabajo, se hicieron muchas conexiones. Sus amigos de trabajo dijeron, "no recogió compañeros de trabajo, recogió amigos".

Tony siempre contaba un buen chiste y le encantaba hacer sonreír a la gente. Tenía una hermosa relación con Dios y compartió su amor con todos los que encontraba. En una de sus muchas peregrinaciones, fue a Turquía a la Casa de la Virgen María. Tony amaba su trabajo y aspiraba a hacer el mundo un lugar mejor con una energía más limpia donde amaba compartir su

conocimiento sobre la promoción de energía más limpia. Entre sus muchos aficiones e intereses, también era un ávido lector. Su hambre de conocimiento nunca se cumplió.

Le sobreviven sus padres Alvaro y Eugenia Ruiz, su hermana María Magdalena Ruiz Smith (Eric), sus hermanos Alvaro Ruiz, Jr., y Ricardo Ruiz (Alyssa Marie), su sobrina Triana Elena Oregon, y su sobrino Reyden Noah Ruiz.

El velorio se llevará a cabo la Funeraria de Seydler - Hill, miércoles el 29 de marzo de 2023, a las 5:00pm - 7:00pm, en seguida el rosario será empezando a las 7:00pm. La misa de resurrección será en la iglesia Católica Sagrado Corazón Jueves el 30 de marzo de 2023. El entierro seguirá en el panteón de la iglesia Católica St. James. Los portadores del féretro incluye Alvaro Ruiz, Alvaro Ruiz, Jr., Ricardo Ruiz, Eric Smith, Alex Miller y Ricky Lester.

Los servicios están bajo el cuidado y dirección de la Funeraria de Seydler - Hill.

ELLEN MELISSA WEBB LAGING



On March 25, 2023, Ellen Melissa (Webb) Laging of Smiley, Texas passed away into the arms of Jesus, free from pain and severe sickness. Ellen was born on March 4, 1958 in Cuero, Texas to Hugo Morris Webb, Sr. and Agnes Inez (West) Webb. Ellen married Michael Laging on April 16, 1987 in Gonzales, Texas.

Ellen is preceded in death by her father, Hugo Webb; brothers, Morris Webb, and Delbert Webb; niece, Amber Webb; and father-in-law, James Laging.

She leaves behind to cherish her memory her husband of 35 years,

Michael Laging; children, Cody Smith (Dorina), Matthew Lesperance, and Cole Laging; mother, Inez Webb; grandchildren, Calista Smith, Avery Smith, Hazel Smith, Tyler Lesperance, and Abigail

Lesperance; siblings, Karen Lohse, and John Webb (Lisa); mother-in-law, Jeanette Laging; siblings-in-law, Tommy Laging, Kathy Formolo, Patricia Henson, and Glenda Wilke.

On Wednesday, March 29, 2023, a visitation will be held from 10:00am-12:00pm, with the funeral service to begin at 12:00pm, at Finch Funeral Chapel in Nixon, Texas. Burial will follow at Pilgrim Cemetery. Mr. Carlos Pena will be officiant of the services. You are welcome to sign the online guestbook at www.finchfuneralchapels.com. Services in care of Finch Funeral Chapel, Nixon.

SIDNEY E. BROWN



Sidney E. Brown (Sid), 85, of Victoria passed away March 24, 2023. He was born November 1, 1937 in Mason, TX to Wesley Earnest and Treasure Simer Brown. Sidney served in the U.S. Navy during Vietnam and worked as a Lab Analyst for DuPont. He was a member of the Church of Christ, proudly served on the board for Victoria Christian School for 25 years, and enjoyed playing golf.

He is survived by his faithful and loving wife of 56 years, Brenda Brown; daughter, Janell Marie (Brad) Heebsh and their children, Addison and Alexander of Coppell, TX;

son, Brady Scott (Natalie) Brown and their children, Carson, A.J. and Cash of Shiner, TX.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Mary Alice "Candy" Wells; and brother, Wayne Brown and wife, Carol Brown;

infant brother; nephew, Keith Brown; great nephew, Wesley Keith Brown.

A visitation will be held on Wednesday, March 29, 2023 from 1-2 p.m. at Rosewood Funeral Chapel with a Celebration of Sid's life following at 2 p.m. with military honors.

Honorary Pallbearers are Frank Milbee, Dennis Caka, Elgin Heinemeyer, Thomas Daum, Howard Goode, Dr. Fabian Espinosa and Directors and Staff Victoria Christian School.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Victoria Christian School, 3310 N. Ben Jordan, Victoria, TX 77901 or a charity of your choice.

USDA makes grants available to help farmers and ranchers

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Under Secretary Xochitl Torres Small announced that USDA is making \$31 million in grants available under the Value-Added Producer Grants program. The grants help agricultural producers generate

new products, create marketing opportunities and increase their incomes.

USDA is offering priority points to projects that advance key priorities under the Biden-Harris Administration to help rural communities address climate change and environmental justice, advance racial justice, place-based equity, and opportunity, and create market opportunities.

Eligible applicants include independent producers, agricultural producer groups, farmer or rancher cooperatives, and majority-controlled producer-based business ventures.

The maximum award for a planning grant is \$75,000. The maximum award for a working capital grant is \$250,000.

Electronic applications will be accept-

ed via Grants.gov until 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on May 11. Paper applications must be sent to the State Office where the project is proposed. Paper applications must be postmarked and mailed or sent overnight by May 16. Applications also may be delivered in person or emailed to an RD field office by close of business May 16.

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ACROSS

1 Texas-based "The _____ Picture Show"

5 _____ Park, TX

6 a Mike McCarthy design: "game _____"

7 Dallas County namesake (init.)

8 TXism: "in a coon's _____" (long time)

9 took illegal video recordings

16 TXism: "up and _____ juice" (coffee)

17 TX Mark Chesnut's "_____ Have New Names"

19 device inside Texas Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant this Bill founded

21 Texas-based "I Can't Believe It's Yogurt!"

22 former Rio Grande river channels

27 TXism: "neon light _____" (inspiration)

28 creepy term of endearment

29 "Border _____" along the Rio Grande

30 Rockets first round pick in 1990, Alec

32 degree available at a Texas univer.

33 twisters in Texas

36 Tyler is in _____ TX

37 _____ Rio, TX

38 Rangers won first AL _____ in 2010

39 historic Austin hotel built in 1886

41 TXism: "_____ a spell"

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

Copyright 2023 by Orbison Bros.

42 Barbary sheep found in West Texas

45 wallet stuffers

46 TXism: "Texas _____" (oil)

47 TXism: "he _____ barbed wire as dental floss" (tough)

48 TXism: "I'm working without a safety _____"

49 an answer to a test question

52 TXism: "_____ 'nuff"

53 TXism: "the tail _____" (last)

54 one of TX Roy Orbison's labels: "_____ Victor"

55 "Honor _____ Father and Mother"

DOWN

1 TXism: "he couldn't lick his upper _____" (weak)

2 internet provider

3 Carl Sandberg: "Texas is valor and _____"

4 two can take a _____ in the TX wine country

8 "threw everything they had _____"

9 TXism for "satisfied" (3 wds.)

10 DL or SSN

11 this Ray won 1977 Byron Nelson Golf Classic (init.)

12 supermarkets throughout Texas

13 "Gone With the Wind" plantation

14 "top dog" in the Middle East

15 sound loudness measures

16 Jay Gould's railroad car on display in Jefferson, TX

17 aces in blackjack?

18 you can't _____ of Texas in one day

20 "Beware the _____ of March"

21 this Ray won 1977 Byron Nelson Golf Classic (init.)

22 TX Perot (init.)

23 rancher slogan: "_____ More Beef"

24 TXism: "call off the dogs"

25 put in custody

26 TX Dan Rather co-anchored with this Chung for 2 years

28 Lucy's hubby

31 pig fat

34 prosecutor (abbr.)

35 TX B.J.'s "Hooked _____ Feeling"

37 TXism: "mean as a bulldog on a gunpowder _____"

40 TXism: "_____ walking drunk"

43 TXism: "_____ your head for something besides a hat rack"

44 pecan pie, e.g.

50 "night _____" (anytime)

51 dir. from Mineola to Mount Pleasant

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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

Answers found in next week's Classifieds.

HISTORY MADE!

Lady Apaches FC stun Lady Eagles in first bi-district title

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales Lady Apaches FC defeated the Pleasanton Lady Eagles, 1-0, to earn the program's first bi-district title Friday, March 24 in Pleasanton.

The Lady Apaches FC outperformed Pleasanton, outshooting them 14 times all game, and scored the game's lone goal on a shot by sophomore Abigail Reyna.

"We had so many shots in the first half. I knew if we kept kicking them, one was done to go in. And then, that was the one that went in," Reyna said.

Gonzales head coach Shantael Trimm and her coach staff, Daniel Barrientos and Madion Tinsley, told her players from day one the goal was to fill that trophy case.

The Lady Apaches made the playoffs in the past, but never made it past the first round.

"We took them to that trophy case. And we said, 'what is missing?' And they looked at it and we have some soccer trophies in there, but they were the boys, all boys. And I said, 'So what are we going to do this year?' And those girls told me that they were going to go out and be the first ones and they did it," Trimm said.

The defense held the Lady Eagles to only five shot attempts and saves recorded by senior goal keeper Carlee Ramos.

Trimm said her team did "amazingly" on defense and have been working hard at it and especially holding their ground and knowing when to attack the ball.

Ramos said shutting out Pleasanton was a hard thing to do and added her defense "started strong and ended strong."

It was deja vu for Reyna — in a tournament game, the Lady

See **SOCCER**, page 16



PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS

The Gonzales Lady Apaches FC players and coaches embrace with hugs and celebrate their historic season as area finalists Tuesday, March 28 in Hutto against Burnet.

Burnet ends Lady Apaches FC's historic playoff run

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales Lady Apaches FC's historic season came to an end in a 4-0 loss to the Burnet Lady Bulldogs in Hutto Tuesday, March 28.

The Lady Apaches FC made history this season, finishing with a winning district record (7-2-3) for first time since the 2017-18 season and brought home the program's first bi-district title with a win over Pleasanton.

"We are so proud of these girls. They fought their hearts out all season long. We had some crazy bumps in the road and they bounced back after every single one of them," Lady Apaches FC head coach Shantael Trimm said.

Trimm told her players the goal was to get that first trophy for the program and they did it, she said.



Gonzales' Brenda Gonzales (8) and Yazmin Barrientos (15) go after the ball for the Lady Apaches FC against the Burnet Lady Bulldogs in the Area Playoffs.

See **PLAYOFFS**, page 16

La Vernia beats Lady Apaches with walk-off single

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales Lady Apaches and the La Vernia Bears squared off Wednesday, March 22 in the district opening game for both squads in La Vernia.

The Lady Apaches and the Lady Bears exchanged blows in a back-and-forth battle, but La Vernia came out on top, 8-7, with a walk-off RBI single in the bottom of the seventh.

Gonzales head softball coach Michelle Uribe is proud of her team's late rally towards the end of the game in the district opener.

"They played with so much heart. They did so many things that we've been working on — it was phenomenal. I couldn't be more proud. The only thing that would have been better is if the score was flip-flopped," Uribe said.

The Lady Apaches scored in five of the seven innings and tied the game in the top of the seventh with a two-RBI double by Peyton Springfield.

"I knew that we had it in us. I knew that we could go all the way and take them and unfortunately, we're on the short end of this one, but I can't wait till they come to our place," Uribe said.

Uribe said Springfield gets ahold of big plays sometimes and she did it.

"We were talking about only swinging at good pitches and she was being patient with her at-bat. She was on time and she just finally got ahold of one, which felt great to be able to score

See **SOFTBALL**, page 15



VANDY VAN EPPS

Lady Apaches FC's Abigail Reyna battles Pleasanton's Kara Medina for control of the ball in the bi-district playoff game. Reyna scored the games only goal for Gonzales and clinched the programs first bi-district title.

Apaches baseball falls to La Grange

STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Apaches varsity baseball team played their last non-district game on the road against the La Grange Leopards Wednesday, March 22.

The Apaches fell to the Leopards, 6-1, but it was a solid match throughout the game and will give them some momentum heading to their district series against Navarro, according to their Twitter page.

Gonzales will face the Panthers in game two of their series in Seguin Friday, March 31 on the road.



TOP: The Gonzales Lady Apaches stand in line for the national anthem before the district opener against the La Vernia Bears, Wednesday, March 22. ABOVE LEFT: Senior Amaya Rodriguez at bat for the Lady Apaches. ABOVE RIGHT: Gonzales senior pitcher Kamrynn Zella throws a pitch in the district opener. RIGHT: The Gonzales Lady Apaches in the huddle as they square off against La Vernia in the district opener.

PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS





CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

The Nixon-Smiley Mustangs powerlifting team at the THSPA state meet in Abilene. L to R: Vanessa Kirby, Cesar Vazquez, Oscar Acosta, Kevin Zavala, and head powerlifting coach Paul Kirby.

POWERLIFTING

Mustangs finish strong in state meet

SPECIAL TO INQUIRER

This past weekend, Mustang Powerlifting competed in Abilene at the Texas High School Powerlifting State Championship Meet. We had three lifters qualify and compete in their respective weight classes.

We started the day by learning our senior, Kevin Zavala, was awarded the \$1,000 Region IV, Division III scholarship. Only one per division in each region is awarded and the lifter is nominated by their head coach. He will use this scholarship to continue his powerlifting career as he has signed with UTSA powerlifting for the fall of 2023.

The results of the state meet are listed below:

- Cesar Vazquez competed in the 114 lbs weight class with 65 lifters making it to the regional level in division three. He finished 18th in the state with a 320 lbs squat (PR), 150 lbs bench press, and 315 lbs deadlift (PR) with a total of 785 lbs on the day.

- Oscar Acosta competed in the 148 lbs weight class with 69 lifters making it to the regional level in division three. He finished with a tie for 5th place in the state but lost the tie due to body weight which landed him in 6th place. He had a 500 lbs squat (PR), 325 lbs bench press and 465 lbs deadlift with a total of 1290 lbs (PR) on the day.

- Kevin Zavala competed in the 275 lbs weight class with 63 lifters making it to the regional level in division



Nixon-Smiley senior Kevin Zavala (middle) receives a \$1,000 scholarship for Region IV Division III from the THSPA. L to R: Vanessa Kirby, Kevin Zavala and head powerlifting coach Paul Kirby.

three. He finished 13th in the state with a 625 lbs squat, 345 lbs bench press, and a 485 lbs deadlift (PR) with a total of 1455 lbs on the day. Kevin ended his two-year lifting career with Mustang Powerlifting at this meet and showed an improvement of 490 pounds since his first powerlifting meet last year. We expect nothing but great things

from him and his future endeavors at UTSA.

The 2023 powerlifting season has come to an end but our lifters have continued to train and work hard in the weight room to better themselves for their fall sports and next year's powerlifting season. Our program has come leaps and bounds in the last two years and it is something that I will

forever be proud to lead and be a part of. It would not be possible without the support that we have received from our district, admins, students, parents, and community. So I thank all of you for allowing this program to grow and succeed in the way that it has. The future for Mustang and Lady Mustang Powerlifting is extremely bright.

Gonzales' Barr brings home silver medal in state powerlifting

—STATE POWERLIFTING STATS—

Squats: 520 pounds
Bench: 330 pounds
Deadlift: 510 pounds

STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Apaches powerlifting team brought home hardware from the state powerlifting meet Friday, March 24 in Abilene.

Jessiah Barr finished as a state runner-up with a total of 1,360 pounds, setting new personal records in squats with 520 pounds and the bench press with 330 pounds.



CONTRIBUTED

Jessiah Barr brings home the silver medal in the THSPA state powerlifting meet in Abilene.

—STATS—

WP; Mady Velasquez 7 IP; 9K; 9 BB; 2 H Velasquez 2-3; 3 R; 1 SB Hailee Houseton 1-3; 1 R; 1 RBI Kendall Amaya 1 R; 2 RBI Mary Kate Garcia 1-3; 1 RBI Emily Granados 2-3; 1 RBI Nichole Ivey 1-3 Cecilia Villasana 1-3 Record: 15-7, 2-0

SOFTBALL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

some runs," Uribe said.

The La Vernia loss didn't feel negative, but more positive, and it'll fuel Gonzales' passion heading into the San Antonio Memorial game, Uribe said.

"I hope it fuels our fire. And I think it showed the potential that we have and

I hope that we believe in ourselves and can start to upset some teams as we keep going on this road," Uribe said.

District play has just begun and Uribe is excited and pumped about the next set of games and believes her team is going to do some great things this season, she said.

"I want to beat Memorial. I think we can on Friday and then we've got some tough road games with Navarro and Cuero next week, so we'll be put to the test and we'll see how we come out," Uribe said.

The Lady Apaches beat the San Antonio Minutewomen, 11-1, Friday, March

24, and fell to Navarro Lady Panthers Tuesday, March 28 in extra innings on the road, 9-8.

Gonzales will travel to Cuero to face the Lady Gobblers in a US 183 rivalry match up Friday, March 31.

First pitch is set for 7 p.m.

Mustangs mauled by Cougars, 5-1

STAFF REPORT

The Nixon-Smiley Mustangs traveled to San Antonio Tuesday, March 28 to face the Cole Cougars in their third district game of the season.

The Mustangs fell to the Cougars, 5-1, extending their losing streak to two games.

Nixon-Smiley and Cole kept the game close in three innings and went scoreless in the fourth, but the Cougars took control of the game, scoring in the bottom of the fifth and sixth innings.

The Mustangs will get back to work on the road against the Luling Eagles Friday, March 31.

First pitch is set for 7 p.m.

Marion stalls 'Stangs, 13-2, in district tilt

STAFF REPORT

The Nixon-Smiley Mustangs had their two-game win streak snapped in a 13-2 loss to the Marion Bulldogs at home on Friday, March 24.

Mustangs pitchers Orlando Flores, Tyler Barillet, and Kristopher Kitchens combined to strike out eight Marion batters.

Seniors Sebastian Ortiz and Brayden Martinez each knocked in one run and Martinez recorded a triple.

Flores, Kitchens, Barrillet, Martinez, and Tristen Mikeish recorded a hit in the loss to Marion.

The Mustangs traveled to San Antonio Tuesday, March 28 and faced Cole.

Nixon-Smiley will travel to Luling Friday, March 31 to face the Eagles for their fourth district game of the season.

Lady Mustangs beat Marion, improve to 2-0 in district

STAFF REPORT

The Nixon-Smiley Lady Mustangs improved to 2-0 in district play with their 5-2 win over the Marion Lady Bulldogs Friday, March 24 at home.

The Lady Mustangs recorded eight hits against Marion and scored five runs.

Nixon-Smiley pitcher Mady Velasquez struck out nine Marion batters in the win on Friday.

The Lady Mustangs faced San Antonio Cole on the road on Tuesday, March 28.

Nixon-Smiley will travel to Luling Friday, March 31 for its fourth district game of the season.

GOLF SCRAMBLE WINNERS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

The winning team from the March 22 Golf Scramble at Independence Golf Course in Gonzales were, from left, Raul Contreras, Kyle Day, Ryan Lee, Roy Staton and Adam Staton.



The second-place team from the March 22 Golf Scramble at Independence Golf Course in Gonzales were, from left, Dee Barrington, Glenda Kessler, Bill Kessler, Ron Darilek, Ronnie DuBose and Billy Hyman.



PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS

The Gonzales Lady Apaches FC celebrates their bi-district title in Pleasanton's goal Friday, March 24.

SOCCER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

Apaches FC shut out Pleasanton in the preseason. Abby was the one that scored our goal that got us that victory. She finished by getting that victory against the same team," Trimm said.

"We very first played Pleasanton in the preseason. Abby was the one that scored our goal that got us that victory. She finished by getting that victory against the same team," Trimm said. The Lady Apaches FC will head to area round for the first time in the program's history against the Burnet Lady Bulldogs.

Trimm hoped the win against Pleasanton gives her team motivation in the next round.

"I think these girls



The Gonzales sideline erupts in celebration as the Lady Apaches FC clinches their first bi-district title in a 1-0 victory over the Pleasanton Lady Eagles Friday, March 24.

just proved that they could do it. And they're gonna go in knowing that they continue to do

it that they continue to rock and that they can continue to dominate," Trimm said.

Gonzales traveled to Hutto for the are match against Burnet Tuesday, March 28.

PLAYOFFS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

"We made it into playoffs with a solid spot, not just like a kind of 'barely made it,' we were solid. We made it past that first round. That's never happened either. So I mean they have broken some records this year," Trimm said.

Trimm was proud to have senior group lead by Carlee Ramos, Nancy Nino, Lucero Govea, Maria Vazquez, Brenda Gonzales, Belen Leon and Ashley Rosas to lead the charge of this historic season.

"I inherited just the most kind-hearted group of girls you could ask for and we wanted this as a team. We wanted this to be their send-off with an awesome season. Something that they will have their names on that will stay in that school and be a legacy from now forward," Trimm said.

Despite the loss, Ramos played hard against in her final game with the team, earning seven saves against Burnet to close out her senior year.

"We've honestly worked so hard for this moment. And honestly, we took out our number one competition in district and from there on, we were just set on high standards," Ramos said.

Ramos said this historic season couldn't have been done without her teammates.

"They're my favorite people and I love them. It's probably been the best season I've had all year," Ramos said.

Nino said it was a special season for her team and appreciated

the school district for the send-off the girls got the morning before the area match.

"I feel like out of all my seasons, we've always had those chances, but we never took them like we just gave up. I felt like this year the team just like came out of nowhere and we showed that we could actually do something and we actually did," Nino said.

Ramos and Nino's leadership will be missed next season. They already seeing future leaders of the team emerge as the season progressed.

"I definitely can already see some leaders growing. I think that they'll just own up to it and take my place honestly, and I hope they do," Ramos said.

"I hope that they really lead the next team and the next team after that up to even farther than we made it," Nino said.

Trimm is excited for next year's team and her team have the motivation entering in 2023-24 season.

"I think that these girls prove to themselves that they are champions and that they can do it, and no matter who counts us out; no matter who doesn't think that we're good enough to make a whether it's the other team or whoever," Trimm said.

"They prove it to themselves and so I think they're gonna come back with a fire in their belly and they're hungry for more," Trimm concluded.

The Gonzales Lady Apaches FC finished their season as area finalist.

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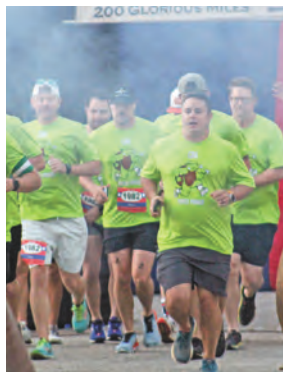


INDEPENDENCE RELAY KICKS OFF



PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS

Relay racers from across the United States arrived in Gonzales Saturday, March 25 for the Texas Independence Relay. The relay races is composed of 36 relays that kicks off in Gonzales where Texas Independence started and ends in Houston, Texas.



GCSO, Fayette County search for truck thieves following pursuit

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

Gonzales County and Fayette County sheriff's deputies are searching for an unknown number of occupants who fled the scene after crashing a stolen pickup truck in a wooded area following a pursuit Tuesday, March 21.

At about 11:25 p.m. Tuesday, a Fayette County Sheriff's sergeant initiated a traffic stop on Interstate 10 westbound near Flatonia of a 2017 silver Ford F-250 pickup that apparently bore a license plate belonging

to a different vehicle that is white in color. That's because the vehicle had a fictitious plate and had been stolen out of Brazoria County.

The vehicle did stop, but as the officer approached the truck, it sped off down I-10 and a pursuit began. Gonzales County Sheriff's dispatchers were notified about the chase as it was coming into Gonzales County. The pickup then exited I-10 at Exit 653 and turned eastbound on US Highway 90, continuing along county roads until it entered a gate on a property off County Road 420. The truck crashed into a tree in

a wooded area and an unknown number of subjects jumped out and fled on foot. GCSO deputies responded to the scene and began a search but were unable to locate the individuals. It is believed the vehicle, which was recovered, was being used for human smuggling and the passengers were undocumented aliens.

Deputies do not believe the subjects were armed or dangerous, but asked residents in the area of County Road 420 to be on the lookout for anyone suspicious and to contact GCSO at 830-672-6524.

SALARY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the \$85,000 range and many of them are into the 90s for their starting lawyers.

"Probably what is causing the problem here is the big cities are having a hard time getting ahold of attorneys, so they've all raised their salaries. San Antonio is almost over \$100,000 for entry level attorneys. I can't compete with that."

Watkins said while his office really needs to have four attorneys, including himself, handling cases, it is imperative that they get a third person in the office as soon as possible.

"We can't work without the third; we cannot get the job done," he said. "So I'm asking for a \$10,000 addition to that salary so that I can put it out that it's \$85,000 and hopefully get somebody to come in."

"The other option is to start prioritizing what cases we're going to do and neither David nor I want to do that — that's not what we are supposed to do. But, as you well know, you can't get four people's work out of two."

Watkins said he is "not even sure that \$85,000 is going to be sufficient, but I don't want to come in and ask for something that actually puts them in competition with my first assistant." Smith is making \$92,000 and there is some leeway in the budget that would allow Watkins to raise his salary to as much as \$95,000 if necessary.

Watkins said his former second assistant attorney, Jessica Rabena, left Gonzales County a month ago for Hays County because they were offering her an additional \$20,000 to \$25,000 above the \$74,000 she was making in Gonzales County and he didn't blame her for wanting to make a bigger salary.

"We've tried everything that we can think of to find candidates and the only thing I can do is ask you to fund (the position) at a level that gives me at least a chance to hire somebody to come to work for us,"

Watkins said he has advertised the second assistant position on the Texas District and County Attorneys Association website as he has in the past, but "we didn't get anybody from that website and that's where we've always gotten our candidates."

"We put it on the bulletin boards on that internet for every single law school in Texas," Watkins added. "That was done three weeks ago and we have not had a single application yet."

Watkins added that in the next budget cycle, he'll have to do something about Smith's salary because "he's already had offers making a lot more than we're paying him."

"I think some of it is a loyalty issue and some of it is he likes working here. It's a lot slower than working in a big city. He's done that before, but he's still at the very low end for first assistants."

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<https://www.gonzales.texas.gov/p/departments/main-street/main-street-events/2023-city-wide-garage-sale>

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INQUIRER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

This year will be the 170th anniversary of the first issue published. In 1884, Henry Reese Jr., originally an apprentice, became a junior partner. The Reese family owned the paper for nearly 100 years.

In 1991, the paper was sold to Granite Publications. It is now owned by Fenice Community Media. Although the paper is no longer owned and run by the Reese family, the publisher, reporters and staff still feel like family. They work together, have fun together and love being with one another.

Lew Cohn, publisher, has been with the Gonzales Inquirer since September 2021. He loves that due to the nature of the business, he is involved in so much of the community. His favorite part is talking to people, meeting people, hearing their story and translating that into the written word. This is chronicling history. History has been recorded with this paper every week for 170 years. They are making history and printing history.

Sanya Simmons, the office

manager, is the most veteran of the bunch. She has been off and on with the paper since she graduated in 1980. Apart from reporting, she has done just about everything there is to do. From graphic design to paper delivery, she loves her job and has passion for this community.

Vandy Van Epps has been a staff writer for the paper since May 2022. Vandy enjoys covering the sports, speaking with the athletes, and seeing them improve in their respective sports seasons. Being able to interview the kids and getting them to comment on their games is a great asset to the paper.

Seaborn Roundtree assists in all circulation capacities, getting the printed paper delivered and into the hands of the subscribers.

Additional freelance contributing writers include Clayton Kelly and Betty Cohn.

Some great advice from the Gonzales Inquirer team:

“Don’t get into journalism expecting to get a big paycheck. It’s not about the paycheck;

it’s about the love of what you are doing. If you love talking to people, if you love writing, if you love telling a story, if you love history, then journalism is a great career. It will pay the bills, but more importantly you can feel rewarded. You can go home at night knowing that you have played a part in your community. As part of a journalism team, you don’t just cover one thing, you are a jack or jill of all trades in that role.”

While the Gonzales Inquirer may only have about one year of their publications stored on site, the biggest archive of papers can be found on microfilm at the Robert Lee Brothers Jr. Memorial Library.

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DROUPY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

the Kingdom of God is not meat and drink, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost.”

I want to let the devil know, he’s not winning, I’m going to rejoice. I’ve got to take care of some business. I want to let God know, I’ve got faith in His mercy. I heard Dad Hagin say: “Most of my rejoicing is when I’m having the most difficult time. I don’t wait until everything looks good. Right in the middle of a trial is when I do my rejoicing and my shouting and laughter.

James says, Count it all joy when you fall into a bad situation. He goes on and says when you are under challenges count it all joy and rejoice. That means you have more than one problem, knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. Your faith works best when your joy is on high.

Smith Wigglesworth says this, “laughter laughs at all impossibilities.”

When you’re happy and laugh, your organs work the best, If you only knew what happens in the Spirit when you rejoice. Our celebration is a demonstration of that triumph.

In the first fifteen years of Dad Hagin’s meetings he taught faith and healing and the last fifteen years the Lord told him: I want you to do some Holy Ghost meetings because there’s a move of the Holy Ghost that will be lost to this generation unless we are taught.

Jesus said to Dad Hagin, every church does not want these meetings. A lot of churches say they want the Holy Spirit, but they don’t want the Holy Spirit to demonstrate.

I think they got the Holy Ghost tied up and gagged

somewhere in the basement because if he ever got loose, He’s the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead.

In 1999 Brother Hagin had gone to St. Louis for a Holy Ghost outpouring. He laid hands on a bunch of preachers that came from all parts of the United States. The anointing of God came on him and he told the pastors: I want you to carry that anointing. It’s measurable, sometimes it’s 100 percent. I won’t even have to touch you. He would just walk by and that anointing would come on those and they would fall. I’ve been in those services. I saw a man rejoicing in the Spirit. He had his eyes closed, another man who had the Holy Ghost on him touched him in the belly. That man jumped up from the floor into that seat and turned around and around and did not fall off that chair. What is this for? While you are rejoicing, the Lord is working at your home. He’s turning your captivity, moving upon folks you do not know, to bring blessings to you. God can work through the lost to bring them to Christ because you were obedient to allow the Holy Ghost to work through you. We need this in our churches today, more than ever. God not only wants to heal but set them free from satanic bondage.

One of the first things you do when you’re under attack is laugh at the devil, ha ha, and resist him and he will flee from you as in terror. When Jesus is lifted up out of your mouth the devil’s not running from you, he sees Jesus blood all around you. Walk in Victory. Jesus is Lord. Dennis Droupy

BINGO

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

each at the door on the day of the event.

A favorite for many in Gonzales County, this fundraiser features multiple rounds of bingo played for high-end designer purses which are first “modeled” by local first responders — firefighters, police officers, EMTs and others who strut their stuff down the runway to entice attendees to tip them extra dollars that are collected for the Gonzales Regional Children’s Advocacy Center, better known as Norma’s House.

There are also door prizes, a silent auction and a beer and wine cash bar — plus “the voice

of Gonzales” himself, Egon Bartheles, serves as emcee and keeps things lively and fun.

Last year’s event raised more than \$55,000 for Norma’s House, a record amount, according to executive director Deane Parsley-Novosad, who has sent out a request for local businesses and individuals to donate the following items to help make the event successful:

- designer purses and “bling” jewelry items for Bingo or silent auction items.
- silent auction and door prizes
- monetary donations for refreshments and other expenses
- bottled water

• bottles of wine
Norma’s House has been serving Gonzales County for 24 years and is one of 70 children’s advocacy centers in the state. It is a place where children and families affected by sexual and physical abuse can come for help and hope, tell their stories and receive services to start them on the road to recovery and justice. Last year, with the community’s help, more than 420 local children were served through Norma’s House.

For more information about how to help donate or to help Norma’s House, call 830-672-1278.

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