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Vol. 173, No. 1

Thursday, May 29, 2025

The Gonzales Inquirer

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Murder trial defendant Russell bonds out of jail

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

A woman accused of fatally shooting her ex-husband nearly three years ago as well as wounding a second person in a separate incident has made bond and is out of jail as she awaits trial.

Carol Denise Hunt Russell, 58, was released Thursday, May 22, on $250,000 bond from the Victoria County Jail, where she was being held for Gonzales County on charges of murder and aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

She is accused of shooting to death Jesse Hunt Russell

See **RUSSELL,** page 5

WAELDER PRESENTS 2025 GRADUATES



LEW K. COHN

Salutatorian Carol Gutierrez De la Rosa returns to her seat while valedictorian Fabiola Mendez Botello gets up to speak at the Waelder High School graduation Saturday, May 24 at the high school gymnasium. For more photos, see page 12.

HONORING THE FALLEN





Flags were lowered to half-staff at the Gonzales County Veterans Memorial and names of veterans killed in action were read aloud by Larry Mercer, center, David Tucy and Albert Rodriguez on Monday, May 26. See more photos on page 5.

LEW K. COHN

Strom appointed to District 4 council seat

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Gonzales City Council appointed Harold Strom on Tuesday, May 27, to fill the vacant District 4 council seat until the May 2026 election during a special called meeting.

Three of the four current councilmembers — Mayor Isaac Anzaldua, District 1 Councilmember Joseph "Poochy" Kridler and District 3 Councilmember Lorenzo Hernandez — were present for the meeting. All three voted in favor of Strom, who was then sworn into office by City Secretary Kristina Vega.

The reason for the vacancy in the District 4 seat was the successful recall of former District 4 Councilmember Ronda Miller during the May 3 election after a group of residents had filed a petition to seek her removal from office.

On Tuesday night, the council held closed session interviews for about an hour with two candidates: Strom and

See **STROM,** page 16

1 SECTION
16 PAGES

GONZALES HIGH SCHOOL'S CLASS OF 2025





FLASHES BY LOR PHOTOGRAPHY

Gonzales High School valedictorian Kilee Schwausch, left, and salutatorian Eric Leal Ascencio address the graduating class of 2025 during graduation ceremonies at Apache Field on Friday, May 23. For more photos, see pages 14 and 15.

Two – and more – for Texas!

Legacy in Lights brings together impressive crew with Lone Star State ties

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

Historical accuracy will be a big factor when it comes to bringing the story of Gonzales to life for the immersive Texas Legacy in Lights experience that begins filming at a nearby ranch next month.

A highly experienced and impressive crew has been brought on board by director and native Gonzalean John Franklin Rinehart to

See **LEGACY,** page 13

Ottine Mineral Springs opens June 1, reviving historic landmark

New wellness destination will offer chilled mineral pools for summer respite

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

A treasured natural retreat returns to the Texas landscape as Ottine Mineral Springs opens to the public on June 1. Formerly known as Warm Springs, the 40-acre site located in Ottine, Texas, has undergone a historic restoration and redevelopment to create a year-round well-

See **OTTINE,** page 16



COURTESY/OTTINE MINERAL SPRINGS

Opening to the public on Sunday, June 1 is Ottine Mineral Springs — a peaceful sanctuary of healing and tranquility where patrons can soak in the fresh air, soothing sun and year-round mineral pools, revered for their therapeutic benefits for generations.

GHS SENIORS HONOR SUPPORTIVE EDUCATORS



COURTESY/GISD

Earlier this month, the Gonzales ISD Education Foundation hosted a special banquet recognizing the teachers and mentors who have made a lasting impact on the Top 10% of the Gonzales High School Class of 2025. At this unique event, each top-ranking senior selected one educator who played a significant role in their academic journey — someone who inspired, supported, and guided them along the way.

LCRA to offer two $100K grants

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Lower Colorado River Authority is increasing the amount of money available for community grants over the next fiscal year and plans to award two $100,000 grants to commemorate the grant program's 30th anniversary.

The new $100,000 grants will be in addition to the grants of up to $50,000 LCRA awards twice a year for projects such as improving community centers, fire stations and sports fields, and providing new gear to first responders. The two $100,000 grants will be offered only during LCRA's 2026 fiscal year, which runs from July 2025 to June 2026.

LCRA established its community grants program in October 1995 and awarded its first grants in March 1996. Since then, the grant program has awarded 2,137 grants totaling more than $54 million.

"We are so proud to support projects in communities throughout our service territory with our grant program," LCRA General Manager Phil Wilson said. "These two $100,000 grants are to celebrate the thousands of grants we've awarded over the years and help with two substantial community projects."

One $100,000 grant will be awarded after the July application period, and the second will be awarded next year after the January application period.

"Our goal is to support the Texans we serve," Wilson said. "Thanks to this program, volunteer fire departments across the area have new trucks, museums have roofs that don't leak and community centers have commercial-grade kitchens that can enable them to host events and serve as emergency shelters. The grants assist with lights for ball fields, safety equipment for first responders and so much more, and we look forward to the next 30 years of supporting communities."

LCRA awards community grants twice a year to tax-exempt nonprofits such as volunteer fire departments, emergency responders, museums, civic groups and libraries, as well as local governments, schools and hospitals. The grants are not available to individuals, for-profit entities, professional associations, social service projects or limited-use facilities.

Applications for the next round of grants will be accepted online at www.lcra.org/grants beginning July 1 and must be submitted by midnight July 31. The second grant application period of the fiscal year will open in January.

Applicants requesting more than $5,000 in grant funding must supply matching funds of at least 20% of the total project cost. The projects must benefit or be available to an entire community and improve the value of a capital asset through building, renovating or purchasing equipment.

Projects located in all or part of the following counties are eligible for the community grants: Aransas, Austin, Bandera, Bastrop, Blanco, Brown, Burleson, Burnet, Caldwell, Callahan, Cameron, Coke, Coleman, Colorado, Comal, Concho, Coryell, Crane, Crockett, Culberson, DeWitt, Dimmit, Eastland, Ector, Edwards, Fayette, Gillespie, Goliad, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Hamilton, Harris, Hays, Hidalgo, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, Kimble, Kinney, Lampasas, Lavaca, Lee, Llano, Mason, Matagorda, Maverick, McCulloch, Medina, Menard, Midland, Mills, Nolan, Nueces, Pecos, Real, San Patricio, San Saba, Schleicher, Starr, Sterling, Sutton, Taylor, Terrell, Tom Green, Travis, Upton, Uvalde, Val Verde, Waller, Washington, Wharton, Williamson and Zavala.

Visit www.lcra.org/grants for information on eligibility requirements and to submit an application.

For more information, email grants@lcra.org or call 800-776-5272, ext. 3140 or ext. 1627.

LCRA board approves business, capital plans for 2026

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The LCRA Board of Directors on Wednesday approved a business plan of $591.4 million and authorized capital investments of about $1.63 billion for energy, water and public service projects to support Texas in fiscal year 2026.

The Lower Colorado River Authority is the primary wholesale provider of electricity in Central Texas and manages the lower Colorado River and six Highland Lakes. LCRA Transmission Services Corporation is one of the largest electric transmission service providers in Texas.

"Our business and capital plans outline how LCRA plans to meet the tremendous growth in Texas and tackle the unprecedented challenges and opportunities that come with it," said Stephen F. Cooper, chair of the Board of Directors. "LCRA is proud to serve our growing region by proactively anticipating and responding to growth."

Capital projects include power generation and infrastructure improvement, dam rehabilitation, and water supply projects, as well as projects for LCRA's park system. As one of the largest public power providers in the state, LCRA provides power for electric cooperatives and small towns in Central Texas by selling wholesale electricity through long-term contracts with retail utilities.

LCRA is helping meet the increasing need for reliable, dispatchable power in Texas by building two electric generating units at LCRA's natural gas-fired peaker Timmerman Power Plant in Caldwell County. The first unit is expected to be online later this year.

LCRA TSC plans to invest about $5.9 billion over the next five years to build new transmission facilities and improve existing ones. LCRA TSC will undertake numerous projects to increase reliability, meet existing and projected needs for electricity, and connect new electric generators to the state's power grid. In addition, under authority from the Texas Legislature, LCRA is implementing new ways to help connect people to broadband services by using excess capacity in LCRA's fiber infrastructure.

On the water side, LCRA is taking significant actions to conserve and extend the region's water supplies, as well as developing new regional water supply projects. LCRA's biggest project underway is the Arbuckle Reservoir in Wharton County, the first significant new water supply reservoir in the lower Colorado River basin in decades and the first water storage facility LCRA has downstream of the Highland Lakes. Arbuckle is expected to be online later this year.

LCRA plans to invest about $159.5 million over the next five years for the development of new water supply projects and will invest about $44.4 million in dam rehabilitation projects –

See **LCRA,** page 5

Retired teachers group meets at Crystal Theater

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Gonzales County Retired Teachers held their May meeting on Tuesday, May 6 at the Crystal Theater with two guest speakers.

First was Barbara Crozier of the Crystal Theater. She provided a tour of the theater and gave updates on what is happening at the Crystal. Scholarships are given so donations are always welcome!

Second was Joe Ramirez, District 13 President of the Texas Retired Teachers Association. His schedule allowed him to join us at this meeting. He stated that he hadn't been on a stage since 1950 something! Mr. Ramirez brought our group up to date on happenings in our District 13 and in the legislature.

A boxed lunch was also provided by our local unit from Come & Crepe It.

The next meeting will be July 15th back at Abiding Word Lutheran Church. The program will be a "Memorial Service for Deceased Members."



CONTRIBUTED/GCRTA

The GCRTA Executive Committee met May 21 at Abiding Word Lutheran Church. Pictured from left are Robin Finch, Cheryl Meadows, Debbie Lewis, Diane Halliburton, Arline Rinehart-Schacherl and Darvin Dieringer. Not pictured was Fayerene Smith. Programs for the 2025-2026 meetings were discussed. Topics/speakers agreed upon and will be contacted. The committee is utilizing ideas from other District 13 Chapters to promote GCTRA. Coolies, rack cards and a banner have been designed and will be available in the upcoming school year.

WAELDER CITY SERVICES

COURTESY/CITY OF WAELDER

City of Waelder was able to save somewhere between $17,000 and $25,000 for the taxpayers, thanks to the dedicated water utility staff who voluntarily undertook the TxDOT/CivilCorp-mandated project involving Culvert #3 and Culvert #4 by independently managing the implementation and relocation of a new underground water pipeline. "Your commitment and initiative reflect the forward-thinking direction and values of our city," City Manager Paul Zepeda said.

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Celebrations

Birthdays

May 28th
Charlie Campion
Matt Koncaba

May 29th
Gladys Campion
Barbara Friedrich

May 30th
Erin Etheridge
Scott Rhodes
Judy Watts Thomason

May 31st
Naomi Brown
Mary Helen Douglas
Amanda Garza
Jim Russell
Courtney Voigt

June 1st
Corie Connell
Carol Daniel
Herb Karnau
Charlie Rochester

June 2nd
Cheyenne Hutton
Tress Lester
Jarrod Scott

June 3rd
Dalton Kuntschik
Alyson McKennah

June 4th
Matthew Rabin

Anniversary

June 1st
Shelby & Shelly Stamport

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Gonzales Weather

CLOUDY	May 29 86°/71°	Rather cloudy and humid with a thunderstorm in spots 39% chance of rain ● RealFeel 95
MOSTLY SUNNY	May 30 89°/72°	Sun and some clouds 9% chance of rain ● RealFeel 96
CLOUDY	May 31 88°/71°	Rather cloudy with a shower in places 41% chance of rain ● RealFeel 89
SHOWERS	June 1 93°/73°	Some sun, then increasing clouds; a morning shower in spots followed by a little rain in the afternoon 58% chance of rain ● RealFeel 103
RAIN	June 2 94°/72°	Mostly cloudy; a little morning rain followed by a shower in spots in the afternoon 55% chance of rain ● RealFeel 100
MOSTLY SUNNY	June 3 94°/73°	Mostly sunny 1% chance of rain ● RealFeel 106
THUNDERSTORM	June 4 90°/71°	Mostly cloudy and humid; a couple of showers and a thunderstorm in the afternoon 61% chance of rain ● RealFeel 98

Upcoming Events at J.B. Wells Park in Gonzales

May 29th – 31st
TJHRA Finals

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SBA offers relief to Texas small businesses affected by drought

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) announced the availability of low interest federal disaster loans to small businesses and private nonprofit (PNP) organizations in Texas to offset economic losses caused by drought beginning April 22.

The declaration covers the Texas counties of Austin, Bastrop, Caldwell, Colorado, Fayette, Gonzales, Lavaca, Lee and Washington.

Under this declaration, SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program is available to small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, nurseries, and PNPs with financial losses directly related to the disaster. The SBA is unable to provide disaster loans to agricultural producers, farmers, or ranchers, except for small aquaculture enterprises.

EIDLs are available for working capital needs caused by the disaster and are available even if the business or PNP did not suffer any physical damage. The loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills not paid due to the disaster.

"Through a declaration by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, SBA provides critical financial assistance to help communities recover," said Chris Stallings, associate administrator of the Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience at the SBA. "We're pleased to offer loans to small businesses and private nonprofits impacted by these disasters."

The loan amount can be up to $2 million with interest rates as low as 4% for small businesses and 3.62% for PNPs with terms up to 30 years. Interest does not accrue, and payments are not due until 12 months after the date of the first loan disbursement. The SBA sets loan amounts and terms based on each applicant's financial condition.

To apply online, visit sba.gov/disaster. Applicants may also call SBA's Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov for more information on SBA disaster assistance. For people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services.

Submit completed loan applications to SBA no later than Jan. 5, 2026.

Garden Q&A with CALVIN FINCH



Wildflowers, petunias, zinnias among flowers to sow by seed

Q. Our Chinese tallow has served us well since 1987 but now the leaves are browning and dropping. Do you think it is declining from a lack of water and if I soak it will it recover?

A. The drought is probably one of the reasons it is declining but most of the tallows that have died recently have died because of the freezing weather over the last few winters. You can try deep watering, but I don't think it is going to survive, and you will have to replace it. Tallows can be invasive and are short lived; you may want to consider replacing it with a crepe myrtle, a Mexican plum or an anaqua.

Q. Why are all of those trees dying and falling over? Those that aren't falling over have large areas of dead branches that are breaking. In our area the damaged trees even includes huge live oaks in addition to pecans, hackberries, Chinaberry, and red oaks.

A. The damage is caused by a combination of factors but mostly the severe drought we have faced over the last several years and the severe freezes. When you add the wind conditions we have faced and our shallow soils it is tough for the trees to survive, especially the oldest trees and those growing in less-than-ideal conditions for their species.

The damage we are seeing should motivate us to have a qualified arborist assess the trees in our landscape and take action to remove or prune trees as the damage merits to improve safety and reduce damage threats.

Q. We feed the birds but the squirrels are dominating the feeders and the costs of the seed has just gotten too high. I know you feed the birds and quite often list ways to reduce consumption by the squirrels on your radio show. Please remind me of some of the options to reduce the amount that the squirrels eat.

A. Switch to feeders with weight sensitive perches that shut out squirrels. Tubular feeders for thistle and other small seeds also help. Feed more safflower seed and less sunflower seed. The squirrels don't seem to like the safflower seed, but most birds do. Feed pepper flavored seed and suet. Again, the birds ignore the pepper, but the squirrels don't like it.

Q. Our figs have had a tough couple of years with the drought and freezes. We usually get an early crop by this time of the year, but nothing so far, is there any kind of remedial action we can take to get them back in production? Will fertilizer help?

A. Time and water are the main factors to getting the figs back to producing. Add six inches of mulch (leaves work well) over the root area under the crown and provide a generous watering on your irrigation day every 2 weeks if it doesn't rain. Go ahead and spread 12 cups of 19-5-09 slow-release lawn fertilizer around the edge of the mulch area.

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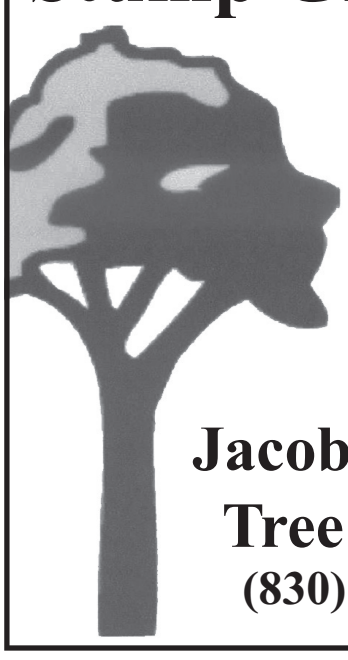

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LIVESTOCK WEEKLY REPORTS

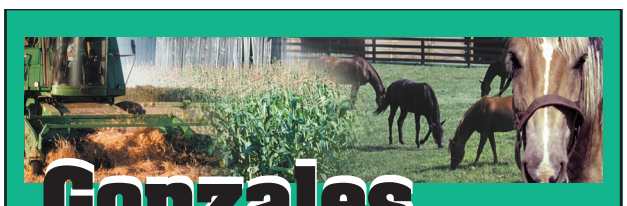
GONZALES LIVESTOCK REPORT
Sale Date: May 24, 2025
Cattle on hand: 1111
Compared to our last sale:
Number 1 choice calves and yearlings sold steady. Less quality calves and yearlings sold steady. Packer cows and bulls sold fully steady.
Stocker-feeder Steers: Medium and large-frame No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 400.00-850.00; 300-400 lbs., 325.00-515.00; 400-500 lbs., 285.00-445.00; 500-600 lbs., 275.00-400.00; 600-700 lbs., 270.00-345.00; 700-800 lbs., 235.00-280.00.
Bull Yearlings: 700-900 lbs., 185.00-255.00.
Stocker-feeder Heifers: Medium and large-frame No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 320.00-415.00; 300-400 lbs., 290.00-430.00; 400-500 lbs., 275.00-365.00; 500-600 lbs., 265.00-325.00; 600-700 lbs., 275.00-290.00.
Packer Cows: Good lean utility and commercial, 130.00-141.00; Cutters, 142.00-152.50.00; Canners, 91.00-126.00; High yielding fat cows, 138.00-148.00.
Packer Bulls: Yield grade 1 & 2, good heavy bulls, 171.00-184.00; Light weights and medium quality bulls, 141.00-167.00.
Stockers Cows: $900.00-$3200.00.
Pairs: $1800.00 to $3800.00.

NIXON LIVESTOCK
NO SALE! CLOSED ON MEMORIAL DAY.

HALLETTSVILLE LIVESTOCK COMMISSION CO., INC.
Sale date: May 20, 2025
Cattle on hand: 1753
Packer Cows:
High Dressing: $141-163
Medium Dressing: $122-140
Low Dressing: $110-122
Poor/Weak Cows: $85-110
Packer Bulls:
High Dressing Bulls: $180-195
Medium Dressing Bulls: $155-178
Low Dressing Bulls: $140-155
Stocker Cows:
Good Stocker/Cows & Heifers: NONE
Medium Stocker Cows & Heifers: $1800-2450
Good Cow & Calf Pairs: NONE
Medium Cow & Calf Pairs: NONE
Stocker & Feeder Calves & Yearlings:
Number 1 steer & bull calves:
Under 200 lbs.: $510-650
200-300 lbs.: $470-550
300-400 lbs.: $430-525
400-500 lbs.: $370-440
500-600 lbs.: $330-390
600-700 lbs.: $285-344
700-800 lbs.: $275-312
800 UP $240-276
Number 1 heifer calves:
Under 200 lbs: $485-640
200-300 lbs.: $400-485
300-400 lbs.: $375-430
400-500 lbs.: $335-410
500-600 lbs.: $285-360
600-700 lbs.: $265-330
700-800 lbs: $255-305
800 UP: $210-254
Replacement Heifers:
350-700 lbs.: NONE
The calf market overall was a little lower this week. Better quality and conditioned classes sold steady/strong. A larger percentage of fleshy new crop calves in the mix selling $5 to $8 lower. Demand continues very strong overall a great sale!! Packer cows & bulls sold fully steady on a supply of 200 head. Let us know how we can help you!! We thrive when you thrive!!

SEGUIN CATTLE CO.
May 21, 2025
Stocker calf market remains steady on all classes with packer cows & bulls steady
Cattle – 527
Sheep & goats – 780
Medium & large frame #1 Steers:
200-300 lb. 2.00-3.98-5.00
300-400 lb. 1.75-3.84-4.70
400-500 lb. 1.70- 3.43-4.20
500-600 lb. .35 -2.94-4.04
600-700 lb. 1.70-2.90-3.21
700-850 lb. 1.34-2.17-3.00
Medium & large frame #1 Heifers:
200-300 lb. 2.30-3.94-4.50
300-400 lb. 1.25-3.48-4.70
400-500 lb. 1.70-3.30-3.80
500-600 lb. 1.55-3.04-3.49
600-750 lb. 1.11-2.59-3.12
Cows:
Utility & commercial – 1.08-1.39-1.56
Cutters –.94-1.09-1.24
Canners - .85-1.02-1.19
Palpated cows – 1300-2100
Cow/Calf Pairs – 1450-2900
Bulls:
Heavy High Yielding – 1.70-1.85
Light & Low Yielding –1.50-1.69
Sheep & Goats
Nannies – 50-250
Kid Goats (Fat) – 3.00-3.85
Wethers -2.95-4.10
Billies – 2.00-3.30
Dorp. Ewes - 55-150
Dorp. Lambs (Fat) – 2.10-2.95
Wooled Ewes – .90-1.20
Wooled Bucks – 1.00-1.80
Lambs – 1.45-2.30
Barb. Bucks – 250-380

CUERO LIVESTOCK MARKET
May 23, 2025
Number of Head: 1579
It was another great week to be in the cattle business. There were 298 cows, 58 bulls and 1 horse. The packer cow and bull market were steady with the last few weeks. The calf market continues to climb a little each week. Please pray for rain as the dry conditions seem to worsen. We hope everyone ha5 a safe Memorial Day weekend as we remember those who gave their lives to keep our country free. We genuinely appreciate all our sellers and buyers. If we can help market your cattle, please give us a call at the barn at (361)275-2329 or Jake at (361)293 4625.
Packer bulls:
Higher Yielding: 165.00-192.00
Lower Yielding: 145.00-165.00
Packer cows:
Canners&Cutters 150.00-171.00
Poor & Weak 100.00-150.00
Palpated: 12 bred $1900-2050
Pairs: 1 pair $3100
Steer/Bull Calves: (AVG-HIGH)
200-250 lbs 511.00-545.00
250-299 lbs 488.00-540.00
300-350 lbs 459.00-505.00
350-400 lbs 428.00-485.00
400-450 lbs 404.00-435.00
450-500 lbs 376.00-430.00
500-550 lbs 354.00-404.00
550-600 lbs 345.00-370.00
600-700 lbs 316.00-356.00
700-800 lbs 284.00-314.00
Heifer Calves:(AVG-HIGH)
200-250 lbs 420.00-505.00
250-300 lbs 404.00-445.00
300-350 lbs 403.00-495.00
350-400 lbs 384.00-430.00
400-450 lbs 360.00-442.00
450-500 lbs 335.00-412.50
500-550 lbs 322.00-380.00*
550-600 lbs 309.00-348.00
600-700 lbs 293.50-342.00
Over 700 lbs 266.00-302.00
*Replacement heifers



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- Interactive Sensory Gardens in Two Courtyards

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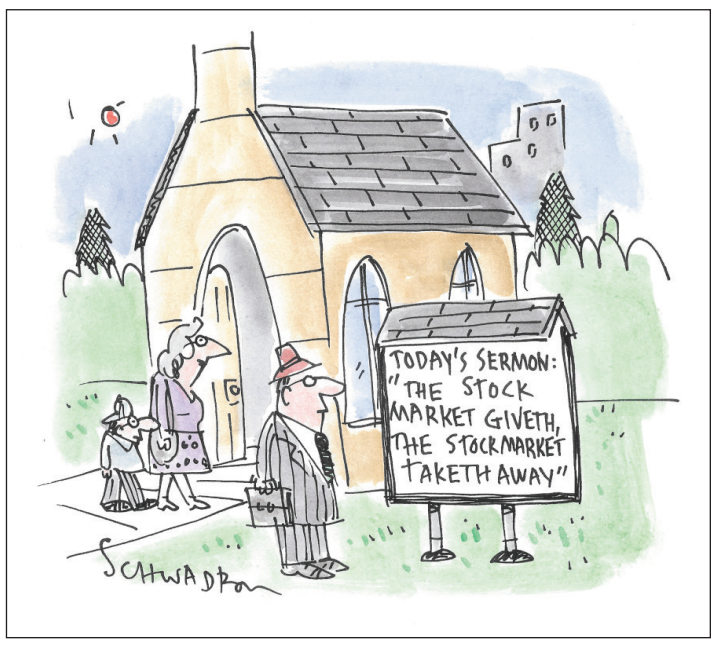

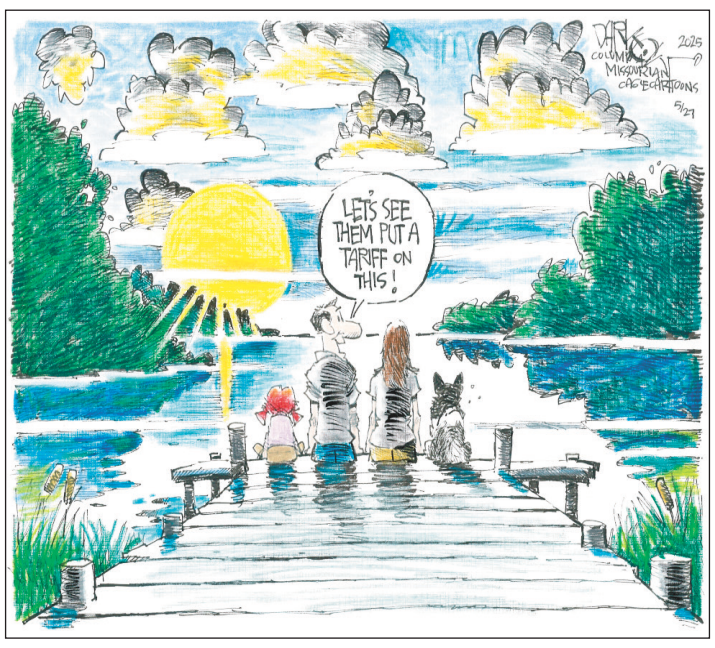









U.S. BILL OF RIGHTS

The following text is a transcription of the enrolled original of the Joint Resolution of Congress proposing the Bill of Rights, which is on permanent display in the Rotunda at the National Archives Museum. The spelling and punctuation reflects the original.

Amendment I
Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Amendment II
A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

Amendment III
No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

Amendment IV
The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Amendment V
No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

Amendment VI
In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defence.

Amendment VII
In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

Amendment VIII
Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Amendment IX
The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Amendment X
The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

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.

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DR. DON NEWBURY
The Idle American

Graduation goofs...

It is that time again when hundreds of thousands of us can't get the sounds of "Pomp and Circumstance" out of our heads, often whistling or humming the melody, not even wondering why.

For the curious--and others in the majority who couldn't care less--Englishman Edward Elgar's 1901 march has long been the musical gold standard for graduation music. For a century, graduates have marched in and out to this tune--part and parcel--while nervously accepting certificates and diplomas.

Memory runneth not to the contrary in recounting hundreds of smile-producing ceremonial "foul-ups." (Many smiles are forced these days as elected governmental leaders repeatedly throw public school educators under the bus, painting with brushes that are far too wide.) We'll try to smile anyway, promising to dissect educational funding as best we can soon. Now, let the pratfalls begin....


Cozart

A proud graduate of my alma mater--Howard Payne University--leads the way. (In no way comparable academically to David Cozart, I cracked a few books during my five undergraduate years; he devoured them.) A quarter century later, I somehow wore HPU presidential trappings for a dozen years, knowing that my 2.8 grade point average fell well below those of most graduates receiving diplomas. Goodness sake, Cozart's transcript sparkles with "all-A's" except for two "B's" that may have been the result of a couple of profs getting on the wrong lines in their grade books.

I digress. A highly respected minister since his teens, David is executive pastor of Waco's Meadowbrook Baptist Church. He also has survived cancer, and, like the rest of us, relies too often on spell check.

Recently, he posted on Facebook what was to have been an instructive message for HPU graduates. He wanted them to "fly high," warning them of inevitable encounters with the shock and awe of adulthood, and so forth....

Instead, Rev. Cozart trotted out the old line about the sun never setting on HPU graduates. Instead, one letter fouled up his encouraging message for senior ready for the on-ramp of life's highway. Truly, Cozart no doubt meant well.

With an "i" typed instead of a "u" between the "s" and the "n," the post became "the 'sin' never sets on HPU graduates." Another HPU'er -- Dr. Dan Crawford, a respected retired prof at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary--set off considerable "fun-poking" on FB's Howard Payne University Alumni page. He, too, admits to sometimes hitting the wrong key.....

On a serious note, I remember David well. He received one of only two presidential citations awarded during my dozen years in the HPU presidency some 30 years ago.

I recall the party held for him to celebrate his "cancer freedom" when he was just 22. It was wintertime. Invitees were asked to wear toboggans so David--devoid of hair due to cancer treatment--could feel more comfortable.

Unable to attend the Waco event, I forwarded a video to be viewed at the party, wearing a toboggan, as instructed. I found a scraggly headpiece at Goodwill, plopping on my head as the camera rolled. Out of sight, out of mind....

Alas, the party was postponed until a much warmer day.

Friends gathered to celebrate, dressed in spring attire.

The only toboggan in sight was atop my head in the video....

Ah, memories are made of this. As my wife of 58 years and I deal with twilight years, efforts are made to avoid pitfalls. For example, I regularly correct spell check's insistence to spell "Burleson," where we reside.

It thinks "burlesque" is a better choice.

See **NEWBURY,** page 5

MEMORIAL DAY REMEMBRANCE



LEW K. COHN

Gonzales County honored those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for a free nation during the annual Memorial Day observance Monday, May 26 at the Gonzales County Veterans Memorial. Also taking part besides members of American Legion Post 40 were the Gonzales High School JROTC and the Boy Scouts as well as DAR, RWOYA, Gonzales County Republican Party and Main Street.

RUSSELL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Jr., 53, of Gonzales, and wounding Jacquline Marlene Mathis, 61, also of Gonzales. Authorities said they believe Mathis and Jesse Russell Jr. were in a relationship and that could have been part of the motivation behind the shootings.



Jesse Hunt Russell Jr.

On that night, officers were called out to the 1100 block of Hastings Street regarding a report that a female had been shot. While en route, another call came in that there was a second gunshot victim in the 400 block of Village Drive. Mathis was found at the Hastings Street location with a single gunshot wound and was airlifted to an Austin hospital for treatment.

When officers arrived at the Village Drive location, they found Jesse Russell Jr. was unresponsive. He was pronounced dead at the scene by Precinct 1 Justice of the Peace Deidra Voigt. A short time later, Carol Russell surrendered to police.

Initially, her bond was set at a total of $750,000 — $600,000 for the murder charge and $150,000 for the aggravated assault charge. However, in December 2022, Judge William Old III signed an order reducing her bond to a total of $250,000 cash or surety with conditions that the defendant cannot have contact with Mathis or her family.

Also, Carol Russell must live in Bexar County and can only come to Gonzales County for court proceedings and she cannot have access to any firearms or ammunition. She also must maintain a distance of at least 200 yards from Mathis at all times that she may be in Mathis' vicinity.

It does not indicate any provision within the bond conditions regarding the surviving family members of Jesse Russell Jr., whose sister shared her outrage with the Inquirer that Carol Russell was being allowed to walk out of jail on bond nearly three years after her brother's death.

"To allow a killer to walk around amongst us common citizens is a disgrace," Peggy Taylor told the Inquirer. "My brother Jesse Russell Jr may be old news to the city of Gonzales but that's not the case for all those who love and miss him daily. The evil person that killed him is out on bond with very little restrictions. It's a slap in the face to taxpayers and his family.

"The city of Gonzales should feel ashamed. They have sentenced drug dealers faster and with harsher restrictions than they do a murdering coward like Carol Hunt. August 2, 2025 will be 3 years since this loser took my brother's life, then drove across town in an attempt to kill another person. It doesn't take 3+ years to go to trial and have justice served. The Russell family wants answers and most of all wants justice!"

Taylor said family members of Jesse Russell Jr. will meet Friday, May 30, at 10 a.m. at the Lavaca County Courthouse in Hallettsville to discuss next steps in the proceedings.

The case is being prosecuted by Lavaca County Attorney James Reeves because Gonzales County Attorney Eddie Escobar, who was elected to the position last year, had previously represented Carol Russell on the charges against her and was the one who helped file a motion for reduced bond for his then-client.

Escobar said Monday he immediately filed for a motion to appoint a special prosecutor after he assumed the duties of county attorney due to his previous representation of Carol Russell.

Reeves said Monday the case is set for trial in August 2025.

NATIONAL SPEECH-LANGUAGE-HEARING MONTH

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May is Better Speech & Hearing Month.

May is recognized as Better Speech and Hearing Month (BSHM). We take this month to raise awareness about communication disorders and the importance of speech and hearing health.

Hearing and speech challenges can be a result of stroke, brain injury, or developmental delays. Other challenges include difficulty finding words, stuttering, and hearing loss. All of which could benefit from seeing a speech therapist.

Therapy offers improvements of speech sounds, language, literacy, voice, cognitive communication, and feeding and swallowing. If you or someone you know struggles with speech or hearing, contact your primary care provider for a speech therapy referral. Services are available in both our Gonzales and Shiner clinics.

For more information regarding our speech therapy services, please call our therapy department.

1110 N. Sarah Dewitt Drive
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830.672.6438
GonzalesHealthcare.com

LCRA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

excluding projects strictly for hydroelectric power facilities – over the next five years for the continued safe and effective operation of its dams.

"LCRA is continuing to make significant investments in all our areas of business, including power, water, broadband and transmission," LCRA General Manager Phil Wilson said. "These investments align with our mission and vision and demonstrate our commitment to finding strategic and innovative solutions to help meet the needs of current and future generations of Texans in our growing state."

LCRA does not receive state appropriations or have the ability to levy taxes. LCRA is funded by the revenues its businesses generate.

LCRA's 2026 fiscal year begins July 1. The FY 2026 LCRA business and capital plans are available at www.lcra.org/about/financial-highlights/business-plan/.

NEWBURY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

As an end line, I join Cozart and Crawford in urging graduates everywhere to march on with Christian confidence, admittedly praying specifically for grandchildren Addison McDaniel and Kedren Penney, who already have made us proud. May their pilgrimage starting this fall at Howard Payne be fruitful. Mimi and Poppy think they'll do well....

Dr. Newbury, a longtime speaker, may be contacted at 817-447-3872 or newbury@speakerdoc.com. His column may be accessed at www.speakerdoc.com, where he reads it aloud, sometimes without stumbling.

OBITUARIES

Dora Ornelas



Dora Ornelas, 97, passed away peacefully on May 22, 2025, at her home in Gonzales, Texas, surrounded by her loving family.

Born Dora Lairon on February 2, 1928, in Beeville, Texas, to Daniel Lairon Sr. and Alejandra Benavides, Dora dedicated many years as a nurse's assistant at Holmes Hospital in Gonzales. She was known for her compassionate nature and unwavering commitment to her patients, family, and friends.

On July 4, 1950, Dora married Leon Ornelas Sr., and together they created a warm, loving, and nurturing home. A devoted member of the Catholic Church, Dora was a passionate reader and an active volunteer. Her extensive volunteer work included serving with Girl Scout Leaders, Saint Vincent De Paul, Eucharistic Ministry, ACTS, and the Cursillo Movement. Her servant heart also guided her to taking care of all of her family, more specifically her mother until she passed at the age of 102. Dora's strong Catholic faith was a guiding force throughout her life, touching countless hearts. Many in her community turned to her as a prayer warrior in times of crisis, and she instilled a deep-rooted faith in her children and grandchildren. Her vibrant sense of humor, kindness, and strength left a lasting impression on everyone she met. She took excellent care of her 102 year old mother and her handicapped brother. Dora had the honor of being Godmother to many people throughout her life who have also felt her immense love, support and guidance.

Dora is survived by her daughters, Hope McHaney (David) of Seguin, Texas, Mary Amaya (Ruben) of Missouri City, Texas, Catherine Leal (Allen) of Georgetown, Texas, Doris Zambrano (Carney) of Gonzales, Texas, Veronica Cleveland (Johnathan) of Gonzales, Texas, and Cinnamon Ornelas of Pflugerville, Texas; and her sons, Lupe Ornelas of Gonzales, Texas, Jesse McDougal of Las Vegas, Nevada, Leon Ornelas Jr. (Lillie) of Kansas, Leroy Ornelas (Chris) of Oklahoma, and David Ornelas (Lydia) of San Antonio, Texas. She also leaves behind 29 cherished grandchildren, 51 great-grandchildren, 13 great-great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her best friend, Donnirose Johnson.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her siblings, Josefa Longoria, Daniel Lairon Jr., Dionicio Lairon, Ramona Montes, and Joe Fuentes; her husband, Leon Ornelas Sr.; her son, Lee Ornelas; and her great-great-grandson, Christopher Ornelas.

A visitation was held on Tuesday, May 27, 2025, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Seydler Hill Funeral Home in Gonzales, Texas, with the Holy Rosary following. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, May 28, 2025, at St. James Catholic Church, with Fr. Jason Martini as the celebrant. Interment immediately followed at St. James Catholic Cemetery. Pallbearers were her beloved grandsons: Phil Leal, Allen McHaney, Jodie Amaya, Ron Romero, Joey Ornelas, Johnathan Granger, Eric Ornelas, and Patrick Pierpont.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests memorial donations be made to the St. James Catholic Church Building Fund. The family extends their heartfelt gratitude to Leticia Ramirez, Nurse Sherry, Nurse Keri, Ashley Garcia, and the Heart to Heart Hospice Chaplains for their compassionate support during this time.

Dora's warmth, wisdom, and laughter will forever resonate in the hearts of all who knew her.

"Well done, good and faithful servant!" Matthew 25:23

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.

Betty Ann Navarro

Betty Ann Navarro 'BIG MAMA' carried her light into the next life, Wednesday, May 21, 2025, at the age of 57 in Gonzales County. Betty was born on December 24, 1967, as an early Christmas gift to Guadalupe and Jane Vega.

She attended Gonzales High School here in Gonzales, Texas.

Her light was carried in many forms for thirteen years as the head cook at the Heights Nursing facility in Gonzales, Texas. She touched many families serving with a contagious smile, accompanied by a lot of jokes. Fondest memories are those of 'girls' night' with her mommy, grandmother, and recently her grandchildren, great-grandchildren.

She is no longer with us, the light she brought into this world will continue to shine in the lives she touched.

She leaves to cherish her memory, Husband Zack Navarro, her mother, Jane Vega, Daughters-Mandy Vega, Beth Gonzales, five grandchildren-Alliya, Mirsaydes, Trae, De-Markus, and Hazel. Great grandchildren Ja'nea, Luke, Lorenzo, Brother- Steve Vega, Nephew Renee Gonzales.

She is preceded in death by her father, Guadalupe, her sister Karen Gonzales, and her late husband, George Gonzales.

Services will be held, May 31, graveside Service at Union Cemetery, CR 3282 West Gonzales, Texas.

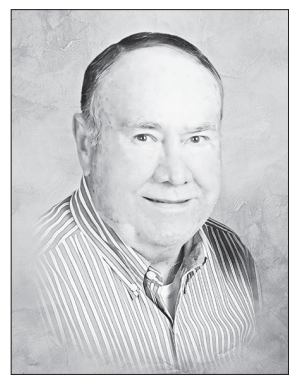
Services Entrusted to
Harris Funeral Home
127 Highway 90a
Gonzales, Texas 78629

Richard Clifton Hamilton

Richard "Dick" Clifton Hamilton, 79, passed away on Thursday, May 22, 2025. Dick was born to Robert C. Hamilton and Ida Grey Dupree on October 09, 1945, here in Gonzales, Texas.

He graduated from Gonzales High School in 1964 and later attended Southwest Texas State and Graduated in 1969. Dick and his wife, Dana, married in 1968. He also served in the U.S. Navy in Da Nang, Viet Nam, 1969-1971.

Dick worked in management with JC Penny Co. for 13 years, he also worked as a salesman for Kactus Korral Wholesale Nursery for 18 years, and he retired 2007 when he and Dana moved to Corpus Christi. When Dana retired from ministry, the couple moved back to Gonzales in 2015.



Dick is survived by his wife Rev Dana Hamilton, their three children Russell Clifton Hamilton (Michelle), Kristen Love Alex (Kevin) and Ryan Corey Hamilton (Darcy). He is also survived by his grandchildren Kate Alex, Gray Alex, Rowan Hamilton, Ryder Hamilton, Rylan Hamilton, Mila Hamilton, Caitlyn Cozart, Carlee Cozart and Cooper Cozart and his 2 great-grandchildren Forrest and Rosemary.

Dick was a loving, generous person who will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

A visitation was held at Seydler–Hill Funeral Home on Saturday, May 24, 2025, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. A funeral service took place at the First Methodist Church on Sunday, May 25, 2025, at 3 p.m. Interment followed at Gonzales Memorial Park Cemetery.

Friends and family may leave their condolences online by visiting www.seydlerhillfuneralhome.com In lieu of flowers memorials may be made out to First Methodist Church of Gonzales, Austin Hospice and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

All services are under the care and direction of Seydler – Hill Funeral Home in Gonzales, Texas.

Bennie Polasek Jr.

MOULTON: Bennie Polasek Jr., age 75, passed away Monday, May 26, 2025.

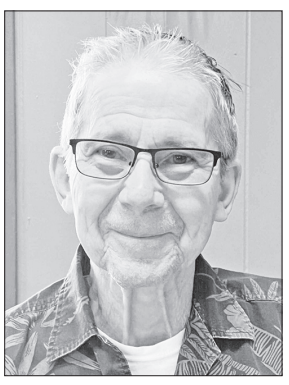
He was born June 19, 1949 in Shiner to Bernard and Vlasta Malatek Polasek.

He was a house painter in his younger years and retired from the City of Moulton after 26 plus years. While working for the City of Moulton he obtained his State water and waste water license. He enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren, working in the yard, fishing and he was known for making great fried pork steaks. He was a former member of the Moulton Volunteer Fire Department for many years. He was a former Emergency Care Attendant for the ambulance service in Moulton for many years.

Survivors: wife of 52 years, Dianna Meisetschleager Polasek; daughter, Tasha Mezik (Mark); grandchildren, Grace Mezik and Christian Mezik; sisters, Doris Hofferek (Bo) and Irene Oakes (Mike) and a brother, Leroy Polasek (Bobbie Jean).

Preceded in death by: parents; sisters, Pat Miller and Lorene Gast

Visitation at 9:00 a.m. with a rosary at 9:30 a.m. followed by a funeral service on Friday, May 30, 2025 at Thiele-Cooper Funeral Home with Rev. Michael Rother officiating. Private burial at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery in Moulton.



Online guest book may be signed at www.thiele-cooper.com

Arrangements by Thiele-Cooper Funeral Home in Yoakum, 361-293-5656.

Kinman to give lecture, and trunk show on June 3

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

MJ Kinman, textile artist and award-winning quilter who has shown her unique work in galleries, museums, and national juried competition, will give a lecture and trunk show at the Shiner Heritage Quilters meeting on Tuesday, June 3.

She specializes in creating larger-than-life portraits of colored gemstones using fabric and paint. She has said, "When people ask me what I do, I like to tell them I make the biggest diamonds in the world ... but instead of using the hardest substance on earth I use the softest — cloth!" Her website is mjkinman.com.

Members gather at the Shiner Methodist Church Fellowship Hall around 5:30 p.m. to socialize and enjoy light refreshments. The meeting begins at 6 p.m. and includes block-of-the-month, show and tell and door prize drawings.

Visitors and new members are always welcome. www.shinerheritagequilters.org.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361-576-0011

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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

GARAGE SALE: FRIDAY, May 30th & Saturday, May 31st. 9:00 am - ?. 94 CR 90C, Gonzales. Tools, Tools, more Tools (Hand and Electric). Plus other items.

GARAGE SALE: MAY 30th, 9am-3pm, 1612 Robertson St., back of American Legion Hall.

R U M M A G E SALE: THE Gonzales Catholic Community is having a Rummage Sale on Saturday, May 31 from 8:30 to 3:00 p.m. in the St. James Parish Hall. If you have donations for the sale, please bring them to the parish hall on Friday, May 30 between 8:00-2:00pm. We will not accept clothing. We need many volunteers to help with setting up tables and pricing items on Friday and to help with the sale on Saturday. The proceeds from the sale will go to the operating accounts of our three churches. Call Lupe, (830) 534-7915 or Kathy (830) 263-4218 if you have questions.

210 MISC. SERVICES

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

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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.

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850 HELP WANTED

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

850 HELP WANTED

VICTORIA COLLEGE Est. 1925

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.

CLASSIFIEDS WORK! CALL TODAY - 830-672-2861

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE

Waelder ISD Board Opts to Fill a One (1) Year Term Vacancy by Appointment

During the May Regular Meeting, WISD trustees opted to fill the upcoming vacant position for trustee of the school board by appointment.

Trustees had the option of calling for a special election to fill the upcoming vacancy or fill by appointment.

Individuals interested in being considered for an appointment to the at-large seat must fill out an application for the position and have the completed application returned to the Central Office no later than **June 12, 2025 by 4:00 p.m.** (Received, not postmarked.)

The board will review the applications and make an appointment at the Regular school board meeting being held on June 16, 2025.

055 ESTATE SALES

Bob Young One Day Estate Sale

Saturday, May 31st
from 9a-4p
302 Rather Street
in Gonzales, TX 78629

No early birds, prices given prior OR presales!

Follow: www.facebook.com/comeandorganizeit for updates and photos or www.estatesales.net and search Come and Organize It.

One day to shop quality furniture and household items including dining table, sofas, sofa tables, arm chairs, tvs, bedroom dressers, beds, what not tables and much more!

VICTORIA COLLEGE Est. 1925

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

W.B. FARM AND RANCH SUPPLY

Is now hiring for

LOCAL DELIVERY DRIVER

Class A or B, CDL Required
Forklift Experience Needed

Apply in Person
2031 Water St., Gonzales, TX

No phone calls

450 LAWN AND GARDEN

FOR SALE

Plants, Roses, Flowers, pots included. To help defray the costs of medication. Can be seen at 1307 Ewing St., Gonzales, Texas. Call Maria, 936-245-2971 for information.

520 SEED, FEED, HAY

HAY FOR SALE: Square hay bales. Fertilized coastal. $9 each. Shiner area. This year's cutting. 361-293-8758.

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.

VICTORIA COLLEGE Est. 1925

The Division of Allied Health is hiring part-time Adjunct Instructors for the for the clinical setting of the ADN and VN Nursing Programs. 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.

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS
OIL AND GAS DIVISION

DISTRICT 01 Status/Permit No. 908021
DATE OF ISSUANCE: May 27, 2025
NOTICE OF PROTEST DEADLINE: 5:00 PM, June 17, 2025
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

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the EOG RESOURCES, INC., [RRC Operator No. 253162] 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 distance requirement because the Applicant is less than the required Rule 37 lease line distance to an unleased or non-pooled interest within the subject unit. Applicant also seeks exception to the LEASE LINE reqirement becaues the location is less than the required Rule 37 distance to an external lease line for the NEW DRILL permit in Sec. , Bk., BAKER, I Survey, A-535, EAGLEVILLE (EAGLE FORD-1) Field, GONZALES County, being 9.5 miles SE direction from SMILEY, 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 Protestant 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 June 17, 2025 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	: GAHAN A
Lease/Unit Well No.	: 1H
Lease/Unit Acres	: 1168.32
Nearest Lease Line (ft)	: null
Nearest Well on Lease (ft)	: 156.0
Lease Lines	: 1729.0 F NE L, 3961.0 F SE L
Survey Lines	: 645.0 F NW L, 1304.0 F NE L
Wellbore Profile(s)	: Horizontal

Lateral : TH1

Penetration Point Location
Lease Lines: 316.0 F NE L
2339.0 F SE L

Terminus Location
BH County: GONZALES
Section: Block: Abstract: 396
Survey: ROBERTSON, W
Lease Lines: 3687.0 F NW L
235.0 F NE L
Survey Lines: 59.0 F NW L
1690.0 F SW 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 13000 feet.

If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, Patrick Mendoza, at (210)403-7700.

ADVERTISE OR SUBSCRIBE! 830-672-2861

VISIT US ONLINE AT GONZALESINQUIRER.COM

CLASSIFIEDS

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

NO COST SUMMER MEALS FOR KIDS!

Waelder ISD will be serving meals
June 2 through July 11, 2025.
(Closed on July 4th)
in the WISD Cafeteria located at
109 N Ave C, Waelder, TX

Monday-Friday
Breakfast: 7:30am-8:30am
Lunch: 11:00am-12:30pm
No Cost for kids 18 and younger and enrolled students up to 21 with disabilities.

The Summer Meal programs are brought to you by the Texas Department of Agriculture, Commissioner Sid Miller.

This product was funded by USDA.
This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

NIXON SMILEY C.I.S.D SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM 2025

The Nixon-Smiley C.I.S.D. announces the sponsorship of the summer food service program. Meals will be provided at the site listed.

There will be no forms to fill out.

Nixon-Smiley C.I.S.D. will serve breakfast and lunch free to all children age 1 year through 18 years of age.

The program will be in operation Monday-Friday from June 2nd 2025 through July 18th 2025. No meals will be served from June 30th 2025 through July 4th 2025. Meals will resume July 7th 2025.

Breakfast will be served beginning at 7:30 a.m. until 9:00 a.m. Lunch will be served beginning at 11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

There will be only one serving site this year. Nixon CISD Cafetorium, 800 North Rancho Road, Nixon, Texas.

CHILDREN, AGE 1 YEAR THROUGH 4 YEARS OF AGE MUST BE ACCOMPAINED BY AN ADULT.

Nineteen years and older can eat BREAKFAST - $2.50, LUNCH - $4.50. To go meals not allowed.

If you have any questions please call Lora Torres, FOOD SERVICE DIRECTOR at 582-1536 ext. 211 or Jeff Vanauken, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS at 582-1536 ext.103 or ext.104

The US. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against it's customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal and, where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or if all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program or activity, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint filing cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at US Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442or email at program.intake@usda.gov

Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have speech disabilities and wish to file either an EEO or program complaint please contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800)-877-8339 or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish).

Person with disabilities who wish to file a program complaint, please see information above on how to contact us by mail directly or by email,. If you require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) please contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD)

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS
OIL AND GAS DIVISION

DISTRICT 01 Status/Permit No. 908022
DATE OF ISSUANCE: May 27, 2025
NOTICE OF PROTEST DEADLINE: 5:00 PM, June 17, 2025
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

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the EOG RESOURCES, INC., [RRC Operator No. 253162] 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 distance requirement because the Applicant is less than the required Rule 37 lease line distance to an unleased or non-pooled interest within the subject unit. Applicant also seeks exception to the LEASE LINE reqirement becaues the location is less than the required Rule 37 distance to an external lease line for the NEW DRILL permit in Sec. , Bk., BAKER, I Survey, A-535, EAGLEVILLE (EAGLE FORD-1) Field, GONZALES County, being 9.5 miles SE direction from SMILEY, 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 Protestant 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 June 17, 2025 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 : GAHAN B
Lease/Unit Well No. : 2H
Lease/Unit Acres : 1168.32
Nearest Lease Line (ft) : null
Nearest Well on Lease (ft) : 1.0

Lease Lines : 1781.0 F NE L, 3999.0 F SE L
Survey Lines : 598.0 F NW L, 1338.0 F NE L

Wellbore Profile(s) : Horizontal

Lateral : TH1

Penetration Point Location
Lease Lines: 831.0 F NE L
1909.0 F SE L

Terminus Location
BH County: GONZALES
Section: Block: Abstract: 266
Survey: HUMPHREY, J
Lease Lines: 715.0 F NW L
335.0 F NE L
Survey Lines: 2544.0 F NE L
2535.0 F SE 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 13000 feet.

If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, Patrick Mendoza, at (210)403-7700.

900 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES | 900 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES | 900 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES | 900 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES



BANKRUPTCY SALE

BID DEADLINE **JUNE 12**

Texas Oilfield Services Property Portfolio

Located in Major Oil & Gas Formations

22 Sites Ranging from 1.24± AC to 70.36± AC

- Can be sold individually or in any combination
- Several leased saltwater disposal wells available

855.755.2300 **HilcoRealEstateSales.com**

Subject to approval by U.S. Bankruptcy Court Western District of Texas (San Antonio).
In re: Water Energy Services, LLC | Petition No: 25-50539-MMP.

WATERFRONT LAND SALE

June 7th Only
Off of Matagorda Bay
Texas' Newest Waterfront Community
Featuring 1-3 Acre Properties
Starting at $49,900
By Appointment on June 7th
830-310-6195

HOW TO KILL A BUSINESS IN TEN EASY STEPS

1. DON'T ADVERTISE. Just pretend everybody know what you have to offer.

2. DON'T ADVERTISE. Tell yourself you just don't have the time to spend thinking about promoting your business.

3. DON'T ADVERTISE. Just assume everybody knows what you sell.

4. DON'T ADVERTISE. Convince yourself that you've been in business so long customers will automatically come to you.

5. DON'T ADVERTISE. Forget that there are new potential customers who would do business with you if they were urged to do so.

6. DON'T ADVERTISE. Forget that you have a competition trying to attract your customers away from you.

7. DON'T ADVERTISE. Tell yourself it costs too much to advertise and that you don't get enough out of it.

8. DON'T ADVERTISE. Overlook the fact that advertising is an invesement in selling - not an expense.

9. DON'T ADVERTISE. Be sure not to provide an adequate advertising budget for your business.

10. DON'T ADVERTISE. Forget that you have to keep reminding your estabilised customers that you appreciate their business.

The Gonzales Inquirer

Call today to discuss your advertising plan.
830-672-2861

CLASSIFIEDS

May 22 Puzzle Answers

O	F	F	S			C	E	P			F	D	A	
P	A	R	T		S	A	L	E		S	P	I	E	S
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	S	U	L	L	I	V	A	N		O	I	N	K	
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P	O	O	D	L	E			W	A	R	I	E	S	T
E	R	R		L	L	A	M	A	S		E	R	I	E
A	G	A	P	E		F	I	R		P	R	I	S	M
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	T	O	U	R		D	U	C	K	T	A	I	L	
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E	X	I	S	T		M	E	A	S		E	D	G	E
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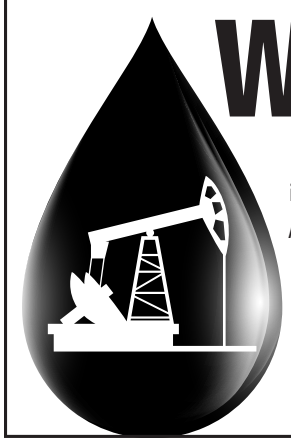
9	2	7	6	5	1	8	3	4
4	6	1	8	2	3	5	7	9
5	8	3	4	7	9	6	1	2
7	1	6	5	3	4	9	2	8
3	9	4	2	6	8	7	5	1
8	5	2	9	1	7	4	6	3
6	7	9	1	4	2	3	8	5
2	4	5	3	8	6	1	9	7
1	3	8	7	9	5	2	4	6

900 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES **900 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES** **900 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES** **900 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES**



WE BUY OIL, GAS, & MINERAL RIGHTS

Both non-producing and producing including Non-Participating Royalty Interest (NPRI)

Provide us your desired price for an offer evaluation.

CALL TODAY: **806.620.1422**

LOBO MINERALS, LLC

PO Box 1800 • Lubbock, TX 79408-1800

LoboMineralsLLC@gmail.com

TEXAS STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING NETWORK

TexSCAN

TexSCAN Week of May 25-31, 2025

AUCTIONS

Waterfront Land Sale — June 7th only, off of Matagorda Bay, Texas' Newest Waterfront Community featuring 1-3 acre properties starting at $49,900. By Appointment on June 7th, 830-310-6195.

Bankruptcy Sale — bid deadline June 12, Texas Oilfield Services property portfolio, 22 sites ranging from 1.24± AC to 70.36± AC, can be sold individually or in any combination, several leased saltwater disposal wells available. 855-755-2300, HilcoRealEstateSales.com.

CHARITY

Donate your car, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-855-808-4152 today!

EVENTS

Wylie — Bluegrass on Ballard, May 31, Historic Downtown Wylie on Ballard Ave. Car show, arts and crafts fair, live music, food and fun. Discoverwylie.com

ENERGY

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-855-704-8579 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

HOME IMPROVEMENT

SunSetter. America's Number One Awning! Instant shade at the touch of a button. Transform your deck or patio into an outdoor oasis. Up to 10-year limited warranty. Call now and SAVE $350 today! 844-997-3014.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Wesley Financial Group, LLC — Timeshare Cancellation Experts. Over $50,000,000 in timeshare debt and fees cancelled in 2019. Get free informational package and learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. Call 855-501-6864

CELLULAR PHONE SERVICE

Consumer Cellular - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just $20/month. For more information, call 1-855-493-3803.

MEDICAL

Portable Oxygen Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 866-747-9983.

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 400 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-855-901-0467 www.dental50plus.com/txpress #6258

OIL & GAS

We buy oil, gas & mineral rights. Both non-producing and producing including Non-Participating Royalty Interest (NPRI). Provide us your desired price for an offer evaluation. Call today: 806-620-1422. Lobo Minerals, LLC, PO Box 1800, Lubbock, TX 79408-1800, LoboMineralsLLC@gmail.com.

Experiencing Oil Field/Wells Damage from Nissan Chemicals? Contact us confidentiality. 985-246-3026.

WATER DAMAGE

WATER DAMAGE CLEANUP & RESTORATION: A small amount of water can lead to major damage in your home. Our trusted professionals do complete repairs to protect your family and your home's value! Call 24/7: 1-833-879-1450. Have zip code of service location ready when you call!

Texas Press Statewide Classified Network
200 Participating Texas Newspapers • Regional Ads
Start At $250 • Email ads@texaspress.com

NOTICE: While most advertisers are reputable, we cannot guarantee products or services advertised. We urge readers to use caution and when in doubt, contact the Texas Attorney General at 800-621-0508 or the Federal Trade Commission at 877-FTC-HELP. The FTC web site is www.ftc.gov/bizop.

950 PUBLIC NOTICES **950 PUBLIC NOTICES** **950 PUBLIC NOTICES** **950 PUBLIC NOTICES** **950 PUBLIC NOTICES**

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS
OIL AND GAS DIVISION

DISTRICT 01 Status/Permit No. 908023
DATE OF ISSUANCE: May 27, 2025
NOTICE OF PROTEST DEADLINE: 5:00 PM, June 17, 2025
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

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the EOG RESOURCES, INC., [RRC Operator No. 253162] 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 distance requirement because the Applicant is less than the required Rule 37 lease line distance to an unleased or non-pooled interest within the subject unit. Applicant also seeks exception to the LEASE LINE reqirement becaues the location is less than the required Rule 37 distance to an external lease line for the NEW DRILL permit in Sec. , Bk., BAKER, I Survey, A-535, EAGLEVILLE (EAGLE FORD-1) Field, GONZALES County, being 9.5 miles SE direction from SMILEY, 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 Protestant 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 June 17, 2025 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	: GAHAN C
Lease/Unit Well No.	: 3H
Lease/Unit Acres	: 1168.32
Nearest Lease Line (ft)	: null
Nearest Well on Lease (ft)	: 1.0
Lease Lines	: 1755.0 F NE L, 3980.0 F SE L
Survey Lines	: 622.0 F NW L, 1321.0 F NE L
Wellbore Profile(s)	: Horizontal

Lateral : TH1

Penetration Point Location
Lease Lines: 1071.0 F NE L
2321.0 F SE L

Terminus Location
BH County: GONZALES
Section: Block: Abstract: 266
Survey: HUMPHREY, J
Lease Lines: 3404.0 F NW L
672.0 F NE L
Survey Lines: 4573.0 F NE L
164.0 F SE 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 13000 feet.

If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, Patrick Mendoza, at (210)403-7700.



10 REALLY GOOD REASONS TO INVEST IN NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING

The Gonzales Inquirer

www.gonzalesinquirer.com • 830-672-2861

1. **REACH:** Weekly & hyper-local single source advertising vehicle reaches more of your potential customers within your "Circle-of-Influence".
2. **QUALITY:** Your very best prospects are newspaper readers. They have higher levels of education, higher household incomes and higher value of their primary residence.
3. **TARGETED:** Focused hyper-local editorial content ensures loyal readership.
4. **IMMEDIATE:** One of the fastest forms of advertising. Short deadlines allow advertising messages to be created and delivered in a matter of days.
5. **FLEXIBILTY:** Advertising that fits the size of the business and the size of the event, with short deadlines.
6. **CREDIBILTY & TRUST:** Consumers trust newspapers and frequently seen ads create a level of implied trust. You purchase the trust the Newspaper has spent many years building.
7. **SELECTIVE NOT INTRUSIVE:** Today's shoppers are far less likely to accept advertising that is spooned out to them. Newspapers are the medium used most for shopping during an average week. (59% of Shoppers)
8. **ENVIRONMENT:** Readers trust the newspaper to regularly deliver relevant news and information. People still love to read their names of names of people they know, or see their pictures in the local newspaper.
9. **RELIED UPON:** Newspaper advertising is a valuable commodity to consumers. Newspapers outdistanced other media in terms of: shopping plans, comparing prices.
10. **RESULTS:** Consistent newspaper campaigns have been very effective in building Brand recognition, delivering Merchandising messages and motivating customers with attractive "Call-to-Action" limited opportunities.

Soefje Family Reunion set for June 1

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The 61st annual Soefje Family Reunion will be held June 1, 2025 in New Braunfels at Fischer Park / Hilltop Pavilion. Look for the sign.

The meat — various will be provided, along with pinto beans. Included are paper goods, bread, ice tea, and water. There will be a hat passed to cover the costs. Families are asked to bring side dishes.

Also families are encouraged to bring photos, announcements and newspaper clippings, along with artificial flowers for the Heinrich and Anna Soefje Family grave site (at Hortontown Cemetery- NB), which will be put there later.

For more information, contact 830-221-4378 or 830 708-7804 or on the Soefje Family Facebook.

GOLF SCRAMBLE



CONTRIBUTED

The winning team from the May 21 Golf Scramble at Independence Golf Course in Gonzales were, from left, Heather Bryce Anderson, Josh Bustos, Victor & Mila Melgar, San Juan Garcia and Darren Hernandez.



CONTRIBUTED

The second-place team from the May 21 Golf Scramble at Independence Golf Course in Gonzales were, from left, Jackie Waldrip, David Hernandez, Buck Garza, Billy Hyman, Tim Cleveland, Ricky Walker, Roy Staton, Rick Lindstedt and Spencer Breitschopf.

25TH AND 2ND 25TH DISTRICT COURT SENTENCINGS MAY 2-MAY 7

25th District Court
May 2

- Christopher Davis IV, evading arrest/enhanced, two years state jail probated for four years, $1,500 fine, attorney fees plus court costs.
- Jesse Flores, manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance, 10 years deferred, $500 fine, attorney fees plus court costs.
- Phillip Hall, possession of a controlled substance, burglary of a habitation, five years state jail, 10 years felony deferred adjudication, $1,000 fine, attorney fees plus court costs and $1,616 restitution.
- Sylvia Maldonado, theft of property, four years probation, $1,500 fine, attorney fees plus court costs.
- Jazmin Santos, burglary of a habitation, counts 1 and 2 two years TDCJ state jail probated five years, count three 10 years TDCJ-ID probated 10 years, plus 20 days in jail, $800 fine, attorney fees and court costs and $3,230.65 restitution.
- Isaiah Camarilo, MTR possession of a controlled substance, PT/Assault of a pregnant person FV, 10 years deferred adjudication plus court costs.
- Sammy Sampayo, failure to comply sex offender duty, possession of a controlled substance, five years TDCJ with 138 days credit on each charge.
- Aaron Woodrum-Verrell, unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon, five years TDCJ with 258 days credit.
- Alyssa Wallace, possession of a controlled substance, five years TDCJ-ID with 44 days credit.

2nd 25th District Court
May 7

- Kenneth Alios Brister, possession of a controlled substance, 14 months state jail with 459 days credit.
- Melvin Marquez-Lopez, possession of a controlled substance, 279 days state jail.
- Dagoberto Meraz Jr., possession of a controlled substance, 7 years TDCJ with 59 days credit.
- Albert Lee Shelton, driving while intoxicated third or more, 10 years TDCJ plus probation 10 days APOC weekends beginning 5/16/25, $2,000 fine, attorney fees and court costs.
- Kimberly Nicole Smith, burglary of a habitation, dismissed.

25th District Court
May 2

- Tristan Newman, possession of a controlled substance, 18 months state jail probated four years, $250 fine, attorney fees plus court costs.
- Michelle Powell, possession of a controlled substance, four years deferred adjudication, $1,000 fine, attorney fees plus court costs.
- Jonathan Hackle, unauthorized use of a vehicle, 15 months state jail with 400 days credit.
- Dodie Wendel, arson (to be dismissed), unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, five years TDCJ with 195 days credit.
- Gabriela Zavala, bail jumping/FTA, six years TDCJ, MTR theft of property, 20 months TDCJ state jail.

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Churches join forces for VBS

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Make plans to join the Presbyterian and Lutheran Churches of Gonzales as they host Vacation Bible School.

The theme this year will be True North — Trusting Jesus in a Wild World. VBS begins June 16 through June 19 from 9 a.m. to noon and will be held at the Presbyterian Church, 414 St. Louis Street, Gonzales.

For additional information please call the church office at 830-672-3521.

Presbyterian Church holds high tea to celebrate Golden Girls

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

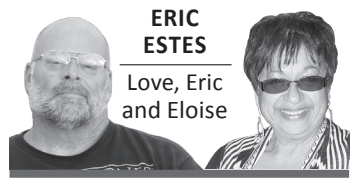
The women of the Presbyterian Church, Gonzales, gathered recently to honor and celebrate the Golden Girls of our church. The honorees were treated to a High Tea held at the lovely home of Brenda and James Benes.

The Golden Girls include Billie Dumas, Laurel Ince, Evelyn "Bitsy" Johnson, Janet Smith, Elsie Mosher and Florence Cummings. As the honorees arrived, they were given a wristlet of fresh flowers. Everyone enjoyed hearing the life experiences of the honorees. Guests enjoyed their choice of tea served in china teacups along with cucumber and chicken salad sandwiches, shortbread and lemon thins. Mints and mixed nuts completed the refreshments.

Everyone enjoyed viewing the backyard that was filled with beautiful blooming plants and fruit trees.

As guests departed everyone expressed their delight in the High Tea and are looking forward to meeting again next year.

Seven Years and Counting



ERIC ESTES

Love, Eric and Eloise

Hello everyone, I pray you're doing well, because we're taking a detour and things could get a little bumpy. As per today's title, I'm about a week away from the seventh anniversary of the passing of my wife and best friend, Eloise. If you've been reading these short articles for any length of time, I'm sure you're probably sick of me conveying how hard it's been readjusting to life without her, but since love and loss affects us all at some point, I feel it's an important, even though unpleasant topic.

Today I'll start a short series on grief, unfortunately a condition of life that few of us will be able to avoid. Sometimes life throws us a curve ball, and as much as we'd like to knock it over the centerfield fence, it's a swing and a miss. It seems that that because it is such an unpleasant subject, most people would rather not talk about it at all. Trust me, I completely understand. However, it's an undeniable part of our temporary existence here on earth, and talking about it can help us to cope, the best we're able to. For me, leaning on God for strength and comfort, along with just riding out the long and turbulent storm was the crux of it, and probably is for most. Continuing with the writings that Eloise started has also helped tremendously, and I truly appreciate y'all for allowing me this opportunity. This is why support groups and chat lines are so effective, because sometimes we just need to vent before we explode. Love and loss is one of life's most traumatic events, bringing even the strongest of us to our knees, even if we won't allow ourselves to show it. Grief is bigger than we are, but not bigger than God. Jesus reminds us in Matthew 11:28 to "Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." So, for those of you too stoic to show your emotions, find someway of letting it out before it eats you alive, because it's better to release it, than to live with it!

Currently in America, there are approximately 2800 new widows (women) and widowers (men) added to the list daily. That's over eleven million per year, in a population of 347 million. If there's an upside to these statistics it's that, in 2017 the average age of widowhood was 55, and today it's 59. It seems that even after surviving a pandemic, we're still living a bit longer. The average life expectancy today in the U.S. is approximately 81 for women and 79 for men. Yep boys, they still got us beat!

About three quarters of widowed people are women, with seven out of ten of them (over 65), now living alone. These days it's calculated that only about 2% of women, as compared to 20% of men, decide to remarry after the death of their spouse. After putting up with us men for decades, who can blame them? It seems women not only outlast us, but appear to be smarter as well. Yeah, thought you ladies would enjoy that one. Eloise and I had the discussion years ago that if I were to go first, she should find a good man to finish her remaining life with. She enthusiastically (?) agreed, but said that I couldn't do the same. I certainly didn't feel that it was fair, but she apparently didn't care. Honestly, I was somewhat flattered that she'd still be jealous, even from beyond the grave. Of course I replied, don't worry Honey, I'll still be your man... Buffalo Humps (pet name)!

As Proverbs 27:1 reminds us, "Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what it may bring." Yep, still love and miss her way too much!

Stay tuned for more next week, love you guys, Eric.

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Waelder Independent School District held commencement exercises Saturday, May 24, in the gymnasium as 20 students walked across the stage to receive their diplomas. Students gave roses to loved ones following the graduation ceremony — a longstanding tradition at the school.

LEW K. COHN



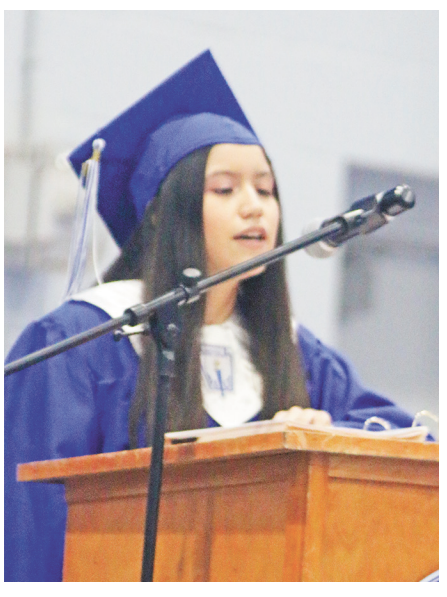




















LEGACY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

help execute this cinematic vision. Two of those people who will make sure what is seen and heard on screen is as authentic as possible are lead costume designer Alison Freer and historian and armorer Kerry Hellums.

Freer, who grew up in Texas but has lived in Los Angeles the past two decades, has credits which include "Captain America: Brave New World" and "Rebel Moon" as well as several Nickelodeon shows and Amazon originals.

She said the chance to tell a story that hasn't been fully explored on film — including the Battle of Gonzales and the Runaway Scrape — from a different perspective attracted her to the project.

"I went to elementary and middle school here. I swear I took five years of Texas history, like they covered everything," Freer said. "But you know, what they never covered is the story of the Runaway Scrape — all the women and children, running and fleeing. And I love that that is included here.

"And we're really seeing a lot more of the point of view of what it was like for the women of the time. You know, we've heard every story about the soldiers. Of course, we'd be nowhere without them, but it's so interesting what women and children also went through as part of the Texas Revolution, as part of making Texas 'Texas.' That angle of it is truly what excited me about this project."

Hellums, who grew up in West Texas, is a horseman and living history re-enactor with 40 years of experience in films, movies, and historical documentaries, bringing his simulated combat/tactical experience in mounted cavalry, artillery, and infantry to the big and small screen. His credits include "The Patriot," "Gettysburg" and "Two for Texas," which filmed in Dripping Springs with Kris Kristofferson, Tom Skerritt and Peter Coyote.

A chance to accurately portray the story of Gonzales' struggle attracted Hellums to work with Rinehart, who he has known for "the better part of two decades."

"There's what you call historians, and then there are those of us that delve into what history was like and the truth of it," Hellums said. "We get involved with the time and period for which we are portraying without a 21st century attitude towards it. We view it for the realness of what these men, these women and those that have come before us, what they were facing at the day that these events came about. And in that, there's an enrichment of being able to not only understand those that have gone before us, but what makes the character of us today."

Freer said the pressure to get even the smallest details on costuming right is great, especially as clothing from that era isn't as easy to find as other periods in American or world history.



Alison Freer | Jessica Isam | Wes Aylor | Pat 'Shaggy' Welsh | Lukcy Charms | Kerry Hellums | Graham Hutchins



John Franklin Rinehart

> **"And we're really seeing a lot more of the point of view of what it was like for the women of the time. You know, we've heard every story about the soldiers. Of course, we'd be nowhere without them, but it's so interesting what women and children also went through as part of the Texas Revolution, as part of making Texas 'Texas.' That angle of it is truly what excited me about this project."**
>
> *—Alison Freer, Lead costume designer*

> **"As a proud Texan, it means everything to me to build this project with an all-Texas crew. This film is about our heritage, and it should be created by the people who live it every day.**
>
> *—John Franklin Rinehart*

"The process is really just a ton of researching and pulling of references. I actually just read a book about women making textiles in their home in 1835 in Texas. Who knew there was an entire book written on it?" Freer said.

"I've reached out to a lot of re-enactor Facebook groups and gotten advice from them. There's some places that sell historical recreations that I purchased some stuff from. We've made a few things that we couldn't find, and I'm actually pulling and sourcing a lot of the costumes from two different costume houses in Los Angeles that specialize in this time period.

"You know, there's a lot (of stock) in late 1700s in England — the Regency era — and then picks up a lot with the frontier, from like 1860s on. However, 1835 and the early days of America, there is a little bit of a hole in the stock, so we've really had to get extremely creative," Freer added.

Hellums said as a historical advisor, he will speak to the actors to help them get into the mindset of who their characters were and what their interest was in the moment when it comes to, for example, the Battle of Gonzales and 'Come and Take It' on Oct. 2, 1835.

"And out of that will come what you will see on the screen, the intensity of it, the trying to make sense of what 'Come and Take It' truly was all about —from a wedding dress to a battle banner to what would become the birth of the Texas Republic out of that," Hellums said.

From a weapons standpoint, Hellums said the Mexican Army at the time was "using mostly European weaponry, discarded — or as you call Army surplus — Brown Bess muskets, and also the Baker muskets from the British Empire, so that's what we will use."

"From the Texian side, you will also see that same type weaponry, along with the long rifle hunting rifles that were much more effective of longer range than the Brown Bess," Hellums added. "We use much reproduction, but authentic reproductions, of those weapons, but in fact, there's a few pieces that are actually originals.

"It goes through me, and of course, a few others (like Freer) to historical accuracy of equipment, clothing and individualism of the frontiersmen," Hellums said. "When you portray the Mexican cavalry, for example, you'll see that they were stationed at the Alamo and by most part, were overlooked from Mexico City, so they had to furnish much of their own uniforms, equipment and saddles. So the uniforms they were wearing were pretty much regulation coats, but after that, it goes into a little more in depth."

Freer confirmed that some of the costume pieces that will appear in the movie are from both the 1960 John Wayne version of "The Alamo" as well as the 2004 John Lee Hancock film.

"United*American Costume Corp. in Los Angeles is owned by the daughter of John Wayne's personal costumer, Luster Bayless, who recently passed away," Freer said "He was John Wayne's costumer for all of those movies and started a real Western-based costume house. Unfortunately, a lot of the clothes from that John Wayne Alamo movie are kind of in tatters, but a lot of the hats are still in good condition, so we're using some of those. They have a melange of pieces from every Western movie possible.

"Also, Western Costume Co. here in Los Angeles made all the Alamo uniforms for the 2004 movie by John Lee Hancock and we are getting to use some of the pieces from that movie as well. We're also leaning on some local Texas-based re-enactors, and the accuracy of their costuming has really raised the bar for us."

Freer said some costume pieces will have to be made because of the challenge of recreating the Runaway Scrape.

"As that happened, it was raining and muddy and freezing," she explained. "The three things you don't want to work with in Hollywood are children, animals and mud — well it's actually rain, because then that makes mud. We're having to purchase and make a lot of things so we can basically ruin them in the mud for those scenes."

Safety on set is a big factor when it comes to productions using authentic weaponry and has recently made headlines with the armor of the movie "Rust" being sentenced to prison for involuntary manslaughter for the shooting death of the cinematographer of that film when a live round was fired by actor-director Alec Baldwin during a rehearsal.

"Safety is a very big thing," Hellums said. "You hear about these type of mishaps. As an armorer, those weapons are ours, and we inspect those weapons before they are used. We are the ones that will load them, we are the ones that will hand them to the various individuals that are going to use them on screen.

"Once fired, because we will load them with the correct grain amount and we have the flints — we are there for all aspects of this weapon. Once that weapon is fired, we're just off screen, and we'll take those weapons back in our possession. Nobody has those. It comes out of our hands to be used in the scene, and then it comes back in our hands immediately. We inspect every weapon on the set because we are the one that's responsible to load them, make sure they're fired, and we train the ones that are going to use them on how to fire them."

Rinehart said he is proud of the crew that has been assembled for this production, which also includes head makeup artist Jessica Isam, special effects head Wes Aylor, field producer Pat "Shaggy" Welsh, co-writer and singer-songwriter Lukcy Charms and motion designer and VFX artist Graham Hutchins. Former Gonzales Chamber of Commerce operations coordinator Misti King has also joined as an associate producer on the film.

"As a proud Texan, it means everything to me to build this project with an all-Texas crew," Rinehart said. "This film is about our heritage, and it should be created by the people who live it every day. We've assembled an incredible team of talented professionals from across the state, and together, we're not just telling the story of the Battle of Gonzales — we're proving that Texas has the talent, passion, and drive to lead in film production. My hope is that this project shines a spotlight on the opportunities that exist here and inspires more productions to invest in Texas filmmaking."

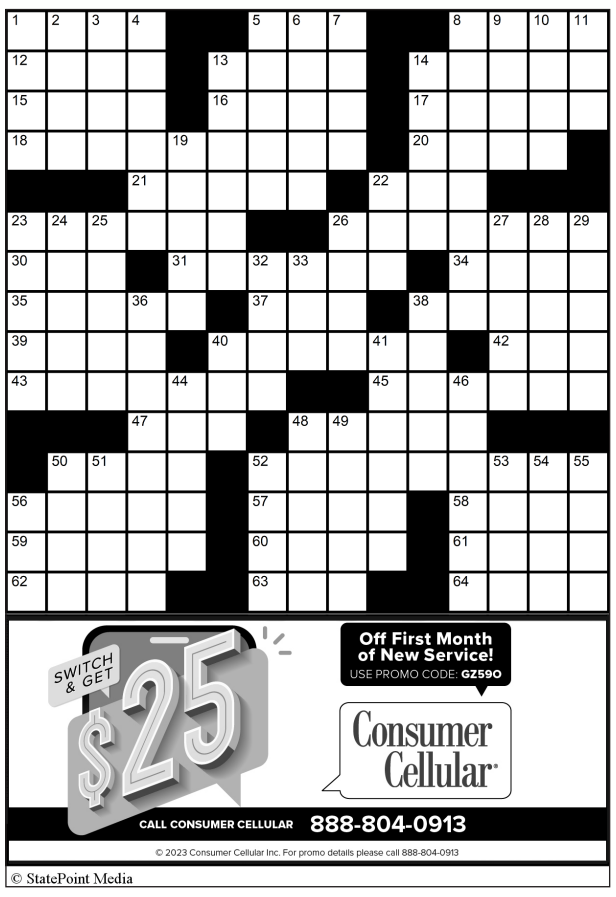
CROSSWORD THEME: ON BROADWAY

CLUES ACROSS

1. Benatar and Morita
5. Certain tray contents
8. In custody
12. *Main character in "Shrek the Musical," based on 001 flick
13. Soreness
14. Wore (2 words)
15. Street in Anytown, USA
16. Burn to a crisp
17. Opposite of alpha
18. *Musical with most Tony Awards, with The
20. Grape holder
21. Entertain
22. ___ Aviv
23. Unrhymed Japanese poem, pl.
26. Snakebirds
30. Opposite of hence
31. Shooting star
34. Milk's favorite cookie
35. Zoroaster follower
37. A Beatle bride
38. Mix-up
39. Type of cotton
40. *____ Lloyd Webber
42. Dog command
43. Inference of similarity
45. 4th letter of Hebrew alphabet
47. "But I heard him exclaim, ____ he drove out of sight..."
48. Pool table fabric
50. Altar location
52. *Last year's Tony Award winner for Best Musical, with The
56. Santa Anna's target
57. To, archaic
58. Small cave
59. Cocaine-producing plant, pl.
60. Diagnostic test
61. Biblical Isaac's firstborn
62. Not quite an adult
63. Craggy peak
64. Tear

CLUES DOWN

1. Circumstance's partner
2. Lab gel
3. Domingo, Pavarotti and Carreras, e.g.
4. "Where the Wild Things Are" author
5. Plural of #13 Across
6. Social media button
7. Not his
8. *Musical with most Tony nominations
9. Barbara of "I Dream of Jeannie"
10. *Private box
11. Double helix-shaped structure
13. Emile Zola's "J'____...!"
14. What helicopter parents do
19. Savory taste sensation
22. Black gunk
23. Tapa, alt. sp.
24. "Encore!"
25. _____ Jean, a.k.a. Marilyn Monroe
26. Don't let this hit you on the way out
27. Use the other end of a pencil
28. Re-equip
29. *Rodgers' and Hammerstein's "____ Pacific"
32. *Award nickname, short for Antoinette
33. Finish line
36. *Arthur Miller's "Death of a ____"
38. Swaziland native
40. *"____ of Aquarius," song from "Hair"
41. a.k.a. the Wizard of Menlo Park
44. Plural of #34 Across
46. Late actor Heath
48. Social dice game
49. Rose oil
50. Medicinal house plant
51. Tempo
52. Give a boot
53. Gaelic
54. Multicolored horse
55. Wall support
56. *Part of a play



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Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

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

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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.

CONGRATULATIONS GHS CLASS OF 2025













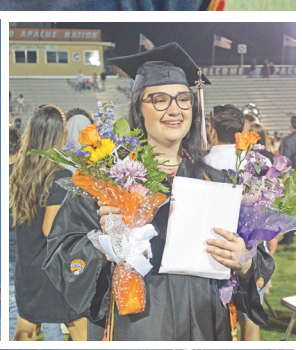
























It was a great night at Apache Field for the Gonzales High School Class of 2025 to tread the grass for their final time as high school students on Friday, May 23. Commencement exercises brought out family and friends of the graduating class to celebrate this milestone with their loved ones. There were big smiles — and a few happy tears, too.

FLASHES BY LOR PHOTOGRAPHY

Notice of Public Hearing on Gonzales Central Appraisal District Budget

The Gonzales Central Appraisal District will hold a public hearing on a proposed budget for the 2026 fiscal year.

The public hearing will be held on June 11, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. at the appraisal district office, 301 N. Saint Joseph St., Suite A, Gonzales, Texas.

A summary of the appraisal district budget follows:

The total amount of the proposed budget.	$2,213,785.00
The total amount of decrease from the current year's budget.	$ 144,016.00
The number of employees compensated under the proposed budget.	14
The number of employees compensated under the current budget.	14

The appraisal district is supported solely by payments from the local taxing units served by the appraisal district.

If approved by the appraisal district board of directors at the public hearing, this proposed budget will take effect automatically unless disapproved by the governing bodies of the county, school districts, cities and towns served by the appraisal district.

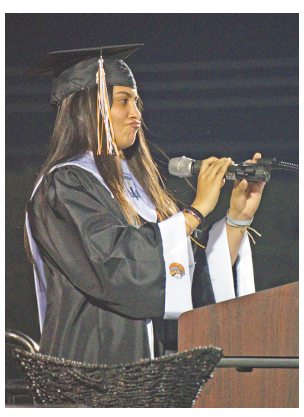
A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection in the office of each of those governing bodies. A copy is also available for public inspection at the appraisal district office.

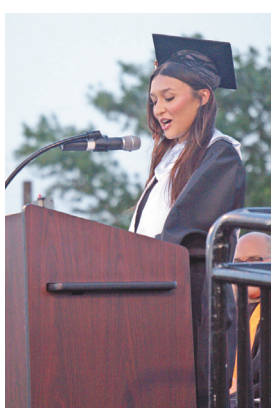
GONZALES CENTRAL APPRAISAL DISTRICT
301 N. Saint Joseph St., Suite A
P.O. Box 867
GONZALES, TEXAS 78629
(830) 672-2879





Congratulations GHS Class of 2025











Our anything but simple minds won't forget the GHS Class of 2025, which graduated Friday, May 23 at Apache Field. This colorful bunch earned many honors and accolades during their 13 years as Apaches, from pre-K through senior year. Congratulations and best wishes for future success!

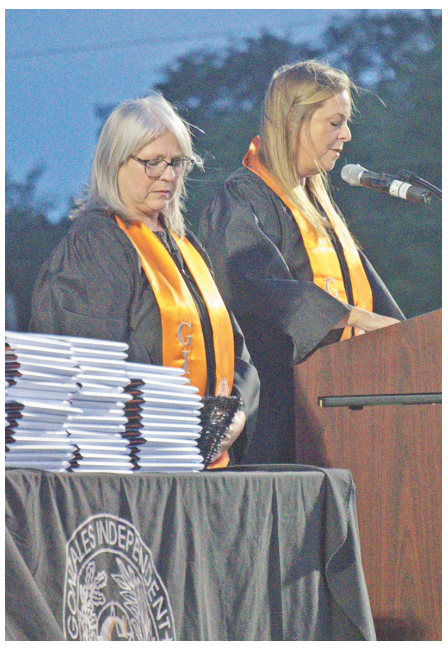
FLASHES BY LOR PHOTOGRAPHY





















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OTTINE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ness destination where visitors can experience therapeutic mineral waters unlike any other in Texas. This highly anticipated destination is now accepting bookings for day passes online at ottine.com.

"We are excited to offer our guests the opportunity to spend the day soaking in the historic mineral waters with all their benefits, have a massage, enjoy a wood-fired pizza or fresh salad, relax in a hammock and just generally get away from stress," said DeDe DeStefano, general manager of Ottine Mineral Springs.

"Ottine is an incredibly peaceful retreat because of our tranquil, natural surroundings. Fostering wellness experiences, preserving the sanctity of our therapeutic waters and offering Texas hospitality are at the forefront of our mission, and we are thrilled to be able to provide a refreshing experience for all who visit."

Nestled in the serene landscape of Central Texas adjacent to Palmetto State Park, Ottine is opening several mineral-rich pools of varying temperatures — including some refreshingly cool pools for summer. The pools are designed to be enjoyed year-round, providing guests the opportunity to experience the water's restorative qualities any time. The artesian well that provides the source taps 1,554 feet deep into the massive Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer.

The pastime of soaking in mineral waters is built on centuries of healing tradition: the naturally occurring minerals such as magnesium, sodium bicarbonate and salt can help ease muscle tension, reduce joint pain, improve circulation and support skin health. Warm mineral bathing also promotes relaxation, reduces stress, and improves sleep quality. The unique water quality at Ottine Mineral Springs is considered to be the best in the world. The alkaline, mineral-rich waters provide a uniquely soothing experience comparable to renowned European spa destinations.

In addition to five new refreshing pools, guests can experience contrast therapy and spa services to unwind and rejuvenate amidst the shady landscape. Natural rock fountains, grottos, hammocks, umbrellas and loungers enhance the immersive atmosphere. The landscape design highlights native Texas flora, including shady oak trees, indigenous palmettos and local plants. Additional amenities include wellness programming, yoga classes, hike and bike trails and a retail component.

As an extension of its wellness amenities, Ottine Mineral Springs offers a locally- and seasonally-inspired food and beverage menu, featuring wood-fired pizzas, fresh salads and nourishing bowls. Guests can enjoy a selection of juices, coffee, wine, beer, and cocktails, while soaking in the healing benefits of Ottine's waters in the relaxing spa environment.

Ottine's healing legacy began in 1909 upon discovering the 107-degree artesian spring at a depth of 1,554 feet. In the 1930s, the Gonzales Warm Springs Foundation was established and the magic of the water was used to provide relief to children with polio, welcoming all races and backgrounds.

With its treasured history, Ottine Mineral Springs' thoughtful redevelopment sought to maintain and preserve many of the original structures, blending them with modern elements to ensure that the legacy of the renowned healing mineral waters endures. With respect to nature and history, Ottine Mineral Springs will continue expanding its offerings in future phases.











Ottine's healing legacy began in 1909 upon discovering the 107-degree artesian spring at a depth of 1,554 feet by Howard Hughes Sr. and Walter Benona Sharp. In the 1930s, the Gonzales Warm Springs Foundation was established as a non-profit, benevolent institution designed to alleviate the suffering of Texas children stricken with paralytic polio. Today, the site has been turned into a wellness destination where visitors can soak in historic mineral waters and experience therapeutic relief.

COURTESY/OTTINE MINERAL SPRINGS



STROM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Nicky McKinney.

"Both of the candidates we spoke today were very strong," Anzaldua said. "They both have a great demeanor and a love and passion for the city. It's a very tough choice. We encourage you to continue your passion for the city and to look to run in 2026 if you so desire."

Kridler made the motion to appoint Strom when the council returned to open session, which Hernandez seconded.

Strom took his place on the council dais and, with Anzaldua's prompting, made his first motion — to adjourn.