

The Gonzales Inquirer

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COURTESY/TEXAS LEGACY IN LIGHTS

Kelby McCan, right, is filmed in character as John Henry Moore during a scene for Texas Legacy in Lights.

McCan, Richardson hope Texas Legacy in Lights inspires others to 'Come and Film It'

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

Kelby C. McCan and Johnny "Chops" Richardson said they loved being part of an "All-Texan" cast and crew for the Texas Legacy in Lights project, inspiring them to "Come and Film It" in Gonzales.

"I think the cast, being from Texas, is everything," said McCan, who plays militia leader and provocateur John Henry Moore — the man history credits with telling the Mexican Army if they wanted the old cannon Gonzales was using to defend itself, it needed to "come and take it."

"It's nothing personal to any other actors out there, but there's blood here, there's history here, there's ancestry here, and it's also a chance for Texas to step in and say, 'We can punch above our weight class. We have 'the chops' — if you will — to hang and do a production like this."

"This is just the beginning. This battle of Gonzales was a spark. It sparked the Texas Revolution, right? I'm hoping, I'm betting, this is a spark that helps light the film industry in Texas that they say, 'Hey, you can do some big films, some nice films

See LEGACY, page 12

National Bikers Roundup comes to Gonzales beginning July 29

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

It's billed as the single biggest gathering of minority motorcycle enthusiasts in the United States—the National Bikers Roundup — and for six days next week, it will call the JB Wells Arena, Park and Expo in Gonzales home.

The roar of heavy metal thunder — from thousands of Harleys, Hondas, Kawasakis, Yamahas, Triumphs, Ducatis and Indians — will fill the air when as many as 30,000 to 40,000 attendees convene beginning Tuesday, July 29, and continuing through Sunday, Aug. 3. From cruisers to cafe racers, from choppers to flatheads — if some-

one rides it, you'll probably see it on display at the NBR.

While many who come to the festival stay in RVs or pitch tents to camp for the "full experience" of this convention, others stay in hotel rooms not only in the host city, but within a one to two

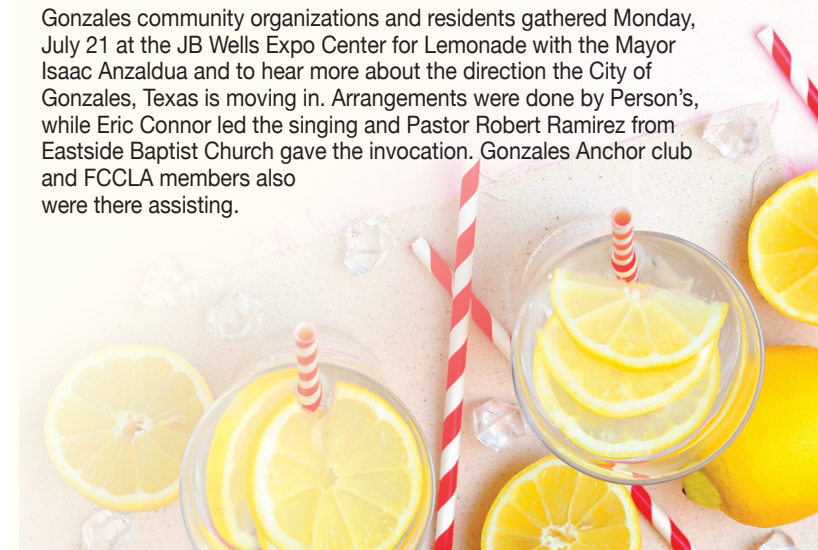
See BIKERS, page 14

SHARING LEMONADE WITH THE MAYOR



FLASHES BY LOR PHOTOGRAPHY

Gonzales community organizations and residents gathered Monday, July 21 at the JB Wells Expo Center for Lemonade with the Mayor Isaac Anzaldua and to hear more about the direction the City of Gonzales, Texas is moving in. Arrangements were done by Person's, while Eric Connor led the singing and Pastor Robert Ramirez from Eastside Baptist Church gave the invocation. Gonzales Anchor club and FCCLA members also were there assisting.



Residents show up to ask council not to decommission old rodeo arena

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

A Tuesday, July 22 Gonzales City Council public hearing on the potential decommission and removal of the old rodeo arena at Independence Park was attended by many residents who wish to do just the opposite — see the historic venue repaired and restored so it can continue hosting events for another seven decades or more.

Mayor Isaac Anzaldua and council members directed City Manager Tim Crow to meet with representatives from the community to discuss ideas and options for the arena before the council holds a workshop at a later date to further explore the issue.

Crow said he brought up the topic for discussion due to concerns about exposed pipe and other hazards at the arena, which could be a safety hazard as well as a source of liability

See ARENA, page 13

OPINION

GCUWCD prepares final decision document for GBRA contested case

BY TED BORRACK
Special to the Inquirer

The Gonzales County Underground Water Conservation District (GCUWCD) board voted on June 10 to deny Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA)'s request to amend its groundwater permits, rejecting an additional 9,000 acre-feet per year (AFY) beyond its existing 15,000 AFY allocation from the Carrizo-Wilcox aquifer.

The board's denial was good news for local farmers, ranchers, and community leaders concerned about over-pumping the Carrizo-Wilcox aquifer which is already saddled with permits over 92,000

See WATER, page 13

Back to School Bash coming up at Providence MBC

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Providence Missionary Baptist Church is getting into the back-to-school spirit with their annual Back to

School Bash this Saturday, July 26. This is the third year the church will host the event.

The event will have food, including hot dogs and ham-

burgers for everyone who attends; waterslides and face painting for the children; plus activities, including tug-

See SCHOOL, page 14

Highway improvement contracts awarded

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Yoakum - At its June 20 meeting in Austin, the Texas Transportation Commission awarded maintenance and improvement projects in TxDOT's Yoakum Districts to Fayette, Gonzales, and Wharton Counties for a district total of \$16,484,276.07.

GONZALES COUNTY

Hunter Industries of San Marcos, Texas was awarded the \$10,569,339.08 contract for rehabilitation of existing roadway on SH 304 from SH97 to the Caldwell County Line.

FAYETTE COUNTY

Acme Bridge of New Braunfels, Texas, was awarded the \$1,169,874.33 contract for

See CONTRACTS, page 14



Reese Law Firm, L.L.P. named Main Street Business of Month

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Gonzales Main Street is proud to recognize The Reese Law Firm, L.L.P. as the July Business of the Month. With deep roots in the community and a strong commitment to legal excellence, the firm has served Gonzales and surrounding counties for more than two decades.

Founded on October 2, 2003, by Gonzales native Noel Henry Reese, the firm was previously known as Reese & Escobar, L.L.P. Today, The Reese Law Firm, L.L.P. operates from the historic second floor of 417 St. George Street, right in the heart of downtown Gonzales. The firm is home to three full-time attorneys, an office manager, and a paralegal, offering legal counsel in a wide range of practice areas.

A LEGACY OF LEGAL LEADERSHIP

Founding partner Noel H. Reese has built a reputation as a dedicated trial lawyer with a broad portfolio of experience. After graduating with honors from Texas Military Institute in San Antonio, Reese earned



Allison Lanty, Noel Reese and Clayton Reese

his Bachelor of Arts, Magna Cum Laude, from Vanderbilt University in 1991 and went on to complete his law degree at the University of Texas School of Law in 1994. He became licensed to practice in Texas in 1995 and later in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas in 1999. In 2022, he furthered his education with a Master of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies from Texas Tech University, concentrating on energy law and policy.

Over the years, Mr. Reese has tried numerous felony and misdemeanor cases, securing

not-guilty verdicts in complex trials involving DWI, Attempted Capital Murder, Burglary, and more. His practice also includes family law, civil litigation, estate planning, probate, real estate, and business law.

EXPANDING THE FIRM WITH STRONG LOCAL TIES

In August 2024, Allison Lanty joined the firm as a partner, bringing with her more than 30 years of experience in criminal law. Board Certified in Criminal Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization since 1997, Lanty is a seasoned litigator who has served both as a prosecutor and a defense attorney.

Lanty's ties to Gonzales County date back to 1994, when she served as Assistant District Attorney for the 25th Judicial District. Over the years, she has worked extensively with juvenile cases, child welfare matters, and the Gonzales County Children's Advocacy Center. Her current practice includes criminal defense, family law, probate, and estate planning.

The firm's legacy continues with the addition of Clayton M. Reese, who became a partner in October 2024. A Gonzales native



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Reese Law Firm LLP was named the Main Street Business of the Month for July 2024 with more than 20 years of commitment to legal excellence for the Gonzales County community.

and graduate of Texas Lutheran University and South Texas College of Law Houston, Clayton Reese brings a modern perspective and valuable experience gained from practicing construction law in Houston. His current focus includes family law, estate planning, real estate, construction law, criminal defense, and general civil litigation.

A PILLAR OF THE GONZALES LEGAL COMMUNITY

With more than 20 years of

service, The Reese Law Firm, L.L.P. has established itself as a trusted legal resource and a cornerstone of Gonzales' downtown business district. The firm's longevity is a testament to its commitment to the community, its clients, and the values of professionalism and integrity.

Gonzales Main Street proudly honors The Reese Law Firm as a model of local excellence and a vital contributor to the continued growth and vibrancy of our historic downtown.

Community school supply drive set for Aug. 7 at Edwards Center

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Summer — the time of “no more teachers, no more books” — is almost over as schools gear up to start seeing students in the classroom as soon as next month.

To help them get ready, the Gonzales Community School Supply Drive & Giveaway will be held for grades pre-K through fifth from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 7, at Edwards Community Center at the corner of Kleine and Fly streets in Gonzales.

School supplies needed include composition books, crayons, notebook paper, map colors, pencils and folders.

Local businesses and community can get involved by “adopting a teacher,” and with the donation,

a teacher will receive a \$50 gift card to purchase school supplies for their classroom.

Last year's effort gave away 300 school supply bags to students within the community through a collective effort from local businesses, organizations, churches and individuals.

Sponsors include Gonzales Main Street, Edwards Association, Eastside Baptist Church, First Methodist Church, Gonzales Church of Christ, Gateway Fellowship, Two Rivers Bible Church, Mt. Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church, Divine Purpose Outreach Ministry, Gonzales Noon Lion's Club, Leo's Club, Pilot International Club of Gonzales, Anchor Club of Gonzales, GHS National Honor Society, GHS Career &



Technical Education, NJROTC, Victoria College, Come and Take It Dance, Next Concept Motorsport, Person's Flowers, St. James Inn, the Lynn Theater, Walmart and Rebel Heart Designs.

There are various drop off locations located at Walmart, Holly Jeanne Boutique Victoria College, Crew, Next Concept, and Person's Flower Shop. For more information, contact Aaron Miller (830-339-9616), David Tucey (830-263-1611), Veterans County Service Officer (830-672-3244), Isaac Anzaldua (830-203-1035), Kena May (830-857-4642) and Deanna Newman (830-857-4477).

Operation Lone Star lands one male in Gonzales County Jail on seven charges

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

A man found himself on a “black and white taxi” ride to the Gonzales County Jail early Tuesday, July 15, after he was arrested by a deputy assigned to the Operation Lone Star task force.

Gonzales County Sheriff's Office reported that the deputy observed a black Chrysler sedan traveling east on Interstate 10. When the deputy checked the vehicle's registration status, it was discovered that the registration had expired in February 2024. The deputy initi-



Jorge Antonio Elizondo Jr.

See ARREST, page 11

Schulenburg Festival planned for July 31-Aug. 3

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

It's time once again for the annual Schulenburg Festival, also known as the “National Party of Texas.”

From Thursday, July 31 through Sunday, Aug. 3, there is a full weekend of events with something for everyone. Activities include continuous live music, rodeo, cook-offs, carnival and kids' inflatables, parade, arts & crafts vendors, cornhole, kiddie parade, tricycle races, softball, basketball, fun run, golf, cow chip and egg toss, dunking board, and class reunions.

Friday's music headliner is Logan Ryan Band, a powerhouse of Red Dirt country and Americana,

blending raw storytelling from a variety of influences, including Robert Earl Keen and Charlie Robison. Lead singer Logan Ryan Skloss began writing songs at just 11 years old. Their growing catalog includes fan-favorites like “Signed, Love Wynonna,” and the breakout hit “Tecovas,” plus “Cigarettes and Alcohol.”

Also performing on Friday night is Desert Highway, an Eagles tribute band. “We decided to try something different this year. Everyone loves to sing along with familiar songs, and what better band to pay homage to than The Eagles,” says President Michael Zweschper.

Texas-based Desert Highway is nationally recognized — with preci-

sion musicianship, rich harmonies, and authentic arrangements, they deliver a powerful and immersive experience that captures the spirit and soul of the Eagles.

“Friday will be a nice mix of familiar tunes and a new Texas country artist,” according to Zweschper.

Friday's music kicks off with Erica Daniels, a born and raised Texas Artist. She offers an eclectic music experience, pulling influences from a variety of acts. She has shared the stage with many national recording acts and will debut on the Festival stage at 6:30 pm.

The music on Saturday will continue the party atmosphere.

See FESTIVAL, page 11

Schoolcraft to present at GCRW August ‘Happy Hour’ meeting

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

SEGUIN — On Thursday, Aug. 14 at 5:30 p.m. the Guadalupe County Republican Women will present State Rep. Alan Schoolcraft, District 44, representing Gonzales and Guadalupe counties.

State Representative Alan Schoolcraft previously served in the Texas House for six-terms, from 1981 to 1993. Rep. Schoolcraft returned to the Texas House in 2024 and he proudly represents Guadalupe and Gonzales counties. Alan lives with his wife Joette in McQueeney, Texas.

Rep. Schoolcraft is an attorney and a successful business owner. Rep. Schoolcraft is a United States Air Force veteran, a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, and he graduated top of his class at Saint Mary's University Law School in San Antonio.

Rep. Schoolcraft is dedicated to serving House District 44 as a true conservative in the Texas House of

See GCRW, page 11

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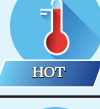

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Gonzales Weather

	July 24 100°/75°	Partly sunny and hot 2% chance of rain • RealFeel 103
	July 25 99°/77°	Cloudy and hot 18% chance of rain • RealFeel 90
	July 26 99°/76°	Mostly sunny and very warm 5% chance of rain • RealFeel 100
	July 27 101°/75°	Mostly cloudy and hot; occasional rain in the afternoon 63% chance of rain • RealFeel 107
	July 28 100°/77°	Mostly sunny and hot 3% chance of rain • RealFeel 107
	July 29 103°/76°	Mostly cloudy and hot 2% chance of rain • RealFeel 108
	July 30 97°/74°	Mostly sunny and very warm 10% chance of rain • RealFeel 101

Celebrations Birthdays

July 24th Mona Bivins Robert Guerra Leticia Musick Annette Philippus Gene Ticken	July 28th Chris Garcia Maggie Holub Janelle Lester Sandra McIntosh Charlena Parr Brandon Roach Erica Turner-Ernst
July 25th Ian Riker Kelly Stewart	July 29th Joseph R. Flores Kris Law
July 26th Jose Contreras Kristien Kotzebue Imogene Rainey Kelly Rathmann	July 30th Kathy Zella

Anniversary
July 29th
Brian & Rebecca Menking

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Upcoming Events at J.B. Wells Park in Gonzales

July 25th-26th – Gonzales Playday Association

July 27th – South Texas Tour

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Cattlemen's Column: Ranch Gatherings around the bend

BY CARL RAY POLK JR.
 Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association president

FORT WORTH — At Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, we take pride in creating strong connections across our membership. One of the ways we do this is through our longstanding tradition of local Ranch Gatherings — informal, yet impactful events designed to bring members together in their own community.

Starting this month, we will travel to 21 communities across the state — from Midland to Crockett, and Amarillo to Mercedes. Each event offers a casual way to connect with friends, neighbors, Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association staff, your district special ranger and others with an interest in ranching and land stewardship. Conversations will include timely

UPCOMING RANCH GATHERINGS

- Wichita Falls — July 18
- Tyler — July 22
- Beaumont — Aug. 1
- Crockett — Aug. 13
- Navasota — Aug. 20
- Midland — Aug. 26
- El Campo — Aug. 28
- Kingsville — Sept. 3
- Sulphur Springs — Sept. 3
- Comanche — Sept. 9
- Cameron — Sept. 18
- Waco — Sept. 23
- Westhoff — Oct. 9
- San Angelo — Oct. 14
- Fredericksburg — Oct. 16
- Buffalo Gap — Oct. 20
- Leonard — Oct. 29
- Floresville — Nov. 5
- Mercedes — Nov. 13
- Amarillo — Nov. 15

Event information can be found at <https://tscra.org/ranch-gatherings/>.

updates on issues like New World screwworm, landowner rights and regulatory updates. TSCRA Ranch Gatherings, which begin at 5:30 p.m., offer a fun evening of networking and social-

izing with new and old friends alike. With plenty of time to mix and mingle, our ultimate hope is for attendees to walk away with a sense of camaraderie and someone they can call on in the future.

Equally important, these gatherings help strengthen our association. When you bring a friend, neighbor or fellow rancher, you are not just inviting them to an event — you're introducing them to a network built on advocacy, resources and shared values. Membership grows stronger with every new voice and perspective. Ranch Gatherings are where those conversations begin, and they are the core of our grassroots efforts.

Whether you are new to the association or a longtime member, we invite you to attend a Ranch Gathering near you. There's no cost to attend, and dinner is always on us. We look forward to seeing you.

Garden Q&A

with CALVIN FINCH



Q. I understand that we start planting vegetable transplants for the winter in September. Does that mean if we are going to rely on seeds that we would start planting them now?

A. If you are going to try and grow the cabbage related vegetables like broccoli, kale, cauliflower and cabbage that we usually plant as transplants you could try and start them in containers now but it is too early and hot to plant the seed directly in the garden. For the vegetables that we usually plant with seed directly in the garden such as lettuce, carrots, radishes, beets, turnips, and rutabagas, you should wait until September to plant the seed.

It is, however, time to plant tomato transplants directly in the garden. Prepare the garden bed for the tomatoes and the other winter vegetables by incorporating 2 inches of compost and 10 cups of slow release 19-05-09 fertilizer per 100 square feet of bed.

Q. Pairs and small flocks of ducks have been flying over our area. Do you have any idea what species they might be? They look long necked.

A. I haven't seen flocks of any ducks flying over yet, but pairs of whistling ducks have been fairly common. They are also called black bellied tree ducks and usually nest in tree cavi-

ties. The ducklings will jump out of the tree cavity and then travel with their mother to a body of water to start their feeding. It is common for the duck and ducklings to cross roads, stop traffic, and be photographed.

Q. What is the best way to control leaf-footed bugs and stink bugs on blackberries? They can leave a bitter taste on the fruit.

A. Some gardeners say that you can use an insecticide with the organic product Spinosad as the active ingredient. I have had better success with malathion on blackberries and peaches. At least one other gardener in the area uses a battery powered portable vacuum tool. If you are considering the insecticides, review the label instructions and then follow the instructions on the product you decide to use.

Q. We were overwhelmed by winter weeds in our lawn last year. When should we apply a preemergent herbicide. Can you recommend any brands?

A. Apply a preemergent such as Dimension, Barricade, or Amaze on or about August 1. Review the labels of the products listed and use the one that best meets your needs in terms of the weeds you have and the amount of herbicide you need. The prices can be quite different.

LIVESTOCK WEEKLY REPORTS

GONZALES LIVESTOCK REPORT

Sale Date: July 19, 2025
 Cattle on hand: 755
 Compared to our last sale:
 Number 1 choice calves and yearlings sold fully steady and very active. Less quality calves and yearlings sold steady. Packer cows and bulls sold steady. Stocker-feeder Steers: Medium and large-frame No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 400.00-750.00; 300-400 lbs., 325.00-530.00; 400-500 lbs., 285.00-470.00; 500-600 lbs., 275.00-395.00; 600-700 lbs., 270.00-330.00; 700-800 lbs., 295.00-325.00.
 Bull Yearlings: 700-900 lbs., 185.00-275.00.
 Stocker-feeder Heifers: Medium and large-frame No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 375.00-650.00; 300-400 lbs., 290.00-480.00; 400-500 lbs., 275.00-435.00; 500-600 lbs., 265.00-355.00; 600-700 lbs., 295.00-325.00.
 Packer Cows: Good lean utility and commercial, 135.00-147.00; Cutters, 153.00-163; Canners, 91.00-126.00; High yielding fat cows, 152.00-163.00.
 Packer Bulls: Yield grade 1 & 2, good heavy bulls, 177.00-193.00; Light weights and medium quality bulls, 155.00-169.00.
 Stockers Cows: \$900.00-\$2900.00.
 Pairs: \$1800.00 to \$3200.00.

NIXON LIVESTOCK

July 21ST, 2025
 Cattle - 935
 Cows - 106
 Bulls - 8
 Steers:
 200-300 lbs - \$362-392-575
 300-400 lbs - \$414-424-530
 400-500 lbs - \$368-398-490
 500-600 lbs - \$332-362-425
 600-700 lbs - \$306-336-375
 700-800 lbs - \$289-319-355
 Heifers:

200-300 lbs - \$314-344-495
 300-400 lbs - \$338-368-445
 400-500 lbs - \$347-377-495
 500-600 lbs - \$312-342-485
 600-700 lbs - \$297-327-440
 700-800 lbs - \$282 -312-345
 @#Slaughter Cows - \$98-173
 Slaughter Bulls - \$110-190
 Stocker Cows - \$1000-2800
 Pairs: \$2500-4100
 WE WILL BE CLOSED ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2025 FOR LABOR DAY!

HALLETTVILLE LIVESTOCK COMMISSION CO., INC.

Sale date: July 15, 2025
 Cattle on hand: 1514
 Packer Cows:
 High Dressing: \$143-170
 Medium Dressing: \$122-142
 Low Dressing: \$110-120
 Poor/Weak Cows: \$95-110
 Packer Bulls:
 High Dressing Bulls: \$186-202
 Medium Dressing Bulls: \$165-185
 Low Dressing Bulls: \$145-165
 Stocker Cows:
 Good Stocker/Cows & Heifers: NONE
 Medium Stocker Cows & Heifers: \$2000-2950
 Good Cow & Calf Pairs: None
 Medium Cow & Calf Pairs: NONE
 Stocker & Feeder Calves & Yearlings:
 Number 1 steer & bull calves:
 Under 200 lbs.: \$520-800
 200-300 lbs.: \$490-595
 300-400 lbs.: \$440-535
 400-500 lbs.: \$390-470
 500-600 lbs.: \$350-412
 600-700 lbs.: \$320-376
 700-800 lbs.: \$290-350
 800 UP \$270-306
 Number 1 heifer calves:
 Under 200 lbs.: \$500-740
 200-300 lbs.: \$430-530
 300-400 lbs.: \$390-490
 400-500 lbs.: \$360-445
 500-600 lbs.: \$320-385
 600-700 lbs.: \$300-348
 700-800 lbs.: \$280-315

800 UP: \$230-280
 Replacement Heifers:
 350-700 lbs.: 390-525
 Another Week of higher prices continued. Better quality calves sold \$3-\$6 higher. Heavier weights were particularly strong at \$4-\$8 higher. Demand remains incredible!!! Packer cows & bulls sold \$1-\$3 higher on a supply of 160 head. Top selling packer bull 2,285 at \$2.02/lb = \$4615.70.

SEGUIN CATTLE CO.

July 16, 2025
 Overall quality very good. Market remains steady on all classes of stockers with packer cows & bulls steady.
 Cattle - 406
 Sheep & goats - 652
 Medium & large frame #1 Steers:
 200-300 lb. 3.00-4.47-5.20
 300-400 lb. 2.20-4.17-5.15
 400-500 lb. 1.63- 3.68-4.25
 500-600 lb. 1.70 -3.33-4.11
 600-700 lb. 1.65-2.85-3.50
 700-850 lb. 1.70-2.74-3.13
 Medium & large frame #1 Heifers:
 200-300 lb. 2.75-4.08-4.75
 300-400 lb. 2.30-3.91-4.50
 400-500 lb. 2.70-3.69-4.15
 500-600 lb. 1.60-3.17-3.50
 600-750 lb. 2.00-3.08-3.48
 Cows:
 Utility & commercial - .55-1.45-1.80
 Cutters - 1.00-1.30-1.50
 Canners - None
 Palpated cows - 1350-2950
 Cow/Calf Pairs - 1950-4050
 Bulls:
 Heavy High Yielding - 1.76-1.95
 Light & Low Yielding - 1.40-1.75
 Sheep & Goats
 Nannies - 30-205
 Kid Goats (Fat) - 2.80-3.60
 Wethers -2.85-3.60
 Billies - 1.05-3.20
 Dorp. Ewes - 75-130
 Dorp. Lambs (Fat) - 2.80-3.60

Wooled Ewes - .90-1.20
 Wooled Bucks -1.15-1.20
 Lambs - none
 Barb. Bucks - 250-700

CUERO LIVESTOCK MARKET

July 18, 2025
 Number of Head: 1032
 This week we had 90 cows, 21 bulls and 11 goats. The cows and bulls sold steady to \$3 higher this week. The calf market is a little higher this week. Both packer and feeder markets are as high as they've ever been. It's another great week in the cattle business! 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. Thank you.
 Packer bulls:
 Higher Yielding: 185.00-201.00
 Lower Yielding: 145.00-180.00
 Packer cows:
 High Yielding 164.00-171.00
 Medium Yielding 135.00-161.00
 Poor & Weak 111.00-131.00
 Palpated: 7 bred \$2400-2800
 Steers: none
 Packer/Bull Calves: (AVG-HIGH)
 200-250 lbs 534.00-570.00
 250-299 lbs 535.00-570.00
 300-350 lbs 501.00-540.00
 350-400 lbs 470.00-515.00
 400-450 lbs 441.00-500.00
 450-500 lbs 406.00-446.00
 500-550 lbs 385.00-420.00
 550-600 lbs 358.00-396.00
 600-700 lbs 336.00-366.00
 700-800 lbs 311.00-340.00
 Heifer Calves:(AVG-HIGH)
 200-250 lbs 576.00-500.00
 250-300 lbs 460.00-500.00
 300-350 lbs 441.00-465.00
 350-400 lbs 426.00-485.00
 400-450 lbs 408.00-500.00
 450-500 lbs 369.00-515.00
 500-550 lbs 353.00-410.00
 550-600 lbs 331.00-382.00
 600-700 lbs 321.00-400.00
 700-800 lbs 301.00-320.00

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Mike Brzozowski
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Rodney Butler
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- Interactive Sensory Gardens in Two Courtyards

Support Services Include:

- Physician Services
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- Pulmonology
- Registered Dietitian

We currently have rooms available. Call me for a tour!

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Speeding doesn't save time, it costs lives

TxDOT is working with law enforcement to encourage drivers to slow down

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

AUSTIN – Whether it's catching a fish or smoking a brisket, Texans know the importance of patience. So, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is reminding drivers to use that patience behind the wheel and drive like a Texan: Kind. Courteous. Safe.

Speed contributed to nearly 160,000 traffic crashes in Texas in 2024, resulting in 1,467 deaths. That is 35% of all traffic crash fatalities in the state, making speed the number one contributing factor in crashes.

"Speeding is not an accident, it's a choice," TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams said. "When you choose to drive even just a little over the speed limit, you're not only risking your own life, you're risking the lives of every other person on the road with you and that's not being a good Texan."

LAW ENFORCEMENT TO FOCUS ON SPEEDERS

To help prevent deadly, speed-related crashes, TxDOT is launching its "Be Safe. Drive Smart" campaign that features country singer-songwriter Parker McCollum in a public service announcement (PSA) calling on his fellow Texans to slow down and be safe.

The campaign runs alongside Operation Slowdown, a special speed law enforcement period. From July 18 through Aug. 3, officers across Texas will focus extra attention on motorists who are driving too fast, reminding them to slow down and match their speed to road conditions.

SAFE DRIVING MEANS MORE THAN JUST FOLLOWING THE SPEED LIMIT

Drivers should follow these tips to stay safe and avoid a ticket:

- Match your speed to road conditions.
- Slow down and allow for more distance to stop when traffic is heavy, roads are slick or road construction is ahead.
- Watch for road signs alerting you of reduced speed limits.
- Remember that traffic fines double if you speed in a school zone or a work zone when workers are present.

The "Be Safe. Drive Smart" campaign is an important part of TxDOT's Drive like a Texan's "Kind. Courteous. Safe" initiative. Drive like a Texan is about embracing the pride, camaraderie, and responsibility of being a Texan on the road. By making thoughtful choices, we can all help keep each other safe.

The information contained in this report represents reportable data collected from the Texas Peace Officer's Crash Report (CR-3). This information was received and processed by the department as of April 8, 2025. To view additional traffic safety data, visit TxDOT's Traffic Safety Data Portal online. The Texas Department of Transportation is responsible for maintaining 80,000 miles of road and for supporting aviation, maritime, rail and public transportation across the state.

Letters to the Editor

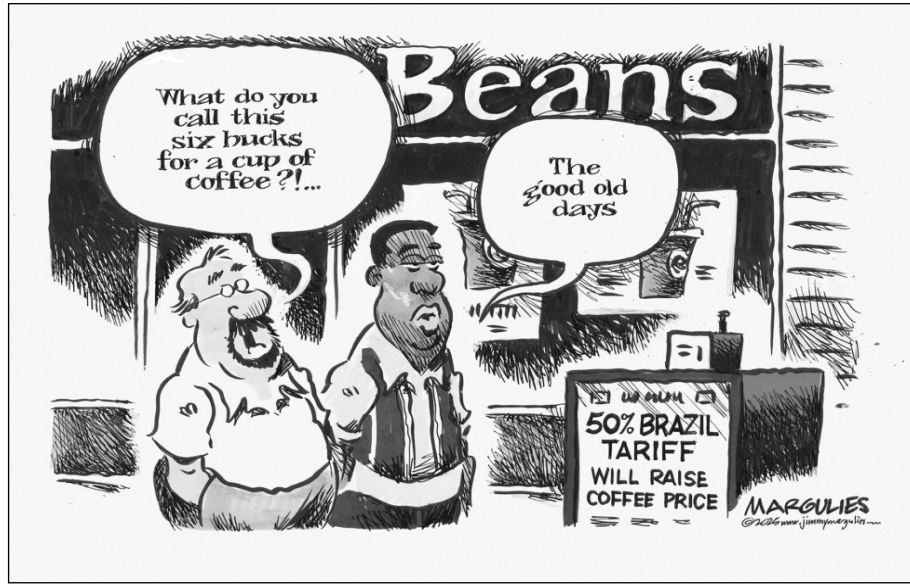
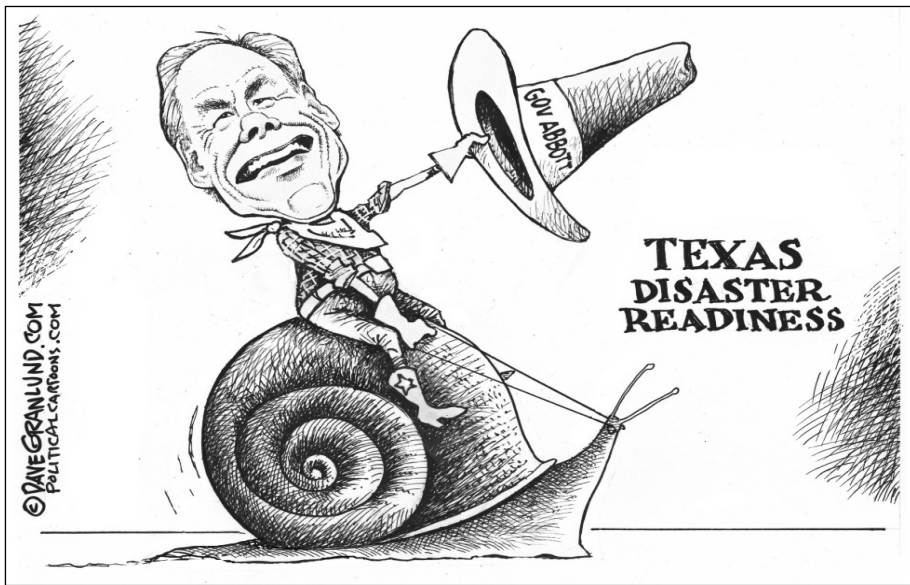
It is the policy of The Inquirer to encourage reader participation on its Opinion page. Diverse and varied opinions are welcomed. Because of space limitations, we must limit all contributors to one letter per person per month. Letters of 400 words or less will be published unless they contain language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

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.



Texas floods are a warning: Fund public services

BY CHISOM OKORAFOR

Special to the Inquirer

Growing up in Texas, many of my summers were spent at summer church camps just like Camp Mystic, where 27 girls died in the recent Texas floods. Over 130 people in central Texas have been confirmed dead overall.

Had I been just a few years younger, it's hard not to feel like I could've been one of those girls tragically lost. But this tragedy was no "natural" disaster — it was political.

Texans have gotten used to "unprecedented" natural disasters. When I was growing up, we practically never got snow; now winter storms have become the norm. Hurricanes and extreme heat have become more frequent and more dangerous. And intense rain, which causes flash floods, is worsening.

The evidence is overwhelming: these trends are all happening because of climate change, caused by human pollution. And to stay safe, we need to constantly study the climate to predict these disasters and prevent the worst from happening.

Better warning systems may or may not have been effective for such an unexpected flood. Yet it seems unthinkable that better funding could not have helped prevent this tragedy. For one, the Guadalupe River is prone to flooding, but state officials have blocked efforts for years to use FEMA funds to install early warning systems along it.

Unfortunately, many of our politicians are outright hostile to funding the agencies that do this vital work — or any kind of public service. Just a few months ago, the Trump administration made sweeping cuts to both the National Weather Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

As I write, six out of 27 positions at the NWS Austin/San Antonio office, which covers the affected Kerr County, are listed as vacant, including the position for warning coordination meteorologist. (The previous coordinator took DOGE's offer of early retirement.) At NOAA, the cuts have affected hundreds of scientists and reduced the agency's ability to launch weather balloons to more accurately analyze weather patterns.

Texas Republicans are still defending these cuts. Before all the bodies had even been discovered, state Rep. Briscoe Cain tweeted, "We must not allow this great tragedy to be used to grow government." And Senator Ted Cruz personally eliminated \$150 million for NOAA's climate change research in the GOP budget (the so-called "Big Beautiful Bill").

Part of the problem is that public goods like the National Weather Service are "invisible" — that is, you don't notice them when they're working well. This makes them uniquely vulnerable to calls for budget cuts, because who's going to notice understaffing at the NWS?

But when these cuts go through — and understaffed agencies fail to serve their purpose — people say the services don't work. And there are calls for more budget cuts.

The Trump administration's proposed 2026 budget for NOAA, for example, cuts the agency's budget by 26 percent. And despite widespread complaints that FEMA wasn't answering calls from Texans during the disaster, the administration has proposed eliminating the agency or devolving it to the states.

Public services are caught in a lose-lose situation: regardless of their performance, they face calls for budget cuts.

But the politicians that spew this rhetoric often aren't interested in having efficient public services or reducing the federal debt. While they cry that there's no money to fully fund and staff environmental agencies, they don't think twice about passing a Pentagon budget that's now over \$1 trillion a year, or extending trillions of dollars worth of tax cuts for the wealthy.

Attending summer camps are some of my fondest memories from growing up. But for hundreds of families in Texas, that experience has become a nightmare. It didn't have to be this way — and we can still change course.

Public services can prevent and mitigate disasters, but they're being prevented from doing so by politicians like President Trump and Ted Cruz, who'd rather fund tax breaks for the wealthy and the war machine.

We need to change the rhetoric around public services in this country, and shine a light on all the good "invisible" services do.

Chisom Okorafor is the Wallace Digital Media Fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies. This op-ed was distributed by OtherWords.org.

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Shiner Stars win prestigious Triple Crown World Series tourney

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Shiner Stars 12 year old baseball team has made headlines this summer after winning the prestigious Triple Crown World Series tournament held in Myrtle Beach. The team showcased remarkable skill and determination, finishing the tournament undefeated with a record of 7-0 and outscoring their opponents by an impressive 25 runs.

In a thrilling 2-0 championship game, pitcher Cullen Machicek delivered a stand-out performance, throwing a no-hitter that secured the gold medal for the Shiner Stars. His exceptional performance on the mound earned him the Most Valuable Player (MVP) award of the tournament.

The Shiner Stars are a diverse group, featuring talented young athletes from across Lavaca County and beyond, including Shiner (Ayden McCord), Moulton (Nicholas Simper), Hallettsville (Cullen Machicek & Landon Chovanetz), Gannado (Jase Peters & Easton McCain), Cuero (Alonzoe Saldaña), Gonzales (Evan

Jahns & Ryder Robinson), Smithville (Stryker Owens), Sweet Home (Payten McCord), and Industrial (Kolt McFarlin). This blend of players has fostered a strong sense of camaraderie and teamwork, which was evident throughout the tournament.

Coaches and parents have hailed the team's dedication and teamwork, crediting their success to hard work and strategic preparation.

"These boys put in countless hours of practice, and it truly paid off on the field," said head coach Blue Hybner. "We're incredibly proud of their accomplishments and the way they represented their communities."

As the Shiner Stars celebrate their championship win, they are excited to announce that they will be holding extra tryouts for all ages for players interested in joining the team on August 9th. This is an excellent opportunity for young athletes to showcase their skills and become part of a winning program that emphasizes development and teamwork.

Additionally, the Shiner Stars will be participating in a league at the Shiner Starplex



this fall, providing players with the chance to continue developing their skills in a local competitive environment.

With a strong foundation and a passion for the game, the Shiner Stars are focused on building a bright future for the team and their communities. There's no telling what this talented group will achieve next.

For more updates on the Shiner Stars and information about tryouts and local youth baseball events, follow Shiner Stars Baseball on Instagram and Facebook or reach out to Blue Hybner at 361-772-6802.



GOLF SCRAMBLE WINNERS



CONTRIBUTED

The winning team from the July 16 Golf Scramble at Independence Golf Course in Gonzales were, from left, Mike Higginbotham, Laney Kirk, Matt Craven, Haley Rayburn, Chris Jeanes, John Bravenec and Ronnie Dubose.



CONTRIBUTED

The second-place team from the July 16 Golf Scramble at Independence Golf Course in Gonzales were, from left, Will Ruddock, Dee Sandelovic, Brian Sample, Mason Richter, Colby Richter and Mike Mariscal.

COACHING STAFF GEARS UP FOR NEW YEAR



COURTESY PHOTO

The Gonzales ISD coaching staff wrapped up a tremendous three days of professional development at the 2025 Texas High School Coaches Association Clinic and Convention. The coaches had an opportunity to collaborate with and learn from some of the best in the business heading into the 2025-2026 school year. They are proud to represent the Apaches, and are looking forward to a great year!

GYMNASTS BRING HOME MEDALS



Silver and Gold members are Weslyn Debord, Addison Chavez, Kimber Fehner, Bentlie Burnett, Harper Fullilove, Morgan Connors and Harper Patterson.



Bronze members are Jessa Caka, Jillian Caka, Avery Hernandez, Letty Robles and Kaeleigh Chenault.

The Diamond Gym team had a meet in New Braunfels on Saturday, July 19, bringing back seven first places; 11 second places; 19 third places and 11 fourth place ribbons, plus a gold all-around; two silver all-around; six bronze all-around and three fourth all-around. They also brought back silver and bronze team awards.

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OBITUARIES

MARTHA GRANADO MENDEZ

Martha Granado Mendez, 73, passed away peacefully on June 21, 2025, at Ascension Seton Hospital in Round Rock, surrounded by her loving family.

Born and raised in Gonzales, she was the daughter of Hilario "Eddie" Granado and Dionicia Gonzales, and a 1970 graduate of Gonzales High School. She married the love of her life, Willie Mendez Jr., and together they welcomed their son, Ruben Mendez, who remained the center of her world and heart. Willie passed away eleven years ago, and Martha never stopped carrying his memory.

Martha was known for her strength, warmth,



and deep devotion to her family. She endured many hardships throughout her life but remained grounded in love and faith. She found joy in visiting relatives in San Antonio and Albuquerque and was a devoted attendee of Faith Family Church in Gonzales.

She is survived by her

son, Ruben Mendez of Austin; sisters Rose Ann Martinez, Yolanda Mendez (husband Alfred), and Hope Guevara; brothers Augustin "Buddy" (wife Laura) Granado, Joe Ray Granado, and Andy (wife Lisa) Rodriguez; and numerous nieces, nephews, and extended family.

She was preceded in death by her husband Willie, her parents, and her brother Ruben Granado.

Martha will be deeply missed and remembered always.

"I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us." - Romans 8:18

A memorial service will be announced at a later date.

ROSALIO MIRELES

Rosalio Mireles went on to be with Our Lord and Savior on July 17, 2025. He passed away peacefully in Sugar Land, TX. He was seventy-nine years young.

Known by many as, Carlos, Charlie, Chalé and El Cowboy.

Rosalio was born on August 29, 1945, in Longmont, Colorado to Reyes Mireles and Eusebia Moreno. He was the eldest of sixteen children. Chalé was raised in Colorado City with Pa Leon and Ama Carmen. It was there that he learned hard work, values, morals, and the meaning of respect: plowing the fields behind mules, working cattle, and keeping up with ranch duties. Fun fact: he loved to play baseball as a youth and was recruited several times to play in a Texas baseball league. There in El Rancho, where he spent most of his childhood life with Pa Leon, is where later in life he would bring these exact ethics of life and instill these values and principles to his children.

For thirty years, he made his home in Missouri City, Texas, with his beloved wife, Adela Tovar Mireles. A wonderful father cherished by all, he raised eleven children—Carlos Javier, Modesto Chuck, Jesus (Walter), Leonard Rosalio (Lanie), Fernando, Matthew Reyes, and Maria Rosario (Javier). Beloved children of his ex-wife, Sylvia Sandoval Mireles. His beloved daughters, Sylvia Pena (Jaime O), Charlotte Del Toro (Victor), Lisa (Robert Guerra), and Amy Garcia (Yolie), from a previous marriage. He was a loving stepfather to Adela's sons, Edward (Maricela), David aka Joey (Adelina), and Marcus Alvaraz, and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Carlos was a strong jack-of-all-trades; he worked tirelessly to provide a good life for his children, teaching them the value of hard work and leaving a legacy of perseverance and achievement. Which meant loading up his children and even nephews and nieces working in the bean fields & sunflower fields in Colorado. In his early adult life, he worked as a roughneck, and on his off days, he continued to work in the many trades he had. From trimming and cutting down trees, painting, and building fences. He didn't stop there, in his late 40's into his early 50's he went on to work with Nabors Drilling in Louisiana as a roughneck. He was a strong man! He loved old trucks and his muscle cars. Especially La Poloma, his white Chevy Cheyenne. Those who knew him knew he was a



very particular and neat man. I guess we can say he was a little bit OCD.

His warm eyes and bright smile made him the life of every gathering, always dressed to the tee in sharp western wear with his signature hats making any attire look effortlessly cool. He loved music, dancing, going to the casinos, he loved barbecuing, he loved to make friends and everywhere he went he made a new one. He was very giving and helped wherever he could. If he knew you needed something he would do it without asking you. He just did it! He loved to converse and reminisce of the old days, all his adventures and his compadres.

A Fun fact, the barbeque pit that he still owns to this very day. A treasure that was hand welded 47 years ago by a dear friend, a State Trooper named Gerald Caldwell of Karnes City TX. A treasure that will live on for many more years with Fernando Mireles.

He enjoyed traveling with Adela, exploring many places early in their marriage, with favorite spots like Cancun, he loved going to Eagle Lake where he savored sausage tacos with her on Sunday drives. In his last days he cherished one final trip to Eagle Lake with Adela, camping out for the

afternoon while enjoying a cold soda pop & sausage taco.

He loved his long phone calls with his sons Carlos, Modie, Leonard, and Reyes; his brothers Pablo and Stacy (Tacho). He loved his quality time with Fernando (Fernie), often enjoying one of his favorite foods, shrimp cocktails with a cold drink, going to Home Depot just because, and shopping even if he didn't buy anything, and coming home with another squeaky toy for his Chico! He spent joyful moments visiting Jesus & his son-in-law Walter in Floresville, TX, and Maria & his son-in-law Javier in Victoria, TX. Taking his drives to Karnes City and stopping in to say hello to la familia de Karnes City, like he would say. His white Chevy truck, now cherished by Fernando, carried him through countless drives filled with music and laughter. Always grinning and with a thumbs up, knowing that all was good. His dogs, Chica, Chico, and Daisy, that brought him comfort, he loved them so much!

Rosalio longed to see his children succeed and live happily, a wish that lives on in them. He is reunited with his parents Reyes & Eusebio, his brothers Reyes I, Narrciso Jose (Cecil), Martin and Reyes Junior II (Nunie). He is survived by his brothers and sisters: Pablo, Anastacio (Tacho), Coy, Sylvester (Cheve), Carmelo (Melo), Santos, Alfredo (Freddie), Tomasita (Tammy), Gloria (Goya), Janie, and Eusebia (Chappie).

He will be greatly missed, but we find peace knowing he rests without pain and he's now rejoicing in a new adventure we know as Heaven. He is loved deeply, until we see you again.

Plants and green décor in hospital rooms may aid recovery

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

A study from Texas A&M University reveals that hospital rooms designed with natural elements — like indoor plants, green décor and views of green nature — significantly enhance relaxation and mental clarity in simulated patients, even when experienced through virtual reality, VR.

Researchers Courtney Suess-Raeisinafchi, Ph.D., associate professor in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Department of Hospitality, Hotel Management and Tourism, and Jay Maddock, Ph.D., Regents Professor in the School of Public Health, used immersive VR to simulate hospital environments for 188 participants over the age of 18. The goal is to understand how visual elements in hospital rooms affect relaxation and cognitive restoration in patients experiencing acute stress.

"Hospital rooms are more than just places for treatment — they're environments that can either support or hinder healing," Maddock said. "We wanted to explore how design choices, especially those involving green nature, could make a measurable difference in patient recovery."

Suess-Raeisinafchi, with expertise in medical tourism, hospitality and health care facility development, said an increasing number of hospital planners intentionally design views from hospital rooms, and landscape architects recommend green nature interventions.

SIMULATING STRESS

Participants in the study were first exposed to a VR video simulating a traumatic roller coaster accident and subsequent hospitalization. This narrative was designed to induce acute stress, mimicking the psychological state of real-life injured patients receiving acute care. Afterward, participants evaluated 12 hospital room designs, each varying in window views, the presence of plants and interior color schemes.

The rooms were viewed through a high-resolution Varjo X-3 headset in the Human Behavior Laboratory at Texas A&M, simulating participants in the role of a recovering in-patient. They were then asked to rate how much each room helped them feel physically relaxed and able to clear their mind of stressful thoughts.

THE POWER OF NATURE, EVEN IN VR

The researchers found that indoor plants had the highest utility among



MICHAEL MILLER/TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE

The Human Behavior Lab at Texas A&M University was used by Courtney Suess-Raeisinafchi, Ph.D., associate professor in the Department of Hospitality, Hotel Management and Tourism, in her research on the effects of plant and green decor in hospital rooms in the patient recovery process.

room attributes for promoting both physical relaxation and mental clarity, followed by visible green nature in the view. Green décor, such as wall paint and artwork, also contributed positively to both outcomes. Even the depth of the view mattered: rooms with a broader view of the sky and horizon were rated more restorative than those with limited outlooks.

"Verdant elements had the strongest overall impact on stress recovery," Suess-Raeisinafchi said. "But when it came to mental clarity — helping people clear their minds — views not blocked by the hospital envelope and having a deeper view with visible sky were even more important."

The study also found that participants who reported higher levels of stress after the simulated trauma benefited even more from these natural elements. For these individuals, the presence of plants had an amplified effect on both relaxation and mental clarity.

Views that were not obstructed by visible parts of the hospital building exterior were associated with notably higher restoration scores.

Suess-Raeisinafchi said these findings reinforce what many patients intuitively feel.

"When you're confined to a hospital bed, what you see from that bed matters and is very nuanced," she said.

The study builds on Stress Recovery Theory, SRT, and Psychoevolutionary Theory, PET, which suggest that natural environments help reduce stress and promote psychological recovery. While previous research has examined individual elements like window views or

See **NATURE**, page 11

Thompsonville Ice Cream Social coming up

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

I scream. You scream. We all scream for ice cream!

This hot weather is perfect for an ice cream treat.

The Thompsonville Ladies Club is making lots of ice cream to cool you off. They will have various flavors along with some delicious desserts, to satisfy your sweet tooth!

Please join them Saturday, Aug. 2 at 6 p.m. at the Thompsonville Community Center, located at 2774 County Road 423, Waelder.

Bring your friends and relatives to socialize and enjoy homemade ice cream and other yummy treats!



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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.

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for THE ESTATE OF MILTON DOYL HINES, a/k/a MILTON D. HINES, DECEASED (the "Estate"), were ISSUED ON July 09, 2025 in Cause No. PW25-0418 pending in GONZALES COUNTY PROBATE COURT, to: CRAIG L. HINES, Independent Executor.

All persons having claims against the Estate which are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. All persons having claims should address them as follows:

CRAIG L. HINES, Independent Executor
OF THE ESTATE OF MILTON DOYLE HINES,
A/K/A/ MILTON D. HINES, DECEASED
c/o Bryant Law PC,
1024 C Street,
Floresville, TX 78114,
830-216-4075.

Dated July 24, 2025

850 HELP WANTED

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ADVERTISEMENT AND INVITATION FOR BIDS

The CITY OF SMILEY will receive bids for RE-BID - WASTEWATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT - WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENTS, TxCDBG Project No. CDV23-0277 (SWE Project No. 0028-077-24) until 10:00 A.M. and 10:15 A.M., Friday, August 1, 2025 at City Hall, located at 207 Steele Street, Smiley, Texas 78159 (or by mail at P.O. Box 189, Smiley, Texas 78159-0189). Bids must be clearly marked on the outside of the envelope or package with the words "City of Smiley TxCDBG Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Project - Re-Bid Contract A - Sludge Handling, or Re-Bid Contract B - Levee Restoration" TO INDICATE WHICH CONTRACT(S) you are bidding. Bids received after the above-stipulated time will be rejected and returned unopened. The bids will be publicly opened and read aloud immediately after above-stipulated time. Bid evaluations will be completed at a later time and date.

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

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

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

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

This solicitation is for services related to a project that is subject to the Build America, Buy America Act (BABA) requirements under Title IX of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Absent an approved waiver, all iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in this project must be produced in the United States.

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

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

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

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

July 11, 2025

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The Honorable Lisa Benavidez
Mayor

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TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION FOR WATER QUALITY LAND APPLICATION PERMIT FOR MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER

RENEWAL

PERMIT NO. WQ0013532001

APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION. Disciples' Conference Center, Inc., 673 Private Road 3381, Gonzales, Texas 78629, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for a renewal of TCEQ Permit No. WQ0013532001 which authorizes the disposal of treated domestic wastewater at a daily average flow not to exceed 2,400 gallons per day from January through May, 12,000 gallons per day from June through August, and 5,400 gallons per day from September through December via surface irrigation of 2.32 acres of non-public access pastureland. This permit will not authorize a discharge of pollutants into water in the state. TCEQ received this application on August 5, 2024.

The wastewater treatment facility and disposal site are located at 673 Private Road 3381, near the City of Gonzales, in Gonzales County, Texas 78629. The wastewater treatment facility and disposal site are located in the drainage basin of the Guadalupe River in Segment No. 1803 of the Guadalupe River Basin. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and is not part of the application or notice. For the exact location, refer to the application. <https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-97.381451,29.404878&level=18>

The TCEQ Executive Director has completed the technical review of the application and prepared a draft permit. The draft permit, if approved, would establish the conditions under which the facility must operate. The Executive Director has made a preliminary decision that this permit, if issued, meets all statutory and regulatory requirements. The permit application, Executive Director's preliminary decision, and draft permit are available for viewing and copying at Robert Lee Brothers, Jr. Memorial Library, 301 Saint Joseph Street, Gonzales, in Gonzales County, Texas.

The application, including any updates, and associated notices are available electronically at the following webpage: Pending Application Information: Texas Land Application Permits (TLAPs) - Texas Commission on Environmental Quality - www.tceq.texas.gov.

ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE NOTICE. Alternative language notice in Spanish is available at <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/plain-language-summaries-and-public-notice>. El aviso de idioma alternativo en español está disponible en <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/plain-language-summaries-and-public-notice>.

PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting about this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ holds a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. Unless the application is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to comments will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting a contested case hearing or reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision. A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in a state district court.

TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST: your name, address, phone number; applicant's name and proposed permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the proposed facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period; and the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence; identify by name and physical address an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the proposed facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group's purpose.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material water quality concerns submitted during the comment period. TCEQ may act on an application to renew a permit for discharge of wastewater without providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ACTION. The Executive Director may issue final approval of the application unless a timely contested case hearing request or request for reconsideration is filed. If a timely hearing request or request for reconsideration is filed, the Executive Director will not issue final approval of the permit and will forward the application and request to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

MAILING LIST. If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

All written public comments and public meeting requests must be submitted to the Office of the Chief Clerk, MC 105, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087 or electronically at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/comment within 30 days from the date of newspaper publication of this notice.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE. For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid. Search the database using the permit number for this application, which is provided at the top of this notice.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/comment, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC 105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Any personal information you submit to the TCEQ will become part of the agency's record; this includes email addresses. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from Disciples' Conference Center, Inc. at the address stated above or by calling Mrs. Robin Butcko, B.B.A, Permitting Services, LLC, at 713-458-8612.

Issuance Date: July 21, 2025

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Big turnout, bigger impact

SPJST rally raises money for Warrior's Weekend

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

A packed house and generous hearts helped SPJST District Six raise \$1,760 for wounded veterans in only three hours.

The rally was held Saturday, July 12 at the Taiton Community Center in El Campo in Wharton County. More than 75 members attended, exceeding the 47 RSVP count.

District Six Chair Yvonne Marcaurele enjoyed the company during the rally. "I loved witnessing old friendships being rekindled, mere acquaintances creating those first bonds of friendship, and hearing members speaking Czech to each other, reminiscing of eras long past," Marcaurele said.

Proceeds from the event benefit Warrior's Weekend, a nonprofit supporting combat-wounded veterans through outdoor healing events.

"Their biggest service project is bringing in 300 combat-wounded veterans for an all-expenses paid weekend bay fishing experience in Port O'Connor," Marcaurele said. "The Warrior's Weekend volunteers transport, feed, house, and facilitate fishing excursions for the



CONTRIBUTED

SPJST District Six raised \$1,760 to help wounded veterans during a rally in El Campo on Saturday, July 12. SPJST is a fraternal benefit society offering life insurance and community programs throughout Texas.

soldiers."

She continued, sharing her pride in her district's ability to raise funds to support the organization during the rally.

"I am proud to report that our local district members raised \$1,760 in less than three hours at the rally to help support the Warrior's Weekend mission," Marcaurele said. "Best news is [everyone] can continue to contribute just by visiting their website at warriorsweekend.org"

More than 20 youth members volunteered, helping with set-up, service, and cleanup.

"The youth had a blast with smiles and laughter, running and playing, forging bonds of friendship that I know they will carry into adulthood," Marcaurele said.

The youth rocket launch competition was a crowd favorite. Abigail Garrett won the contest and received a retro SPJST pop-up lantern.

Even adults joined in the rocket fun, sharing in the excitement.

One of the event's most popular features - the Silent Cookie Auction - brought in generous bids. More than 25 homemade cookie entries were auctioned, and each sold for at least \$10.

SPJST Vice President of Communications Melanie Zavodny praised the energy and teamwork.

"This is what community looks like," Zavodny said. "Having everyone come together for a good cause and having a good time."

Marcaurele thanked

SPJST Home Office staff for their dedication to member feedback.

"The Home Office personnel and our District Director arrived in a whirlwind of energy and enthusiasm, which carried throughout the day," Marcaurele said. "Thank you to Melanie, Frank, and their indefatigable team for listening to the membership feedback and crafting an event that promises to promote the true spirit of our SPJST organization."

SPJST is a fraternal benefit society offering life insurance and community programs throughout Texas.

To learn more about SPJST or Warrior's Weekend, visit spjst.org or warriorsweekend.org.

Czech firefighters aiding in search efforts following deadly Texas Hill Country floods

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

KERRVILLE, Texas - A 16-member Czech search and rescue team landed in Texas Sunday to help locate victims still missing from the deadly Hill Country floods of July 4.

The team represents the only foreign unit invited to assist, according to Czech Fire Service Spokeswoman Klára Ochmanová.

The firefighters are part of the Czech Republic's Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) unit, known for aiding global disaster zones. Their visit was organized through a bilateral agreement between the Czech Embassy in Washington and the Texas National Guard.

The team includes dog handlers, rescue dogs, and technical specialists experienced in locating missing persons. Assignments were coordinated with local emergency teams based on real-time needs and terrain assessments.

SPJST is a fraternal benefit society founded by Texans of Czech ancestry in 1897. It is actively raising funds for flood relief and showing support for the Czech firemen.

SPJST President and Honorary Consul for the Czech Republic to the State

See SEARCH, page 11

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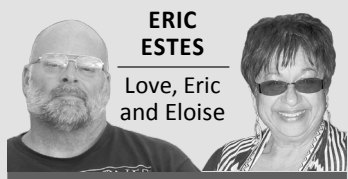
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Bud never made me wiser

Hey there everyone, I pray all is well. Life, as we've all experienced it, can be absolutely awesome or so brutal at times that it's almost unbearable, but fortunately most of the time, it falls somewhere in the middle. With the world seeming to unravel at a higher rate than we've seen in a while, weather patterns causing more destruction and loss of property and life than we're used to, and people becoming unhinged over the things they allow into their mind, it seems as though we should just take a breath before it's too late. We may not be able to change things like the weather, but most of the rest falls on us...

I'd like to ask that you all keep our Smiley postmaster Israel in prayer, as he was severely burned in a house fire July fourteenth. Initial reports are that his wife may have started the fire intentionally. An absolute tragedy for sure, but if it was in fact set on purpose, Evil to the highest degree. Ephesians 6:12 reminds us that our struggle is not against flesh & blood, but against the evil rulers and authorities of the unseen dark world. The thief (satan) comes to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10), and will do so by any means possible, including mental and emotional manipulation. We need to be prayed up and on guard because, no one is exempt from his



ERIC ESTES
Love, Eric and Eloise

advances. While I don't know Israel on a personal level, we've had brief conversations for several years now, and was completely shocked and saddened by the news. He seems like a nice guy, and his recovery weighs heavy on my mind. May God be with him...

As I sit here writing this, today for me is the 34th anniversary of my sobriety. I literally can't thank God enough for saving me from my own stupidity and bad judgement, and as today's title clearly states...Bud never made me Wiser. Nothing against Anheuser-Busch, but for me it was false advertising. As long and hard as I tried, drinking just made me even dumber than I already was. Thankfully, now that I've dried out a bit, my IQ has grown at least into the double digits. Yep, a miracle within itself. I most humbly and appreciatively thank God (through Jesus), for waking me from a self imposed nightmare and prison I had locked myself into. Yep, they don't call Jesus a savior for nothing...thank you, Lord!

Seeing how life is an ongoing learning curve, and we

can't learn until we travel the curve, often through ignorance, bad advice and decisions, or simple pride and arrogance, we end up causing ourselves and others way more grief than we should. At sixteen years of age, while hanging out with a few buddies at a golf course on a beautiful summers night in Illinois, I enjoyed my first few cans of beer. Not having a great family life, along with relocating twenty times throughout my childhood, it eased the pain and I thought I'd discovered the nectar of the gods. Apparently I was somewhat right, the evil powers, not our loving God...woops. I remember thinking at the time that this was going to be a problem, I just didn't realize to what extent. Fortunately I only drank once, unfortunately it lasted seventeen years. Towards the end of that debacle, and after trying everything else under the sun, I somehow (?) came to the realization that the only thing left was to try the only thing under the "SON". in total frustration and desperation I prayed that, "God, if you even exist, heal me or kill me, or I'll take care of it myself." Within minutes I felt hollow and realized that I'd been healed, completely blowing my mind, and I've never looked back! Stay tuned for more, until then...

Y'all have a great week, love you guys, Eric.

Next GriefShare program scheduled to begin Aug. 12

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The loss of a loved one is a life-changing event, and the daily emotions and challenges can be hard to bear. If you or someone you know is struggling with the difficulty of their loss, GriefShare, a grief recovery support group program, can help.

GriefShare is a free 13-week program that offers a safe and supportive space for grieving people to find healing through video teaching, group discussion, and personal reflection. Each weekly session begins with the group watching a 30-40 minute video, featuring respected experts on grief-related topics and helpful

stories from people who have experienced loss. The video is followed by a group discussion and work in a provided workbook aimed to help attendees process emotions, experiences, and cope with their loss. Conversations remain confidential and attendance can begin at any point during the 13 weeks since each weekly session covers a different topic.

The next 13-week GriefShare program will begin on Tuesday, Aug. 12 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Abiding Word Lutheran Church located at 1020 St. Louis St., Gonzales, and will run through Tuesday, Nov. 11. To register or to learn more about the program, call 830-857-3855 or go to www.griefshare.org.

Simmons, Lemons, Adams (SLA) 2025 Family Reunion set for Aug. 2

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Simmons, Lemons, and Adams (SLA) annual Family Reunion will be held Saturday, Aug. 2, 2025, from 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. at Blase's Hall (361/798-2978) in Hallettsville, Texas. Blase's is located nine miles east of Shiner and approximately 3 1/2 miles west of Hallettsville.

Any descendants of the Simmons, Lemons or Adams that reside in Lavaca, Victoria, Harris, Travis, Bexar, Fayette, Dallas, Wharton, Caldwell, and

other surrounding Texas counties are encouraged to attend. Please bring desserts (extra for the cake walk), raffle gift, vegetables, yourself and others.

Scholarship winners are announced during this time. The theme for 2025 is "God's in Control" - Psalms 24:8-10. The contest is "Meaning of our African American Colors."

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

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NATURE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

indoor plants, this study is among the first to compare the relative influence of their individual effects when combined in controlled, immersive settings.

SMALL CHANGES, BIG DIFFERENCE

The implications for hospital design are clear. According to the researchers, incorporating biophilic design — a design approach that connects people with nature — into health care environments could be a low-cost, high-impact strategy to improve patient outcomes.

“Not every hospital can offer a view of treetops, green landscapes or gardens,” Maddock noted. “But even small changes, like adding potted plants in the room or to a window box on the exterior, and using green tones in the décor, can make a meaningful difference.”

While the study used simulated patients and virtual environments, the researchers believe the findings offer a valuable framework for real-world hospital design. They recommend further studies involving actual patients and hospital settings to validate the results.

“This is a first step, but it’s a promising one,” Maddock said. “Design is not just about aesthetics; it’s about creating spaces that help people heal physically, mentally and emotionally. We now have evidence that even simulated exposure to nature can help people feel better.”

This story by Lesley Henton, Texas A&M University Division of Marketing and Communications, first appeared at Texas A&M Stories.

SEARCH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

of Texas Brian Vanicek acknowledges previous Czech aid.

“The Czech Republic Ministry of Foreign Affairs provided financial assistance to the city of West for rebuilding following the massive explosion of a fertilizer warehouse that occurred there in 2013,” Vanicek said.

He continues with another example. “Again, in 2017, the Czech Republic Ministry of Foreign Affairs provided humanitarian assistance to displaced families in La Grange, Texas, in response to Hurricane Harvey,” Vanicek said.

SPJST responded in kind presenting financial assistance to the town of Hrušky in 2021. The village was one of the hardest struck by a rare and violent multiple-vortex tornado.

Most recently SPJST provided aid to the Czech village of Jesinek this past January following devastating floods. The event is recorded as one of the worst floods in the Czech Republic’s modern history.

“The mutual relations that have been enjoyed by the Czech Republic and the United States of America are unparalleled in modern history,” Vanicek said. “The positive cooperations between these two independent partners continues to grow, and we remain inseparably bound by common values and shared history.”

The SPJST Flood Relief Fund was initiated Saturday, July 5. SPJST is pooling its donations with Hermann Sons Life to benefit The Community Foundations of the Texas Hill Country.

The charity directs funds to vetted organizations providing rescue, relief, and recovery efforts. Donations support those affected by the floods throughout the Hunt, Ingram, Kerrville, Center Point, and Comfort communities.

For more information on the SPJST Flood Relief Fund or to make a donation, visit spjst.org/cares.

ARREST

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

ated a traffic stop and the vehicle ultimately began to flee, resulting in the initiation of a pursuit.

The vehicle exited Interstate 10, where it traveled north on State Highway 304 and later turned onto County Road 442. The vehicle wrecked into a fence within the 400 block of County Road 442 in the Harwood area, where the driver exited the vehicle and fled on private property on foot after colliding into a fence line. The deputy continued pursuing the driver on foot, where the deputy ultimately deployed a conducted energy weapon and apprehended the male subject

The male subject, later identified as Jorge Antonio Elizondo Jr., was transported to the Gonzales County Sheriff’s Office where he was charged with the following:

- Felony evading arrest or detention with a vehicle;
- Criminal Mischief <=\$750<\$2,500 (misdemeanor);
- Criminal Trespass (misdemeanor);
- Robbery (Tarrant County felony warrant);
- Possession of a controlled substance 1/1-B >=4<200G (Hays County felony warrant);
- FTA — Possession of Marijuana (Hays County misdemeanor warrant);
- FTA — Unlawful Carry of Weapon (Hays County misdemeanor warrant).

If you have been the victim of property damage as a result of certain crimes, you may be eligible to be reimbursed by the Landowner Compensation Program (Senate Bill 1133) through the Attorney General of Texas.

FESTIVAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Headlining on Saturday night is Tanner Usrey, a Texas-born singer, songwriter, and guitarist who pairs straight shot storytelling with country grit, rock’n’roll energy, and Americana eloquence.

His 2023 debut album “Crossing Lines” features breakout songs “Beautiful Lies” featuring Ella Langley and “Take Me Home” which you can catch in the new Taylor Sheridan series Landman on Paramount+. His sophomore album “These Days” dropped on July 11. Tanner has opened up for many different artists, and has played at several major festivals.

And of course, it’s hard to imagine the Festival without the “Official Band of the National Party of Texas,” none other than Texas Unlimited Band (TUB). Fresh off their performances at the Cody Stampede Rodeo in Wyoming and the Golden Days Rodeo in Fairbanks, Alaska, the best cover band anywhere will take the Festival stage on Saturday at 7:30 p.m., hand the stage over to Tanner Usrey at 9:30 p.m., and then close out Saturday night from 11:15 p.m. to 1 a.m.

“We love the way they know just what the crowd needs. The first set on Saturday gets the crowd warmed up for the headliner, and then after that, they will close out the night like no one else, with the crowd engaged for every single song,” says Advertising Director Nicole Michalke.

Saturday afternoon’s music lineup starts at 12 noon with The Barditch Hippies, a trio from the Luling area focusing on country/Americana/red dirt style music. Next up is Texas Sundown Band, from Cypress, covering a variety of Texas country, 90’s country, and some Top 40 country. Both of these bands have played at the Festival in recent years.

Following that will be The Matt Bonner Band, a Schulenburg home-grown band that has been making their mark in Fayette County playing familiar country hits in local venues.

“We are so excited to feature local talent on our main stage and look forward to debuting the boys of Matt Bonner Band, who all grew up here and have been attending the Festival most of their lives,” says Michalke.

Music continues on Sunday after the parade. The Czechaholics lead off the afternoon with their unique style of polka music. Black Cat Choir from Round Top will take the stage next. This group has been rocking audi-

ences for more than 20 years, playing classic rock and Texas country. Finally, Texas Unlimited will close out the weekend as they have for several years, with their setlist perfected for a Festival Sunday afternoon crowd.

“Sunday will be a fun mix of polkas, classic rock, feel-good music, country – lots of music for dancing and singing. The Carnival and Kid Zone will still be going strong, so Sunday is a great day for a family, or a friend group, to start with the parade and end at Wolters Park,” says Michalke.

This year the Festival is happy to provide a Carnival for the first time since 2022.

“We looked into getting a carnival for the past two years, after the Schulenburg Lions Club quit operating the carnival during Festival weekend. There are not many carnivals that fit in our space who are operating in Texas during August, as they prefer to head north then, but we were able to procure one,” according to Zweschper.

The Festival will have a Carnival provided by Texas Born Amusements, along with a “Kid Zone” operated by B&B Big Bounce of Hallettsville. BOTH activities will be INSIDE the festival grounds, so if you choose to attend on Friday night or on Saturday after 5 pm, everyone aged 13 & up will have to purchase a Festival ticket to enter the park and then access the Carnival or the Kid Zone.

Thursday night lets you “pregame” for the long weekend. There is no admission charge, so you can visit the Carnival and Kid Zone, watch the rodeo slack, and enjoy some refreshments. Performing on stage will be Dawson DeBord & Southpaw from Yoakum, playing original music with a mix of classic rock and country covers. The Festival CPRA/UPRA Rodeo takes place on Friday and Saturday night at 7:30 p.m., with these events: bareback riding, bull riding, saddle bronc riding, breakaway, steer wrestling, barrel racing, team roping, and tie down. Mutton bustin’ will take place both nights. Something else to check out is the inaugural Fayette County Calf Scramble, with 12 students trying to catch a calf in order to earn a certificate towards an FFA project.

Wolters Park sure smells great on Saturday as there are several cook-offs going on, including both IBCA and CASI-sanctioned BBQ and chili contests, as well as local competition for BBQ, chili, beans, bloody Mary, and

GCRW

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Representatives.

Representative Schoolcraft serves on the Public Education Committee, Pensions, Investments & Financial Services Committee, and the Permanent Standing Subcommittee on Academic & Career-Oriented Education.

The meeting will be held at Lake Breeze Ski Lodge, 225 Ski Lodge, McQueeney. A cash bar and snacks will be provided. Please join for a fun and informative evening.

salsa. Plus a kids’ cook-off is a newer addition to the lineup. Teams can still sign up to participate.

There is nothing like a small-town parade, and the Festival parade on Sunday morning never disappoints. With dozens of entries, the parade marches through downtown Schulenburg, displaying floats from area towns, comical entries, class reunion floats, patriotic and musical entries, fire trucks, and the ever-popular Shriners parade unit.

The Festival has other options for fun and competition as well, including cornhole, softball, golf, and basketball. The Navidad Valley Cattlewomen Fun Run kicks off early Saturday morning, and the Young Farmers annual Egg Toss and Cow Chip Throwing contests are fun to watch or join. The cheerleader dunking booth always has a crowd. Younger patrons can enter the tricycle races and the kiddie parade, which take place on Saturday.

Dozens of arts and crafts vendors will be set up near the Pavilion for shopping as well. Class reunions will be going on under the Pavilion on Saturday afternoon for several Schulenburg and Bishop Forest High School graduates.

Gate admission for all activities is \$20 for Friday night, and \$25 on Saturday evening after 5 pm. Admission on Thursday and Sunday is free, and there is no charge to enter the park before 5 pm on Saturday. Also, there is no admission charge for children 12 and under at any time.

Detailed information, including entry forms, can be found on the Festival website: www.schulenburgfestival.org. The Festival also has active social media to keep everyone up to date.

Profits from the Festival go back into the community in the form of improvements, donations to local organizations, and scholarships. Many non-profits use the Festival as a fundraiser as well.

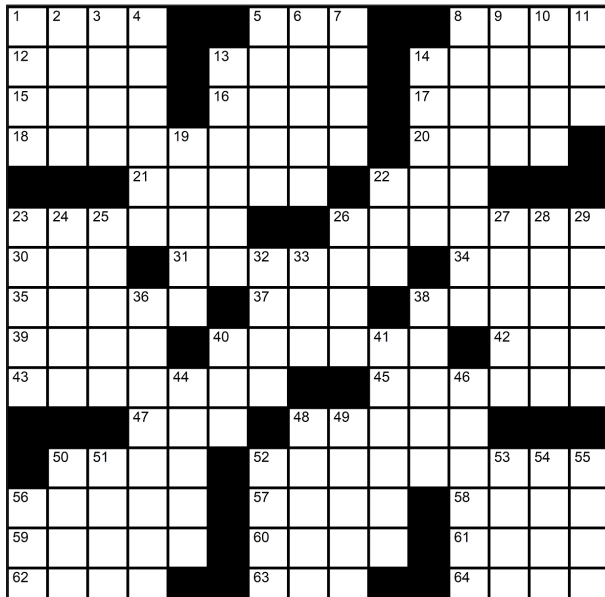
According to Michalke, “Over half a million dollars have been directly donated by the Festival through the years, so it’s all for a good cause. The Festival Directors work year-round to plan this party, but we couldn’t host it alone. We truly appreciate the support and efforts of our sponsors, the City of Schulenburg, Chamber of Commerce, and local law enforcement. Come on out and join us!”

It’s the National Party of Texas, and everyone’s invited!

CROSSWORD THEME: AT THE CIRCUS

- CLUES ACROSS**
- *Jumbo The Elephant or Sirius in space
 - *But I heard him exclaim ‘_____ he drove out of sight’
 - Young salmon
 - Blood component
 - What Lizzie Borden did
 - Leather razor sharpener
 - *The Famous Five’ author _____ Blyton
 - Back of the neck
 - Letter-shaped girder
 - *Feats-of-strength circus performer
 - Indian restaurant bread
 - In need of a muffler
 - Away’s partner
 - Backward
 - Same as ruin
 - Greek R
 - Net sales minus cost of goods sold
 - Europe/Asia mountain divide
 - Approximately, as in date
 - Overnight lodging
 - Inflicted a blow
 - Celestial bear
 - Goose egg
 - ____-AFTRA
 - Frying pan
 - Eating establishment
 - Type of English crs.
 - Traffic accident
 - Wading bird
 - *Sara Gruen’s novel “Water for _____”
 - *Lion tamer’s tool or counter seat
 - Justice’s garb
 - Hit it on the head
 - Run off, as in couple
 - Was in the hole

- Japanese zither
 - Something _____
 - Movie “Saturday Night” subject matter, acr.
 - FedEx, verb
- CLUES DOWN**
- Tom Jones’ “_____ a Lady”
 - *Big Top
 - Gulf V.I.P.
 - Remodeled
 - Tests
 - Settle a debt
 - Biblical place of bliss
 - *The Greatest Showman’ protagonist
 - Equals length times width
 - Multicolored horse
 - Dashboard acronym
 - Type of heart pain
 - Moses’ mountain
 - Hollywood legend _____ Shearer
 - *Like circus audience’s experience, hopefully
 - Bow-like structure
 - Dodge
 - Trunks
 - *Three-_____ circus
 - What phoenix did
 - Batu Khan’s people
 - JD Vance’s “Hillbilly _____”
 - Civil disorder
 - African grazer
 - *Sound of circus
 - Money under mattress, e.g.
 - *Aerialist’s bouncy safety device
 - Piled
 - Twisted cotton thread
 - Give it generously



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- *Funny one
- James Dean’s famous role
- It will
- *Unwelcome reception, pl.
- Cupid, to the Greeks
- Sodium hydroxide
- _____caca, South American lake
- Trough stuff
- Witness

Answers will be provided in next week’s edition.

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

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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.

LEGACY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in Texas!” McCan added. “I can’t top that answer. That was awesome. That’s great. I’m feeling the passion. I’m feeling it,” said Richardson, who plays Irish immigrant and Immortal 32 member Thomas Jackson. “He’s getting his character down. I love it. I’m inspired. Let’s go! Come and Film It!”

“I’m happy to be here. It’s an exciting role to play. It’s an exciting cast. It’s great to get to know everybody, speaking of the Texas crew and cast — one of our best strengths as a community, as actors, is each other, so it’s always great to get to know more people and be around more talented people. I think those things are contagious and tend to rub off.”

“I’m not impressed by reputation, because once you’ve been on set a couple times with a couple people, you know that some people with great reputations aren’t that great,” McCan added. “What I will say is that this cast, when we were doing a Zoom, makes me feel something, and if you can feel something on Zoom, then what they’re going to bring to the screen — or even what I love more, is when you’re doing it and you’re in it — you’re going to feel it then.”

“The cast, I can tell, is top notch, just from our cold reads. Doing the table reads, you feel the quality of the cast. You can’t fake that through Zoom. It cannot be done.”

The actors spoke with the Inquirer during a break in filming at the Pioneer Village in Gonzales last month. For McCan, it was his first day on set, while it was the second on set for Richardson. Filming wrapped up and the project has now moved into post-production as it gears up for an Oct. 2, 2025 premiere — coinciding with the 190th anniversary of the Battle of Gonzales — at the Gonzales Memorial Museum.

The two men come from differing backgrounds. McCan is a Houston native and U.S. Air Force veteran who works as a real estate agent in Port Aransas when he’s not acting, while Richardson is known best as the bass player for the Randy Rogers Band, but he also studied filmmaking at Texas State University and has done acting and directing of the band’s videos and in other projects as well.

The roles they are playing seem tailor-made for them. McCan is outspoken and extroverted and exudes the confidence and energy required to play a man who Santa Anna personally wanted arrested and who was in the right place at the right time to “stir the pot” for independence from Mexico.

Richardson gives off the essence of the background player who simply wants to do what’s right for his family and whose selfless sacrifice makes him and the other 31 Alamo defenders from Gonzales worthy of immortality.

McCan said it was a little more difficult to research for his character because “we have no written records from John Henry Moore.”

“Even though he has this really significant and pivotal

piece in the Battle of Gonzales, he wasn’t like a Sam Houston who went on to a political career,” McCan said. “He went on to be a colonel fighting the Comanches so we don’t have a lot from him. Digging in on him and who he was, it’s pretty difficult, but that also affords me an opportunity to impute what I can into this character and kind of create who John Henry Moore was. I have a little more freedom than some of the cast here to create this legend, because that’s what he is. He’s a legend.”

“I’m excited to bring that to it, while still trying my best to hold on to what we do know and who he was that we know of. My preparation has been historical, but also imaginative. Like, what kind of guy comes from Tennessee as one of the original 300 (the first 300 colonists Stephen F. Austin brings to Texas) and within 10 years calls this place home when his whole family, his whole history, his whole bloodline, is somewhere else — that means he just really rooted here into Texas. That means he’s an intense guy, you know? That means he does everything 100% — if he moves here, this is home.”

McCan said in this film Moore asks the DeWitt family “for a favor to make this flag up — that’s what we’re insinuating.”

“He’s theatrical, you know, to have that imagination to say, ‘Now we’re gonna create a flag about this, and you’re gonna see your cannon across the field and ‘Come and Take It,’” McCan said. “It’s like he’s a vision person. He can see the battle happening, so ‘How do I intimidate them? How do I show I am more serious? How do I do these things?’ He’s a strategist as well. He’s complex. He’s not just some guy with a gun on a horse saying, ‘Let’s go fight them!’ He’s a real leader who sees the different aspects that need to be led.”

He acknowledges that the view Moore takes is “almost a Spartan view” as he recalls the famous line by Leonidas at Thermopylae to the Persians — “Molon labe” or “Come and Take It.”

“He’s like, ‘We’ll hold them. We may not do it. We’re outnumbered. The whole Mexican army will come, but we’ll hold them,’” McCan said. “There’s this grit that is in him. Part of the Battle of Thermopylae wasn’t just one person believing it. (Leonidas) had to get multiple people to believe it, because the men could leave. He even offered, ‘If you want to stay, then stay, but if you want to leave, leave.’ He’s given them an opportunity to step into history and say, ‘Today we may not win, but we will be remembered about how we stood up.’”

Richardson said he has prepared for his role by reading a book called “Texian Iliad” by Stephen L. Hardin, one of the foremost experts on Texas Revolution history and the historical advisor on the 2004 film “The Alamo.”

“I have done tons of internet searching and listened to some podcasts — pretty much anything I can get my hands on



COURTESY/TEXAS LEGACY IN LIGHTS

Above, director of photography Alex Walker and Kelby McCan review footage of a scene during a break in filming for Texas Legacy in Lights. At left, Kelby McCan, who plays John Henry Moore, and Johnny “Chops” Richardson, who plays Thomas Jackson, share a lighthearted moment during their interview with the Inquirer about the project.



that will help me build the life of somebody,” Richardson said. “My character is from Ireland, so I did quite a bit of accent research. My wife is probably really tired of hearing me speak in an Irish accent at home all the time and I think my dog is actually afraid of me being someone else.”

“One of the things that attracted me most of this project was the fact that I was going to get to play a person who actually lived, which has always been kind of an actor goal of mine. Most of the time, you’re playing someone that’s fictitious, but you can just kind of make up what you want about them or something that’s in the script. This one actually entailed some research, a little bit of learning, a little bit of digging around. I really enjoyed that whole process. It was fun.”

“I’m from Texas. I’ve grown up here,” Richardson said. “We learned about the story of the Come and Take It cannon in school in seventh grade, so it’s something that’s always been in the back of your imagination since you’re a little kid. We get to live out some of those roles as we’re telling the story

ourselves.”

McCan was enthusiastic about what the production was trying to achieve in a quick turnaround in order to be ready for an October premiere.

“This is incredible when you think about what we’re accomplishing in such a small period of time,” McCan said. “We have a love story. We have a battle at the Alamo. We have horseback cavalries charging against each other. We have cannons. We have muskets going off. We have just so much happening in such a short period of time in one small town.”

“It’s like Texas has so much more to offer too and there’s tons of things we could be doing here. To film in Texas is getting better and better for producers, for companies, your actor pools are growing. Now, this movie, this film being done the way it is — on a building — like, who’s doing that? EPCOT and that’s it, you know? Like, this is incredible. It’s something that belongs in the big city and it’s here and Gonzales is saying, ‘No, we’ll do it and we’ll do it well — we’ll do the big stuff. You know, I love it!’”

Both men said they plan to

be at museum for the initial showing.

“I’d love to be a part of that. It’s kind of rare that you get to do this because sometimes you don’t even get to see your results,” Richardson said. “You film something and never get a copy of it. I would love to be a part of that and it’ll be a really, really exciting moment to see everybody turn out for it, especially on the anniversary of so many events at the same time — a 200-year anniversary of the town and on the same date as the original battle. That’s really cool how they have that timed out.”

“John Henry Moore here and I’ll be there to come and take him (pointing to Richardson),” McCan said. “The Oct. 2 bicentennial — the stars have aligned. The town’s going to be there because they want to see it, too. They want to know where their hotel tax went and how it will put heads in beds. They want to see what this film looks like.”

“I’m sure there’s gonna be a lot of Texans in general, from state and political leaders that are here to support the film and support what we’re doing. You should be here; if you’re not, you need to make it that day. Governor Abbott, Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick and all of the others — you guys should all be here!”

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ARENA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for the city.

"I'm kind of a villain in the room right now because I had this idea that the rodeo grounds are in need of repair," Crow said. "This is just my opinion but I don't believe it's real safe. There's a lot of rusty pipe. There's a sucker rod that's coming off.

"There's a lot of repair that needs to be done. I will not disagree with that, and I will not disagree with the significance that it holds to our youth and rodeo. I understand that. My idea spawned just from what could be done with that area, because it's in the middle of the park and it's in need of repair. What could be done in that area that would serve our community as a whole? That's why I'm bringing this to you — do we look at decommissioning it? Do we look at repairing it?"

Crow said he envisions the potential creation of "an outdoor Civic Center where the bleachers are repaired and restored."

"It was once a minor league baseball field before it was a rodeo facility," Crow said. "The 4H built the show barn and facilities that are next to the rodeo arena. Is that something where pickleball courts could be brought in? Pickleball is a very popular sport right now. There are tournaments that go on all over that can bring money to the community. Is it a place where under the show barn we could set up cornhole and have cornhole tournaments under there and put up picnic tables and whatnot throughout the area?"

Crow said the arena has been rented a total of 15 times since October 2022 and "it appears by the way it's rented that it's not used a whole lot and I was just thinking of something to do with the space to make more use of it for the community as a whole." He suggested the arena could be moved to an-

other location within the park that is not getting much use.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Leslie Patteson, the secretary of the Gonzales County Historical Commission, said the commission believes "the arena is historically significant to Gonzales County" and wants to discuss what could be done to possibly preserve the venue at its Aug. 6 meeting.

"For more than 70 years, the arena has hosted fundraisers, play dates, rodeos of all kind and even, as I was told today at one point, donkey baseball," Patteson said. "It serves as a stopping point for the Texas Trail Riders on the way to San Antonio every year. It's not just a rodeo arena. It's more than that. When I was in school here and half the community was in 4H and FFA, it was used all the time.

"The Historical Commission's job is to advise and assist the county in identifying and preserving our history that includes the facilities in our county. The commission is offering to discuss the arena at our Aug. 6 meeting and to take it before the Texas Historical Commission to see if there is any way that the Historical Commission might be able to help in preserving it as well."

George Reese said the community banded together about 30 years ago to donate labor and materials to make the arena "more functional." He said the arena has some of "the best dirt" in the state for riding horses and rodeoing.

"It'd be a shame to lose that where people can go with practice and not have to worry about horses being crippled," Reese said. "It's just a shame to lose that arena. It needs to be rebuilt and all the seating put back in like it was before."

Jesse Holt Campion said her first rodeo ever was in the

old arena and today her sons are "the fourth generation of my family to ride in that dirt."

"My parents served on the Gonzales Arena Association board and poured their hearts into making the arena better for all of us, all while unknowingly teaching their children what it means to step up and volunteer for this community, and that's why I stand here today," Campion said. "This arena still serves our youth. Not every family can afford the JB Wells fees and not every kid is ready for the high level competition that's hosted there. This is where they go to learn. This is where they go to grow, to build confidence. We've watched kids go from lead line to state championships, and it starts here. This is real lasting value.

"Beyond the emotional connection, there's real economic opportunity. When this arena is used for clinics, play, days, ranch, rodeos, jackpots, benefits, fundraisers, it brings people in. They fill up at our gas stations, eat in our restaurants, shop in our stores. Small grassroots events create big ripple effects in small towns like ours."

Campion said the town needs both JB Wells and the Independence Park arena — "one facility for large events and the other for grassroots development."

"This arena is our foundation, and you don't tear down the foundation while you're still building the house," Campion said. "Decommissioning this arena wouldn't just erase history; it would rob the next generation of the same opportunities we were lucky enough to have. We're not asking for perfection, we're asking for a chance, and we're willing to put in the work just like those who came before us.

"Yes, it needs improvement, so let's be realistic, and let's talk about it. If it needs a new management plan, let's create one, but tearing it down shuts

out kids who are still learning, families who are still growing in a community that can and will benefit from it."

Fifteen-year-old Jaxon Beck said the old arena "gives younger kids and local riders a chance to build skills before they move on to bigger competitions."

"While most of the elite competitions are held at JB Wells, this is where we get ready for that level," Beck said. "A lot of us wouldn't have without that stepping stone. If the bleachers were fixed and the city supported it, this facility could host weekly jackpots and other events that would actually bring in money and keep people coming to Gonzales. How cool would it be for Gonzales to be a South Texas rodeo hub for everybody to use to boost our economy?"

"As president of Gonzales County 4H Council, I think I speak for all members when I say that we would gladly assist and clean up efforts. I just hope the city sees the value in this place and what it still means to kids like me, and what it could continue to do for our community."

County Judge Pat Davis said he and others spent a lot of time welding in the arena and discussed how the Arena Association raised thousands of dollars to fix it, but was convinced to donate that money to the city to help build the JB Wells arena instead.

"We put all of our money into the JB Wells arena and when it was completed, we were all excited for our play days and everything in there, but that came to a complete halt," Davis said. "We were not able to use the arena. It forced us back to the old arena. As some folks have said, there's a lot of people in here that would volunteer their time and would volunteer their work. They would volunteer money to put this arena back together."

Kolkhorst named to Select Committee on flooding

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Senator Lois W. Kolkhorst (R-Brenham), who represents Gonzales County, has been appointed by Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick to serve on the Senate Select Committee on Disaster Preparedness and Flooding.

The committee is being formed in response to the disastrous and deadly Central Texas floods, which are a focus of the upcoming special session of the Texas Legislature.

"I am grateful and honored to be appointed to the Senate Select Committee on Disaster Preparedness and Flooding," said Kolkhorst. "I will serve with the somber respect that the gravity of this disaster deserves. This committee will work diligently and thoroughly for all Texans impacted by this disaster. I look forward to carefully searching for new ways to improve warning systems for any future disasters."

The Committee will examine the following items on the impending special session call:

1. Flood Warning Systems
2. Flood Emergency Communications
3. Relief Funding for Hill Country Floods
4. Natural Disaster Preparation & Recovery

"The creation of both the House and Senate's Select Committees on Disaster Preparedness and Flooding is just the beginning of the Legislature looking at every aspect of this tragic event," said Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick. "Right now, we must focus on the recovery of

See KOLKHORST, page 14

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WATER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

AFY against the Modeled Available Groundwater (MAG) amount of 47,584 AFY. The vast majority of the permit volumes are granted to exporters that ship groundwater out of the district boundary, leaving Gonzales County residents only a minor portion.

GBRA's permit amendment application involved a nearly two-year contested case legal battle administered by the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH). The SOAH administrative law judge issued a 57 page Proposal for Decision (PFD) on Dec. 18, 2024, and exception letter on Feb. 10, 2025. The PFD contains the findings of fact, conclusions of law, and decisions on

whether to approve or deny the GBRA permit amendment request.

GCUWCD's attorney, Greg Ellis, has been revising the SOAH PFD to produce a draft Final Decision document which is to correct SOAH errors and support the board's decision to deny the GBRA permit amendment request. The Final Decision document is extremely important since it will be presented to a court when the GCUWCD board decision is appealed — it is the basis and justification for the decision. According to Ellis, it appears GBRA is planning to appeal the board's decision.

On the afternoon of July 7, Ellis issued a draft redline of the Final

Decision to the case parties, just one day before the GCUWCD's regular board meeting on July 8. At the July 8 meeting, Ellis stated the board could approve the draft despite having received some comments from the case parties to be considered and having a version 2 of the document underway.

GCUWCD board president Bruce Tieken asked to have the final document in hand first before approval, and it was decided that a special meeting on July 16 would be held on the GBRA findings of fact and conclusions of law. Ellis stated the Final Decision document had a deadline of Aug. 10. GCUWCD then later rescheduled the special GBRA meeting to Wednesday, July 30.

Transparency concerns again arise. As of the time of this article, Ellis has not issued version 2 of the Final Decision document for review or responded to requests for a teleconference to discuss the proposed language. The version 1 draft was also absent from the July 8 board meeting packet, limiting public access to this very important document.

The Wednesday, July 30 special meeting at the Gonzales County Courthouse at 5:30 p.m. is an important opportunity for the board to finalize the GBRA Final Decision document to best prepare against future legal challenges by GBRA. Local residents concerned about Gonzales County's future are urged to attend and voice concerns.

Ted Boriack is a member of the Water Protection Association and a Gonzales County landowner dedicated to preserving local water resources.

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KOLKHORST

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

those still missing, then rebuilding communities in flooded areas. In the coming year, and into the next regular legislative session, we will gather all the facts and answer the many questions to which the public demands answers. I look forward to working with Speaker Burrows on these critical issues."

Speaker of the House Dustin Burrows has named members to the House Joint Committee as well. The hearings of the Select Committee on Disaster Preparedness and Flooding will be held jointly on July 23 in Austin during the 89th Special Session, with the second hearing in Kerrville the following week.

Senators serving on the Senate Select Committee include: Sen. Charles Perry, Chairman; Sen. Pete Flores, Vice Chair; Sen. Paul Bettencourt; Sen. César Blanco; Sen. Donna Campbell; Sen. Adam Hinojosa; Sen. José Menéndez; and Sen. Charles Schwertner.

Representatives named by Speaker Burrows to the House Joint Committee are: Rep. Ken King, Chair; Rep. Armando Martinez, Vice-Chair; Rep. Greg Bonnen; Rep. Drew Darby; Rep. Ann Johnson; Rep. AJ Loudnerback; Rep. Joe Moody; Rep. Wes Virdell; and Rep. Terry Wilson.

CONTRACTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

bridge replacement and roadway approaches on CR 222/CR 109 at Haw Creek.

WHARTON COUNTY

Trevway, Inc. of Katy, Texas, was awarded the \$2,614,789.36 contract for bridge replacement and roadway approaches on CR 442/CR 343 from CR 422 at Willow Creek #2.

Ti-Zack Concrete, LLC from Le Center, MN was awarded the \$2,130,273.30 contract for construction of pedestrian infrastructures in El Campo.

As these projects begin, motorists are urged to stay alert and reduce speed near and through work zones, obey all traffic control and be aware of workers and moving equipment throughout all work zones. Exact construction start dates on these projects and related traffic detours have not yet been determined.

SCHOOL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of-war, dunking booths and more. There will also be giveaways. This is a free event for all families.

The Back to School Bash will be held from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, July 26, at Providence Missionary Baptist Church, 1020 St Andrew St., Gonzales. For more information, contact Donna Smith at 830-263-0942.

BIKERS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

hour radius. Hotel rooms in Gonzales County have been sold out in many cases since January. Restaurants and gas stations are getting prepared for the influx of customers by stocking up on extra essentials.

Each year the event brings in musical acts to perform. This year's lineup includes the following (general admission to the event is usually \$30 and is the cost to attend with no other cover charge):

- Friday, Aug. 1: Marcus Ardoin & Da Zydeco Legendz from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.; DJ Interlude from 9 p.m. to 10 p.m.; Keyun & the Zydeco Masters, 10 p.m. to midnight.

- Saturday, Aug. 2: Marco Richh from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.; Fat Daddy from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.; Mr. Smoke & The Smoke Band from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m.; DJ Interlude from 11 p.m. to midnight.

- Sunday, Aug. 3: DJ Interlude from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.; Trae The Truth from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.; DJ Interlude from 10 p.m. to midnight.

An all-female ride group called the "2025 Texas Takeover" has events planned with a Wine Down Wednesday, July 30 at 6 p.m. at San Antonio Distillery; a historic tour of the Edwards High School Community Center and Afro-American Museum at 2 p.m. Thursday, July 30; a Ladies Hang Night Part 1 at the Women's Pavilion at JB Wells Arena at 6 p.m. Thursday, July 30; a Ladies Hang Night Part 2 at the Women's Pavilion at JB Wells Arena with The Black Motorcycle Set Page at 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 1; a continental breakfast and Steel Horse Awards presented by SBRF from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 2 at Edwards High School Gem; and an all-female ride beginning at 11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 2 from Edwards High School Gem (register at <https://tinyurl.com/CTXAFR25>).

ENTERTAINMENT LINEUP



Attendees are encouraged to register for emergency alerts by texting NMR2025 to (618) 589-1337. This system will be used to communicate important updates throughout the event and will be deactivated afterward.

Gonzales County Emergency Management Director Jimmy Harless said a number of meetings have been held to make sure first responders are ready for an event that could bring twice as many people to town as Cattle Country Festival did in April — though likely far short of the record estimated 85,000 fans that came to Gonzales for the Willie Nelson Fourth of July picnic in 1976.

It also does not approach the sheer number of people who attend what is considered to be the largest motorcycle

rally in the world, the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, which annually brings half a million people to Sturgis, South Dakota, which since 1938 has had a substantial economic impact on the town of Sturgis and the surrounding region.

While Sturgis — which begins Thursday, Aug 1 this year — is open to all motorcycle enthusiasts, the vast majority of attendees that go are white and there is a large number of "outlaw" groups present and the event is often marred by alcohol and drug-related crashes which turn fatal.

Meanwhile, the National Bikers Roundup is the largest camping motorcycle rally held in the United States each year and is organized by several primarily African-American motorcycle clubs. There are strict rules that all attendees must follow: no weapons; no ATVs; no drones; no four-wheelers and no glass containers allowed.

More than 1,000 motorcycle clubs attend the event each year, and African-American women make up close to half of the participants. Last year, the roundup was held in Springfield, Illinois. Attendees say the event gives black bikers the opportunity to celebrate their passion in an atmosphere where they aren't in the minority.

Motorcyclists from across the country are expected to attend, bringing an unusually large increase in motorcycle traffic to the area. Officials are urging residents and travelers to drive cautiously and be mindful of visiting riders.

Attendees are encouraged to register for emergency alerts by texting NMR2025 to (618) 589-1337. This system will be used to communicate important updates throughout the event and will be deactivated afterward.

The first roundup was organized in Kansas City, Missouri, in 1977 by Dallas Thibodeaux and Rozell Nunn Jr. and attracted 49 riders. It has grown in stature since then to become a multiple-day event with as many as 30,000 to 40,000 participants who enjoy camping, exhibition of their rides, parades, stunt shows and other entertainment, including drag racing and contests.

Because it primarily attracted African-American riders, the event was largely ignored by mainstream media and the motorcycle industry early on in its history, but has since attracted the support of manufacturers such as Harley-Davidson and Honda because it is family friendly and open to people of all ethnicities.

Since 1998, participants have been donating food and money to support local food banks and have since raises thousands of dollars and contributed tons of food.



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