

The **Gonzales Inquirer**

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Commissioners propose voter approval tax rate, rescind retiree stipend passed last year

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

Gonzales County commissioners banked the ability to increase the county tax rate for years — saving it for a so-called “rainy day.” On Monday, Aug. 11,

commissioners determined the proverbial rain was falling significantly enough that it was time to call in that marker.

After years of keeping the tax rate at the no-new-revenue level, the commissioners voted unanimously to propose a 2025 voter approval tax rate of 26.89

cents per \$100 valuation — an increase of 6.57 cents above the 2024 tax rate of 20.32 cents and 5.86 cents above the 2025 no-new-revenue rate of 21.03 cents.

Commissioners also voted 3-2 to rescind a measure adopted last year which pays certain

retirees \$300 per month — or \$3,600 per year — until their deaths to cover the cost of a Medicare Silver Choice supplement plan after concerns were raised by a third-party auditor about not only the legality of the measure, but the negative impact it has on county

finances. It will end after Sept. 30, 2025.

TAX RATE

Commissioners have set a 9 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 2 public hearing on the proposed

See **COUNTY**, page 17

Waelder calls for Nov. 4 special election, cannot adopt tax rate until new members seated

Police chief administrator resigned after being placed on admin leave

BY LORRELL WRIGHT
For the Inquirer

The Waelder City Council approved every item on its Tuesday, Aug. 12 agenda, addressed the recent resignation of its police chief administrator, and postponed setting a 2025 tax rate until two vacant council seats are filled in a November special election.

During his report, Acting City Manager Adolph Gonzales told the council the police chief administrator had been placed on administrative leave at the beginning of July, prior to the last council meeting, “due to discrepancies found in his job handling.”

The chief resigned shortly

See **WAELDER**, page 17

GISD to hold Aug. 25 public hearing on new tax rate and budget

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

Gonzales ISD will hold a special called public hearing at 5:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 25, to propose a total tax rate of 87.5 cents per \$100 valuation — an increase of 1.16 cents — and discuss the proposed budget

after trustees voted 6-0 to do so at the Monday, Aug. 11 regular meeting.

District chief financial officer Amanda Smith said the district will look at adopting a maintenance & operations rate of 73.08 cents and a debt service

See **GISD**, page 16

NIXON-SMILEY GOES BACK TO SCHOOL



CONTRIBUTED

Readers submitted photos of their kids — and in some cases, hilariously, themselves as well — for back to school as Nixon-Smiley CISD started class for the 2025-26 school year on Thursday, Aug. 7. For more Nixon-Smiley reader photos, see page 6. We will run photos from Gonzales ISD and Waelder ISD next week!

GONZALES HIGH'S SENIOR SUNRISE



Gonzales High School incoming 12th graders took part Tuesday, Aug. 12, in Senior Sunrise 2026. The first day of school for all Gonzales ISD students was Wednesday, Aug. 13.

COURTESY/GONZALES HIGH SCHOOL

August sales tax receipts up

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

Three of the four Gonzales County municipalities — Gonzales, Nixon and Waelder — saw increases in sales tax

See **RECEIPTS**, page 14

From Gonzales to the National Stage!

Angela Witzkoske 'dares to dream' as USA ICON Miss Lonestar State 2025

BY LORRELL WRIGHT
For the Inquirer

Angela Witzkoske grew up in Gonzales hearing the words “Come and Take It,” but her personal motto has become “Dare to Dream.”

From her first crown at age eight

See **PAGEANT**, page 18



COURTESY PHOTO/ANGELA WITZKOSKE
Gonzales native Angela Witzkoske placed high in a national pageant recently.

Gonzales to host Bicentennial Bash on Oct. 2

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Get ready to party like it's 1825! The City of Gonzales is thrilled to announce the Gonzales Bicentennial Bash, a landmark celebration happening Thursday, Oct. 2, 2025, commemorating 200 years of Gonzales, Texas and the exciting debut of Texas Legacy in Lights.

Join us in honoring a town rich with history, pride, and Texas spirit.

As the original capital of Green

See **BASH**, page 16

1 SECTION
18 PAGES



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Nixon man arrested for evading arrest after being clocked driving 118 mph

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

An 18-year-old Nixon man was arrested Wednesday, Aug. 6, on a warrant stemming from his driving at high speeds to evade arrest or detention during a July 21 incident.



Mikael Gunnar Wilke

According to the Gonzales County Sheriff's Office, a patrol deputy was traveling south on Texas 80 in the Nixon area on July 21 when he observed a white Chevrolet Camaro traveling north at a rate of 118 miles per hour in a posted 55-mile-per-hour construction zone. The Deputy turned around to initiate a traffic stop on the Camaro, but it turned east onto Texas 97, headed towards Cost and Gonzales, and began to accelerate even faster.

The deputy self-terminated the pursuit due to the significant amount of traffic on the road and the dangerous speed at which the suspect vehicle was traveling in order to not endanger any further individuals.

While deputies remained in the area searching for the vehicle, it was determined the Camaro was registered to an address in the Nixon area. A number of deputies took part in interviewing residents in the area regarding the vehicle.

Their investigation determined the vehicle had been operated by an 18-year-old male, later identified as Mikael



Gunnar Wilke, who had parked the Camaro in a wooded area near his residence in an attempt to hide it and had fled on foot.

District Judge William Old III signed a warrant on Tuesday, Aug. 5, for Wilke evading arrest with a vehicle, which is a felony offense. The following day, a deputy assigned to Operation Lone Star and a Nixon Police Department K-9 handler apprehended Wilke at his residence without incident. He remains in the Gonzales County Jail in lieu of \$50,000 surety bond.

"We would like to thank the La Vernia Police Department for assisting in this investigation and the Nixon Police Department for their assistance in the safe apprehension of this subject," Sheriff Keith Schmidt said in a statement. "This is a reminder that the law enforcement personnel of the Gonzales County Sheriff's Office will utilize all available resources and follow every lead to hold offenders in Gonzales County accountable for their actions."



The families of Ella Finch and Linda Coffin were present as their loved ones were honored by the Gonzales County Retired Teachers Association.

Gonzales County retired teachers honor deceased members at July meeting

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Gonzales County Retired Teachers held their July meeting on Tuesday, July 15, at Abiding Word Lutheran Church.

Cheryl Meadows and Diane Halliburton led the program that honored the deceased members. They were Ella Mae Finch, Linda Coffin and Anton Lesak. Family members for Ella Finch and Linda Coffin were in attendance. A baked potato lunch with fixings and desserts were enjoyed by all. Members and guests were excited to win door prizes.

The business meeting continued with discussion about upcoming drive where GCRTA members will provide koozies and rack cards, and have a drawing of a basket of teacher goodies.

These activities will take place at Gonzales County



Gonzales County Retired Teachers Association members and guests were excited to win door prizes.

school districts at their beginning of the year gathering. The rack cards are informational and we encourage future retired school employees to join our organization.

Look for the big red/white/blue table banner to locate these goodies!

Their next meeting will be held Sept. 16 and they hope to see you there.



GONZALES ISD HONORS TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

Gonzales ISD's own Teachers of the Year were honored at the Region 12 Teacher of the Year Recognition Ceremony last week. Wayne Robert Low of Gonzales High School, the Secondary Teacher of the Year for GISD, was accompanied by Superintendent Dr. Dana Arreola, Principal Karen Perez and Deputy Superintendent Dr. Valerie Ibeji. Elementary Teacher of the Year Carlos Gutierrez Toro of North Avenue Intermediate was unable to attend the ceremony but was also recognized.

COURTESY PHOTO/GISD

APACHE BAND HOLDS MIDNIGHT MADNESS EVENT



COURTESY/GISD APACHE BAND

The Gonzales High School Mighty Apache Band held its first-ever Midnight Madness band event recently. The band did a New Year's Eve-style countdown from 11:59 p.m. July 31 to midnight Aug. 1, at which time they began their first steps of their 2025 field production "Off the Chain." The band has been holding regular practices ever since Midnight Practice prior to the official start of school on Wednesday, Aug. 13.



The Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales Inquirer office will be closed on Friday, August 15th. We apologize for the inconvenience.

Celebrations

Birthdays

August 14th
Wendy Barthels
Kyle Day
Cheryl DuBose
Joshua David Haynes
Debbie Schmidt
Tony Vega Sr

Roger Gonzales
Audrey Irie
Erika James
Reese Lester
Bradley Stampert
Virgie Vega

August 19th
Travis Burleson
Gary Clack
W.C. "Bill" Crandall
Eunice Hanke
Daniel Maldonado
Stacy Scott

August 15th
Bill Davis
Halea Heiman
Krista Keefe
Lawren Kridler
Nick Skipper

August 17th
Stephanie Hill
James Padgett JR.
Amanda Sepeda
LeeAnn Weathermon

August 20th
Candace Ball Condel
Tim Decker Jr
Laurie Johnson
Ruth Johnson
W.L. Johnson
Martha L. Melchor
Myrtle Nichols
James Taylor
Erlene Zavadii

August 16th
Jennifer Benes
Gwen Lamprecht
Craig
Holly Danz

August 18th
Paul Canales
Jake Irving
Wade Miller
Bobby Pakebusch
Ainsley Ann Riojas
Helen Rodriguez

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Gonzales Weather

	August 14 99°/78°	Partly sunny and remaining very warm; a couple of thunderstorms in the afternoon 61% chance of rain • RealFeel 98
	August 15 101°/77°	Partly sunny and hot; a thunderstorm in spots in the afternoon 40% chance of rain • RealFeel 102
	August 16 100°/76°	Partly sunny and very warm; a thunderstorm in spots in the afternoon 40% chance of rain • RealFeel 101
	August 17 99°/75°	Times of sun and clouds with a thunderstorm in parts of the area; very warm 40% chance of rain • RealFeel 105
	August 18 99°/76°	Remaining very warm with partial sunshine; a couple of afternoon showers 56% chance of rain • RealFeel 99
	August 19 100°/77°	Sunshine and a few clouds with a shower; hot 55% chance of rain • RealFeel 102
	August 20 92°/76°	Humid with sunshine and a few clouds 20% chance of rain • RealFeel 102

Your Ticket to Local Finds

The **Gonzales Inquirer**
CLASSIFIEDS

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Upcoming Events at J.B. Wells Park in Gonzales

August 14th – South Texas Tour
August 15th-16th – Come & Take It Classic Rodeo
August 17th – South Texas Rodeo & South Texas Tour

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GONZALES COUNTY 4-H OFFICERS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The new 2025 – 2026 Gonzales County 4-H Council Officers were installed at the 4-H Awards Banquet on August 10, 2025. From left to right are Evan Roehr – District Council Delegate, Elisabeth Irving – Vice President, Jaxon Beck – President, Abigail Irving – Reporter, Ahren Hattenbach – Treasurer, Audrey Thibodeaux – Parliamentarian, and Augustus Sexton – Secretary. Come meet the new officers and learn about projects at the 4-H Open House scheduled for Aug. 26 from 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. at the Texas A&M AgriLife Office, 623 North Fair Street in Gonzales.

Garden Q&A

with CALVIN FINCH



Q. We are new to the area. The house we bought has trees; mostly crepe myrtles we believe have lots of dead branches and all seem to have a growth identified as ball moss by our new neighbor. He says the ball moss did not kill the branches. Do you agree? How should we treat the crepe myrtles to restore their foliage and flowers?

A. Yes, your neighbor is correct, ball moss is an epiphyte that makes it living from the air and not from its host plant. The ball moss will even survive on fences or utility wires if they are on low spots without much air movement. Restore the crepe myrtles by pruning off the dead branches and giving them a deep wa-

tering in August and September. Also add 5 cups of a slow-release lawn fertilizer such as 19-05-09 spread around the dripline of each tree next February.

Q. When should we start planting our winter vegetable garden?

A. Plant the fall tomatoes right now after preparing the soil by incorporating 2 inches of compost and 10 cups of slow release 19-5-9 fertilizer per 100 sq. ft. of bed. Plant radish, carrot, beet, turnip, rutabaga, English peas, and lettuce seed, and transplants of broccoli, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, Swiss chard, kale and cabbage transplants at the end

See GARDEN, page 12

VAVS to hold Spring Show and Sale

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Victoria African Violet Society will hold its Spring Show and Sale at Hallettsville Market Days at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 321 US Highway 77

South, in Hallettsville Saturday, Aug. 16 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The show will have a large display of plants and information on the hobby. You can have your plants repotted each for \$2.

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LIVESTOCK WEEKLY REPORTS

GONZALES LIVESTOCK REPORT

Sale Date: August 9th, 2025
 Cattle on hand: 1204
 Compared to our last sale: Number 1 choice calves and yearlings sold fully steady and 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., 355.00-565.00; 400-500 lbs., 295.00-460.00; 500-600 lbs., 275.00-400.00; 600-700 lbs., 270.00-385.00; 700-800 lbs., 295.00-340.00. 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., 290.00-450.00; 400-500 lbs., 275.00-435.00; 500-600 lbs., 265.00-355.00; 600-700 lbs., 315.00-343.00. Packer Cows: Good lean utility and commercial, 138.00-151.00; Cutters, 155.00-171; Canners, 91.00-131.00; High yielding fat cows, 152.00-166.00. Packer Bulls: Yield grade 1 & 2, good heavy bulls, 179.00-195.00; Light weights and medium quality bulls, 155.00-175.00. Stockers Cows: \$900.00-\$3200.00. Pairs: \$1800.00 to \$4350.00.

NIXON LIVESTOCK

August 11th, 2025
 Cattle – 1304
 Cows – 106
 Bulls – 18
 Steers:
 200-300 lbs - \$456-486-585
 300-400 lbs - \$423-453-560
 400-500 lbs - \$369-399-505
 500-600 lbs - \$329-359-410
 600-700 lbs - \$303-344-365
 700-800 lbs - \$281-311-345
 Heifers:

200-300 lbs - \$389-419-505
 300-400 lbs - \$378-408-595
 400-500 lbs - \$350-380-590
 500-600 lbs - \$326-356-575
 600-700 lbs - \$290-320-370
 700-800 lbs - \$270-300-318
 Slaughter Cows - \$90-170
 Slaughter Bulls - \$160-196
 Stocker Cows – 1000-2500
 Pairs: \$2100-3300
WE WILL BE CLOSED ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2025 FOR LABOR DAY!

HALLETTVILLE LIVESTOCK COMMISSION CO., INC.

Sale date: August 5, 2025
 Cattle on hand: 1987
Packer Cows:
 High Dressing: \$151-178
 Medium Dressing: \$125-152
 Low Dressing: \$115-128
Poor/Weak Cows: \$100-115
Packer Bulls:
 High Dressing Bulls: \$188-197
 Medium Dressing Bulls: \$168-188
 Low Dressing Bulls: \$160-172
Stocker Cows:
 Good Stocker/Cows & Heifers: \$2600-3500
 Medium Stocker Cows & Heifers: \$1900-2500
 Good Cow & Calf Pairs: 1 pair - \$3800
 Medium Cow & Calf Pairs: 2 pairs - \$2050-2550
 Stocker & Feeder Calves & Yearlings:
 Number 1 steer & bull calves:
 Under 200 lbs.: \$550-730
 200-300 lbs.: \$520-590
 300-400 lbs.: \$470-575
 400-500 lbs.: \$390-510
 500-600 lbs.: \$365-415
 600-700 lbs.: \$330-385
 700-800 lbs.: \$300-354
 800 UP \$280-322
 Number 1 heifer calves:
 Under 200 lbs: \$530-710
 200-300 lbs.: \$440-540
 300-400 lbs.: \$415-525
 400-500 lbs.: \$370-445
 500-600 lbs.: \$340-420

600-700 lbs.: \$310-370
 700-800 lbs: \$280-335
 800 UP: \$245-305

Replacement Heifers:

350-700 lbs.: 410-620
 Another week of very strong prices. The market was very good in all weight areas. Instances a little higher, but overall a sale with incredible demand. Packer cows & bulls sold \$3 higher on a supply of 225 head.

SEGUIN CATTLE CO.

August 6th, 2025
 Overall quality very deep. Market steady on all classes with packer cows & bulls steady.
 Cattle – 480
 Sheep & goats – 621
 Medium & large frame #1 Steers:
 200-300 lb. 2.00-4.42-5.60
 300-400 lb. 2.30-4.40-5.55
 400-500 lb. 3.00- 4.00-4.52
 500-600 lb. 1.55 -3.32-4.00
 600-700 lb. .85-2.92-3.72
 700-850 lb. 1.70-2.98-3.35
 Medium & large frame #1 Heifers:
 200-300 lb. 2.00-3.53-4.75
 300-400 lb. 2.00-3.80-4.85
 400-500 lb. 1.50-3.59-4.50
 500-600 lb. 1.50-3.18-3.54
 600-750 lb. 1.85-3.08-3.45
 Cows:
 Utility & commercial – .95-1.57-1.70
 Cutters – .85-1.15-1.34
 Canners - NONE
 Palpated cows – 1700-2000
 Cow/Calf Pairs – NONE
 Bulls:
 Heavy High Yielding – 1.80-1.90
 Light & Low Yielding – 1.00-1.79
 Sheep & Goats
 Nannies – 50-305
 Kid Goats (Fat) – 2.50-4.15
 Wethers -3.65-3.90
 Billies – 1.30-2.65
 Dorp. Ewes - 65-220
 Dorp. Lambs (Fat) – 1.80-2.50
 Woolled Ewes – 1.00-1.10

Woolled Bucks –1.40-1.70
 Lambs – 1.25 – 2.00
 Barb. Bucks – \$375

CUERO LIVESTOCK MARKET

August 8th, 2025
 Number of Head: 1310
 This week we had 111 cows, 15 bulls and 1 goat. The cow and bull markets were up \$2-3 from last week. The calf market was a touch cheaper in places. On Friday the commodity board on feeder cattle was down the limit of \$9.25 and live cattle were down as much as \$6.20. The demand is still strong. 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: 193.00-202.00
 Lower Yielding: 140.00-182.00
 Packer cows:
 High Yielding 162.00-173.00
 Medium Yielding 146.00-157.00
 Poor & Weak 112.00-125.00
 Palpated: 10 bred \$2100-2800
 Pairs: None
 Steer/Bull Calves: (AVG-HIGH)
 200-250 lbs 555.00-555.00
 250-299 lbs 535.00-580.00
 300-350 lbs 528.00-575.00
 350-400 lbs 471.00-550.00
 400-450 lbs 435.00-460.00
 450-500 lbs 393.00-438.00
 500-550 lbs 376.00-410.00
 550-600 lbs 364.00-380.00
 600-700 lbs 338.00-372.00
 700-800 lbs 313.00-350.00
 Heifer Calves:(AVG-HIGH)
 200-250 lbs 495.00-520.00
 250-300 lbs 460.00-500.00
 300-350 lbs 440.00-520.00
 350-400 lbs 432.00-470.00
 400-450 lbs 405.00-495.00
 450-500 lbs 373.00-480.00
 500-550 lbs 351.00-420.00
 550-600 lbs 336.00-400.00
 600-700 lbs 319.00-370.00
 700-800 lbs 305.00-333.00

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Gonzales named one of 10 underappreciated Texas towns

FROM STAFF REPORTS

August 2025 marks 200 years since James Kerr, surveyor general for the Green DeWitt colony, laid out the plan for the colony's capital at the confluence of the San Marcos and Guadalupe rivers and named the community Gonzales in honor of the governor of the Mexican state of Coahuila.

Now ahead of its bicentennial, Gonzales is being recognized by World Atlas — a website which contains not only maps but informative stories about destinations worldwide — as one of 10 underappreciated towns in Texas that should be visited. The honor comes just after the website had also named Gonzales as one of eight “can't-miss towns” to visit in Texas.

“In eras past, Texans were legendary for their ability to brave frontiers that no other pilgrim dared to contest, especially when the Mexican government at that time had its eye on the same plots of land,” the website wrote. “A few dozen decades and wild-west conflicts later, Texas is now the proud home to many a ripe community waiting to take in wanderers lucky enough to stumble in. While San Antonio and Houston might receive the majority of international attention, these underrated towns are also owed some love.”

Alongside Gonzales, towns which received love from World Atlas include Marfa and Alpine in West Texas; Fredericksburg and Kerrville in the Hill Country; Lockhart in South Central Texas; Rockport and Port Aransas on the Gulf Coast; Nacogdoches in East Texas; and Glen Rose in North Texas.

Gonzales' place as the “Lexington of Texas” where the First Shot for Independence was fired makes it an easy choice for inclusion in the list, the website noted.

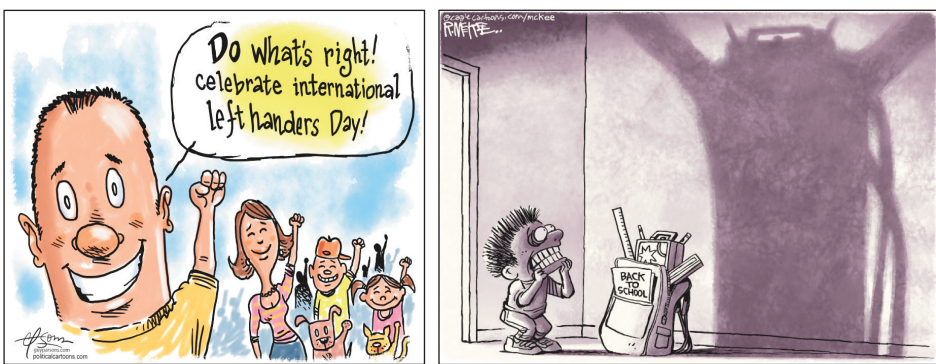
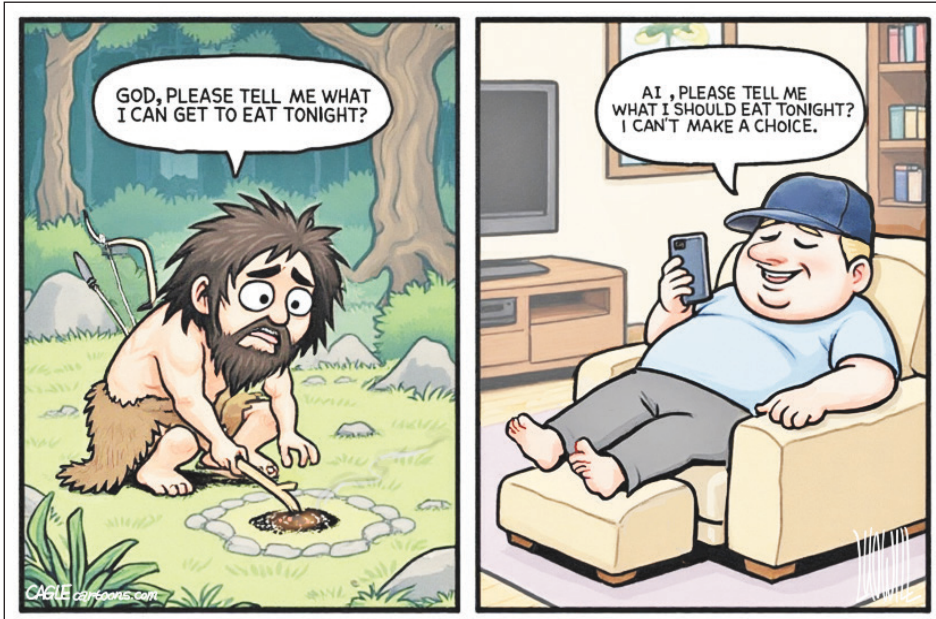
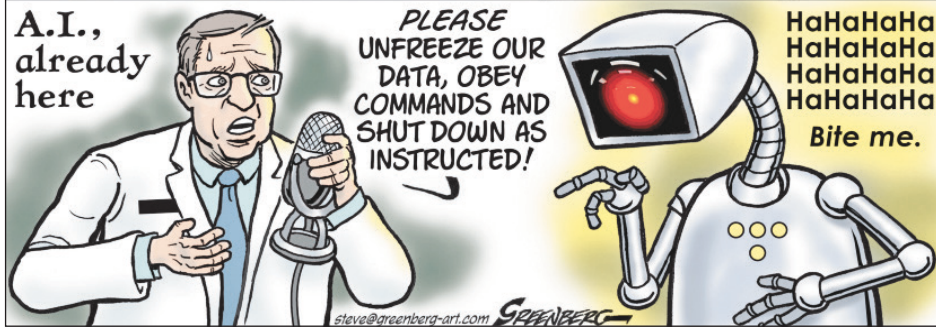
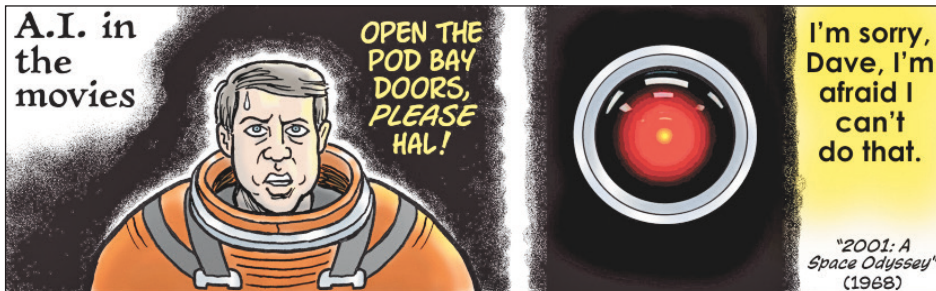
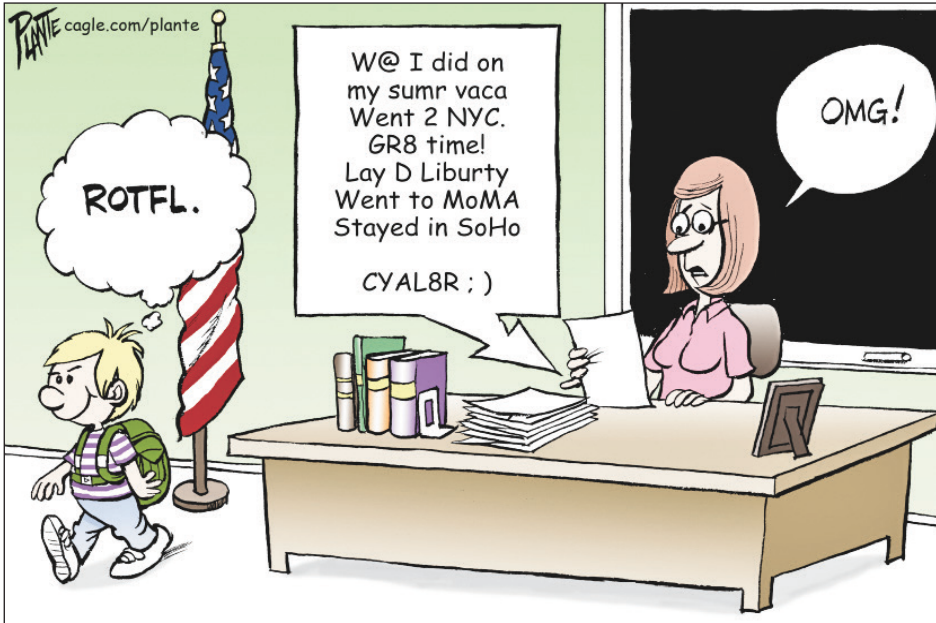
“With a cannonball's roar, Gonzales marked the start of the Texas Revolution in 1835, a legacy showcased at the Gonzales Memorial Museum, home to a legendary cannon called ‘Come and Take It,’ which once symbolized defiance against Mexican dictatorship,” World Atlas wrote. “The town's heart is its patriotic downtown, decorated with 19th-century architecture around areas like Texas Heroes Square.

“These Texan heroes are often remembered during the annual ‘Come and Take It’ celebrations, featuring parades and reenactments. History enthusiasts can also visit the Eggleston House, J.B. Wells House Museum, and Pioneer Village Living History Center to experience frontier life.”

The website noted that some of the places on the list — especially those out in West Texas — may require a drive and some gumption to reach, but they are worth it.

“It takes nerve to venture far into the reaches of regions like West Texas, but thankfully, these towns lay out the welcome mat,” World Atlas wrote. “History and state pride are in ample supply here, so with a little respect and an eagerness to learn, guests can expect to make lifelong friends with local folk. So, treat yourself and discover a few of these marvelous spots in person.”

The entire list can be viewed at <https://www.worldatlas.com/cities/10-underappreciated-towns-to-visit-in-texas-2025.html>.



59 years of caring for Central Texas, one family at a time

BY RAFAEL DE LA PAZ
CEO, Community Health Centers of South Central Texas

Community Health Centers of South Central Texas (CHCSCT) is proud to celebrate a special National Health Center Week (NHCW), launched by the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC), which took place August 3-9, 2025.

Since the first centers opened in 1966, community health centers have grown into the nation's largest primary care network, serving over 30 million people each year. This legacy continues in Central Texas through CHCSCT, where we now care for more than 20,000 patients annually across seven cities: Bastrop, Elgin, Gonzales, Lockhart, Luling, Seguin, and Victoria.

We are very excited and proud to celebrate 59 years caring for Texans and their families. We've been able to increase our capacity in recent years, and looking ahead, we're focused on making it even easier for patients to schedule appointments and get the care they need.

We remain committed to growing in ways that reflect and include our community. Today, 1 in 2 of our patients are uninsured and nearly all are low income. These represent real, everyday challenges families face, and the reason our work remains so essential.

Pediatric care — especially for young children — is one of our fastest-growing needs, and one of the costliest for families. About 1 in 4 of our patients are children under 18. That's why we've expanded our pediatric programs to make

To learn more or schedule an appointment, visit communityhealthtx.com or call 1-800-343-1577. You can also follow us on Facebook at @CHCSCT.

sure every child and every mother across Central Texas has access to the care they deserve. We don't just serve patients — we serve families

we've known for years. We see people from all walks of life, and often, we care for their children next. This isn't just a network of clinics — it's a vibrant community. And as we grow, we're proud to create good jobs too: today, more than 200 dedicated staff members live and work in the same communities we serve.

Community is at the heart of everything we do, and it's the reason we've been here for 59 years. Our patients are more than appointments — they're families, neighbors, and friends. We believe everyone deserves to be seen, heard, and cared for, and we're honored to continue showing up for the people who make Central Texas home.

We want you to join in celebrating this milestone and encourage area residents to spread the word. We are here to continue to serve you, your family, your neighbors, and friends. And we are committed to making you feel at home and like a member of our family when you walk through the doors of our clinics. To learn more or schedule an appointment, visit communityhealthtx.com or call 1-800-343-1577. You can also follow us on Facebook at @CHCSCT.

Community Health Centers are not-for-profit organizations that represent the nation's largest primary care network, serving 32.5 million patients nationwide. Nearly 1,500 health centers are the health care home to: 1 in 5 uninsured people, 1 in 3 people living in poverty, 1 in 7 rural residents, nearly 9 million children, and 400,000 veterans.

The Gonzales Inquirer

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

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

Mail Subscription Rates

Payable in advance

In county

One year \$52
Six months \$36
Three months \$28

Out of county

One year \$60
Six months \$48
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You can reach us at: 830-672-2861 OR publisher@gonzalesinquirer.com

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



Staff

PUBLISHER
Lew Cohn

CONTRIBUTING
Betty Cohn

BOOKKEEPER
Sanya Simmons

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

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.

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

Please send Letters to the Editor:

- Email: publisher@gonzalesinquirer.com
- U.S. Mail: The Inquirer, P.O. Box 616, Gonzales, Texas, 78629
- In person: The Inquirer, 622 St. Paul Street, Gonzales, Texas, 78629 (Please bring in a digital format, if possible).

Further questions may be directed to Publisher Lew Cohn, 830-672-2861.

APACHES HOLD FIRST FULL-CONTACT PRACTICE OF THE YEAR



COURTESY/GISD APACHE ATHLETICS

The Gonzales High School Apache football team held its first full-contact practice of the year on Saturday, Aug. 9. Also pictured are the 2025-26 Apache football seniors.



LADY APACHES HOLD ANNUAL ALUMNI SCRIMMAGE



COURTESY/GISD APACHE ATHLETICS

The Gonzales High School Lady Apaches held their annual volleyball-alumni scrimmage on Saturday, Aug. 9, at the Vic Salazar Gymnasium. The current GHS Lady Apaches won in four sets against their predecessors: 25-20, 18-25, 25-16, 25-22.

Mustangs' Gonzales, Rodriguez up for SI scholarship

FROM STAFF REPORTS

A pair of Nixon-Smiley athletes remain in the Top 12 and moved into the second round of voting for a Sports Illustrated \$25,000 scholarship giveaway.

Varsity running back Garett Gonzales is ranked sixth in the group, while quarterback Eric Rodriguez is ranked 12th in the group seeking to be named "Youth Athlete of the Year." The winner will be featured in a 3BRAND ad in Sports Illustrated and take home a \$25,000 scholarship. The contest is endorsed by NFL QB Russell Wilson, owner of 3BRAND, and is being used to help raise funds for V Foundation for Cancer Research and Why Not You Foundation.

Gonzales is being recognized as a "hard-working athlete. While football is his main focus, he also participates in varsity tennis, golf, baseball, and powerlifting." According to a Q&A he did with the website, he loves the competition he gets to face and the life lessons he learns from sports.

He also said his football coach and athletic director, Paul Kirby, inspires him both on and off the field because "Coach Kirby teaches him many life skills as well as how to get to the next level of the sport since Coach Kirby himself played at the next level."

Gonzales said he is proud of the time he started at running back and passed the single game rushing touchdown record before halftime as a freshman. Despite having a chance to add to his total, he told the coach to let the second-string upperclassmen behind him get some reps for the rest of the game in order to get them valuable experience as well.

Rodriguez "participates in various sports in football, his position is quarterback and he also does track and power lifting. He trains every day on being the best."

People can vote once per day for free or pay a donation to make additional votes. Voting for Gonzales and Rodriguez can be found at <https://athleteoftheyear.org/2025/garett-4ccf> and <https://athleteoftheyear.org/2025/eric-d171>.



Quarterback Eric Rodriguez



Varsity running back Garett Gonzales

Runnin' Apaches take first place at Victoria Relays

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Runnin' Apaches took first place in their first cross country meet of the year at the Victoria Relays at Victoria Riverside Park on Saturday, Aug. 9.

Ellie Lester and Jordyn Gonzales placed first as a varsity girls team, while Homero Ruiz and Ckrisofer Ramos placed first as a varsity boys team.

Martin Ramirez and Logan Weyman also placed as a JV boys team, and Viviana Barrientos and Julianna Salinas also medaled as a JV girls team.

GOLF SCRAMBLE WINNERS



CONTRIBUTED

The winning team from the Aug. 6 Golf Scramble at Independence Golf Course in Gonzales were, from left, Mike VanNorman, Matt Tiele, Bart Wynn, Steve Lopez and Zack Kotzebue.



CONTRIBUTED

The second-place team from the Aug. 6 Golf Scramble at Independence Golf Course in Gonzales were, from left, Gasper Lekgega, Colby Richter, Mason Richter, Jarrid Boehm and Mike Mariscal.

BACK TO SCHOOL!



SENIOR SUNRISE



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LABOR DAY SALE

SALE AUGUST 18TH - SEPTEMBER 13TH

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La-Z-Boy Wall or Rocker Recliner
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***SOME EXCLUSIONS APPLY SEE SALES ASSOCIATE FOR DETAILS. IN STOCK ONLY ON SELECT ITEMS.**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

A tax rate of \$0.2792 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of GONZALES HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.2792 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.2692 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.2908 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2025 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for GONZALES HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS from the same properties in both the 2024 tax year and the 2025 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that GONZALES HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that GONZALES HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2025 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON September 2, 2025 AT 5:15 PM AT THRIVE Healthplex, 1300 Captain Albert Martin Trail, Gonzales, TX 78629.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, GONZALES HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS is not required to hold an election at which voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the Board of Commissioners of GONZALES HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS at their offices or by attending the public hearing mentioned above.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE TAX RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

Property tax amount = (tax rate) x (taxable value of your property) / 100

FOR the proposal:	Kenneth Gottwald	Greg Tiekem
	Stephanie Kodack	Gene Reed
	Wayne South	Lisa Gindler
	Sascha Kardosz	Tim Markham
AGAINST the proposal:	None	
PRESENT and not voting:	None	
ABSENT:	Jean Burns	

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by GONZALES HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by GONZALES HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS this year.

	2024	2025	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.2667	\$0.2792	increase of 0.0125 per \$100, or 4.69%
Average homestead taxable value	\$163,239	\$174,013	increase of 6.60%
Tax on average homestead	\$435.36	\$485.84	increase of 50.48, or 11.60%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$16,330,199	\$17,040,644	increase of 710,445, or 4.35%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for GONZALES HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS at 830-672-2841 or tac@co.gonzales.tx.us, or visit www.gonzaleshealthcare.com for more information.

CLASSIFIEDS

HOW TO PLACE AN AD

You can place ads online at www.gonzalesinquirer.com or call **(830) 672-2861**

and/or email ads@gonzalesinquirer.com

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

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\$10 PER RUN UP TO 20 WORDS

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40¢ for each additional word.

4 runs for \$30

DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE FOR CONSECUTIVE RUNS

\$15.00 Garage Sale Packages

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

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

ERRORS

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

CALL TODAY
830-672-2861

040 AUCTIONS

040 AUCTIONS

040 AUCTIONS

850 HELP WANTED

850 HELP WANTED

850 HELP WANTED

850 HELP WANTED

850 HELP WANTED

850 HELP WANTED

Consign Now! Farm, Ranch and Construction Equipment Auction

Saturday, August 23 at 9:00 AM

1036 S. FM 331, Sealy - Onsite & Online Bidding

Accepting Consignments M-F 8am-4:30 pm
Last Day to Consign August 15

Tractors, Trucks, Construction & Livestock Equip. SUVs Trailers, & Misc. Selling for Cities of Katy, Bellville and Columbus, Austin County PCT 4 & Smithville ISD & more.

www.switzerauction.net (979) 885-2400

Onsite Buyer Premium: 10% on 1st \$5,000 on all purchases, per lot. TXS#7342

GENERAL FARM LABOR.

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



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



Wrangler Trucking LLC

Now Hiring CDL Drivers!
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Positions available in Gonzales and Flatonia

Production Water Hauler Day & Night shifts available

Offering Night shift bonus for Production Water Hauler

Service Work Day Positions only available.

Call 830-560-6714 for an interview.

Estate Auction

Sunday August 17, 10:00 AM

801 CR 488, Gonzales, TX. 78629

www.integrityauctions.biz

2006 Buick Rendezvous, 1988 Chevy S-10 Pickup, Both Run Great, 3 Guns, Crossbow, Over 1000 Assorted Coins, Twelve Real Gold Rings, Gold, Sterling and Costume Jewelry, Military Medals, 3 Sets Vintage Plated Flatware, Furniture, Lawn Mowers, China, Glassware, Pyrex Bowls, Hanging Light Fixtures, G. Harvey and Dan Brewer Prints, Plants, Pottery, 250 Comic Books, Books, Precious Moments, Cabbage Patch Doll, Cast Iron, Tools, Ladders, Wheelbarrows, Dog Pens, Toys, & more!

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James Molnoskey Auctioneer #15091

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700 HOUSES FOR RENT OR LEASE

050 GARAGE SALES

050 GARAGE SALES

The FINAL Final Sale Sat Aug 16th & Sun Aug 17th from 9a-3p 409 St. Francis Street in Gonzales, TX 78629

No early birds, no prices given in advance, no presales!

For Updates & Photos Follow:
www.facebook.com/comeandorganizeit
OR www.estatesales.net - search Come and Organize It

Surprise! We're back for one last blowout — and we mean it this time! Discovery Architecture & Antiques and Come and Organize It is coming together for one last time. Remaining store items feature a wide range of vintage doors and hardware, tubs and sinks, windows and stained glass, lighting and antique furniture. In addition to the store items, Come and Organize It has added over 10 different consignments within the store and will feature a wide variety of garage sale gold including decor, kitchen items, dish sets, luggage, wedding decor, children toys, office chairs, bedding and sooo much more!

YARD SALE, 313

E. Wallace St, Friday & Saturday, 7am-5pm. Furniture, clothing, priced to go.

GARAGE SALE:

FRI., Aug. 22nd, 5pm till 7pm; Sat., Aug. 23rd, 9am till 3pm. Furniture, dishes & men and women clothes. 5013 North US Hwy 183, Gonzales, TX — Look for signs and balloons.

210 MISC. SERVICES

JOEL'S OUT-DOOR SERVICE.

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

210 MISC. SERVICES

SOUTH WESTERN FOUNDATION

Co. House Leveling — Slabs — Pier & Beam. Mobile Homes, Sill and Joist Replacement. Any type of Foundation Repair. La Grange, TX 979-968-6703. Ask About Discounts Etc. Long Term.

520 SEED, FEED, HAY

HAY FOR SALE: Coastal square bales, \$7; coastal round bales, \$70; Klein round bales, \$65.00. David Vinklerek, 361-293-8758.

670 APARTMENTS FOR RENT OR LEASE

LOW INCOME APARTMENTS

for rent. 1, 2, 3, 4 bedrooms. No electric deposit required. Apply at 410 Village Drive. Gonzales 830-672-3419.

FOR RENT: COUNTRY HOME.

Large 2BR/1BA, in a quiet location, surrounded by centuries old live oak trees. 11 ft ceilings, XL living room, dining room with window seats and storage, lots of kitchen cabinets, washer/dryer hook-ups, covered carport (1 vehicle), and a small porch. Approx. 6 miles from Gonzales, on paved roads. No smokers. ASK ABOUT PETS. \$1075 deposit, \$1075 per month rent, with 12 month lease. Available approx. August 1, 2025. Call Mark: 830-305-3445

All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination.

We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.



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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.



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Career and Technical Education Annual Public Notification of Nondiscrimination

Nixon-Smiley CISD offers career and technical education pathways in Arts, Audio Visual Technology and Communications, Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, Health Science, and Hospitality and Tourism. Admission is based on grade level, age appropriateness, interest, and class space availability. Students must follow the course sequence for each pathway.

It is the policy of Nixon-Smiley CISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap in its vocational programs, services, or activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

It is the policy of Nixon-Smiley CISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap, or age in its employment practices as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

Nixon-Smiley CISD will take steps to assure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and vocational programs.

For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the Title IX Coordinator at wendy.fuller@nixonsmiley.net, 830-582-1536 ext.103, and/or the Section 504 Coordinator at wendy.fuller@nixonsmiley.net, 830-582-1536 ext.103.

Nixon-Smiley CISD
800 N. Rancho Road
Nixon, TX 78140
830-582-1536 ext. 102

Notificación Publica de No Discriminación en Programas de Educación Técnica y Vocacional

Nixon-Smiley CISD ofrece programas de educación técnica y vocacional en Artes, Tecnología Audiovisual y Comunicaciones, Agricultura, Alimentación y Recursos Naturales, Ciencias de la Salud, y Hospitalidad y Turismo.

La admisión a estos programas se basa en la admisión se basa en el nivel de grado, adecuación a la edad, interés y disponibilidad de espacio de clase. Los estudiantes deben seguir la secuencia del curso para cada camino.

Es norma de Nixon-Smiley CISD no discriminar en sus programas, servicios o actividades vocacionales y brinda igualdad de acceso a los Boy Scouts y otros grupos juveniles designados por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo o impedimento, tal como lo requieren el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, según enmienda; Título IX de las Enmiendas en la Educación de 1972, y la Sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973, según enmienda.

Es norma de Nixon-Smiley CISD no discriminar en sus procedimientos de empleo por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, impedimento o edad, tal como lo requieren el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, según enmienda; Título IX de las Enmiendas en la Educación, de 1972, la ley de Discriminación por Edad, de 1975, según enmienda; y la Sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973, según enmienda.

Nixon-Smiley CISD tomará las medidas necesarias para asegurar que la falta de habilidad en el uso del inglés no sea un obstáculo para la admisión y participación en todos los programas educativos y vocacionales.

Para información sobre sus derechos o procedimientos de quejas, comuníquese con el Coordinador del Título IX en wendy.fuller@nixonsmiley.net, 830-582-1536 ext.103, y/o el Coordinador de la Sección 504 en wendy.fuller@nixonsmiley.net, 830-582-1536 ext.103.

Nixon-Smiley CISD
800 N. Rancho Road
Nixon, TX 78140
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August 7

Puzzle Answers

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Notice to Creditors

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Martha Sue Hammons, Deceased, were issued on July 21, 2025, in Cause No. OTH25-0388, pending in the County Court of Gonzales County, Texas, to: Jennifer Nicole Burrows.

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

Dated the 5th day of August 2025.

DAVIS & SANTOS, PLLC
719 S. Flores Street
San Antonio, Texas 78204
T: (210) 853-5882
F: (210) 200-8395

By: *Patricia R. Vargas*
Patricia R. Vargas
State Bar No. 24038029
Email: pvargas@dslawpc.com
Kathleen H. Church
State Bar No. 24074036
Email: kchurch@dslawpc.com

ATTORNEYS FOR INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR, JENNIFER NICOLE BURROWS

SHERIFF'S NOTICE OF SALE REAL PROPERTY

The State of Texas
County of Gonzales County

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that by virtue of an Order Of Sale issued on August 4, 2025, in Cause #28,509, by the 2nd 25th Judicial District Court of Gonzales County, Texas, styled: **SouthStar Bank, S.S.B., vs Marvin L. Rowland, Jr., Decedent; Hannah Rowland; Jessica Leigh Rowland; and the Known and Unknown Heirs at Law of Decedent; and The Comptroller of the State of Texas;** wherein, on the 28th day of May, 2025, **SouthStar Bank, S.S.B.,** recovered a Summary Judgment against: **Marvin L. Rowland, Decedent,** for damages in the amount of \$229,663.13 as Principal, and interest through November 14, 2024, late charges, miscellaneous fees and negative escrow against Defendant Marvin L. Rowland, Jr., and his estate, plus interest at the contractual rate of 5.49% per annum, from November 14, 2024, until date of sale of the Property Described herein; plus \$20,000.00 as reasonable attorneys' fees; plus \$598.00 costs of court; plus Attorney Ad Litem fees in the amount of \$1,500.00. The 2nd 25th Judicial District Court placed in my hands for service, I, **Keith Schmidt,** as Sheriff of Gonzales County, Texas, did on the 4th day of August, 2025, seize and levy upon certain real property, situated in Gonzales County, Texas described as follows, to wit:

Commonly known as **1520 Gardien Street, Gonzales, Gonzales County, Texas 78629-4712;** with Tax Account: **R51408.**

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: BEING Lots Numbers Eight (8), Nine (9), Ten (10), Eleven (11), Twelve (12), Thirteen (13), and Fourteen (14) in Bock Number Eleven (11) of Rivercrest Place Addition, according to the map and plat of said addition as it appears on record in Plat Cabinet Slide 6-A, of the Gonzales County Plat Records ("the Property")

Therefore, on the first Tuesday of September, 2025, the same being the 2nd day of said month, at the southeast porch of the Gonzales County Courthouse building, located at 414 St. Joseph Street, in the City of Gonzales, Texas, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., on said day, by virtue of said levy and said Order of Sale, I will offer for sale and sell at public venue, for cash, to the highest bidder, all the right, title and interest of the said Property. And in compliance with the law, I give this notice by publication in the English Language, once a week for three consecutive weeks immediately proceeding said day of sale, in The Gonzales Inquirer, a newspaper published in Gonzales County, Texas.

WITNESS MY HAND, this 4th day of August, 2025.

Keith Schmidt, Sheriff
Gonzales County, Gonzales, Texas

By: *Keith Schmidt*

NOTICE TO CREDITORS


Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Penny Christian, Deceased, were issued on August 6, 2025, in Cause No. PW25-0426, pending in the County Court of Gonzales County, Texas, to: John Douglas Peterk.

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

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

Dated the 7th day of August, 2025.

By: *Robert W. Bland*
Robert W. Bland
Attorney for John Douglas Peterk
State Bar No: 24044756
P.O. Box 119
GONZALES, TX 78629
Telephone: (830) 672-2437
Facsimile: (830) 672-2439
E-mail: rbland@gvec.net



PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Nixon will be holding a Public Hearing on August 18th, 2025, at 5:45 pm at Nixon City Hall, 302 E. Central Ave, Nixon, TX 78140 for the 2025-2026 Proposed Financial Budget.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Richard C. Hamilton, Deceased, were issued on August 6, 2025, in Cause No. PW25-0428, pending in the County Court of Gonzales County, Texas, to: Dana L. Hamilton.

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

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

Dated the 7th day of August, 2025.

By: *Robert W. Bland*
Robert W. Bland
Attorney for Dana L. Hamilton
State Bar No: 24044756
P.O. Box 119
GONZALES, TX 78629
Telephone: (830) 672-2437
Facsimile: (830) 672-2439
E-mail: rbland@gvec.net

USDA-Farm Service Agency Notice of Availability Construction of Eight Poultry Houses in Gonzales County, Texas Draft Environmental Assessment

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency (FSA) announces they will be completing an Environmental Assessment for the Construction of Eight Poultry Houses located at 475 CR 248, Gonzales, TX. The primary objective of the activity is to develop roughly +/- 10 acres of pasture area to construct eight new poultry houses.

FSA is accepting comments on the potential effects of the proposed project on protected resources and the human environment through September 15, 2025. Information regarding this project can be reviewed in person at the Gonzales County FSA Service Center or Guadalupe County FSA Service Center. Comments should be submitted to Katie Jolander at 999 Fleming Drive, Seguin, TX 78155 or by email to katie.jolander@usda.gov.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Meta Talley, Deceased, were issued on August 6, 2025, in No. PW25-0424 pending in the County Court of Gonzales County, Texas, to Lori Talley Corse and Kelly Strickland as Independent Co-Executors.

Lori Talley Corse and Kelly Strickland request that claims be addressed as follows:

Estate of Meta Talley Deceased
c/o Richard L. Leshin
Welder Leshin, LLP
800 North Shoreline, Suite 300 North
Corpus Christi, Texas 78401

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

DATED the 11th day of August, 2025.

WELDER LESHIN LLP
Attorneys for the Estate
Suite 300, North Tower
800 North Shoreline Blvd.
Corpus Christi, Texas 78401
Telephone: 361-561-8000
Facsimile: 361-561-8001

By: *Richard L. Leshin*
Richard L. Leshin
State Bar No. 12226800
Email: rleshin@welderleshin.com
Leigh Leshin Levy
State Bar No. 24060161
Email: llevy@welderleshin.com

USDA-Farm Service Agency Notice of Availability Construction of Four Poultry Houses in Gonzales County, Texas Draft Environmental Assessment

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency (FSA) announces they will be completing an Environmental Assessment for the Construction of Four Poultry Houses located at 11734 US 90, Harwood, TX. The primary objective of the activity is to develop roughly +/- 10 acres of pasture area to construct four new poultry houses.

FSA is accepting comments on the potential effects of the proposed project on protected resources and the human environment through September 15, 2025. Information regarding this project can be reviewed in person at the Gonzales County FSA Service Center or Guadalupe County FSA Service Center. Comments should be submitted to Katie Jolander at 999 Fleming Drive, Seguin, TX 78155 or by email to katie.jolander@usda.gov.

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Gonzales County Commissioners' Court Proposed Salary Increases for Elected Officials For Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Pursuant to the Texas Local Government Code, Section 152.013, notice is hereby given that the Gonzales County Commissioners Court will meet at the Courthouse on Tuesday, the 2nd of September, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

The Commissioners Court shall consider a proposal to raise the annual salaries of the Gonzales County elected officials, to become effective on October 1, 2025, as follows:

Elected Official	FY 24-25 Adopted		FY 25-26 Proposed	
	Salary	Longevity	Salary	Longevity
County Judge	\$76,556.78	\$1,100	\$77,856.78	\$1,420
Juvenile Board	\$4,800.00		\$4,800.00	
State Salary Supplement	\$25,200.00		\$34,650.00	
County Clerk	\$71,169.26	\$6,100	\$72,469.26	\$6,340
**County Treasurer		\$5,300	\$70,069.26	\$5,540
RLF / ORCA Grant	\$2,400.00		\$2,400.00	
County Tax Assessor-Collector	\$71,169.26	\$5,920	\$72,469.26	\$6,160
District Clerk	\$71,169.26	\$2,180	\$72,469.26	\$2,420
Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1	\$67,593.44	\$3,100	\$68,893.44	\$3,340
Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3	\$67,593.44	\$3,100	\$68,893.44	\$3,340
Justice of the Peace, Precinct 4	\$67,593.44	\$2,560	\$68,893.44	\$2,800
Constable, Precinct 1	\$55,061.60	\$0	\$56,361.60	\$0
Rabies / Wild Animal Officer	\$10,000.00		\$10,000.00	
Constable, Precinct 3	\$55,061.60	\$2,500	\$56,361.60	\$2,740
Environmental Officer	\$10,000.00		\$10,000.00	
Constable, Precinct 4	\$55,061.60	\$6,460	\$56,361.60	\$6,700
Environmental Officer/ Vehicle Theft	\$10,000.00		\$10,000.00	
County Sheriff	\$82,076.06	\$0	\$83,376.06	\$0
Commissioner, Precinct 1	\$76,564.10	\$6,540	\$77,864.10	\$2,620
Commissioner, Precinct 2	\$76,564.10	\$4,060	\$77,864.10	\$4,300
Commissioner, Precinct 3	\$76,564.10	\$9,460	\$77,864.10	\$4,540
Commissioner, Precinct 4	\$76,564.10	\$1,720	\$77,864.10	\$1,960

THE STATE OF TEXAS CITATION BY PUBLICATION

CAUSE NO. AD25-0430
ESTATE OF BRITT RAY BLACK, DECEASED
TO ALL UNKNOWN OR MISSING HEIRS
OF THE ESTATE OF BRITT RAY BLACK, DECEASED

Betty Beames, in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on July 28, 2025 an APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP AND FOR LETTERS OF INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION in the estate of Britt Ray Black, Deceased, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of Britt Ray Black, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in said estate, and appoint Betty Beames to serve as Independent Administrator of said estate and grant Letters of Independent Administration to same.


The Court may act on said Application and any opposition at any call of the docket on or after 10 o'clock A.M. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the **Gonzales County Courthouse, 414 St. Joseph St, Commissioner's Courtroom, Gonzales, Texas, 78629** in Gonzales County, Texas.

You are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court **by filing a written contest or answer** to said Application before the above stated time and date **should you desire to do so. To ensure its consideration, you or your attorney must file any contest, objection, intervention, or response in writing** with the County Clerk of Gonzales County, Texas, **on or before the above noted date and time.**

Given under my hand and the seal of said Court at office in Gonzales, Texas, on August 8, 2025.


Lona Ackman, COUNTY CLERK
Gonzales County, Texas
427 Saint George St., STE 200
Gonzales, Texas 78629

By: *Margie Zapata*
Margie Zapata, Deputy



Plaintiff(s) Attorney;
Allison Lanty
The Reese Law Firm, LLP
417 St. George Street, 2nd Floor
Gonzales, Texas 78629
Tel: (830) 672-8773

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In compliance with V.T.C.A., Texas Local Government §111.007 and §111.0075, Gonzales County Commissioners Court will hold a PUBLIC HEARING on the Proposed Budget – Fiscal Year 2025-2026 on Tuesday, September 2, 2025, 9:00 a.m. at the County Courthouse, Commissioners Courtroom, 414 St. Joseph Street, Gonzales, Texas.

The County Judge's Proposed Budget was filed with the Gonzales County Clerk on August 15, 2025.

At the conclusion of the Public Hearing, the Commissioners Court shall take action on the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Proposed Budget.

This budget will raise more revenue from property taxes than last year's budget by an amount of \$4,084,884, which is a 28.71 percent increase from last year's budget. The property tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year is \$128,896.

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Victoria College awarded \$167K grant to boost student success and support services

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Victoria College has been awarded a \$167,209 Student Success Acceleration Program 2.0 (SSAP 2.0) grant from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to expand student support services and improve credential completion rates.

The competitive grant was one of only 26 awarded statewide to institutions of

higher education. The SSAP 2.0 program supports efforts that improve persistence, retention, academic achievement and degree completion through targeted programs and student services.

Through the two-year grant, Victoria College began implementing a coordinated outreach and support initiative in 2024 that includes:

- Reengaging students who have completed some college but have not earned a

credential through a targeted campaign, coaching, academic advising and reentry scholarships to help them return and complete their degrees or certificates.

- Enhancing basic needs services by launching the Single Stop platform, which connects students with community resources and public benefit programs using a case management approach.
- Expanding mental health and wellness resources through

the extension of qualified counseling staff, and the introduction of new student-centered offerings, including a parenting support group and a worry management seminar.

Additional grant-funded positions include part-time success coaches, an academic advisor, a career services intern and a part-time associate counselor. The college will also provide childcare assistance for parenting students.

“These efforts reflect our

commitment to supporting the whole student,” said Bobby Cubriel, Director of Advising, Counseling and Support Services at Victoria College. “By reducing barriers—whether financial, academic or emotional—we’re giving more students the opportunity to complete their credentials and build a better future.”

This work is supported in whole by a \$167,209 grant from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB).



IT'S A WRAP!

The Voice of the Prairie wrapped up an outstanding summer run on Sunday! A huge thank you to the cast, crew, directors, and all the volunteers who made this show a great success! Congratulations to the award winners pictured left to right: Hali Westergren (Lampighter Award), Patrick Egan (Sister Michelle Award), and Hadlee McDonald (Best Youth Debut).

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St. Mary's Church Praha celebrating 170th Parish Picnic

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Father Gabriel and the parishioners of St. Mary's Church, Praha, invite you to their annual Parish Picnic on Friday, Aug. 15, 2025, in Praha.

The celebration begins with a Mass at 10 a.m. Beginning at 11 a.m., a meal will be served featuring famous Praha stew and fried chicken with all the trimmings. Drive thru plates-to-go will be available for businesses and individuals — just follow the signs when you reach Praha.

The following bands will be providing music throughout the

day: Czech and Then Some, The Dujka Brothers and The Fender Bender Band. Come meet your friends and family and dance the night away. Fun for the day will include a country store, cake walk, plant walk, fish pond, ring toss and many other games. A drawing will be held, with \$19,543 worth of gift certificates and various other prizes given away.

Plenty of soda-pop, sno-cones, popcorn, and hamburgers will be on hand all afternoon. Ice cream will also be available. Please mark your calendar and come join for a good time on Aug. 15!

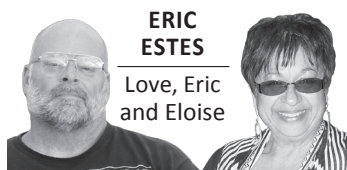
GUILD MEETS GOAL



CONTRIBUTED

Investigator Brent Gindler, board member of Norma's House Advocacy Center, is pictured holding a quilt that was donated by the Shiner Heritage Quilters Guild. The Guild has now met its goal to give 60 quilts to the Center in 2025.

Starting at the Bottom



ERIC ESTES
Love, Eric and Eloise

Well here we are again, another week older, another week...wiser? I know we'd like to think so, but apparently that's not always the case, at least that's been my experience. While I've realized for quite some time that there's always room for improvement in any of life's situations, figuring out how to go about it is often a confusing and daunting task. While the world of information is literally overwhelming on how to improve in any given area, each person and situation is different, so not all advice may fit quite the way it needs to. So, how do we choose which path or method would be best suited to our particular dilemma?

Throughout my personal journey, whether looking to improve relationships, health, business, or personal growth, I've found that starting at the bottom (the simplest and easiest solution) is always a step in the right direction. A car mechanic often starts this way to rule out more laborious and costly repairs. When a sports team is having a challenging season, the coach will often cut the fluff and get back to basics. A house built on a weak foundation won't stand for long. That being said, what's the first step?

Realizing that whether we're heading in the wrong or the right direction is an ongoing process, and that progress may be much slower than we'd like, is

paramount. This will keep frustration to a minimum, allowing us to forge ahead. Learning from past mistakes and failures, while is of utmost importance, is often much easier said than done. As human beings go, we seem to have the innate ability to point our fingers at anything other than ourselves. While other people and circumstances often play a part, we can't ignore our part in it all, lest we keep going around the same old mountain.

Before Eloise and I got married, we sat with pen and paper and tried to honestly (very important) list all of the aspects: of others, situations, and ourselves that lead to our past relationship failures. We agreed to do our best to learn from them, and hold each other accountable when we got off track. It seemed to work pretty well, as we were together for over twenty five years without raising our voice, pointing fingers or tearing each other down. Of course, putting God first in our relationship was the biggest secret to our success, and is highly recommended. Yep, that whole love God and love others as yourself thing, actually worked wonders!

Since then it's been my

philosophy that on a one to one hundred point scale, if 70% were where the biggest mistakes were made, learn from them, then cut them loose as not to drag them into a new situation. By doing so, you now only have 30% remaining to make new mistakes. Much better odds, in my book. Sometimes by focusing on what was done right instead of what was done wrong, we'll have a more positive outlook on things and will be more encouraged to keep striving for what can make things better, than what made them worse.

I recently ran across an article in Good Housekeeping entitled "7 Unhelpful Habits Everyone Should Quit". It tends to address this topic, and has some good overall advice that I believe can be helpful to any of us that are trying to move through life with more of a positive / healthy outlook on things. It basically involves switching negative thoughts for positive ones, something I think we all need to be reminded of occasionally. It seems to be easier for many of us to get caught up in the downside of life if we're not careful to remind ourselves to focus on the good things. So stay tuned as I'll dive a little deeper next week. Until then y'all...

Have a great week, love you guys, Eric.

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St. James Catholic Church
417 N. College, Gonzales | Dewville United Methodist
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CR 423, Thompsonville
Between Harwood & Waelder off old Hwy. 90 |
| First Baptist Church
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St. John St., Gonzales | First Methodist
426 St. Paul, Gonzales | Two Rivers Bible Church
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893 S. Magnolia Ave., Luling |
| Harwood Baptist Church
North of Post Office, Harwood | CHURCHES OF CHRIST
Church of Christ
1323 Seydler St., Gonzales | Monthalia Methodist
CR 112 off Highway 97 | Temple Bethel Pentecostal
1104 S. Paul, Gonzales |
| Iglesia Bautista Macedonia
201 S. Congress, Nixon | Church of Christ (Iglesia de Cristo)
201 E. Second St. Nixon | Nixon Methodist Church
310 East 4th Street, Nixon | Life Changing Church of Gonzales
3.3 miles north on Hwy 183, right on CR 235, then right on CR 236 |
| Iglesia Bautista Memorial
Highway 97, Waelder | Church of Christ
E. 3rd & Texas, Nixon | Smiley Methodist Church
1 blk. S. of Hwy. 87, Smiley | PRESBYTERIAN
Pilgrim Presbyterian Church
CR 210 off FM 1116 |
| Leesville Baptist Church
E. of Highway 80 on CR 121 | Church of Christ, Belmont | Webster Chapel A.M.E.
1027 Church St., Gonzales | Presbyterian Church of Gonzales
414 St. Louis, Gonzales |
| Memorial Heights Baptist Church
1330 N. College, Gonzales | CHURCHES OF GOD
Community Church of God
1020 St. Louis, Gonzales | NON-DENOMINATIONAL
Agape Ministries
512 St. James, Gonzales
Bread of Life Ministries
613 St. Joseph, Gonzales | Cheapside Presbyterian Church, Cuero |
| Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church
100 Capes, Gonzales | Gonzales Memorial Church of God in Christ
1113 Hastings, Gonzales | Christ the King Church
1262 U.S. Highway 77 South
Hallettsville | |
| Oak Valley Baptist Church
Highway 97, Bebe | New Beginnings
1020 St. Louis, Gonzales | | |
| Old Moulton Baptist Church
1121 N. College, Gonzales | Episcopal Episcopal Church of the Messiah
721 S. Louis, Gonzales | | |

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OBITUARIES

DOROTHY VIRGINIA SMITH



Dorothy Virginia Smith, 92, of Gonzales passed away Thursday, August 7, 2025. She was born in Amsterdam, New York and lived there until the age of 3 when she and her mom and sister moved to Texas. She was baptized as an infant and then later in life rededicated her life.

She graduated in 1951 from Sam Houston High School in San Antonio, Texas where she was the Senior Class Vice President. She was also a member of the girl's Sam Houston High School Cherokees State Champion basketball team in 1949. She married Perry Smith on April 1, 1953 in Valdosta, Georgia. They later divorced but remained friends and raised their two daughters.

She loved the outdoors and as a child would go squirrel hunting and fishing with her dad. After her daughters were married, she moved back to San Antonio and worked many years at Alamo

Plants and Petals. She eventually moved back to Gonzales and started a 30 year career at the Gonzales County Senior Citizens as a van driver and then later worked with Meals on Wheels.

She is survived by her daughters Donna Gray (Jay) and Patty Stewart (Willard); grandsons Brock Stewart (Nancy), Brady Stewart (Jennifer) and Josh Gray (Jolie); great-grandchildren Regan Gray Wilkerson, Ashlynn Sanders (Braxton), Abby Stewart, Hays Gray, Emma Stewart and Lane Stewart. Great, great

grandchildren Grayson Wilkerson and Stonie Sanders.

She was preceded in death by her parents Eva and R.D. Wright and Joseph Revelia, sister Jeanine Jolley and grandson Ross Gray.

Memorial services will be held 11 a.m. Monday, August 11, 2025 at the First Methodist Church with Dr. Matt Pennington officiating.

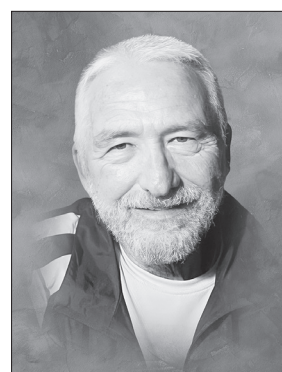
Memorials may be made to Norma's House or the charity of one's choice.

The family would like to thank Dr. Christopher Walker, the staff of Romberg House, Avir of Gonzales and Elara Hospice for their great care.

Friends may sign the guestbook and leave condolences by visiting www.seydlerhillfuneralhome.com

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

DANA K. SPRADLIN



Dana K. Spradlin, 72, of Port Lavaca, TX, accomplished his worldly adventures on Saturday, August 2, 2025. He was born on December 14, 1952, in Clovis, NM to Margurette and Raymond Spradlin. He went to school in Clovis, NM, and graduated high school in 1970. He continued his education and later earned his associate's degree from Clovis Community College.

Dana married the love of his life and best friend, Tamara Ann Ortiz, on June 19, 1976. He measured his success by the lives of his children and grandchildren. He loved a good cup of coffee with friends and a lively conversation. Dana enjoyed having his grandchildren around and teaching them to play intellectual games. He enjoyed being a pilot, riding his motorcycle, nature and fishing.

Above all he enjoyed sharing his knowledge and love for God. Dana knew no strangers and everyone he met left with thoughtful biblical words to live by. Dana was a serious follower of Christ whose faith was the cornerstone of his life. He lived a life well-grounded in unwavering truth. A

God, serving as a shining example for all who knew him, inspiring them to seek the love of truth and embrace the abundant life meant for them in the Promised Land.

Dana was preceded in death by his mother, Margurette Spradlin, his brother George Spradlin, and his brother, Don Spradlin. He is survived by his wife of 49 years Tamara Ann Spradlin, his two children Danak Spradlin (Michelle), and Cambree Gilbert (Jake). His seven grandchildren Katelyn Spradlin, Wade Spradlin, Megan Spradlin, Anthony Gilbert, Abraham Gilbert, Bree Gilbert, and Bella Gilbert. He is also survived by his sister Mary Spradlin, and numerous nieces and nephews.

A graveside service will be held at Denton Creek Cemetery on Thursday, August 7th, 2025, at 10:00am.

In lieu of flowers, please buy a stranger a meal or make a donation to Ceta Canyon Camp and Retreat Center in Happy, TX.

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

passionate student of scripture, and of living scripture, especially the book of proverbs. Dana's love for truth was evident in every aspect of his life, guiding his journey towards the Promised Land. He approached life with a rock-solid faith that shaped his views and actions, believing that truth was essential for spiritual fulfillment and growth. Dana was deeply saddened by dishonesty and deception, feeling empathy for those ensnared by lies. His heartfelt desire was for others to know the transformative power of Christ's love and experience salvation. To be loved by Dana was to be loved by Christ.

His legacy is one of hope, purpose, and a profound connection to

JOYCE ELAINE GIBSON



Joyce Elaine Gibson entered her eternal reward on August 7, 2025, at the age of 65. Born on September 2nd of 1959, to Shelton and Betty Gibson in Kingsville, Texas. Joyce loved her family fiercely. She had many names the family called her such as Sissy, Sis, and Joyous. She loved taking care of everyone, family or not.

Joyce was an active member of Memorial Heights Baptist Church and enjoyed serving through missions by making cards that brought happiness and encouragement to thousands. She was a dedicated employee at Warm Springs Hospital/Post Acute Medical for almost 48 years. Joyce had an eye for crafting and painting. She was a Director of the Texas Art League of Luling for many years.

But, above all she loved the Lord.

The family will miss her kindness and her love; we will miss her smile and her willingness to be there if we needed anything. Losing Joyce brings such sadness, but we are comforted by knowing she lives on in our hearts and cherished memories.

Joyce is survived by her sisters Janice McGill (Neal McGill) of Princeton, Texas and Julie Belin of Gonzales, Texas and her brother Marvin Gibson

(Kathleen Gibson) of Emory, Texas. She is also survived by her nieces Julie Harris, Abigail Belin, and Kimberley Swafford, her nephews Edwin McGill, Shelton McGill, Blayne Belin and Travis Gibson. Along with her great nieces and nephews Quinley, Kade, Kason, Kash, Kate, and Jackson.

She is preceded in death by her parents, sister Cynthia Gibson, and brother in law Jeromy Belin.

A visitation will take place on Tuesday, August 12, 2025, at Seydler - Hill Funeral Home from 12:00pm to 2:00pm, with a funeral service at 2:00pm officiated by Rev. Clint Lowry. Interment will follow at Gonzales Memorial Park Cemetery. Pallbearers will include Edwin McGill, Shelton McGill, Travis Gibson, Blayne Belin, Neil Harris and Carl Ray Gibson. Honorary

pallbearers will include Rickey Gibson, Curtis Gibson and Brian Gibson.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Memorial Heights Baptist Church in efforts to continue her work in missions.

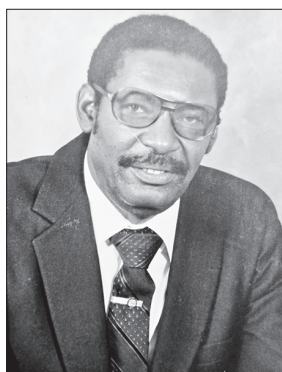
Friends and family may leave their condolences online by visiting www.seydlerhillfuneralhome.com All services are under the care and direction of Seydler - Hill Funeral Home of Gonzales, Texas.

REV. HUBERT T. JARMON

Reverend Hubert T. Jarmon, 92, died August 9, 2025. A wake will be Friday, Aug. 15, 2025 at Morning Star - Doak Springs B.C. in Lincoln, Texas.

Funeral Services will be Saturday, August 16, 2025 at 11 a.m. at New Hope B.C. in Rockdale, Texas. Burial will be at New Oaklawn Cemetery in Rockdale.

Arrangements entrusted To Lang Memorial Funeral Home in Giddings.



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Praha Picnic
170th Pražská Pout
Friday, August 15, 2025
The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Holy Mass, 10:00 a.m.
DINNER
Serving Begins at 11:00 a.m.
Featuring Praha Stew & Fried Chicken
Dine In - \$15.00 Plates To Go - \$15.00
★ Cake Walk ★ Ice Cream ★ Ring Toss ★
★ Country Store ★ ★ Souvenirs ★
★ Fish Pond ★ ★ Toy Box ★
Bingo 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Auction 1:00 p.m.
BAND SCHEDULE
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Czech and Then Some
& 3:00-5:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. The Dujka Brothers
& 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. The Fender Bender Band
Food available throughout the afternoon & evening * Hamburgers available after 4:00 p.m.
63rd Anniversary Veterans Memorial Service - Sunday, November 9, 2025
All roads lead to Maticka Praha on August 15th... where old friends meet and new friends are made!
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Parish Office (361) 596-4674
Facebook: St Joseph's & St Mary's - Moulton / Praha, TX

PLEASE SEE PAGE 13 FOR MORE OBITUARIES

GARDEN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

of August. Plant spinach transplants in October and onion transplants in November.

Q. What is the best way to control nutsedge growing in the shrub border or flower garden? How about the Bermuda grass that is invading my rose bed?

A. The product Sedgehammer works wonderfully to control nutsedge. Use one of the grassy weed killers such as Poast, Fusillade or Grass be Gone to control Bermuda grass. The Sedgehammer also works in the rose garden. Sedge hammer and the grass killers are contact herbicides but while you are in the mood to control weeds, prevent the winter weeds in the lawn with a preemergent such as Crew, Dimension or Barricade. Follow the label directions.

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Chiropractic Jeff Echols, DC 512-799-6811	Pain Management Eric Miller, MD 830-272-7746	Podiatry Terri Quebedeaux, DPM, PA 830-303-0005
Dermatology Vicente Quintero, MD 830-626-5551 Alpesh Desai, DO 713-864-2659	Urology Robert Ryan, III, MD 830-379-8491	Austin Maternal Fetal Medicine 512-821-2540
		Obstetrics Alyson Kirchner, MD, OBGYN 830-379-1500

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CONTRIBUTED

BYK USA contributed to the Gonzales Fire Department to support its Technical/Rescue training program. BYK USA Inc. is located at 1212 Church St., Gonzales.

JUREK EARNS PROMOTION



CONTRIBUTED

Coye L. Jurek of Gonzales received his promotion to E6 on June 25. Jurek is stationed in Fussa, Japan. His daughter, Violet, is standing with him.



OBITUARIES

MARY FRANCES CARRIZALES



It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Mary Frances Carrizales, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and cherished friend, who transitioned into heaven on August 9, 2025 at the age of 72.

She was born on June 23, 1953, in Gonzales, Texas. Mary Frances lived a life of tremendous love, powerful faith and contagious joy. For 54 years, she shared her life with her husband, Joe, building a home and life together on the same street she spent her childhood with her siblings. It was here that she developed a devotion to her family and an overwhelming love that she passed on to her five children, Kathy Anna, Alice Marie, Joey, Johnathon, and Jennifer.

Her life was marked by her incredible sense of humor and warm smile. She was the heart of the family, ever present and ever giving. She carried a warmth with her that is hard to describe. It was the feeling that no matter how much time you spent with her, you wanted a little more. There was a kindness she carried with her that made a lasting impact on this community over the years as she touched many lives. She spent 25 years at Gonzales ISD loving on generations of children who continue to sing her praises. Friendships were endless as everyone that came to know her loved her. She will always be remembered for her heartfelt laugh and ability to turn any situation into a memorable occasion. Her life was a continuous overflowing of kindness, generosity, and sacrificial love. No matter how great her discomfort may have been, she never complained, and her ultimate priority was always to make sure everyone around her had what they needed. There was nothing she wouldn't do for someone she loved, especially her family who had her complete heart.

Outside of her family, some of her other greatest loves were music, dancing, and gatherings with those she loved most. One of her favorite pastimes was taking a road trip in the country to be out and about or even better a shopping spree. She also took great delight in jumping in the golf cart to go visit her grandkids and surprise them with a treat or relieving them from having to finish their dinner. Her grandkids may have been her ultimate joy. She spent so much time pouring into them and simply showing up and showing interest. They adored her and craved time in her home, specifically her kitchen where everyone gathered to be near and to share a meal that despite everyone's best efforts will never taste quite as good unless it was made by her hands. Her patience was impressive, it seemed that no matter how many kids were running through her home, she loved it all the more and embraced the coming and going of anyone who wanted to visit her.

When she wasn't making everyone laugh, she could be caught sitting on her porch, surrounded by her beloved pets and plants, lost in her devotion as she endlessly studied the word and sought to stay faith-filled. She loved to read and somehow managed to maintain a childlike faith no matter the hardship, her faith carried her through. Above all, she was a God-fearing woman whose faith guided every part of her life. She trusted in the Lord, found strength in prayer, and shared her faith through her actions—loving others deeply, giving without expecting in return, and serving with a humble heart. This perhaps is her greatest legacy, a life of faith, strength and servant love. There is no doubt that when she entered the gates of heaven, the Lord welcomed her with open arms by saying well done, thy good and faithful servant.

She is survived by her husband Joe; daughters Kathy Davila (Mark) of Elgin, Alice Johnson (Derrick) of Round Rock and Jennifer Crouch (Christopher Mellen) of Gonzales; sons Joey Carrizales (Wendy) and Johnathon Carrizales (Sarah) all of Gonzales; sisters Mary Jane Gaytan (Alex) and Minnie Longoria all of Gonzales; brothers Ruben Camarillo (Sonia) and Lorenzo Camarillo (Patsy) all of Gonzales. Also surviving are 10 grandchildren and her precious pets Milo, Penny and Cosmo.

Visitation will be held from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Wednesday, August 13 at Seydler-Hill Funeral Home with a celebration of life service following the visitation with Reverend Robert Ramirez officiating.

The Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated 2 p.m. Thursday, August 14, 2025 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with Reverend Paul Raaz officiating. Interment will follow at Gonzales Memorial Park Cemetery.

Pallbearers include Ruben Camarillo, Ethan Crouch, Isaac Davila, Mark Davila, Derrick Anthony Johnson and Derrick Johnson. Honorary pallbearers include Cole Carrizales, Carsyn Carrizales, Collyn Carrizales, Taylor Carrizales, Chance Crouch, Lorryn Johnson and Aubrey Lindemann.

Friends may sign the guestbook and leave condolences by visiting www.seydlerhillfuneralhome.com

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

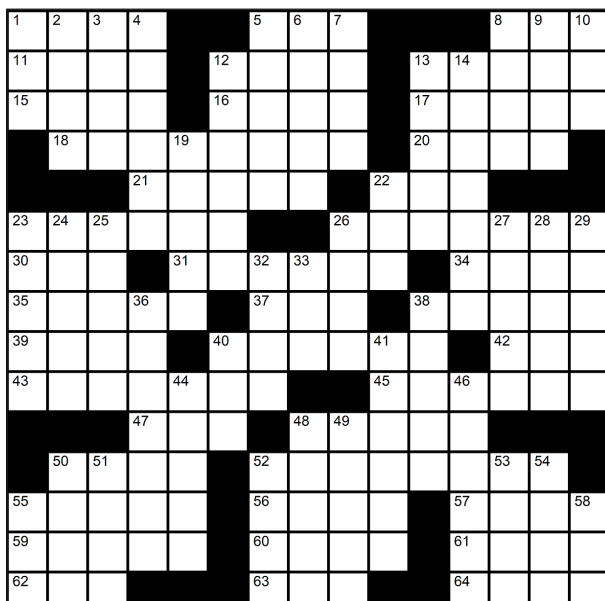
CROSSWORD THEME: IN THE KITCHEN

CLUES ACROSS

1. Basilica feature
5. Cameron, to friends
8. ___ and flow
11. One of the Bridges
12. Have the blues
13. Op-ed piece
15. Blondie's hit "___ Me"
16. Certain something
17. *Granny Smith
18. *Broth-making container
20. Big name in mapmaking
21. Inexperienced
22. *Group of dishes or pots
23. Deprived of ovaries
26. Medusae
30. Got an Oscar, e.g.
31. Kind of license
34. Crescent
35. Description for twins
37. "___ the season!"
38. Orthodox Judaism adherent
39. Class roster item
40. Between lights and action
42. Source of pork
43. *Shredding devices
45. Bear-like
47. Florida key
48. French farewell
50. Physicist Niels ___
52. *Kitchen hand protector (2 words)
55. Holy confection
56. Track event
57. ___ of the trade, sing.
59. 1st letter of Hebrew alphabet
60. Charlie Parker's nickname
61. Shrek or Fiona, e.g.
62. Word of compliance

CLUES DOWN

1. Beginning of the alphabet
2. *Often go with carrots
3. *NaCl
4. Speech at a funeral
5. *Flute alternative
6. *Cook's garb
7. *Veal or venison, e.g.
8. Sport spectator's TV acronym
9. Like white-headed eagle
10. "Farewell" to Birdie
12. Manage (2 words)
13. Like cornstalks
14. *Flat-edged utensil
19. *Flapjack alternative
22. Blink of an eye, abbr.
23. Swing, ___, swung
24. Like Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station location
25. Carl Jung's inner self
26. *___ en place
27. *Seaweed-wrapped dish
28. Opposite of cation
29. Swamp plant
32. Estimated arrival times, acr.
33. Timothy, to friends
36. *Popular condiment
38. Sheik's bevy
40. Alan Paton's novel "___, The Beloved Country"
41. Broken, e.g.
44. Third planet from the sun
46. Bachelor on "The Bachelorette," e.g.
48. Be of use



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49. Condemn
50. Bantu language
51. Change for a five
52. Globes and eyeballs, e.g.
53. "Animal House" garb
54. Rigid necklace
55. Calendar square
58. Albanian money

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

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

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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.

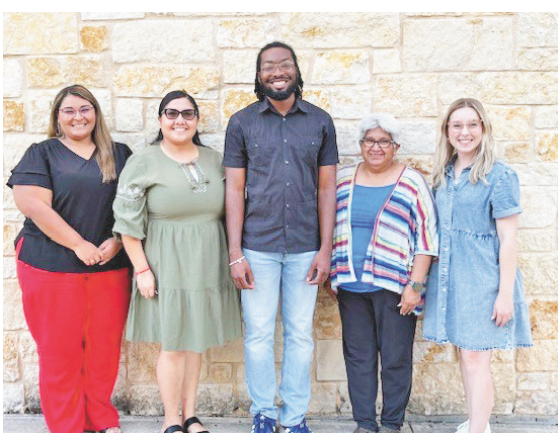
Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear 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.

WELCOME NEW STAFF

Nixon-Smiley CISD gave a warm Mustang welcome to its newest teachers, counselors, administrator and librarian for the 2025-26 school year. School began for N-SCISD on Thursday, Aug. 7.

COURTESY/NIXON-SMILEY CISD



SALES TAX ALLOCATIONS

County	Rate	Net Payment This Period	Comparable Payment Prior Year	% Change	Payment YTD	Prior Year Payment YTD	% Change
Gonzales	0.500%	\$208,910.10	\$200,325.71	4.28%	\$2,041,995.23	\$2,098,304.09	-2.68%

County	City	Rate	Net Payment This Period	Comparable Payment Prior Year	% Change	Payment YTD	Prior Year Payment YTD	% Change
Gonzales	Gonzales	1.500%	\$283,292.89	\$260,681.45	8.67%	\$2,236,898.34	\$2,062,481.62	8.45%
Gonzales	Nixon	1.500%	\$35,271.46	\$35,028.32	0.69%	\$271,855.10	\$267,678.64	1.56%
Gonzales	Smiley	1.000%	\$2,492.97	\$3,061.06	-18.55%	\$34,963.78	\$25,962.59	34.66%
Gonzales	Waelder	1.500%	\$12,824.87	\$11,272.79	13.76%	\$89,927.49	\$82,614.07	8.85%

RECEIPTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

allocations for August 2025 when compared to the prior year.

Acting Texas Comptroller Kelly Hancock announced he will send cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose districts \$1.3 billion in local sales tax allocations for August, 5.2 percent more than in August 2024.

These allocations are based on sales made in June by businesses that report tax monthly and on sales made in April, May and June by quarterly filers.

Combined sales tax allocations for the month of August 2025 for all four municipalities were \$333,882.19, up \$23,838.57, or 7.69 percent, from the \$310,043.62 received in August 2024 and \$17,079.76 more than the \$316,802.43 received during July 2025.

For the year, municipalities have got-

ten back \$2,633,644.71, up \$178,593.18, or 7.27 percent, above the \$2,455,051.53 received through this point last year.

Texas imposes a 6.25 percent state sales and use tax on all retail sales, leases and rentals of most goods, as well as taxable services. Cities can charge up to 1.5 percent and counties can charge 0.5 percent for a total of 8.25 percent.

Gonzales saw an 8.67 percent increase, or \$22,611.44, in sales tax allocations for August 2025 above the August 2024 allocation. The largest city in the county, which generates the lion's share of sales tax revenue, received \$283,292.89, compared to \$260,681.45 last year. For the year, the city has received \$2,236,898.34, up 8.45 percent or \$174,416.72 more than the \$2,062,481.62 Gonzales took in during

by the two-thirds mark of 2024.

Sales tax receipts were up comparatively for Nixon, which received \$35,271.46, up \$243.14, or 0.69 percent, from the \$35,028.32 received in August 2024. For the year, the city has taken in \$271,855.10, equal to 1.56 percent or \$4,176.46 more than the \$267,678.64 Nixon took in during the first eight months of 2024.

Smiley's sales tax receipts were at \$2,492.97, down \$568.09 or 18.55 percent, below the \$3,061.06 received in August 2024. For the year, the city has received \$34,963.78, which is 34.66 percent or \$9,001.19 more than the \$25,962.59 received through this point last year.

Finally, Waelder received a total of \$12,824.87, an increase of \$1,552.08 or 13.76 percent, more than the \$11,272.79

received in August 2024. For the year, the city has taken in \$89,927.49, which is 8.85 percent or \$7,313.42 more than the \$82,614.07 the city had taken in up to this point last year.

Three cities in Gonzales County — Gonzales, Nixon and Waelder — collect a 1.5 percent sales tax rate, while Smiley collects a 1 percent sales tax.

Gonzales County itself also receives a 0.5 percent sales and use tax and for the month of August 2025, the county received \$208,910.10, which is 4.28 percent or \$8,584.39 more than the \$200,325.71 received in August 2024.

For the year, the county has received \$2,041,995.23, which is 2.68 percent or \$56,308.86 less than the \$2,098,304.09 the county took in during the first eight months of 2024.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

A tax rate of \$0.2689 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of COUNTY OF GONZALES.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.2689 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.2103 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.2689 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2025 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for COUNTY OF GONZALES from the same properties in both the 2024 tax year and the 2025 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that COUNTY OF GONZALES may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that COUNTY OF GONZALES is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2025 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON September 2, 2025 AT 9:00 AM AT Gonzales County Courthouse, 414 St Joseph, Gonzales, TX 78629.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, COUNTY OF GONZALES is not required to hold an election at which voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the Commissioners Court of COUNTY OF GONZALES at their offices or by attending the public hearing mentioned above.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE TAX RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

$$\text{Property tax amount} = (\text{tax rate}) \times (\text{taxable value of your property}) / 100$$

FOR the proposal:	Anton "Tony" Matias	Donnie R. Brzozowski
	Roy Staton	Collie Boatright
AGAINST the proposal:	None	
PRESENT and not voting:	None	
ABSENT:	None	

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by COUNTY OF GONZALES last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by COUNTY OF GONZALES this year.

	2024	2025	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.2032	\$0.2689	increase of 0.0657 per \$100, or 32.33%
Average homestead taxable value	\$155,290	\$167,607	increase of 7.93%
Tax on average homestead	\$315.55	\$450.70	increase of 135.15, or 42.83%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$14,227,199	\$18,312,083	increase of 4,084,884, or 28.71%

No-New-Revenue Maintenance and Operations Rate Adjustments

State Criminal Justice Mandate

The COUNTY OF GONZALES Auditor certifies that COUNTY OF GONZALES has spent \$313,083 in the previous 12 months for the maintenance and operations cost of keeping inmates sentenced to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. COUNTY OF GONZALES Sheriff has provided COUNTY OF GONZALES information on these costs, minus the state revenues received for reimbursement of such costs. This increased the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate by \$0.0012/\$100.

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for COUNTY OF GONZALES at 830-672-2841 or tac@co.gonzales.tx.us, or visit www.co.gonzales.tx.us for more information.

NOTICE OF MEETING TO VOTE ON TAX RATE

A tax rate of \$0.0645 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of GONZALES COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #1.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.0645 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.0645 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.0710 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2025 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for GONZALES COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #1 from the same properties in both the 2024 tax year and the 2025 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that GONZALES COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #1 may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that GONZALES COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #1 is not proposing to increase property taxes for the 2025 tax year.

A PUBLIC MEETING TO VOTE ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON August 26, 2025 AT 9:00 AM AT Gonzales County Emergency Services District No 1 Administrative Offices, 1700 Water Street, Gonzales, TX.

The proposed tax rate is also not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, GONZALES COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #1 is not required to hold an election to seek voter approval of the rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the Board of Commissioners of GONZALES COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #1 at their offices or by attending the public meeting mentioned above.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE TAX RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

$$\text{Property tax amount} = (\text{tax rate}) \times (\text{taxable value of your property}) / 100$$

FOR the proposal:	Rene de la Garza	Linda Carter
	Jacey Trammell	Julia Fairchild
AGAINST the proposal:	None	
PRESENT and not voting:	None	
ABSENT:	Dr. Commie Hisey	

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

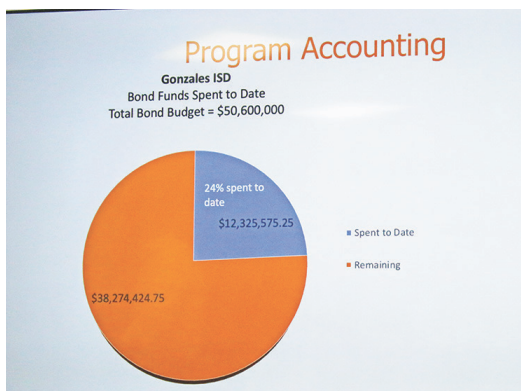
The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by GONZALES COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #1 last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by GONZALES COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #1 this year.

	2024	2025	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.0627	\$0.0645	increase of 0.0018 per \$100, or 2.87%
Average homestead taxable value	\$155,290	\$167,607	increase of 7.93%
Tax on average homestead	\$97.37	\$108.11	increase of 10.74, or 11.03%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$4,600,314	\$4,627,942	increase of 27,628, or 0.60%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for GONZALES COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #1 at or , or visit <https://www.gonzalesesd1ems.org/> for more information.

CTE UPDATE



Casey Sledge of Region 13/Sledge Engineering gave an update to Gonzales ISD board members on the 2023 bond program, including progress on the new Tom Lester Jr. CTE Building and Ag Barn facility on Stieren Road. Renderings show what the outside of the center will look like outside as well as the interior stairwell and entryway. Construction is expected to be completed in time for the 2026-27 school year.

LEW K. COHN

CTE / Ag Barn

1. Site utilities continue
2. Building pad plumbing underway
3. Grade Beams underway
4. Off-site sewer main nearing completion
5. Code inspections underway
6. Color/materials selections finalized with staff
7. UPCOMING:
 1. Slab pour in August (tonight!)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The GONZALES INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT will hold a public meeting at 5:30 PM, August 25, 2025 in East Ave Admin Building, 1615 Saint Louis St, Gonzales, TX 78629. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$0.7308/\$100 (proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	\$0.1442/\$100 (proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)
Approved by Local Voters	

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and operations	1.03% increase
Debt service	2.81% increase
Total expenditures	1.22% increase

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value

(as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$5,942,640,857	\$6,337,314,565
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$46,018,680	\$37,799,670
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$3,179,867,250	\$3,094,082,999
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$44,866,610	\$26,311,020

*Appraised value is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.
** "New property" is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.
*** "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$63,890,000
*Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$0.7308	\$0.1326	\$0.8634	\$11.391	\$2.249
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$0.6433	\$0.1424	\$0.7857	\$10.537	\$3.272
Proposed Rate	\$0.7308	\$0.1442	\$0.8750	\$11.462	\$3.769

*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$179,590	\$194,877
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$85,447	\$58,109
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$0.8634	\$0.8750
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$737.75	\$508.45
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		-\$229.30

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$0.8750. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of \$0.8750.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$14,888,578
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$0

A school district may not increase the district's maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying the district's debt service.

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

BELMONT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT



COURTESY PHOTO/BELMONT VFD

Belmont VFD saluted Assistant Chief Kent Pruett, who has retired from the department after 29 years. Pruett joined in early 1996 and faithfully served as the second assistant chief and training officer for many years. Chief Brian Schauer presented Retired Assistant Chief Pruett with his helmet and name plate as a keepsake.

9/11 2ND ANNUAL MEMORIAL WALK

SEPTEMBER 11TH @6PM
Start at Stripes finish at Gonzales memorial hospital

CONTRIBUTED

Area first responders will hold their second annual 9/11 Memorial Walk on Thursday, Sept. 11, beginning at 6 p.m. You do not have to be a first responder to join. Please be capable of keeping up with walking long distance. First responder or American flags — please no political flags. Please wear something reflective or bright color. The starting point will be at the Stripes gas station at 183 and Sarah Dewitt Drive and the walk will finish at the Gonzales Memorial Hospital Home Health building.

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LEW K. COHN

Gonzales ISD Chief Academic Officer Joy Philpott, left, listens as Chief Financial Officer Amanda Smith speaks about the district's proposed tax rate at the GISD board meeting Monday, Aug. 11.

GISD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

rate of 14.42 cents. While the M&O rate will stay the same as in 2024, the debt service rate is 1.16 cents higher than the 13.26 cents adopted last year.

Smith said GISD had received the certified local property values from the appraisal districts in both Gonzales and Caldwell counties and, overall, the taxable values are down by about 2.7 percent due to an increase in two homestead exemptions passed by the Legislature and signed into law by Gov. Greg Abbott.

"Those measures will be on a ballot in November because they do have to be authorized by voters," Smith said. "Although they did vote for one just a few years ago, I doubt the voters will vote no for an exemption on their taxes this time either."

In 2024, the total appraised value of all property was \$5.942 billion and has increased in 2025 to \$6.337 billion — an increase of \$394.67 million, or about 6.6 percent.

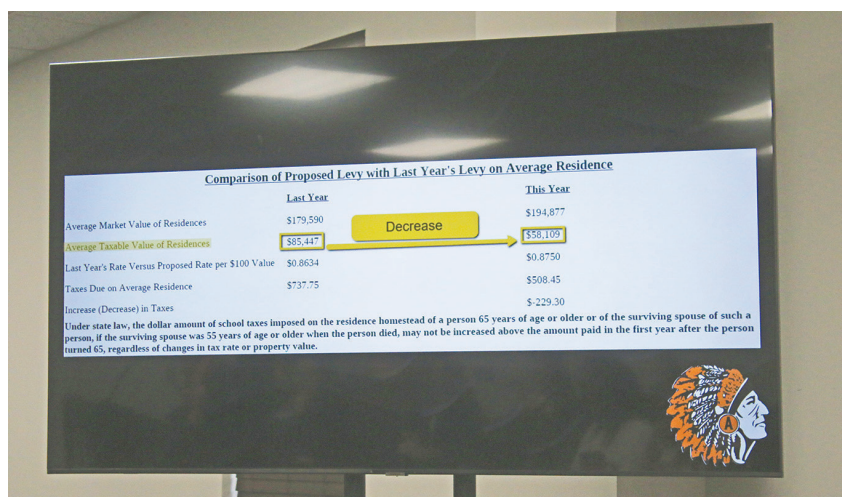
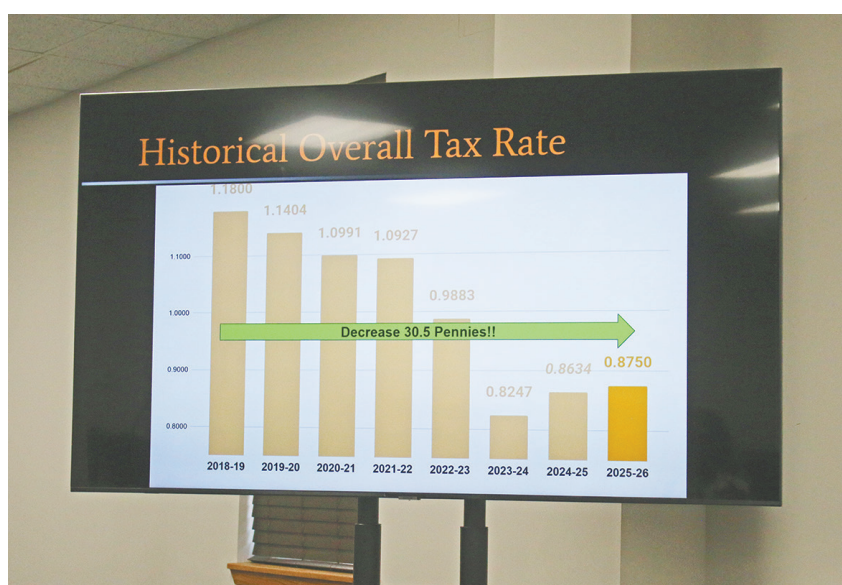
However, Senate Bill 4 increases the general homestead exemption from \$100,000 to \$140,000, while Senate Bill 23 proposes an additional exemption for homeowners 65 and older or disabled, increasing that amount from \$10,000 to \$60,000, bringing the total exemption for seniors and disabled individuals who qualify to \$200,000.

Because of that, the total taxable value of all property actually decreased from nearly \$3.18 billion in 2024 to \$3.09 billion in 2025 — a decrease of nearly \$85.8 million, or about 2.7 percent.

The average market value of a residence in Gonzales ISD was \$179,590 in 2024 and has increased to \$194,877 in 2025 — an increase of \$15,287 or about 8.5 percent. However, because the amount allowed for a homestead exemption has increased from \$100,000 to \$140,000, the average taxable value of a home in the district has dropped from \$85,447 to just \$58,109 — a decrease of \$27,338 or nearly 32 percent. As such, the average homestead will see their property taxes drop by \$229.30 from \$737.75 to \$508.45.

Of course, by state law, the dollar amount of school taxes for individuals who are 65 or older or the surviving spouse of such a person cannot be increased above the amount paid in the first year after that individual or their deceased spouse turned 65 — regardless of any changes in tax rate or property value, Smith reminded the board.

From 2018 to 2023, the historical tax rate for the district dropped a combined 35.5 pennies from \$1.18 per \$100 valuation to 82.47 cents.



LEW K. COHN

Gonzales ISD has seen its tax rate drop from \$1.18 in 2018 to a low of 82.47 cents in 2023 before being proposed at 87.5 cents for 2025. The new tax rate, combined with homestead exemption increases signed into law this year (but still pending constitutional amendment approval), would mean the average homestead will see a property tax decrease of \$229.30 this year, Chief Financial Officer Amanda Smith explained to trustees.

In November 2023, district voters approved Proposition A calling for issuance of \$50.6 million in bonds to pay for renovations and upgrades at all five school campuses, the administration building, maintenance and transportation and the construction of the new Tom Lester Jr. CTE building and Ag Barn (which is currently under way).

"If you'll recall, during the community presentations that we had at that time that we held the election, we reminded (the voters) that although a successful election would equate to a tax increase for the district, that over the last seven years, our tax rate has still declined overall in excess of 30 pennies, and this is including the proposed increase that you have before you this evening," Smith said.

Smith said the district had forecast a need to increase the tax rate by 8.13 pennies for the increase in debt service to cover the cost of the bond. Due to tax compression by the state and an increase in the homestead exemption as well as savings achieved, the debt service

tax rate has only had to increase by 5.03 cents — a difference of 3.1 pennies.

Board members also voted 5-0 with one abstention, after an executive session, to adopt a policy which opts out of allowing homeschooled students to take part in UIL activities sponsored by GISD.

Senate Bill 401, which was passed earlier this year, amended Texas law to permit such participation unless a district's board of trustees adopts a policy to opt out by record vote no later than Sept. 1, 2025. Otherwise, those students would have been allowed to participate in UIL activities for the 2025-26 school year.

Administration had recommended opting out to "maintain consistent oversight of academic, attendance, and conduct standards for all UIL participants; to preserve the integrity of extracurricular programs as an extension of the district's educational mission for enrolled students; and to avoid administrative and logistical complexities associated with managing eligibility and compliance for non-enrolled students."

BASH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

DeWitt's colony, Gonzales holds a pivotal place in Texas history. Founded in 1825, it is one of the earliest Anglo-American settlements and played a vital role in the Texas Revolution. Known as the "Lexington of Texas," it is the site of the first battle of the Texas Revolution in 1835, where settlers stood their ground against Mexican forces with the now-famous cry, "Come and Take It."

The Bicentennial Bash promises to be an evening of unforgettable fun, honoring Gonzales' deep roots while embracing its bright future. Guests can expect:

- Live Music
- Come and Take It Days Old Time Photo Booth
- Pioneer Games & Activities
- Wagon Rides
- Free Food & Drinks
- Experience the Debut of Texas Legacy In Lights

In addition to celebrating Gonzales' 200th anniversary, the Bicentennial Bash also marks the official premier of Texas Legacy In Lights. The historic Gonzales Memorial Museum is the backdrop of an immersive film experience combining dynamic storytelling and state-of-the-art 3D projection mapping.

Produced by Austin Film Crew, featuring an entirely Texas-based crew dedicated to Hollywood-quality visuals, this captivating film highlights pivotal events in Gonzales, setting the stage for the Texas Revolution and the future of Texas.

"From our courageous beginnings to the vibrant community we are today, the Bicentennial Bash will honor the people, stories, and traditions that make Gonzales truly one of a kind," said Tourism Coordinator Molly Manning.

Mark your calendars and bring your family, your friends, and your Texas pride to Gonzales, Texas this fall. Whether you're a lifelong resident or a curious visitor, the Gonzales Bicentennial Bash will be a night to remember.

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The Gonzales Inquirer will be closed on

Labor Day - Sept. 1, 2025

to celebrate the holiday with family and friends.

Have a safe and happy holiday from
The Gonzales Inquirer staff

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COUNTY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

budget and tax rate for 2025. The proposed fiscal year 2025 budget will officially be filed by County Judge Pat Davis on Friday, Aug. 15, once he has received all department's requests for funding.

The no-new-revenue rate is defined as is the tax rate for the 2025 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue from the same properties as it did in the 2024 tax year. The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate the county may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate.

Normally, under a state law passed in 2019, the county can only increase the maintenance and operations (M&O) portion of the tax rate by a maximum of 3.5 percent each year without seeking voter approval.

However, if the county does not increase its tax rate above the no-new-revenue rate, it can bank what is called an unused increment that can be used at a future date based on the prior three years of "foregone tax revenue."

Since 2021, the county tax rate has dropped from 43.91 cents to 20.32 cents in 2024, a decrease of 23.59 cents per \$100 valuation as the county has only adopted the no-new-revenue rate each year and mineral and property valuations have jumped significantly.

This year, the tax rate will jump by nearly a third — 32.33 percent — because the county will be cashing in that unused increment to exceed the 3.5 percent cap and the county will have debt service to pay for the first time in seven years due to the bonds issued to fix the annex and Randle-Rather building.

However, since the new tax rate is at the voter-approval rate based on factoring in that unused increment, the county will not be required to hold a tax rate election, though it must hold a public hearing on the rate for

residents to voice their opinions.

The average homestead taxable value has risen from \$155,290 last year to \$167,607 this year, which is an increase of 7.93 percent. By increasing the tax rate from 20.32 to 26.89 cents, the tax on the average homestead will increase by \$135.15, from \$315.55 to \$450.70, this year, while the total tax levy on all properties will rise from \$14,227,199 to \$18,312,083, an increase of \$4,084,884.

RETIREE STIPEND REMOVED

The \$300 per month retiree stipend was part of a policy the court adopted in September 2024 to provide medical insurance to retired personnel before they reach Medicare eligibility, but that stipend only applies to 24 individuals at this time.

The policy allows for non-elected employees who are at least 58 years of age and who have had a minimum of 20 years working for the county to retire and receive full medical insurance coverage for themselves until they are eligible for Medicare at age 65.

Meanwhile, elected officials have to serve at least 12 years (three full terms) in order to be able to participate in retiree health insurance and also must have reached an age of attainment of 58 years.

If a retiring employee or county official is at least 58 and meets the qualifications, he or she can remain on the county's health insurance policy and have the county pay 100 percent of the monthly premium up to the retiree is eligible for Medicare, provided they do not take a lump sum payment through TCDRS (Texas County and District Retirement System) but continue to receive monthly retirement checks.

Once a retiree reaches the age of 65 and eligibility for Medicare,

he or she can be converted to a Medicare supplement plan and the county then pays \$300 per month per qualified retiree to the retiree up until their death — or \$3,600 per year per retiree. There are currently 24 retirees who are eligible and receive this benefit, which was expected to cost the county about \$84,600 this first year.

The matter originally was brought to commissioners by then-Precinct 3 Commissioner Kevin La Fleur, who said he wanted to offer a benefit that would help the county attract and retain good employees while also getting rid of past practices where the county would pass a COLA (cost of living adjustment) that could tie up county funds for 15 years and cost hundreds of thousands of dollars.

On Monday, Davis said, "This was the one that the outside auditor basically told us that's something that we probably shouldn't have done."

"He said it's not a good idea because it's something that you're going to be stuck with forever," Davis added. "If there's more people that retire, then you're going to be stuck with that continuously. My deal is if we are able to give our retirees something, that would be great to give something to all of them, not just a very select few."

"It also does affect your bond rating, so if you got to go out and try to get some bonds — if we want to build a jail or whatever — it affects it. It affected our rating (on the annex bonds). We would have probably been a lot higher if we would not have had that (on the books)."

Davis, Precinct 1 Commissioner Tony Matias and Precinct 4 Commissioner Collie Boatright voted to rescind the stipend, while Precinct 2 Commissioner Donnie Brzozowski and Precinct 3 Commissioner Roy Staton voted to keep it.

WAEOLDER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

afterward. Gonzales said the city is now working to find a replacement, but background checks for each applicant can take 30 to 60 days to complete.

The meeting opened with quick approval of the July 8 meeting minutes, July paid invoices, and financial reports. The police department's monthly report noted recent arrests, citations, and warnings, as well as ongoing work to address frequent loose-horse calls.

Council formally called for a Nov. 4 special election to fill the two vacant at-large seats and approved the election service contract with Gonzales County. Members accepted the city's 2025 appraisal roll and received the No-New-Revenue and Voter Approval tax rate calculations, but could not propose a new tax rate.

The city attorney explained that, under Texas law, adopting a tax rate requires a quorum of four council members. Per the city attorney with two vacancies, the current members are required to "hold over" until their replacements are sworn in after the November election per the Texas Constitution. However, if they do not attend meetings, they cannot be counted for a quorum. Until then, last year's tax rate will apply by default.

The council appointed a liaison, Felipe Martinez, for the City Park Walking Trail project and voted to participate in the Gonzales County Memorial Wall project. During discussion of the wall, Donald

Kincaid voiced concern that the county-led effort was focused solely on the county seat and excluded other cities. He has been working to have them included as it is a "county memorial" The city attorney advised that public funds cannot be gifted directly to a private entity. Council approved participation pending legal review, with a funding cap of \$2,000.

Council also voted to name the Waelder City Park Splash Pad in honor of former Mayor Roy Tovar and to purchase a memorial plaque. The local Lions Club has already purchased a brick in Tovar's honor and will coordinate with the city for a combined dedication.

In an addendum item, council approved an interlocal agreement with Gonzales County, Waelder ISD, and TxDOT to work jointly on projects including a parking lot and the splash pad. Gonzales reported that construction on the splash pad is expected to begin in November or December.

Other approved actions included renewing a municipal maintenance agreement with the Texas Department of Transportation, selling surplus city equipment, and awarding a \$1,500 contract to repaint the City Public Works building and flag. Employees with at least one year of service will receive a 7 percent cost-of-living increase — the city's first in several years. While most cities average 3–3.5 percent annually, officials said the higher amount was justified after the long gap without an adjustment.

Gonzales also updated the council on ongoing projects and city operations. The wastewater project has been completed, the environmental review for a water well grant is finished, and the city has applied for a \$25,000 park grant that will be allocated to park improvements where the money will be best spent. Mosquito spraying remains restricted by wind speed regulations, and the city has begun sending code enforcement letters to address overgrown properties, which contribute to mosquito problems. On the utility side, more than \$63,000 remains outstanding from delinquent accounts, with just over \$374 collected since late May. Payment arrangements are being offered, especially for customers with high bills from leaks.

In executive session, council approved increasing Gonzales's pay by \$5 per hour while he continues serving as Acting City Manager.

Despite the delay in adopting a 2025 tax rate, city leaders emphasized the decision will be made once a full council is seated, ensuring compliance with state law and the city's long-term financial stability.



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PAGEANT

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to representing Texas on a national stage in 2025, the 2014 Gonzales High School graduate has turned pageantry into more than evening gowns and sashes. For her, it's been a journey of overcoming shyness, building confidence, and using her platform to inspire others — especially young women from small towns like hers.

Her pageant story began in 2004 when her mother entered her in the Little First Miss Gonzales competition.

"My mom wanted me to come out of my shell," she recalled. "She thought pageants would help me gain confidence, and she was right."

She went on to win Young Miss Gonzales in 2006, compete for Junior Miss in 2008, and capture the Miss Gonzales crown in 2012. Along the way, she earned statewide recognition, including a Top 10 finish in the Distinguished Youth of Texas program and second runner-up at Pre-Teen Texas.

As a teenager, she stepped onto an even bigger stage, competing in Miss Texas Teen USA in both 2011 and 2013, sharing the spotlight with more than 120 contestants each time. In her twenties, she entered the Miss America system, winning titles including Miss Southeast Texas, Miss Richardson, and Miss Roanoke Texas. When she aged out of that organization, she thought her competition days were behind her — until she discovered USA ICON.

"I wasn't considering competing again," she admitted. "But when I learned about ICON's mission — intelligence, confidence, optimism, and nobility — it resonated with me. There's no age limit, and it truly focuses on what titleholders stand for, not just how they look on stage."

In early 2025, Witzkoske earned the title of USA ICON Miss Lonestar State, a regional crown alongside Miss Texas. With just six weeks to prepare for her first national competition, she built a demanding



COURTESY/ANGELA WITZKOSKE

Angela Witzkoske thought her pageant days were behind her until she competed in the USA ICON pageant as Miss Lonestar State and earned third runner-up in her first national event. Her platform is "Dare to Dream."

routine. Her mornings began at 5:30 with a workout, followed by a healthy breakfast before heading to her job as the business manager for a Dallas-based art restoration company.

She credits her pageant experience for giving her the confidence to walk into businesses and pitch their services — a skill that proved invaluable on stage. Evenings were devoted to interview practice, skincare, and wardrobe planning. Her boyfriend, a former debate team captain, served as her speaking coach, helping her refine her answers for the onstage interview.

Wardrobe, she explained, is more than just fashion — it's strategy.

"Every system has its own style," she said. "Miss America leans toward simple elegance. Miss USA goes for glitz and sparkle. ICON is a blend of the two."

While many competitors wore glittering gowns, Witzkoske opted for an old Hollywood-inspired look: classic, but with a twist. "I wanted to stand out by doing the opposite of what most would expect."

Her platform, Dare to Dream, centers on resilience — the belief that life's "no's" don't define you. "Everyone is going



to face adversity," she said. "The key is to move past it and keep dreaming." She hopes to bring that message home to Gonzales, especially to young women. "I'd love to speak to students about believing in themselves and going after big goals. I also want them to know that pageantry isn't just about winning crowns — there are scholarships and skills that can change your life."

At ICON nationals, Witzkoske earned third runner-up — a remarkable feat for her first time on the national stage.

"When they called me into the Top 5, it was that 'I finally did it' moment," she said. Backstage, she admits, isn't as glamorous as it looks. "Yes, 'butt glue' from Miss Congeniality is real," she laughed. Still, the friendships are her favorite part. One of her closest con-



nections from the competition was Miss Maryland, a naval officer, nurse, and model. "She embodies what ICON is about," Witzkoske said. "I've even invited her to appear with me at events."

For years, her biggest challenge was the onstage question.

"I used to get so nervous," she said. "But this year, a mental management coach offered advice that changed everything: treat it like answering a question at a volunteer appearance. That completely changed the game for me."

At ICON, her toughest area was fitness, but she embraced the experience.

"Honestly, I was just happy to be there. Competing at nationals was a dream come true," Witzkoske said.

Representing Gonzales, she said, is always special. "People

always know 'Come and Take It,'" she laughed. "It's fun to share the history of Gonzales, and being from a small town means you have a community behind you. I was humbled seeing so many people from home sharing my posts and cheering me on."

Now living in Dallas, Witzkoske is considering competing again in the ICON system. She also hopes to mentor other young women — from Miss Gonzales contestants to Miss Texas hopefuls — offering guidance on everything from interview skills to finding the right gown.

Her advice to anyone chasing a goal is simple: "Competing puts you in uncomfortable situations — but you have to get comfortable being uncomfortable. Nothing is unreachable if you dare to dream."

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