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The Gonzales Inquirer

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DISTRICT SUCCESS, STATE HOPES

3 Gonzales County XC teams head to regionals

Nixon-Smiley sends boys team and individual runners to regional meet

BY VANESSA KIRBY

NIXON, TX – The Nixon-Smiley Mustangs and Lady Mustangs delivered an outstanding performance at the District Cross Country Meet, earning three individual district championships, numerous top-10 medals, and several regional qualifying spots. From junior high to high school, Nixon-Smiley runners demonstrated determination, endurance, and competitive spirit throughout the meet.

Leading the way were three Mustangs who captured individual district championships in their divisions. Gael Robles claimed the 7th Grade Boys District Championship, while Kayli DeLeon earned the 8th Grade Girls District Championship. At the junior varsity level, Jayden Avila continued the Mustangs' winning ways by claiming the JV Boys District Championship.

At the varsity level, the Mustangs celebrated a major accomplishment when the Nixon-Smiley Boys Cross Country Team qualified for the Regional Cross Country Meet. Representing the Mustangs at Regionals will be Kyzick Jantes, Jedidiah Alvarez, Case Martin, Oscar Gamez, Nathan Ordonez, Cayden Gonzales, and Wyatt Garcia. The seven runners worked together throughout the season, demonstrating the importance of teamwork, consistency, and determination to earn their opportunity to compete against some of the region's top runners.

On the girls' side, Ahtziry Espino and Mariela Castillo Limon each delivered strong performances, securing individual regional qualifying spots. Their efforts will allow them to represent Nixon-Smiley at the next level of postseason competition.

The Mustangs and Lady Mustangs also had an impressive group of

See **MUSTANGS,** page 5







CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

From top: Gonzales, Nixon-Smiley and Waelder cross country teams.

Waelder boys seek another state trip after repeat district title

BY LORRELL WRIGHT

Waelder's boys cross-country team is headed to regionals as district champion for the second year in a row, with a chance to return to state for a second consecutive season.

Junior Luis Medina Rodriguez finished second overall at district, followed by sophomore Jesus Oliva in third and freshman Jose Torres in seventh. MileSplit lists Medina Rodriguez's season best in the 5,000 meters as 17:49.34, recorded at the Gonzales High School Cross Country Invitational.

The Waelder girls also earned a

See **WAELDER,** page 9

Gonzales cross-country teams sweep district titles, head to regionals

BY LORRELL WRIGHT

Gonzales' varsity boys and girls cross-country teams won their district races, with the boys edging Floresville by one point and both teams earning trips to the 2026 UIL Region IV Cross Country Championships.

The girls scored 41 points. Natalia Mar led the Apaches with a fifth-place finish, followed by Jordyn Gonzales in sixth, Riley Cantu in seventh, Journie Matias in 10th and Khloe Granados in 13th.

The boys scored 38 points to Floresville's 39. Homero Ruiz placed second overall, Diego Leon was third and Brayden Nichols finished seventh. Dillon Rosales and Carlos Pedraza rounded out Gonzales' five scoring runners in 12th and 14th place.

For head coach Haley Garza, the district win was a first in her high school coaching career, and sharing it with this group made it especially meaningful.

"I'm proud of the work, commitment and trust they have put into our program all season," Garza said. "As a coach, you hope your athletes see their hard work pay off, and getting to celebrate that together was something I'll always remember."

The boys' finish showed just how much each runner mattered. Their one-point margin over Floresville came after a race in which every place counted toward the team score.

"Both teams stayed competitive and fought for every position, and that made the difference in the end," Garza said.

Leon, a senior who finished third

See **APACHES,** page 10

National Night Out brings neighbors together in Gonzales

STAFF REPORTS

Gonzales residents made time for a night with their neighbors Tuesday, Oct. 20, gathering at Edwards Community Center for a well-attended National Night Out celebration.

The free event gave families an opportunity to enjoy an evening together and connect with the people and organizations serving their community. Organizers had planned bicycle giveaways, games, face painting, candy and free food, with local businesses and community groups invited to host

See **NIGHT OUT,** page 9







CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

1 SECTION | 12 PAGES

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Nixon-Smiley culinary students place first at St. Philip's Salsa Invitational

BY VANESSA KIRBY



SAN ANTONIO, TX – Nixon-Smiley High School seniors Garet Gonzales and Fernando Acosta won first place at the St. Philip's Salsa Invitational, outperforming 14 other San Antonio-area high school culinary arts teams with their award-winning corn salsa featuring Aji Amarillo peppers.

The victory marks another impressive showing for the Nixon-Smiley Culinary Arts program, which earned the People's Choice Award at last year's competition for a watermelon and pineapple salsa. This year, the Mustangs took their success to the next level, claiming the top overall prize.

Gonzales and Acosta, both seniors in the Nixon-Smiley Culinary Arts pathway, collaborated to develop a unique recipe that paired the sweetness of corn with the distinctive flavors of Aji Amarillo, a South American yellow pepper known for its bright, floral notes and citrus-like flavor. The pepper is commonly used in dishes such as ceviche and grilled foods.

Gonzales led the brainstorming and development of the recipe, while Acosta played a key role in tasting, evaluating, and providing feedback to achieve the perfect balance of heat and sweetness. Their teamwork ultimately produced a salsa that impressed the competition's judges.

However, the competition involved much more than simply making a delicious salsa. Competitors were required to prepare and cook their entries in an unfamiliar kitchen while being closely observed and evaluated on their knife skills, food-preparation techniques, and sanitation practices.

Despite the pressure, the Nixon-Smiley duo delivered an outstanding performance, earning an average judges' score of 58 out of 60 points. "I am so proud of both of these young men for representing themselves and Nixon at the highest level," their culinary arts instructor, Chef Cruz, said. The instructor also credited H-E-B for helping make the team's success possible. Through a fresh fruit and vegetable grant from H-E-B, the culinary program was able to obtain ingredients for practice and recipe development leading up to the competition.

The first-place finish is a testament to the dedication of Gonzales and Acosta and to the hands-on learning opportunities provided by Nixon-Smiley's Career and Technical Education programs. Their achievement demonstrates how classroom instruction, creativity, and teamwork can translate into success against larger schools and programs.

For Nixon-Smiley, the victory is about more than winning a salsa competition. It also shows Mustang students competing at a high level, building valuable career skills, and proudly representing their school and community.

Congratulations to Garet Gonzales, Fernando Acosta, and the Nixon-Smiley Culinary Arts Department on bringing home first place!

A new reason to stop in: Tammy helps neighbors discover Gonzales' hidden gems

BY LORRELL WRIGHT

After graduating from Gonzales High School, Tammy moved away for a time before returning to the community she loves. Still, there were businesses around town she had driven past again and again without ever stopping.

One evening, she was scrolling Facebook from her couch when three posts in a row introduced her to local small businesses she had never heard of.

"Wait, how do I not know about this place?" she remembers thinking.

The posts left her wondering how many other people might be missing out on places close to home. Tammy began making reviews to introduce those businesses and the people behind them to a wider audience.

She knows what it takes to build a small business herself. Tammy started her balloon business in 2023 while working full time at Wells Fargo. At the end of 2024, she left the bank to pursue it full time, a move she said gave her more freedom to spend time with her family and do work she enjoys.

She had already been sharing videos of balloon setups, so being in front of the camera felt natural. Reviewing places brought together things she loves: talking, meeting people and trying something new.

"I love to talk. I love to meet people," she said. "So it just all works."

Tammy's first review was Ebi-Ebi Sushi in Seguin. She initially thought she would focus on restaurants, particularly smaller businesses that may not have the reach of larger chains. She shared a quick review, liked the response and realized she wanted to keep going. Now she is open to trying different kinds of places and experiences.

She shares content on TikTok, Instagram and Facebook. To decide where to visit, she often turns to TikTok and Facebook videos to get a feel for a place and see whether it catches her interest. Some businesses have started inviting Tammy to come in and try a dish or product for herself. She also seeks out places she discovers on her own.

As her videos reached more people, Tammy saw how a review could help a business connect with customers. She named Tony's and Amy's as two of her favorite reviews. The response she described came from Tony's in Cuero: its owners told her a line had formed outside the next day. The video has drawn about 30,000 views, she said.

Tammy's focus is on sharing places she feels good recommending. When she had an experience she could not honestly recommend, she chose to leave it off her page. "I want my content to be very positive, uplifting," she said. As a small-business owner, she understands how much it means when people choose to stop in and support a local business.

Her social media work has also begun earning money through the platforms. Tammy said she can see the potential for it to grow into something that helps support her family while allowing her to keep doing work she loves.

The people she meets are a big part of what keeps

See **TAMMY,** page 5



Purple Cactus festival brings a full day of Gonzales art, food and fun

BY LORRELL WRIGHT

A market booth can be the beginning of the day, not the whole plan. At the Purple Cactus Art Festival & Market, visitors can shop handmade work, watch artists demonstrate what they do, try a mini class, grab something to eat and join a photo hunt through Gonzales' public art.

The second annual festival is set for Nov. 7-8 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the JB Wells Expo Center. Admission is $5. There will be activities for kids, options for adults and plenty for anyone who simply wants to browse, visit with neighbors and enjoy a weekend close to home.

The art hunt sends registered teams around town to photograph local murals and public art, giving Gonzales itself a place in the festival. Sign-up has closed, but the hunt is one way the event reaches beyond the expo center. Inside, visitors can take mini classes, watch demonstrations and try activities such as painting small canvases, making

See **FESTIVAL,** page 5

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Celebrations

Birthdays

October 22nd
James Barborak
Van Johnson
Rachel Menking
Kyleigh Tieken
Miranda Vinklarek

October 23rd
Jacob Clack
Jon Cox
DJ Gonzales
Luis Guzman
Sara Holton
Byron Lester
Linda Rathmann
Sharon Tenberg
Michael Thiele
Paul Watkins Jr.

October 24th
Melvin Bain
Morgan Barnett
Reida Bastien
Ashley Berger
Terry Clay
Charlotte Masek
Jason Paryzek

October 25th
Brittany Belsher
Rachel Cantu
Christy Diamond
Daisy Gaines
Albert Harvey
Caleb Penney
Kayelynn Sutton

October 26th
Ricky Campion
Lew Cohn

October 27th
Frank Ball
Brittany Nicole Brown
Bryanna Iakopo
Isabella McIntosh
Adolph Ramirez
Bubba Simmons
Reynold Veselka
Miranda Wenzel

October 28th
Weston Brecosky
Tyler Gescheidle
Gayla Keeter
Tammy Fern Reininger
Bryce Spies
Toni Washichek

Anniversary

October 23rd
Daniel & Lisa Hernandez

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Gonzales Weather

MOSTLY SUNNY	October 22 87°/60°	Mostly sunny and warm 6% chance of rain • RealFeel 91
PARTLY SUNNY	October 23 87°/65°	Partly sunny and warm 0% chance of rain • RealFeel 89
PARTLY SUNNY	October 24 86°/65°	Sunny spells 4% chance of rain • RealFeel 87
MOSTLY SUNNY	October 25 84°/65°	Sun through high clouds 3% chance of rain • RealFeel 83
MOSTLY SUNNY	October 26 78°/57°	Mostly sunny 0% chance of rain • RealFeel 79
MOSTLY SUNNY	October 27 77°/56°	Mostly sunny 0% chance of rain • RealFeel 77
MOSTLY SUNNY	October 28 78°/57°	Mostly sunny 2% chance of rain • RealFeel 80

Upcoming Events at J.B. Wells Park in Gonzales

October 23rd -25th
THSRA Region 6 Rodeo

October 28th
Rafter E Productions Barrel Race

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Garden Q&A with CALVIN FINCH



Q. My St Augustine lawn has not looked good for several years. I have blamed its poor appearance on the drought and lack of fertilizer but it is very strange right now because it is evenly covered by a 6-inch plant with rounded leaves and small yellow flowers. It is very attractive. Is it the" horse herb" you keep talking about? The plant growth and green up coincided with that last 2-inch rain we had. We have also been mowing it every week. What can we expect for the rest of the winter?

A. It certainly sounds like horse herb (also called straggler daisy). Have the black swallowtail butterflies been visiting blooms(another symptom of horse herb prospering)? If it is horse herb it would indicate that your lawn area may have too much shade to support a healthy St Augustine grass lawn. You may want to continue to encourage the horse herb with your regular mowing. The horse herb may even receive enough moisture in the predicted drought breaking rainy period for it to continue to prosper. Keep us informed.

Q. Tell us again what annual flowers are best to replace the zinnias, pentas, moss roses and begonias for the winter flower garden.

A. The main replacement for zinnias in the sunny part of the garden is usually snapdragons supplemented by stocks, calendula, pansies, violas and sweet peas. Plant sweet peas with seed against a tomato cage or trellis for support of the vines. Plant the other flowers in the sun as transplants. Sweet peas and stocks are wonderfully fragrant and make great cut flowers along with the snapdragons. In the shade watch for cyclamen and primula. The available colors are sometimes hard to believe they are so attractive. Protect them from slugs and snails with a regular application of a slug and snail bait.

Q. In past years I always

See **GARDEN,** page 5

Cost 4-H gives back to community through October service projects





CONTRIBUTED

Members of the Cost 4-H Club are putting the 4-H motto, "To Make the Best Better," into action through community service projects that support local schools and fellow 4-H members.

For their October community service project, Cost 4-H members collected Clorox disinfecting wipes and Germ-X hand sanitizer to donate to Gonzales Independent School District. These supplies will help support a cleaner, healthier learning environment for students and teachers throughout the district.

In addition to supporting local schools, club members donated two giant bags of candy to the Gonzales County 4-H Council for its upcoming Trunk or Treat event. The contribution will help provide a fun and festive experience for local children and families.

See **4-H,** page 5

LIVESTOCK WEEKLY REPORTS

GONZALES LIVESTOCK MARKET REPORT
Sale Date: October 17, 2026
Receipts this week: 787 Cattle
Compared to our last sale: Number 1 choice calves and yearlings sold 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., 425.00-810.00;
300-400 lbs., 410.00-570.00;
400-500 lbs., 335.00-520.00;
500-600 lbs., 315.00-415.00;
600-700 lbs., 295.00-360.00; 700 -800 lbs., 310.00-335.00
Bull Yearlings: 700-900 lbs., 225.00-265.00
Stocker-feeder Heifers: Medium and large-frame No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 375.00-710.00; 300-400 lbs., 335.00-510.00; 400-500 lbs., 320.00-425.00; 500-600 lbs., 305.00-375.00; 600-700 lbs., 310.00-325.00
Replacement Quality Heifers: 400-600 lbs., 385.00-485.00.
Packer Cows: Good lean utility and commercial, 119.00-125.00; Cutters, 128.00-135.00; Canners, 85.00-117.00; High yielding fat cows, 171.00-187.00
Packer Bulls: Yield grade 1 & 2, good heavy bulls, 164.00-171.00; Light weights and medium quality bulls, 141.00-165.00
Stockers Cows: $2,100.00 to $2,600.00
Pairs: $2,200.00 to $3,200.00

NIXON LIVESTOCK COMMISSION
October 12th, 2026
Cattle: 933
Cows: 68
Bulls: 13
Steers:
200-300 lbs - 476-506-610
300-400 lbs - 439-469-575
400-500 lbs - 362-392-500
500-600 lbs - 313-333-425
600-700 lbs - 291-321-350
700-899 lbs – 282-312-334
Heifers:
200-300 lbs - 433-463-540
300-400 lbs - 386-416-650
400-500 lbs - 341-371-450
500-600 lbs - 298-328-465
600-700 lbs - 278-308-353
700-800 lbs - 271-301-348
Slaughter Cows: 85 - 126
Stocker Cows: 2000-3000
Slaughter Bulls: 100-180
Pairs: None to test market

HALLETTSVILLE LIVESTOCK REPORT
October 13th, 2026
CATTLE SOLD: 1629
Top #1 class Steer calves
LESS THEN 200# ~600-920
200#-300# ~ 560-730
300#-400# ~ 490-600
400#-500# ~ 410-520
500#-600# ~ 350-420
600#-700# ~ 310-356
700#-800# ~ 290-332
800# & up ~ 280-308
Top #1 classHeifer calves
LESS THEN 200# ~ 560-800
200#-300# ~ 450-560
300#-400# ~ 410-530
400#-500# ~ 360-465
500#-600# ~ 315-372.50
600#-700# ~ 295-338
700#-800# ~ 280-322
800# & up ~ 260-292
Replacement heifer
350#-750# ~ 430-745
PACKER COWS
HIGH DRESSING: 127-144
MEDIUM DRESS: 105-126
LOW DRESSING: 88-105
POOR / WEAK: 70-88
PACKER BULLS
HIGH DRESSING: 170-180
MEDIUM DRESS: 160-172
LOW DRESSING: 150-162
8 Braford Hfs 493# @ 745 $3675/ head
GOOD STOCKER COWS & HEIFERS: none
MED STOCKER COWS & HEIFERS: $1800 - $2850
GOOD COW/CALF PAIRS: none
MED COW/CALF PAIRS: 2 pair $3200
The market was strong again this week. Heavier weight classes sold steady/strong. Light weights sold stronger again. Demand for light weights increasing for winter grazing. Overall, a very active sale. Packer cow sold $3-$5 lower, Packer bulls sold steady, all on a supply of 180 head. If we can help arket your livestock please call 361-798-4336. Thank you to our customers & buyers!!

SEGUIN CATTLE COMPANY
October 14th, 2026
Cattle: 266
Sheep & Goats: 545
Quality very good today. Stocker calf market steady with packer cows & bulls remain steady.
Medium & Large Frame #1 Steers:
200-300 lb. 2.00 – 3.90 – 6.40
300-400 lb. 1.95 - 4.50 - 5.30
400-500 lb. 1.45 - 3.75 - 4.50
500-600 lb. 1.50 - 3.40 – 4.60
600-700 lb. 2.40 - 3.15 - 3.30
700-800 lb. 2.80 - 3.05 - 3.25
Medium & Large Frame #1 Heifers
200-300 lb. 2.45 – 3.75 – 5.50
300-400 lb. 1.35 - 3.55 - 4.40
400-500 lb. 3.25 - 3.62 – 4.55
500-600 lb. 3.00 - 3.33 – 4.60
600-750 lb. 3.00 - 3.10 - 3.50
Cows:
Utility & Commercial .80 - 1.15 - 1.40
Cutters 1.00 -1.10 -1.30
Canners - .60
Palpated Cows: 1850 - 2650
Cow/Calf pairs: None
Bulls
Heavy High Yielding - 1.65 - 1.77
Light & Low Yielding - .85 - 1.64
Sheep & Goats
Nannies: 50.00-275.00
Kid Goats (Fat) - 2.80 - 4.20
Wethers: 1.70 – 4.05
Billies: 1.30 – 2.85
Dorp. Ewes: 75.00 - 190.00
Dorp. Lambs (Fat): 2.00 - 3.70
Wooled Ewes: .None
Wooled Bucks: 1.30 - 2.45
Lambs: 2.60
Barb. Bucks: 250.00 - 375.00

CUERO LIVESTOCK MARKET
October 16th, 2026
Weekly sales volume reached 1,931 head, including 298 cows and 24 bulls. Market prices for packer cows and bulls held steady. Demand remains strong, though the calf market saw mixed trends: lighter cattle traded slightly lower, while heavier cattle held steady to $3 higher. Rain remains much needed.
Market details:
Packer bulls:
Higher yielding 172.00-182.00
Lower yielding 110.00-170.00
Packer cows:
High yielding 136.00-150.00
Medium yielding 117.00-135.00
Poor & Weak 60.00-105.00
Palpated: 45 bred $1700-$3700
Pairs: 2 pair $2500-$4250
Steer/Bull Calves: (AVG-HIGH)
200-250 lbs. 556.00-600.00
250-299 lbs. 508.00-600.00
300-350 lbs. 475.00-535.00
350-400 lbs. 427.00-490.00
400-450 lbs. 406.00-485.00
450-500 lbs. 378.00-450.00
500-550 lbs. 356.00-400.00
550-600 lbs. 341.00-365.00
600-700 lbs. 333.00-356.00
700-800 lbs. 316.00-348.00
Heifer Calves:(AVG-HIGH)
200-250 lbs. 534.00-600.00
250-300 lbs. 425.00-510.00
300-350 lbs. 433.00-500.00
350-400 lbs. 410.00-470.00
400-450 lbs. 385.00-600.00
450-500 lbs. 353.00-470.00
500-550 lbs. 332.00-405.00
550-600 lbs. 327.00-420.00
600-700 lbs. 312.00-362.00
700-800 lbs. 277.00-321.00
*replacement heifers
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LOOKING FOR A PET, A HOME OR A JOB?
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Have you seen my iPad?

BY LORRELL WRIGHT

I have lost my iPad. Not "I set it down somewhere and haven't really looked for it yet" lost. It has been missing for more than a week. I have checked my office, my car, all the usual piles where things tend to collect and, at one point, the laundry basket. Before anyone judges me, there was logic involved. Sometimes a full laundry basket becomes a shelf. I walk into the room carrying too many things, see something relatively flat and think, "Perfect." This is apparently how furniture gets invented. The iPad was not there.

What is slightly more concerning is that I know it is not the only thing I have lost lately. There are at least a few other things currently missing from my life. I cannot tell you what they are because I have also forgotten what I lost. At some point, I assume I will desperately need one of those mystery items and my brain will suddenly go, "Oh yeah, THAT'S what we lost." So that is going well.

Unfortunately, this general approach to life has recently expanded beyond physical belongings. I have forgotten family things, forgotten to call people back and had more than one moment where my brain suddenly remembered I was supposed to be somewhere right around the time I was supposed to already be there. I simply heard the information, told myself, "I'll put that on my calendar later," and apparently launched it directly into the void.

Which is especially impressive because there is absolutely no excuse for me not to use my calendar. I use Google Calendar specifically because it is everywhere. It is on my phone, which is basically attached to my hand. It stays open on my work computer, it is on my personal computer and it is also, theoretically, on my iPad, wherever that is. My entire life is color coded on one calendar, and when I actually put things on there, I can keep up with a ridiculous amount.

My calendar and I are currently not on speaking terms, and this is mostly my fault. Lately, instead of taking the 15 seconds to add something, I think, "I'll do that later." Later has become a dangerous place. Later is where phone calls go. Later is where appointments go. Later is where I put things in "safe places." Later is apparently where my iPad lives now.

People ask me fairly often how I keep up with everything between the newspaper, photography, Pilot Club, family, sports, meetings and whatever else I managed to say yes to before checking whether I was already busy. The big secret is that I write it down, or at least I am supposed to. When the calendar is updated, I can look at a week that appears mildly unhinged to a normal person and make it work. Apparently, at some point, I got a little too comfortable and started believing I could just remember things on my own.

This was ambitious.

Phone calls are a perfect example. Someone will ask me to call them back, and I genuinely mean it when I say I will. Then I finish what I am doing, notice something else, answer a text, start another task and eventually realize I have a strange feeling that there was something I was supposed to do. Sometimes I leave a text unread because that will obviously remind me later, but after enough time, unread messages apparently become decorative. They are no longer reminders. They are just part of the scenery.

The same goes for putting something somewhere "safe." I am incredibly good at this. So good, in fact, that no one can find the item afterward, including me. The calendar, reminders, lists and color coding are not proof that I naturally have everything together. They are how I manage to look like I have everything together. Apparently the illusion falls apart pretty quickly when I stop participating.

There is probably a lesson somewhere in all of this, although I would prefer not to make it too profound considering I am currently being outsmarted by an electronic device somewhere inside my own house. Maybe it is simply that I already know what works for me and need to stop pretending I am suddenly going to become a person who remembers everything without writing it down. I know "I'll remember" has an absolutely terrible success rate, yet I keep giving it another chance like this time Lucy really is going to let Charlie Brown kick the football.

At some point, even Charlie Brown has to stop running at it.

So if I agree to be somewhere, it needs to go on the calendar right then. If I need to call someone, I need to make the note before another thought moves into that spot. If I put something somewhere for safekeeping, perhaps I should choose a location that future me has at least a fighting chance of finding. I am also considering retiring the laundry basket from its second career as a side table, although we should keep expectations reasonable.

For now, my calendar and I need to reconcile. Clearly, I need it more than it needs me. And if anyone happens to see my iPad, please tell it to come home.

I need it to check my calendar.

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).

Questions may be directed to 830-672-2861.

GONZALES BEGINS



EXPLORING OUR TOWN'S RICH HISTORY

1891 — June, first two graduates of GHS, Robert Abernethy and Amos Ellis
- June 4, Jobe has one of the most complete yards in the state, capable of turning out 40,000 steam pressed brick per day. They employ approximately fifty hands. Just above the brick yards, Mr. T.S. Walker is preparing to build a dam across the Guadalupe River, thus providing cheap power for the City.
- The Gonzales Ice and Bottling Works owned by Mr. H. Beringer is in the same area as the brick yard.
- August 20, William Boothe and August Kleine received a handsome row boat for the river last week. It carries six people. The boys will break a bottle of champagne over its bow soon.
- September 10, about 250 bales of cotton per day are coming into town this week.
- October 1, the ladies attending the ninth session of the Woman's Missionary Society of the West Texas Conference were escorted around town in carriages and shown the sights and beauties of Old Gonzales. *(Buildings at that time were more ornamental on the second story façade so that the beauty was more evident to carriage riders.)*
- October 15, J.H. Remschel advertises the "best ready-made fencing ever seen in Gonzales." He also advertises "second-hand lumber at very low prices."
- October 22, R.H. Walker, Prescription Druggist, says he will fill prescriptions "day, night or Sundays" and also declares that he has the "largest line of wall paper ever brought to Gonzales."
- November 26, an editorial declares that property owners should keep their sidewalks in good order for the safety of the citizens. It is not the business of the Council to do this, but the property owner.
- November 26, the finishing touches were given the new pews in the Methodist Church last week. They are more comfortable and are arranged in a half-circle. Mr. George Ward designed and built the pews.
- December 17, Kleine's Furniture Store advertises a fine line of "Fancy" Rockers.
- Masonic Commandery Number 11 Knights Templars added the third floor to Peck and Fly Building by special agreement as it was being built at 519 St. Joseph Street.

1892 — Electric Light and Power Company created.
- Smith and Lowery erected a cotton gin and continued to operate with various owners until c.1940.
- November 3, fire company organized.
- Jobe's brickyard sold to Sunset Brick and Tile Company.

1893 — January 2, electricity turned on by five year old Jennie, daughter of R.H. Walker, to approximately 200 house lights and one arc street light at the corner of St. Joseph and St. Lawrence Streets.
- Gonzales Cotton Oil Manufacturing plant established. *(It is still standing, though derelict, in 2026 just west of Ehrig Bros.)*
- Kleine Opera House closed
- June 22, the third graduating class of Gonzales High School boasted five graduates.
- December 3, six a.m., courthouse burned. *(This was the courthouse which stood on the site of the current courthouse.)*

On the Jericho Road?...



DR. DON NEWBURY
The Idle American

I wasn't on the Jericho Road. I didn't fall among thieves. I've never been robbed, but recently-- stranded on a country road--I was befriend by two strangers who've quickly become friends. Their assistance mirrored the Bible's account of the "Good Samaritan."

The road linking Jerusalem and Jericho was dangerous and craggy. Some in our county bear a remarkable resemblance. I, and thousands of other motorists, traverse them daily with strong grips on steering wheels.

Maybe one road experience will spark a 21 st century song similar to a favorite 20th century hymn: "On the Jericho Road." You remember it: "On the Jericho Road, there's room for just two, no more and no less, just Jesus and you." My travail resulted from an ill-fated right turn at a country intersection of two single-lane roads....

Motorists on roadways have reasons to be frustrated. Pessimism has set in, and instead of Good Samaritan accounts, we feel broadsided, trying to survive mayhem, much of it caused by political candidates' vicious radio and TV ads. My Uncle Mort says that if 10% of what most candidates about their opponents is true, we ought to throw 'em out, jailing some. We are enduring ads costing hundreds of millions of dollars. No wonder our teeth are gritting.

In these days, would anyone--Democrat or Republican--lend a hand when someone falls among thieves--perhaps even left for deadif known to have different political leanings?

We shudder, afraid of being scooped up in hand baskets headed south....

On a recent afternoon--in a 20-minute standstill for road repairs--I fell not among thieves, but did fail to negotiate a right turn at the intersection of narrow





Workers from Bethesda Water Supply and Gomez Brothers Tire Store become columnist's "Good Samaritans."

county roads. I almost made it, but my right rear tire encountered an object, rendered immediately useless. An important phone call I needed to take at home suddenly became unimportant.

I'm aware of care that should be taken--particularly on narrow roads that lack shoulders. I groaned, realizing that 5 o'clock traffic might soon engulf me. I glanced at my smart phone, trying to think of someone who'd help me without "spilling beans" to our daughters. I yearned for this slight accident to have "on-the-QT" status. Younger folks today keep such situations "on the down low," or, if indifferent about news spreading, they churn open hands up and down while saying "six/seven."

Spotting a nearby home with a circular driveway, I crept in slowly, thinking of frequent doorway shootings. I theorized that if I had to vamoose on three tires, shifting to reverse would be pointless.....

I raised my car hood and "back hatch," opening all four doors to indicate distress. Then I walked toward the road, waving my cane. A couple of dozen cars passed; all drivers waved, but none stopped.

I was saddened when two men in a truck with a trailer in tow waved vigorously, but simply didn't slow down. I watched wistfully as they disappeared from view. A few minutes later, a fifty-something year-old man and his mid-twenties co-worker returned. "We knew you were in trouble, but had to find a place to turn around," said one of the Bethesda Water Supply employees.

With their truck/trailer parked barely off the pavement and hazard lights flashing, I had an "old west feel" that the cavalry had arrived....

They found what I couldn't, a half-inflated "donut" spare tire. Jesse Fernandez and Johnny Miller put it on, suggesting that I drive at no more than 10 MPH to reach Lopez Brothers Tire Store--one mile ahead. They followed behind me, flashing. (The "donut" was still somewhat round, with perhaps enough air to inflate a half-dozen party balloons.)

Wow! In the Metroplex with almost nine million others, two modern-day Samaritans took time to help!

Deeply appreciative, I stuck a $50 bill into Miller's shirt pocket. It was small thanks for a giant favor. He wouldn't take it, so I dropped it at his feet. When they drove away a few minutes later, I went inside, credit card in hand, to pay for a new tire.

"There's no charge," Jose said. "The guys in the truck paid for it."....

My eyes glistened when I unfolded the receipt; inside was the $50 bill! (Thanks to my road hazard guarantee, the next time I'm in Brownwood, my hometown, I'll get a new spare tire, and I'll list a slightly-used "donut" on eBay. The next morning, I dropped by Bethesda Water Supply Corporation to thank Don Baird--Operations Superintendent--Jesse and Johnny's boss. I gave them copies of my books, warning that once put down, they're hard to pick up.

My heart warms upon thinking of my new friends. At church, I thanked Harold Moore, Bethesda Board President, praising both the Bethesda co-workers, as well as Jose (and his brother, Antonio) who now own the tire shop founded by their late father in 2009.

Finally, this: Bethesda headquarters--on I-35W--are about a quarter-mile "crow flight" from our home. I salute the whole crew. Probably only a handful ever heard the Sons of the Pioneers sing, "Cool, Clear Water," and/or recognize "On the Jericho Road." May all of them seek living water.

Once more, forgive me for citing personal experiences, but they're the only kind I've had....

Dr. Newbury, retired educator, resides in the Metroplex, writing and speaking. His columns, both written and oral, are archived at speakerdoc.com. Phone: 817-447-3872. Email: newbury@speakerdoc.com

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OBITUARY

Molly Bernice Hermes O'Neal



Molly Bernice Hermes O'Neal, 93, of Gonzales, passed away Sunday, October 18, 2026. She was born August 23, 1933, in DeWitt County, Texas, to Casper Hermes and Ella J. Light Hermes.

Molly was born and raised in Cuero, where she attended school until family circumstances required her to stay home to care for her father following a debilitating car accident. Despite this responsibility, Molly remained determined to further her education and worked to earn her GED. She also helped her family by handling the bookkeeping for their service station businesses, demonstrating the strong work ethic and dedication that would remain a part of her life.

Molly met A.C. O'Neal through family members at a football game, beginning a love story that would span 67 years of marriage before his passing. The two were married on January 26, 1952, in Westhoff, Texas, and built a life centered on family, hard work, and a willingness to help others in need.

Molly was a consummate homemaker who took great pride in caring for her home and family. She loved keeping house, preparing delicious meals, and canning produce from her husband's garden. Among the many things she will be remembered for, her chocolate pie will forever hold a special place in the hearts and memories of those who enjoyed it.

An independent woman, Molly spoke freely and honestly, always expressing herself with sincerity. She was resourceful and hardworking, taking in ironing to earn a little extra money. She had a special talent for her work, expertly pressing trousers, jeans, and the sleeves of blouses and shirts, making sure every seam was just right. Together, she and A.C. were always willing to lend a helping hand to those in need, offering kindness and support whenever they could.

Above all, Molly cherished her family. She was a loving and devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother who took great joy in those she loved. Her faith was an important part of her life, and she was passionate about sharing it with her family. Molly was also someone who liked to stay busy and engaged. When she wasn't tending to her home or working on something that needed to be done, she could often be found enjoying a game of Bingo or Yahtzee.

Molly leaves behind a loving family who will treasure her memory, the lessons she shared, and the many ways she showed her love through everyday acts of care and devotion. She is survived by her daughter, Debbie White (James); son, Mark O'Neal; grandchildren, Kristen Reid (Jimmy), Barry White (Krissy), and Sarah O'Neal; great-grandchildren, Seth, Abigail, Danielle, and Mason; and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, A.C. O'Neal; her parents, Casper Hermes and Ella J. Light Hermes; her sister, Reba Schroeder; and her brothers, James, Joseph, Barney, Ernie, and Elder Ray Hermes.

The family will receive friends from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Friday, October 23, 2026, at Seydler-Hill Funeral Home. A funeral service will follow at 2:00 p.m. in the funeral home chapel, with Rev. Clint Lowery officiating. Interment will follow at Bundick Cemetery. Pallbearers will be Mason Long, Seth Reid, Jimmy Reid, Barry White, David Stewart, and Kenneth Stewart.

Memorial contributions may be made to Memorial Heights Baptist Church. Friends may leave their condolences to the family by visiting www.seydler-hillfuneralhome.com.

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

GVEC invites students to apply for all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C.

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

GVEC is inviting high school sophomores and juniors whose parent or legal guardian is a GVEC electric member to apply for the 2027 Government-in-Action Youth Tour. This weeklong leadership experience in Washington, D.C. is organized by Texas Electric Cooperatives and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. The program brings students from across Texas and the country together to learn about history, government, leadership, and electric cooperatives.

GVEC will sponsor local students for the June 2027 trip and provide each selected delegate with a $2,500 scholarship reserved for the senior year, to be used toward the college or trade school of their choice. In 2026, GVEC sent three students to represent the Cooperative and their communities in Washington, D.C. You can read all about their experience in our October issue of The GVEC Review or at gvec.org.

Delegates will visit iconic sites including the U.S. Capitol, Supreme Court, Arlington National Cemetery, Mount Vernon, the Smithsonian Institution, and more. Activities also include visits to congressional offices, a Potomac River dinner cruise, and opportunities to learn about rural electrification and the role electric cooperatives play in their communities. Along the way, students meet peers from across Texas and the nation while building leadership skills and making lasting memories.

"Youth Tour is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," said Darren Schauer, GVEC general manager and CEO. "It's an experience that's both rewarding and inspiring. We're excited to sponsor outstanding young leaders from our communities to represent GVEC in Washington, D.C."

GVEC covers travel, lodging, meals, and attractions, making the trip completely free for selected delegates.

Applicants must be high school sophomores or juniors during the 2026–2027 school year, reside in GVEC's electric service territory, and have a parent or legal guardian with an active GVEC electric account in good standing. Applications are due November 30, 2026, at 5 p.m.

To learn more about this exciting opportunity and view complete application details, visit gvec.org/community/youth-tour/. For questions, contact Community Relations Representative Jeff Kerlick at jkerlick@gvec.org or 830-263-4353.

GVEC is a progressive cooperative focused on delivering products and services that empower the people and communities in South Central Texas. A trusted, local partner since 1938, today GVEC provides dependable electricity, high-speed internet, and beyond the meter services like AC/heating, solar and battery storage solutions, and electrician services. The Cooperative proudly serves over 130,000 consumers in surrounding areas through five customer service locations in Cuero, Gonzales, La Vernia, Schertz and Seguin.

FESTIVAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

mini piñatas, visiting a slime bar or creating a hat. Permanent jewelry, hair tinsel and photo opportunities add even more stops along the way.

Food will be available, including soup and sandwiches, and 5D Travelin' Tavern will be there for drinks. Local performers and artists' demonstrations help round out the day.

"There's something for everybody," co-owner Christina Jahns said.

The festival grew from a chance to create something new for Gonzales, bring people to town and keep the community engaged that weekend. Jahns and co-owner Sheli Shelton wanted to give artists a place to share their work and show visitors what the town has to offer.

"We wanted to bring people to our little town and show them what we got going on," Shelton said.

Both women were born and raised in Gonzales. They met while working together at the auction and became friends as adults. Their different strengths help bring the festival together. Jahns described Shelton as "the creative idea woman," while Jahns handles many of the calls, invoices and paperwork behind the scenes.

The first festival left the pair nervous as they waited to see whether people would come. The turnout was better than they expected. Many vendors returned for the second year, and organizers have heard from more artists interested in joining. They also work to keep the market varied, seeking vendors with different specialties so visitors can find a range of handmade goods.

The festival's name connects back to Shelton's downtown business, Purple Cactus Pottery, which she has operated for several years. The studio offers pottery and other art activities. Shelton named it after cacti on her parents' New Mexico ranch that turn purple in the sun. The festival kept the name because people already knew the shop.

For Shelton, a good weekend means the artists and vendors do well, too. She said it makes her feel "all warm and fuzzy" when a vendor sells out. The organizers hope attendees return, too, and leave with a better sense of the people and creativity that make Gonzales special.

"It's not just shopping. It's a whole experience," Shelton said. "You don't have to go out of town to have a fun experience like this."

TAMMY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

the work meaningful to her. Tammy said she has a soft spot for older people and the stories they carry. At the Cow Palace, she spent time talking with George and listening to his memories of the way things used to be.

There was much more to his story than she could fit into the video. Later, while editing at home, Tammy found herself crying as she listened back to what he had shared. The conversation stayed with her long after the visit.

Her daughter sometimes joins her on visits and appears in videos. Tammy said her daughter can be shy when people approach her in person, but lights up when the camera comes on. At home, she sometimes takes Tammy's phone, props it up and makes little vlogs of her own, complete with a makeup routine and an "OK, guys" for her imagined audience. Tammy laughs that her daughter may need her own YouTube channel someday.

Tammy is preparing a column for the Gonzales Inquirer and hopes it will help readers discover more about the people, businesses and stories around them. In a message about the column, she said she wants people to know it is about more than reviews or recommendations on where to eat.

"I genuinely love finding the people, businesses, stories and little hidden gems that make our community special," she wrote.

Tammy said she is not trying to be a professional critic. She is a local person experiencing places for herself and talking with the people behind them. She hopes the column will feel like a friend telling readers, "Hey, you need to go check this out."

4-H

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Community service is an important part of the 4-H experience, teaching young people the value of leadership, generosity, and making a positive difference in their communities.

Through projects like these, Cost 4-H members continue to demonstrate that 4-H is about more than projects and competitions. It's about developing young leaders with a heart for serving others.

The Cost 4-H Club meets on the third Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. Youth and families interested in learning more about 4-H and becoming involved are encouraged to reach out.

For additional information about the Cost 4-H Club, please contact Britney Caka at (830) 857-6296.

ABOUT 4-H

4-H is a youth development organization dedicated to empowering young people through hands-on learning, leadership development, and community service. Guided by the four H's—Head, Heart, Hands, and Health—members develop valuable life skills while making a difference in their communities.

GARDEN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

heard that oaks in the white oak family were not susceptible to oak wilt infection but the other day I was at a program where the speaker said white oaks were susceptible, which is true?

A. I believe the susceptibility is a matter of degree. Individual red oaks can catch the disease and will pass it on by sap beetles to fresh wounds on live oak trees. Live oaks can pass the disease on to other live oaks through their connection to the roots of other live oaks.

The white oak species may be susceptible to a laboratory infection and even rarely an infection from a red oak by a sap beetle to a fresh wound like a live oak but it is rare. It is safest to paint all wounds on oaks within half an hour of when they occur.

Q. I heard you involved in a discussion on your radio show with a listener trying to determine what the identity of a 4th species of migrating hummingbird in addition to black-chinned, ruby-throated, and rufous that he had identified, did you ever identify it?

A. No, not yet but we are thinking it was probably Anna's, broad-tailed, or a buff bellied. Hopefully we can continue the discussion over the next few weekends and draw a conclusion.



MUSTANGS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

runners earn medals by finishing in the top 10 of their respective races. The medalists included Lilly Johnson, Mia Robles, Gabriel Sanchez, Cameron Wisdom, Christopher Stansel, Gabriel Acosta, Anayeli Hernandez, Jocelyn Vasquez, Ana Gamez, and Ruby Mendez.

The success across multiple grade levels underscores the strength and ongoing development of Nixon-Smiley's cross country program. With district champions emerging from junior high and junior varsity competition and high school athletes advancing to regionals, the future of Mustang cross country looks bright.

The district meet results reflect the hard work these student-athletes have put in throughout the season. Cross country requires more than physical endurance; it demands mental toughness, discipline, and the resolve to push through adversity. Nixon-Smiley runners displayed those qualities while proudly representing their school and community.

As the Mustangs prepare for regional competition, the focus shifts to continuing their postseason success. With the varsity boys team and individual girls qualifiers advancing, Nixon-Smiley will look to build on its district accomplishments and make another strong showing on the regional stage.

Congratulations to all Mustang and Lady Mustang runners on an outstanding district meet and best of luck to those advancing to Regionals!

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

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CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

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

ERRORS

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

CALL TODAY 830-672-2861

050 GARAGE SALES

SHADY LANE DOWNSIZING SALE

Saturday 10/24 & Sunday 10/25 from 9a-3p
10 Shady Lane in Gonzales, TX 78629

No early birds, no prices given in advance, no presales! Payments Accepted: Cash, PayPal, Venmo and Credit Card (w/3.5% fee)

For Updates & Photos Follow: Come and Organize It on Facebook OR www.estatesales.net - search Come and Organize It

Furniture, Lamps, Kitchenware, Holiday, A TON OF FLASHLIGHTS & LIGHTS, Clothing & Shoes, Dolls, Crafts, Toys, Electronics, UT Items. Decor, Yard Pots, Household Goods and SOOOO MUCH MORE!

050 GARAGE SALES

3 FAMILY YARD Sale: Friday and Saturday, 8-? both days. 1521 N. Hamilton St. Plenty of M-W-C clothes, furniture, Home Décor, miscellaneous items. No Presales Please!

210 MISC. SERVICES

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

410 FARM EQUIPMENT

DOZER FOR SALE near Waelder. John Deere 850J, 1,870 hrs. Runs great, cold AC. 49,000 lbs. Semi U Blade & Rippers. Asking $165,000. Call or text, 682-365-2385.

470 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

DURRETT SAND AND GRAVEL Common fill, packing sand, select fill. All sizes of wash rock, concrete sand. Call Michael at 830-857-4442.

670 APARTMENTS FOR RENT OR LEASE

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

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

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

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Contact Rene Seymour for details

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No phone calls

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Victoria College's Workforce & Continuing Education Department is hiring for the following part-time positions:

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For more information go to www.victoriacollege.edu and click on Jobs@VC.
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SUBSCRIBE! 830-672-2861

850 HELP WANTED

MEDICAL TECHNOLOGISTS: GONZALES Healthcare Systems, Gonzales, TX; Bachelor's Degree in Medical Technology, Medical Laboratory Science, related field, or foreign equivalent and MLS/MT (ASCPi) registry required. Mail CV to: Scott Fojt, Lab Manager, Gonzales Healthcare Systems, 1110 N. Sarah Dewitt Drive, Gonzales, TX 78629.

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950 PUBLIC NOTICES

Advertisement for Bids
City of Gonzales
Gonzales, Texas
2025 CDBG TDA – North Avenue Drainage Improvement Project

The City of Gonzales will receive bids for the **2025 CDBG TDA – NORTH AVENUE DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT** at Gonzales City Hall, 820 Saint Joseph Street, Gonzales, Texas 78629, until 2:00 PM CST, Tuesday, November 3, 2026. The bids will be publicly opened and read aloud immediately. Bids are invited for several items and quantities of work as follows:

The project generally consists of site drainage and stormwater improvements, including installation of approximately 298 linear feet of 18-inch RCP, 90 linear feet of 24-inch RCP, and 1,854 linear feet of 48-inch RCP. Work also includes construction and installation of storm drainage appurtenances, including pond outlet structures, pond grading, headwalls, inlets, and connections to existing drainage infrastructure.

Bid/Contract Documents, including Drawings and Technical Specifications are on file at KLEINFELDER, INC. office located at 829 N St. Joseph Street, Gonzales, Texas, 78629. Copies of the Bid/Contract Documents may be obtained through download from the Civcast Website at www.civcastusa.com.

A bid bond in the amount of 5 percent of the bid issued by an acceptable surety shall be submitted with each bid. A certified check or bank draft payable to the City of Gonzales or negotiable U.S. Government Bonds (as par value) may be submitted in lieu of the Bid Bond.

Attention is called to the fact that not less than, the federally determined prevailing (Davis-Bacon and Related Acts) wage rate, as issued by the U.S. Department of Labor and contained in the contract documents, must be paid on this project. In addition, the successful bidder must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, sexual identity, gender identity, or national origin. Adherence to the Grant Recipient's Section 3 Policy is required or all contracts and subcontracts. Further, this contract must comply with Build America, Buy America (BABA) requirements as implemented by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Texas Department of Agriculture.

The City of Gonzales reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding. Bids may be held by the City of Gonzales for a period not to exceed 30 days from the date of the bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the bidder's qualifications prior to the contract award.

The City of Gonzales Tim Crow, City Manager October 15, 2026

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

THE STATE OF TEXAS
CITATION BY PUBLICATION

CAUSE NO. AD26-0509
IN THE ESTATE OF JACKIE LYNN WILLIAMSON, DECEASED

TO ALL UNKNOWN OR MISSING HEIRS OF THE ESTATE OF JACKIE LYNN WILLIAMSON, DECEASED

Christina Jahns, in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on September 11, 2026 an APPLICATION FOR INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION AND TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP & FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION in the estate of Jackie Lynn Williamson, Deceased, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of Jackie Lynn Williamson, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in said estate, and appoint Christina Jahns to serve as the 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, Gonzales County, Texas.

You are hereby cited to appear before this Honorable Court by filling a written contest or answer to said Application before the above stated time and date should you desire to do so. To ensure it's consideration, you 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 seaof said Court at office in Gonzales, Texas, on October 15, 2026.

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

By: Margie Zapata
Margie Zapata, Deputy

Plaintiff(s) Attorney
Christie Ortman Fullilove
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Gonzales, Tx 78629
Telephone: 830-672-9535
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October 15 Puzzle Answers

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

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			O	A	K	E	N		N	I	P			
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STATE OF NEW MEXICO
COUNTY OF EDDY
FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION PETITION OF ZACHARY SINGLETON

No. D-503-SA-2026-00022

NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF CIVIL ACTION

THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO TO: BRICE WHITEHEAD

NOTICE IS GIVEN that in the above styled cause, that the Petitioner has filed a Petition for Step-Parent Adoption. Unless you file an answer to the Petition for Step-Parent Adoption on or before the 16th day of November with the Eddy County District Court Clerk's Office at the Eddy County Courthouse a Decree of Adoption will be entered against you by default.

SUSAN M. CUDDY-MOORE of SUSAN CUDDY-MOORE LAW OFFICE, L.L.C. 307 North Mesa St., Carlsbad, New Mexico 88220 is the attorney for the Petitioner, ZACHARY SINGLETON.

WITNESSED my hand and seal of the District Court of Eddy County, New Mexico, this 29th day of September 2026.

MARTHA HUEREQUE

By Jessi Fitzgerald
Deputy

FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT – EDDY COUNTY STATE OF NEW MEXICO – D.C.

Published Notice
Gonzales Economic Development Corporation

In accordance with the Development Corporation Act, Section 505.159 of the Texas Local Government Code, the Gonzales Economic Development Corporation, a Type B economic development corporation, on Monday, October 26, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., at the Gonzales City Hall, located at 820 St. Joseph Street, Gonzales, Texas, will conduct a public hearing on the following project: Performance Agreement with H2 Holdco, Inc dba Complete Hometown Physical Therapy LLC, for an economic development incentive in an amount not to exceed Seventy-Nine Thousand Six Hundred Fifty-Five and No/100 Dollars ($79,655.00) for eligible project costs associated with Enterprise/Start Up development located at 1832 Water Street Suite B, Gonzales, Texas. It is requested that you make your views known, either in person or by writing to the Gonzales Economic Development Corporation.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Jesse Glenn Lohse, Deceased, were issued on October 16, 2026, in Cause No. PW26-0501, pending in the County Court of Gonzales County, Texas, to: Keith Allen Lohse.

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: **M. Elizabeth Raxter**
Attorney at Law
705 State Park Rd.
Lockhart, Texas 78644

SIGNED on October 19, 2026.

/s/ M. Elizabeth Raxter
M. ELIZABETH RAXTER
Attorney for Keith Allen Lohse
State Bar No.: 24050084
705 State Park Rd.
Lockhart, Texas 78644
Telephone: (512) 398-6996
Facsimile: (512) 668-4501
Email: eraxter@tx-elderlaw.com

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Gonzales High School senior completes Eagle Scout project

CONTRIBUTED

David Floyd completed his Eagle Scout project "Outdoor Therapy" last month at the Gonzales County Sheriff's Office. He created a welcoming and calming outdoor space where Corrections Officers, Telecommunicators and Law Enforcement staff to have a break space available to get outdoors and take a break in nature. This will help them relieve stressors of the job and better help the community they serve. It's also ready for the night shift as it has eco-friendly solar powered lighting that will help conserve our county's energy resources and lessen the burden of the taxpayers of Gonzales County. His project cost totaled $5,485.48 and between the planning, fundraising and volunteer workers the total project hours were 281 hours.



CONTRIBUTED

David Floyd pictured with his recently completed Eagle Scout project at the Gonzales County Sheriff's Office.

David would like to thank the following donors for their support: Olalde's Concrete Services, C & C Ready Mix, Episcopal Church of the Messiah, McCoy's Building Supply, CJ Sand and Gravel, Protex Equipment, Gonzales Building Center, BYK USA LLC, Hotrod's & Halos, The Olalde Family, Jamie Wenske, Diane Jurek, Lety Medina Swanger, Ranell Payton, Shayla Florie, Gary and Nancy Evans, Terry and Royce Towns, Jr., Thomas Wright, TH Hopper, Steven Jung, GE Riedel, Tina Flores and Domino's. Thank you also to all those who volunteered their time to help with this project. Thank you to my fellow scouts and leaders of Troop 262 who helped and supported me. None of this would have been possible without your generosity and selflessness.

David is currently a senior at Gonzales High School. He has been involved in scouting since he was in the 2nd grade. He has been involved in Gonzales Pack 261, Troop 262, Venture Crew 263, and is a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow, the honor society of scouting. He attended NYLT (National Youth Leadership Training) has held seven leadership positions and earned 55 merit badges. Other awards received include Den Chief Service Award, Messengers of Peace, National Outdoor Achievement Award for Camping, Kayaking Award, and World Conservation Award.

Greatfulness!

CONTRIBUTED

Evangelist Lois Wilson and Oliver Wilson present the 2nd Annual Citywide "Tent" Revival at 1725 Weimar Street, Gonzales, Texas, 78629 on Saturday, November 7, 2026 from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Everyone is invited to come and enjoy a time of praise, worship, fellowship and hear God's word. Free parking, free food, free drink. For more information contact Evangelist Lois Wilson at (830) 857-3697 or Oliver Wilson at (210) 288-3441.

Gaslight Dinner Theatre fall production dates set

CONTRIBUTED

The Shiner Gaslight Dinner Theatre fall production, "The Play That Goes Wrong", is a hilarious comedy where things quickly go from bad to utterly disastrous! With an unconscious leading lady, a corpse that can't play dead, and actors who trip over everything (including their lines), its "an explosion of comedy!"

Dates are Friday, Saturday, and Sunday on November 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, and 22. A Wednesday performance is on Nov. 11.

Reserve your voucher/ticket at shinergaslight.org or call 361 594-2079 beginning on Monday, October 19. No children under four please.

Free Bible study classses every Wednesday

CONTRIBUTED

If you're looking to learn more about the Bible here it is. Anointed Bible study classes at 7:00 p.m. every Wednesday at the LaQuinta Inn Suite Wyndham, Gonzales, TX, 1631 Water St., Hwy 183. One-hour classes from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Classes led by Apostle Sandra Gates, the word It's life changing. Jesus is Lord Ministries. Free classes, no charge. For information call 361-407-5060.

Have church news? Let us help you share it

If it matters to your church family, there is a good chance it matters to someone else in our community, too. Send the basics — Who? What? When? Where? Why? — to publisher@gonzalesinquirer.com.

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Efeso Iglesia Bautista
Highway 87, Smiley

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4337 FM 1115
Waelder, TX, 78959

First Baptist Church
422 St. Paul, Gonzales

First Baptist Church
403 N. Texas, Nixon

First Baptist Church
Highway 108 N., Smiley

First Baptist Church
406 N. Avenue E, Waelder

Greater Palestine
Baptist Church
S. of 90A (sign on Hwy 80)

Harwood Baptist Church
North of Post Office,
Harwood

Iglesia Bautista Macedonia
201 S. Congress, Nixon

Iglesia Bautista Memorial
Highway 97, Waelder

Leesville Baptist Church
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on CR 121

Memorial Heights
Baptist Church
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Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church
100 Capes, Gonzales

Oak Valley Baptist Church
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2287 FM 1680, Moulton

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Baptist Church
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SE 2nd Street, Waelder

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1805 Weimar, Gonzales

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16214 US 90 W, Harwood

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207 Steele St., Smiley

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Pinnacle Bancorp acquires SouthStar Bank

BY DAVID R. KAPAVIK
SouthStar Bank CEO & President

I am pleased to share the news about our bank's future. The Dinsdale family, owners of Pinnacle Bancorp, Inc., have signed an agreement to acquire SouthStar Bank. We will join an established family of community banks. The transaction will occur early next year, but we will continue operating under the SouthStar Bank name through 2027.

I will continue to serve as President and CEO, and our management team and staff will remain the same. I understand you may have concerns or skepticism about the change in ownership. But you have my commitment to continue taking care of you, as we have for the past 31 years I have served as President. I can say this confidently because the family buying the bank already operates their other banks with the same values as SouthStar.

On behalf of Executive Vice President of Pinnacle Bancorp, Inc., Matt Dinsdale, I want to share the following message: "Under Pinnacle Bancorp, Inc., SouthStar Bank will continue to operate with local management, local decision-making, local teams, and local control, reflecting both organizations' shared commitment to community banking. Our heritage and values will continue to build on SouthStar Bank's strong established foundation for its employees, customers, and communities."

SouthStar Bank will remain the same great bank, with the same 5-star customer service tradition that you know and love that sets us apart from other financial institutions. Our team and I are genuinely excited about this opportunity and confident in the future it creates for our customers and the communities we have proudly served since 1920.

The branches and employees, who know you by name, will continue serving our customers. For daily questions or concerns, please continue to contact and visit your local branch or reach out to any of our loan officers who regularly help you.

As a personal guarantee, I am also listing the Moulton branch phone number so you can call me if we are not living up to my commitment to serving you as we always have. I welcome your call at 361-596-4611.

Thank you for your continued business and support!

WAELDER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

regional berth, finishing third as a team. Sophomore Griselda Ramos Montero placed eighth. MileSplit lists her season best in the 5,000 meters as 25:58.80, set at the NEISD XC Meet No. 2.

The junior high teams added to Waelder's district showing. The boys finished third, while the girls placed fourth.

Waelder and Gonzales are scheduled to race on the same day at the 2026 UIL Region IV Cross Country Championships at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, scheduled for Oct. 26-27. The top four teams at regionals advance to state, along with the top 10 individual runners whose teams do not qualify.





CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

NIGHT OUT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

booths.

National Night Out promotes stronger relationships between residents and law enforcement, encouraging people to get to know one another and take an active interest in their neighborhoods. The annual campaign combines community gatherings with a focus on public safety and crime prevention, giving residents and first responders opportunities to meet in a relaxed setting.

Sponsors, participating businesses, organizations and volunteers supported the Gonzales event. Booth participants were encouraged to bring information, promotional items and giveaways, with no on-site sales allowed.

The turnout and enjoyment reflected in photos from the evening showed residents embracing the invitation to get out and spend time together, the simple idea behind a night dedicated to getting to know the neighbors.

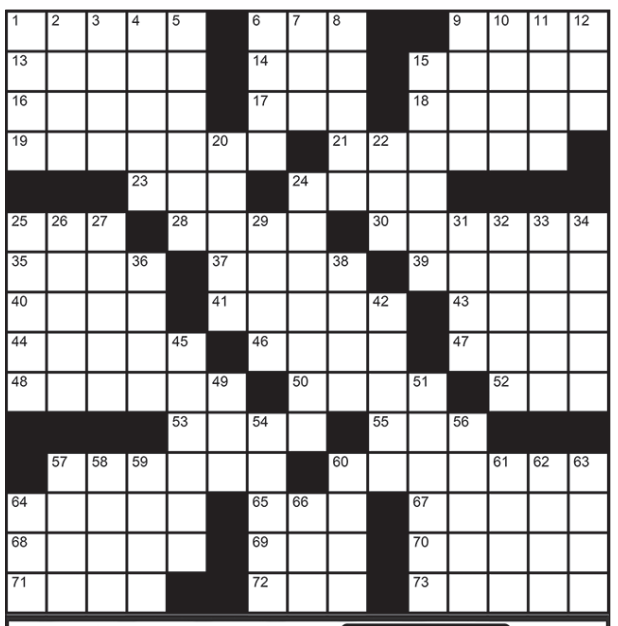
National Night Out celebrations will continue across Gonzales County next week, with Waelder hosting its event Tuesday, Oct. 27. Smiley and Nixon will follow with celebrations in November.



THEME: BASEBALL

CLUES ACROSS
1. Diver's acronym
6. *Bat wood
9. 1970s "pet"
13. *High-flying fly ball
14. *Tampa Bay player
15. Round loaf, in Paris
16. Oak fruit
17. Golf peg
18. Investigative report
19. *Winningest World Series team
21. *How many feet between bases?
23. Help
24. Queen of Hearts' pastry
25. *80-game restriction, e.g.
28. Cecum, pl.
30. Mr. Miyagi's forte
35. Some soaps have none
37. Mobile phone in Britain, slangily
39. Heat-conducting solid
40. Australian palm
41. Borders on
43. Large African antelope
44. Campus VIPs
46. *Umpires: Men in ____
47. Wednesday Addams' roommate
48. *Babe Ruth, a.k.a. the ____ of Swat
50. Campaign worker
52. Before, old-fashioned
53. Buck or doe
55. GDP predecessor
57. *Grand slam:home run with bases ____
60. *____-inning stretch
64. Courteous and respectful
65. Large coffee pot
67. Habituate
68. Administer ceremonial oil
69. Bird word
70. Come in
71. Magnifying glass
72. Flow's partner
73. Classroom furniture pieces

CLUES DOWN
1. Fix a cat
2. Kind of cola
3. "Once ____ a time..."
4. Muslim woman's cover
5. Relating to apnea
6. Crafts' partner
7. Ed.'s request
8. Laughing predator
9. *Record holder for most career hits
10. Give a boot
11. Modeling material
12. Piano's E or G, e.g.
15. Small chicken variety
20. Organ swelling
22. Rub the wrong way
24. Arranged in rows and columns
25. *Record holder for most career home runs
26. Farewell, in France
27. Edible cactus
29. *One of five first Hall of Fame inductees
31. Blood vessel network
32. Repent
33. Short-trunked ungulate
34. Exclude or omit
36. Rave's partner
38. Purse on red carpet
42. Swamp plant
45. Equestrian's seat
49. Born, in bio
51. Begrudged
54. Derive
56. Tubular pasta
57. *Third base ____
58. Kitchen appliance
59. Pains
60. Nose-in-the-air type
61. Bonkers
62. Hiker's journey
63. Not his
64. *____ Ripken Jr.
66. *Umpire's blown call





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Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

SUDOKU



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

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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.

Lady Apaches celebrate growth, friendships and a special senior class



FLASHES BY LOR

Gonzales Seniors gather together after senior sign out.

BY LORRELL WRIGHT

The Gonzales Lady Apaches experienced a little bit of everything on the volleyball court over the past week, from the excitement of an electric opening set against longtime rival Cuero on Friday to the bittersweet emotions of Senior Night on Tuesday. Although neither match ended in victory, the week reflected a season of growth for a program continuing to find its stride and a senior class preparing to say goodbye to the sport that has brought them together for so many years.

Under second-year head coach Jenna Lamb, the Lady Apaches have reached their highest win total in three years, an encouraging milestone for a program that has continued developing its competitiveness and confidence. That progress was evident Friday night when Gonzales came out firing against Cuero, feeding off the energy on the court and delivering a commanding 25-12 opening-set victory. The excitement carried into a closely contested second set, but Cuero edged out a 25-23 win before taking the final two sets 25-17 and 25-19 to secure the 3-1 victory.

The disappointing finish didn't erase the strength of Gonzales' opening performance, which offered another glimpse of what the Lady Apaches are capable of when their offense and defense come together. Junior Parker Petras led Gonzales with nine kills, 10 assists and 10 digs, while senior Gabriella Torres added seven kills. Senior Jordyn Gonzales contributed five kills and 15 digs, and fellow senior Shykayden Clack recorded 15 assists, 18 digs and five serving aces. Junior Carsyn Carrizales also played an important defensive role with 17 digs and 23 serve receptions.

Four days later, the Lady Apaches returned to their home court for one final time this season, hosting Navarro on Tuesday, Oct. 20, for a matchup that carried a little more

See **VOLLEYBALL,** page 12

Nixon-Smiley falls in five-set heartbreaker to Yoakum, narrowly miss playoffs

BY VANESSA KIRBY

NIXON — The Nixon-Smiley Lady Mustangs left everything on the court in a hard-fought five-set battle against the Yoakum Lady Bulldogs but ultimately fell short, ending their playoff hopes.

With postseason implications on the line, the Lady Mustangs battled through five competitive sets, refusing to back down against a determined Yoakum squad. The match featured momentum swings, extended rallies, and emotional moments as both teams fought for every point.

Nixon-Smiley demonstrated the grit and determination that have defined its season, responding to adversity and continuing to compete even as pressure mounted. The Lady Mustangs relied on teamwork, communication, and effort to stay in the contest, pushing Yoakum to a fifth set.

Despite the heartbreaking outcome, the Lady Mustangs showed tremendous resilience throughout the evening. Players continued to encourage one another, fight for loose balls, and battle through long rallies, demonstrating the growth and chemistry they have built over the season.

The loss was especially difficult for a Nixon-Smiley team that had worked throughout the district schedule to position itself for a postseason opportunity. Although the Lady Mustangs narrowly missed securing a playoff

See **LADY,** page 11

APACHES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

overall, said he felt fast early in the race and found his stride near the finish. The course's hills were tough at first, he said, but became easier as the race went on. He hopes Gonzales can make it to state as a team.

"I would give thanks to God if that would happen, and to my teammates, coaches and everyone who's helped me through the journey," Leon said.

Jordyn Gonzales finished sixth after going into the race focused on staying with the front pack. When she got tired, she said, she reminded herself that she could do hard things. She still believes she can run faster, and a 19th-place finish among 310 girls at the Corpus Islander meet gave her a boost as she aims for state.

Last year, Gonzales said, she went into regionals hoping to reach state but fell short. This time, she said, she feels more confident in what she can do.

Cantu, in her second year on varsity, finished seventh and said she was proud of how the runners pushed one another through the race.

"I'm most proud of the way that we pushed each other to the finish line, and we pushed each other to be district champs," she said.

Gonzales' junior varsity teams and junior high runners also had strong district meets. The JV girls finished second with 37 points, led by Isabella Hathaway in second place. Kimberley Vazquez finished fourth and Viviana Barrientos fifth. The JV boys placed third with 65 points, with Julian Nava leading Gonzales in seventh.

The junior high boys' seventh-grade team won the district title, while the seventh-grade girls finished third. Gonzales' eighth-grade boys placed third, and the eighth-grade girls finished fourth.

Assistant coach Daniel Barrientos said the results reflect the effort of runners across the program, including those whose work may not stand out in the final team standings.

"From the sidelines, you see them running, but you don't always see the mental toughness it takes to keep pushing when they're tired and their bodies want to slow down," Barrientos said. "I saw kids digging deep, encouraging their teammates, and giving everything they had until they crossed that finish line."

Barrientos said the junior high seventh-grade boys' district title was a special moment, and he sees promise in the younger runners as they gain experience and move toward high school.

"I couldn't be more excited about the future of our cross-country program," he said.

For the varsity Apaches, the next challenge is the Region IV championships, scheduled for Oct. 26-27 at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. The top four teams advance to state, along with the top 10 individual runners whose teams do not qualify.

Garza said the team will focus on staying healthy, recovering well and sharpening its race strategy before regionals. The Apaches will have to trust the work that carried them through district and continue racing for one another.

"We've worked hard to get to this point, and now it's about trusting that work and competing for each other," she said.



CONNTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gonzales varsity cross-country runners give coach Garza a celebratory shower following her first district championship.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

GONZALES HIGH SCHOOL

FOOTBALL
FRIDAY, OCT. 23
AT PEARSALL
Pearsall Stadium, 7:30 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL
FRIDAY, OCT. 23
AT FLORESVILLE
Floresville Gym, 5:00 p.m.

NIXON-SMILEY HIGH SCHOOL

VOLLEYBALL
FRIDAY, OCT. 23
AT KARNES CITY
Karnes City Gym, 4:30 p.m.

CROSS COUNTRY
TUESDAY, OCT. 27
REGIONAL MEET
Corpus Christi, Time TBD

WAELDER HIGH SCHOOL

VOLLEYBALL
FRIDAY, OCT. 23
VS. PRAIRIE LEA
Waelder Gym, 5:00 p.m.

Flu season is here! Protect yourself and your loved ones by getting vaccinated, washing your hands frequently, and practicing healthy habits to prevent illness.

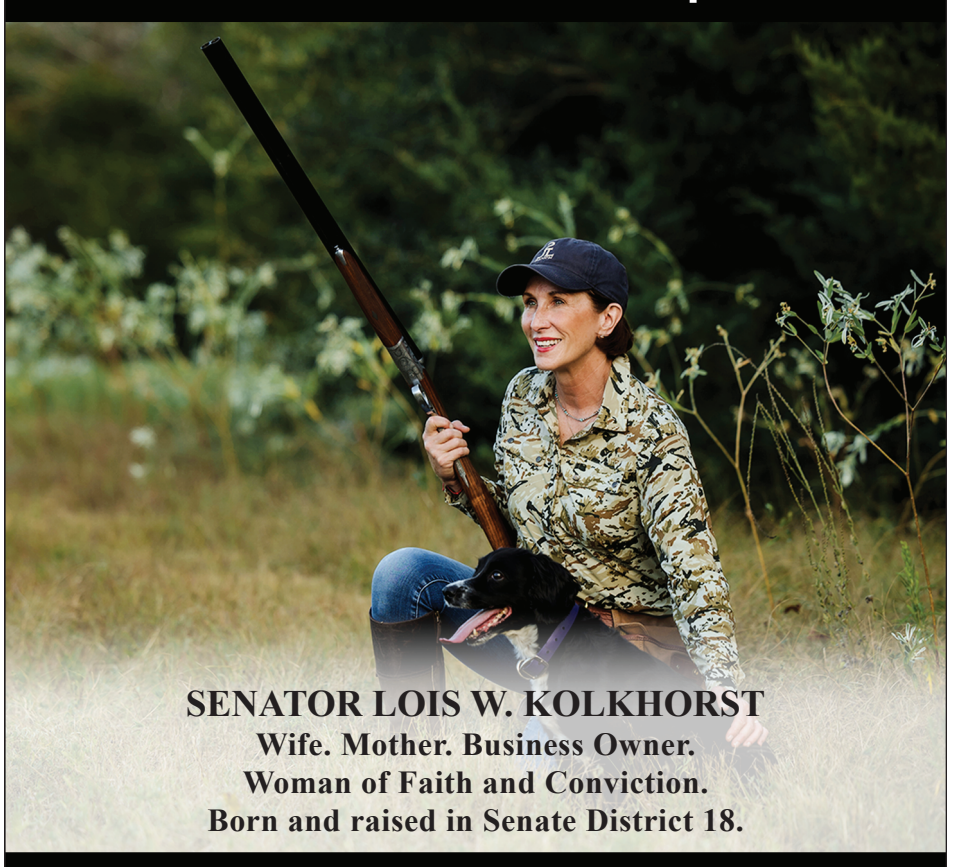
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Apaches show signs of growth despite rivalry loss to Cuero

BY LORRELL WRIGHT

More than a century of football history came with the Gonzales Apaches and Cuero Gobblers onto the field Friday night, and while the latest chapter of the longtime rivalry did not end in Gonzales' favor, the Apaches found some encouraging moments to carry forward as they continue their district season.

Cuero claimed a 48-13 victory, handing Gonzales its first district loss and moving the Apaches to 2-5 overall and 1-1 in district play. The final score reflected a difficult night for Gonzales, but a stronger second half, particularly in the running game, offered another look at the progress the team has made through a challenging season.

Coming off a 20-16 victory over Bandera in their district opener, the Apaches were looking to build on the momentum of their first league win. The lessons learned through a demanding nondistrict schedule have helped prepare Gonzales for the challenges of district competition, and while Friday's matchup presented another obstacle, the offense showed flashes of the potential that began to emerge against Bandera.

The Apaches struggled to find their footing early, trailing 21-0 at halftime despite several opportunities created by the defense. Gonzales recovered a Cuero fumble in the second quarter but was unable to turn the extra possession into points. The offense began finding more success after the break, eventually finishing with 346 total yards, including an impressive 273 yards on the ground.



FLASHES BY LOR

Senior runningback Keath White Jr. gains yards as he works to get deeper into Cuero territory.

Senior Keath White Jr. led the rushing attack with 109 yards on just 10 carries, averaging nearly 11 yards per attempt. His biggest moment came in the fourth quarter when he broke free for a 73-yard touchdown run, giving the Apaches one of their most exciting offensive plays of the night. Senior Braelin "BJ" Jones also had a strong showing, carrying the ball 13 times for 93 yards and scoring Gonzales' first touchdown on a 2-yard run in the third quarter.

The two seniors combined for 202 rushing yards, providing much of the spark that helped Gonzales move the football in the second half. Senior Luis Zuniga Jr. added 55 yards on 15 carries, while freshman Haura Williamson contributed another 14 yards on four attempts. Together, the rushing attack averaged 6.2 yards per carry, showing the Apaches' ability to break through and pick up significant yardage.

Gonzales also found success through the air, particularly late in the game. Zuniga completed five of 10 passes for 73 yards, connecting with senior Damian Hunt four times for 63 yards. Their longest completion went for 50 yards in the fourth quarter, moving Gonzales deep into Cuero territory. Jones added a 10-yard reception, bringing his combined rushing and receiving total to 103 yards.

While those offensive highlights came too late to overcome the early deficit, they offered a glimpse of what Gonzales is capable of when things begin to click. The stronger second-half performance, paired with the previous week's win over Bandera, also reflects the experience the Apaches have gained from a difficult early schedule. The challenge now is turning those individual moments of success into the consistency needed to compete for four full quarters.

The Gonzales defense also had its share of contributions, creating additional possessions through multiple fumble recoveries and continuing to make plays throughout the contest. Senior James Sanchez recovered a fumble in the second quarter and contributed on special teams with four kickoff returns totaling 56 yards.

Freshman Jackson Hill led the defensive effort with 12 total tackles, including three solo stops and nine assists. Bryce Eleby finished with five tackles, while Delton Pape, Brody Cardoza, Julius Soto and Brayden Sanchez each recorded four. Cardoza also added a tackle for loss.

Although the outcome was not what Gonzales had hoped for in a rivalry that has connected generations of Apache and Gobbler players, there is still plenty of football left to play. The demanding early-season schedule has given the Apaches opportunities to learn and grow, and the past two weeks have provided examples of how that experience can begin to pay off.

With the district race still taking shape, Gonzales will have an opportunity to build on those improvements when the Apaches travel to Pearsall this Friday. The team will then return home the following week to host San Antonio Memorial for senior night.

At 1-1 in district play, the Apaches remain in the postseason conversation, with their next two matchups offering important opportunities to strengthen their position. After seeing what their offense can produce against Cuero, the focus shifts to putting those pieces together from the opening kickoff and carrying that momentum through the rest of the district schedule.



FLICKS BY NAT

Nixon-Smiley varsity volleyball seniors are honored for their contributions to the Lady Mustangs program during Senior Night.

LADY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

berth, their effort against Yoakum reflected a program that continues to compete and improve.

For the Lady Mustangs, the disappointment of falling just short does not erase the progress made throughout the year. From key district victories to the challenges along the way, Nixon-Smiley continued to demonstrate determination and pride in representing its school and community.

Although the season did not end with the postseason appearance they had hoped for, the Lady Mustangs can take pride in the fight they showed and the foundation they have laid for the future.

The Nixon-Smiley volleyball program will aim to build on this season's experiences, carrying forward the lessons in perseverance, teamwork, and commitment evident throughout the year.

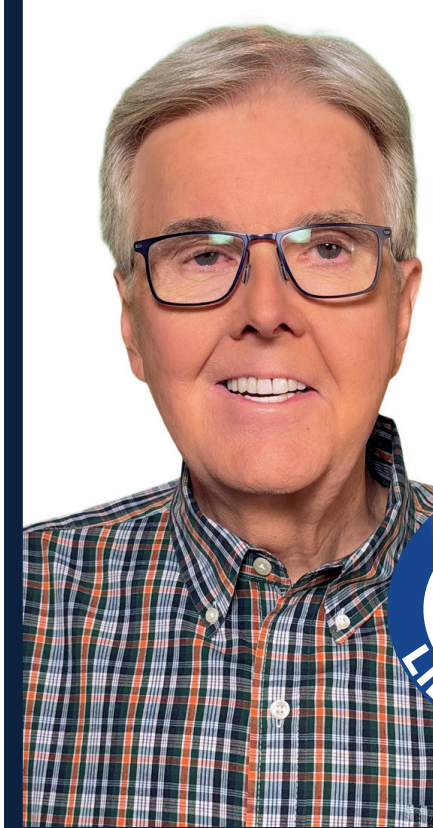
For the Lady Mustangs, the result may not have been what they wanted, but their willingness to battle until the final point demonstrated what it means to Ride for the Brand.

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Mustangs fall to Poth Pirates 42-7 in district matchup

BY VANESSA KIRBY

POTH, Texas — The Nixon-Smiley Mustangs faced a tough district challenge Friday night, October 16, and fell to the Poth Pirates, 42-7. Despite a determined defensive effort and several strong individual performances, the Mustangs struggled to find offensive consistency against a physical Poth team.

Coming off an impressive 58-36 district win over the Comfort Bobcats, Nixon-Smiley entered Friday's matchup looking to build on that momentum. However, the Pirates made it difficult for the Mustang offense, holding Nixon-Smiley to 139 total yards.

Sophomore quarterback Dallas Rhodes completed 5 of 11 passes for 77 yards and a touchdown. Rhodes connected with Joe White Jr. for the Mustangs' only touchdown of the evening. White led the receiving corps with three receptions for 55 yards, including a 38-yard gain, while senior Garet Gonzales added two receptions for 22 yards.

On the ground, Nixon-Smiley finished with 62 rushing yards on 27 carries. Gonzales and Khali Jantes each rushed for 22 yards, while Rhodes and White added nine yards apiece. Turnovers proved costly for the Mustangs, as three interceptions and a lost opportunity to maintain possession made it difficult to sustain offensive drives.

Defensively, Nixon-Smiley continued to battle a talented Pirate offense. Senior linebacker Khali Jantes led the Mustangs with 16 tackles, including one tackle for loss. Gonzales added seven tackles and 1.5 tackles for loss, while Karson Rhodes added seven tackles.

Senior defensive lineman Jaylun Rodriguez recorded 6 tackles, one tackle for loss, and a forced fumble. Kahlijah Jantes added 5 tackles, while Jeremiah Morrison contributed four.



FLICKS BY NAT

Senior Garret Gonzales rushes the ball downfield in an effort to score.

As a unit, the Mustang defense recorded four tackles for loss, forced two fumbles, and blocked a kick.

Although the scoreboard favored Poth, the Mustangs kept competing throughout the contest. The loss highlighted areas where Nixon-Smiley must improve, particularly in offensive execution, ball security, and the ability to sustain drives against strong district opponents.

The Mustangs have experienced both highs and lows throughout the 2026 season, including a school-record 83-point performance against San Antonio YMLA and an exciting district victory over Comfort. Those performances have demonstrated the team's potential when playing with confidence, discipline, and physicality.

As the district schedule continues, Nixon-Smiley will look to put Friday's setback behind them and return to the practice field, focused on improvement. The Mustangs know that every opportunity moving forward will require preparation, accountability, and a commitment to playing together. The Mustangs are on their bye week and will host the Stockdale Brahmas on Oct. 30 for senior night.

VOLLEYBALL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

meaning than an ordinary district contest. Navarro swept the match 25-14, 25-13 and 25-17, but the evening also provided an opportunity to recognize five seniors who have spent years representing Gonzales volleyball. During the Senior Night ceremony, the coaching staff shared how proud they were of the girls, recognizing their dedication and the contributions each has made to the team throughout the years.

For Alaina Valle, Shykayden Clack, Blakely Mercer, Jordyn Gonzales and Gabriella Torres, Senior Night was about much more than the outcome of their final home match. Many of the girls have played together since they were young, sharing years of practices, games, long days and experiences that have brought them closer both on and off the court. As their high school careers draw to a close, those relationships have become one of the things they appreciate most about their time wearing an Apache jersey.

"I think it's just like one of the best things to be able to be with my seniors that I've been playing volleyball with since such a young age," Valle said, reflecting on the opportunity to spend her final games alongside teammates who have been part of her life for years.

That appreciation for their time together was shared by Clack, who said her senior season has been filled with hard work, long hours and dedication, but also a greater understanding of just how quickly their time as teammates was coming to an end.

"We all went into the season knowing that, you know, half of our team is about to graduate," Clack said, explaining that getting to spend that time together has been one of the most meaningful parts of the year.

For Torres, those years together have created relationships that extend well beyond volleyball. After playing alongside many of her teammates for roughly seven years, she reflected on the countless hours they've spent together, particularly through the demanding weeks of preseason preparation when practices and team activities consumed much of their days.

"They're like family to me," Torres said, describing her fellow seniors as sisters.

That closeness made Tuesday night particularly emotional for Mercer, who admitted the reality of Senior Night didn't fully sink in until the moment arrived.

"You never think about it being your final night until it hits you," Mercer said.

Looking back on her high school volleyball experience, Mercer said some of her most meaningful memories came from overcoming adversity and learning to push through difficult moments alongside teammates who have become like sisters. Those experiences have given her more than memories from the court, teaching lessons she believes will remain valuable long after graduation.

"Some of these girls on the court are your sisters for six years, and just this senior group is so special to me," Mercer said. "It's just given me so many life skills to take on past high school, and it's just really hard. I'm gonna miss it."

Jordyn shared that same appreciation for the friendships and experiences volleyball has given her, reflecting on a season filled with growth, emotions and the realization that each match brings her closer to the end of her high school career.

"As a senior, this volleyball season has meant more to me than I could ever put into words," Jordyn said. "It's been a season full of memories, lessons, growth, and emotions knowing that every game brings me one step closer to the end of my high school career."

For Jordyn, wearing the Apache jersey has represented more than simply competing on the court. It has meant representing her school, teammates, coaches and everyone who has supported her along the way. She said volleyball has taught her to push through adversity, while the pride of being an Apache is something she will carry with her long after her playing days are over.

"It's more than just a jersey; it represents the hard work, pride, and dedication that got me here," Jordyn said. "Being an Apache is something I will always be proud of, the memories and lessons will stay with me forever."

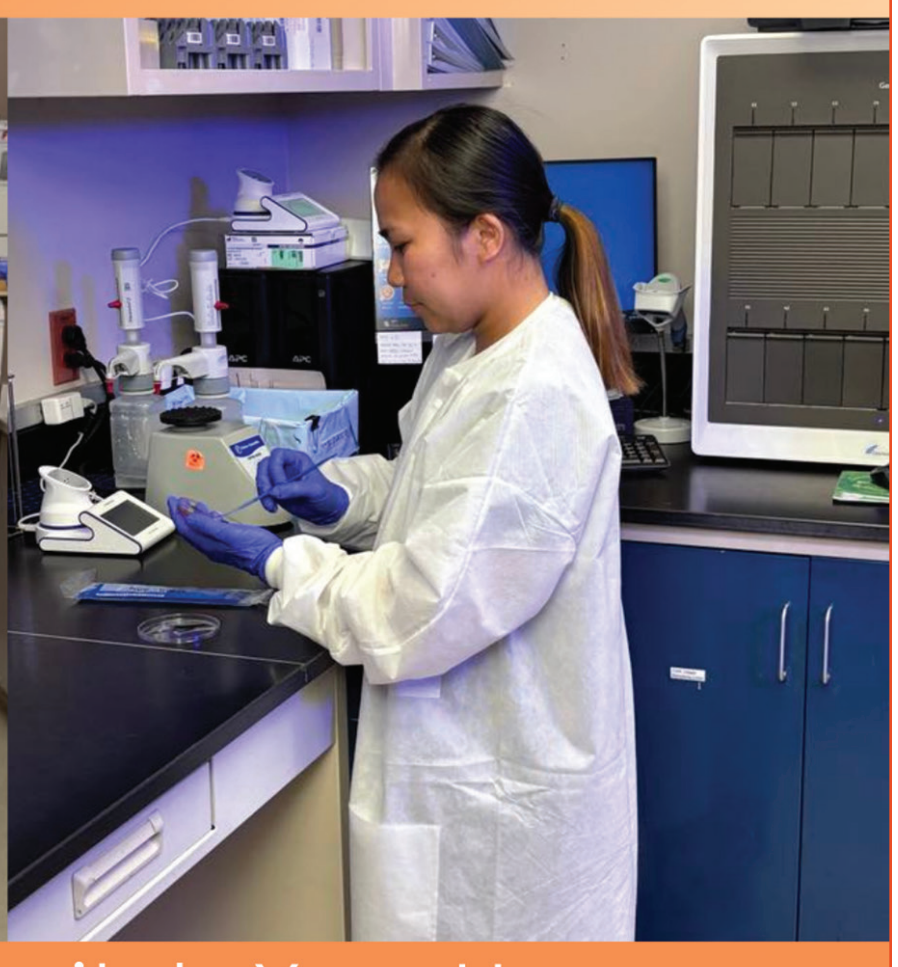
As the seniors prepare to close this chapter, they also leave behind a program that has taken meaningful steps forward during their final season. Under Lamb's leadership, the improved record reflects the work being put into building a stronger Gonzales volleyball program. While there have been difficult losses and moments when the team has struggled to maintain its momentum, the Lady Apaches have continued showing the determination to compete and improve, giving the younger players valuable experience to carry into next season.

For this senior class, being part of that growth adds another layer to a volleyball journey that has already meant so much. The victories, challenges and long hours of preparation have helped shape their high school experience, but it is clear from their reflections that the friendships and lessons learned along the way will be what they remember most.

Gonzales will travel to Floresville on Friday, Oct. 23, for its final match of the season after being eliminated from playoff contention. Although Tuesday marked the seniors' final home appearance, Friday will give Valle, Clack, Mercer, Jordyn and Torres one more opportunity to share the court wearing their Apache jerseys.

There may not be a playoff run waiting at the end of the season, but the Lady Apaches have plenty to carry forward. For Lamb and the returning players, the progress made this year provides a foundation to continue building upon. For the five seniors, Friday will close a chapter that began long before high school, leaving them with years of memories, lessons learned through both victories and adversity, and friendships that will last long after the final point is played.

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