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Vol. 174, No. 23

Thursday, October 29, 2026

The Gonzales Inquirer

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Burn ban remains as Gonzales County addresses funding for transportation

STAFF REPORTS

Dry conditions kept Gonzales County's burn ban in place Monday, Oct. 26, while an overlooked budget expense prompted commissioners to secure nearly $40,000 for public transportation services used by local senior citizens.

The county's Keetch-Byram Drought Index stood at 558, according to an update from Emergency Management Coordinator Jimmy Harless, who was attending a conference. Harless recommended maintaining the burn ban, and commissioners agreed that despite varying conditions across the county, some areas remain too dry to safely lift the restriction.

Rainfall is expected in the coming days, however, and County Judge Patrick C. Davis said commissioners could revisit the ban if conditions improve.

Another concern involved the county's $39,830 contribution to the Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission, which now provides transportation services previously handled through a local arrangement.

Davis explained that the expense had been

See **COUNTY,** page 11



FLASHES BY LOR

Medals, smiles and Apache pride were on full display as the Gonzales boys and girls cross-country teams celebrated with their coaches following Monday's regional championships.

33 years later, Gonzales cross country makes history

BY LORRELL WRIGHT

Runners and families were screaming, crying and searching the crowd for one another Monday at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. Hugs and celebrations followed as the Gonzales boys and girls cross-country teams realized they had accomplished something the program had not done in 33 years: both were headed to state.

For the first time since 1993, Gonzales will send both teams to the UIL State Cross-Country Championships after the girls finished second and the boys claimed the fourth and final qualifying spot at the Region IV Class 4A Champi-

See **GONZALES,** page 11



FLASHES BY LOR



FLASHES BY LOR

'My health matters': Pink Out luncheon delivers powerful reminder

BY LORRELL WRIGHT

With one hand over their hearts, guests at the Gonzales Healthcare Systems Foundation's Pink Out Luncheon were asked to point toward someone else in the room. Then, at Diana Picha's direction, they turned that gesture toward themselves.

"My health matters," the crowd repeated.

It was a simple exercise with a powerful message, one that carried through an afternoon of fellowship, laughter and community support Thursday, Oct. 22, at Thrive Healthplex's Ascend.

With sold-out tables and a packed room, community members gathered for the annual luncheon benefiting the foundation's unfunded and underfunded mammography program, which helps uninsured and underinsured men and women access breast cancer screenings.

Picha, a family nurse practitioner at Sievers Medical Clinic, delivered the afternoon's message on women's health, blending humor with a reminder that women often spend so much

See **PINK,** page 10



FLASHES BY LOR

Waelder freshman Jose Torres pushes through steady rain during the UIL Region IV Class 1A Cross-Country Championships on Tuesday, Oct. 27, in Corpus Christi. Torres finished 37th overall in 2202.11.



FLASHES BY LOR

Waelder sophomore Elizabeth Carrillo pushes through the rain and mud during Tuesday's regional cross-country meet in Corpus Christi. She finished 137th in 21-14.93.

Waelder's grit carries two Wildcats back to state

BY LORRELL WRIGHT

Jesus Oliva wanted more than another trip to state. He wanted his entire Waelder cross-country team to make it back together. After battling through pouring rain and mud at the UIL Region IV Class 1A Championships on Tuesday, Oct. 27, the sophomore wasn't even sure whether he had qualified individually. The Wildcats had fallen just short as a team, but Oliva and junior Luis Medina had earned another opportunity to represent their small community among the state's best. "I wasn't sure if I qualified at first," Oliva said. "But then they told me, and I was really happy about it."

A year after helping Waelder send its entire boys team to state, the two will return as individual competitors. Oliva finished ninth in the 5-kilometer race at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi in 20:06.54, while Medina placed 21st in 21:00.80. The muddy, slippery course tested the runners' determination, particularly Medina, who worried about losing his qualifying position as competitors passed him. "Just seeing people pass me made me push myself even more," he said.

That determination was built through months of training, including 6 a.m. summer practices that required commitment from the athletes and their families. "It's incredibly exciting," head coach Alex Metcalf said. "The whole team qualified last year, so the fact that we're able to go back again, there's a lot of community pride."

Waelder finished fifth among 21 boys teams with 192 points, just 24 points shy of the final team berth. The Wildcats were among the youngest teams competing, with no seniors and three freshmen among their five scoring runners. Jose Torres finished 37th in 22:02.11, Christopher Ramirez placed 69th in 23:42.12 and Denerith Vicente Franco took 74th in 24:01.53. Jay Yanes rounded out the lineup in 121st at 27:30.20.

Metcalf credited the leadership of Oliva, Medina and junior alternate John Alex with helping the young team develop. The two state qualifiers also push one another through friendly competition at practice, something Medina said has helped him improve throughout the season.

The Lady Wildcats faced the same rain-soaked conditions, finishing 17th among 19 teams with 449 points. Sophomore Griselda Ramos Montero led Waelder in 51st at 16:02.95, followed by freshman Brooklyn Carter in 126th at 19:47.58 and senior Areli Nino in 131st at 21:01.58. Sophomore Elizabeth Carrillo placed 137th in 21:14.93, senior Gisselle Ontiveros

See **WAELDER,** page 10

1 SECTION
14 PAGES

Your Subscription Helps Keep Local News Thriving

Apache Band cleared for takeoff to UIL Area

BY LORRELL WRIGHT

Friday night lights may put the spotlight on the Gonzales Apaches football team, but for the Mighty Apache Band, every game is another opportunity to sharpen a performance built for competition.

Just a week before UIL, senior color guard captain Kea'anna White and her teammates spent nearly three hours practicing before a football game. With months of preparation behind them, White knew exactly how she would react if the band advanced.

"I'm going to cry," she said. "We want it bad."

On Oct. 17, that determination paid off when the Apache Band earned unanimous ratings of 1-1-1 from judges at the UIL Regions 18/26 marching contest in Giddings, securing a Division I rating and advancing to the Class 4A Area D competition.

Under the direction of head band director Richard Varela, Gonzales will perform its aviation-themed show, "Clear for Take Off," at 6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 31, at The P'field in Pflugerville, competing for an opportunity to qualify for the UIL State Marching Contest.

For drum major Homero Ruiz, the results reflected the commitment students have made since summer band camp.

"I think we put a lot of work and dedication this year, especially during the summer," Ruiz said. "I think we earned it."

Their preparation was already producing results before UIL. At an earlier competition in Giddings, the band finished second overall and earned Best Drumline and Best Color Guard honors, providing an encouraging boost heading into the regional contest.

White was especially proud of the growth within her color guard, where newcomers have pushed themselves to reach the level of their more experienced teammates, while veterans have helped guide them along the way.







FLASHES BY LOR PHOTOS

"I'm just proud of my whole team for buying in," she said.

That same sense of responsibility has helped strengthen the band as a whole, according to senior drum major Andres Vasquez, who has watched members become more disciplined without losing the camaraderie that makes the experience enjoyable.

He said the band understands when it is time to focus, whether that means responding immediately when called to attention or taking rehearsals seriously. But the relationships students have built matter just as much.

"The point of the band family is to have fun," Vasquez said, explaining that members also make an effort to encourage one another when someone is having a difficult day.

Senior Alex Martinez has noticed that stronger communication and closer relationships have made it easier for members to work together as their show has developed throughout the season.

"We put a lot of work into it," Martinez said. "It's great that we're all coming together now."

Those changes have translated into stronger performances and growing recognition from the community, something Ruiz said means a great deal to the students who have worked to show what the program is capable of accomplishing.

Now, the band's attention turns to the possibility of taking another step toward State.

For seniors like Vasquez, the opportunity carries special significance as they approach their final marching season competitions. He described advancing to Area as a huge step, but the ultimate goal remains ahead.

Senior Isaac Leon shares that optimism, although he recognizes that reaching State will require every member to continue giving their best effort.

"Honestly, I think we have a pretty good chance," Leon said, emphasizing the importance of everyone committing to the same goal.

Leon also believes this year's show offers something special for audiences. Its airplane theme provides a familiar concept spectators can follow, bringing the music and movement together in a performance that tells a story on the field.

And the Apache Band's opportunities extend beyond UIL.

On Tuesday, Nov. 10, Gonzales will perform at 5:15 p.m. during the USBands Southwestern Championships at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, home of the Dallas Cowboys. The appearance follows the band's participation in a Bands of America competition last year, continuing its involvement in major marching events beyond the traditional UIL circuit.

But first comes Pflugerville, where the band will have another chance to turn its preparation into a performance worthy of advancing.

Ruiz described the approach as "baby stepping," recognizing each accomplishment while keeping the larger goal in sight.

For a group that has spent its summer, afternoons and Friday nights working toward this opportunity, the next performance represents another chance to see just how far they can go.

And with a show called "Clear for Take Off," the Mighty Apache Band hopes its next destination is State.



VANESSA KIRBY

Piper Keen with her buckle.

Piper Keen claims first place at Come and Break It Competition

Nixon-Smiley's Piper Keen earned first place on October 8 at the Come and Break It shooting competition.

Keen delivered an outstanding performance, showcasing her skill, focus, and dedication. Her hard work and commitment to improving continue to pay off as she represents the Nixon-Smiley community with pride.

Congratulations to Piper on this impressive accomplishment! Her success reflects the countless hours of practice and determination it takes to compete at a high level.



VANESSA KIRBY

Pilot Club calls on Gonzales community to support annual Wreaths Across America

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Pilot Club of Gonzales and Gonzales VFW Post 4817 are calling on the community to help honor local veterans this December, with a goal of placing remembrance wreaths on 372 veterans' graves as part of the nationwide Wreaths Across America initiative.

For just $17, individuals, families, businesses and organizations can sponsor a wreath to honor a veteran's service and sacrifice. With the sponsorship deadline approaching, organizers are encouraging residents to contribute and help ensure every identified veteran receives a wreath.

Payments made directly through the Pilot Club are requested by Nov. 1, while online sponsorships remain available through Dec. 1. Those wishing to sponsor a wreath, make a donation or volunteer can visit https://linktr.ee/gonzalespilotclub.

The local Wreaths Across America ceremony will take place Saturday, Dec. 19, at 10 a.m. at the Gonzales Veterans Memorial, 430 Moore St. Following the ceremony, volunteers will place wreaths at veterans' graves in Masonic and Memorial Park cemeteries, with plans to include additional cemeteries in the future.

Each wreath represents more than a holiday decoration. It is a tribute to a life of service and an opportunity to ensure that veteran's legacy is remembered. As wreaths are placed, volunteers are encouraged to speak each veteran's name aloud in recognition of their sacrifice.

The effort reflects the Wreaths Across America mission to "Remember the fallen, Honor those who serve and Teach the next generation the value of freedom."

Community participation is essential to reaching the local sponsorship goal. Whether sponsoring one wreath, contributing toward several or volunteering to help place them, every contribution brings organizers closer to honoring all 372 identified veterans.

Families, churches, civic organizations, youth groups and businesses are especially encouraged to participate. The ceremony also offers an opportunity for younger generations to learn about the men and women from their own community who served their country.

The Pilot Club and VFW invite the community to help make sure no veteran is forgotten this holiday season. Every wreath sponsored is one more veteran remembered, and every volunteer helps carry that remembrance forward.

To sponsor wreaths or sign up to volunteer, visit https://linktr.ee/gonzalespilotclub. For additional information, contact the Pilot Club of Gonzales at gonzalespilot@gmail.com.

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Gonzales Weather

SHOWERS	October 29 83°/62°	Variable clouds with showers, mainly early in the day 74% chance of rain • RealFeel 89
PARTLY SUNNY	October 30 79°/65°	Less humid with a sun-and-cloud mix 16% chance of rain • RealFeel 79
THUNDERSTORM	October 31 78°/49°	Periods of rain and a thunderstorm 75% chance of rain • RealFeel 79
CLOUDY	November 1 86°/68°	Rather cloudy and warmer; a passing morning shower followed by a little rain in the afternoon 56% chance of rain • RealFeel 90
PARTLY SUNNY	November 2 85°/63°	A shower in spots in the morning; otherwise, sunny to partly cloudy 49% chance of rain • RealFeel 90
PARTLY SUNNY	November 3 86°/64°	Some sunshine giving way to clouds and very warm; a shower in spots in the morning followed by a little rain in the afternoon 59% chance of rain • RealFeel 89
MOSTLY CLOUDY	November 4 76°/53°	Mostly cloudy and not as warm 25% chance of rain • RealFeel 77

Shiner Heritage Quilters to meet Nov. 3

The Shiner Heritage Quilters will hold their monthly meeting Tuesday, Nov. 3, at the Methodist Church Activity Center (gym), located directly behind the church.

Members and guests are welcome to gather beginning at 5:30 p.m. for refreshments and fellowship before the meeting begins at 6 p.m.

This month's gathering will feature a hands-on Christmas ornament project as members prepare for the upcoming holiday season. Participants are asked to bring scissors, two 8-inch squares of fabric, a needle, thread and buttons to create their ornaments.

The group will also discuss plans for its December Christmas party.

The Shiner Heritage Quilters welcome visitors and new members of all experience levels to join in the fellowship, creativity and shared appreciation of quilting and handmade crafts.

For more information about the organization and its activities, visit www.shinerheritagequilters.org or find Shiner Heritage Quilters on Facebook.

Celebrations

Birthdays

October 29th
Lisa Diane Brown
Jeff Daniel
Erin DeCola
Katie Hunt
Bill Quinney
Clint Shofner
Ben Sutton

October 30th
Kevin DeBerry
Elgin Heinemeyer
Landis Kern
Shelly Stamport
P.J. Wegener

October 31st
James Alford

Michael English
Elaine Nelson
Paul Neuse
Rhonda Robinson
Nina Valenta

November 1st
Heather Boscamp
Mary Baker Heller
Walter Hood
Kimberly Irle
Chris Irving
Mildred Stapp
Linda Woodard

November 2nd
Kim Davis
Cierra Nash
Ashlynn Tatsch
Stanley Tieken

November 3rd
Elizabeth Brelsford-Bennett
Karyli De La Garza
Hope Mills
Heather Shelton
Charlee Zella

November 4th
Jacob Bakken
Debbie Malatek
Jennifer Riker
Alex Trevors

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October 30th-31st
Cutting Horse event

November 4th
AJL Productions Team Roping

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Garden Q&A with CALVIN FINCH



Q. What is the best way to protect lemons and limes from the cold weather? I have tried for several years but have not been successful.

A. There are several alternatives. One is to plant your Mexican lime or Meyer lemon in a half whiskey barrel size container that is mounted on wheels. It can then be wheeled into the greenhouse whenever the temperature is predicted to be 30 degrees or less. A second option is to prepare a tent-like frame that you cover with cloth such as Insulate when the temperature is forecast to be under 30 degrees. If the temperature is expected to be under 28 degrees provide heat in the tent with a mechanic's light hung inside the tent frame. Make sure the light bulb expected to provide the heat is not an LED. If you use the tent frame consider a double layer of cloth and make sure there is enough overlap to anchor the cloth and keep the wind from penetrating. Good Luck!

Q. Remind me how to enrich my compost ingredients to have the pile produce the finished compost in a reasonable time. I think having access to finished compost in the garden is an essential part of gardening success.

A. I agree with you! The ingredients decompose fastest if they are 60% green material and 40% brown material. It helps the process if moisture is added to the pile and air is mixed in every two weeks. A special enhancement is achieved if you incorporate a dose of high nitrogen fertilizer once per month.

Q. We love spinach but never seem to have enough plants to meet our family's. What is your recommendation for the number of spinach plants needed to meet the needs of a family of 5?

A. Plant spinach now or as soon as they are available at your favorite nursery. I recommend 3 plants for every family member with an effort to harvest a third of the foliage of each of the plants each 3 weeks. I like to plant them 18 inches apart in the row.

Q. Which milkweed is the easiest to grow in our area? Do you recommend we plant by seed or from transplants?

A. Tropical milkweed is the easiest to grow by transplants and in my experience it is the species most likely to survive the winter. Tropical milkweed, however, keeps its foliage later in the fall than the native milkweeds and may encourage late unsuccessful migrations by Monarchs. Showy, Butterfly Weed, Zizotes, and Antelope Horn have a high germination rate by seed. Zizotes and Butterfly Weed have a high seed germination rate and survive the winter fairly well. To identify the best milkweed to plant in your locale identify a patch growing close to your location and try to duplicate it with seeds or transplants.



GARDENING CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

The zinnias, pentas, and other summer annuals will continue to bloom through the end of the month as long as the temperatures stay above freezing but it is definitely time to replace them with the winter annuals if you want color through the winter. The snapdragons, stocks, pansies, viola, calendula, dianthus, and even petunia transplants are available at area nurseries. The stocks are especially desirable with their intense colors and pleasing fragrance. Use them for cutting flowers along with the snapdragons and calendula. Another good winter annual to grow for cut flowers is sweet peas. Soak the seed in water overnight and then plant it in full sun against a fence or large tomato cage as a trellis. The sweet pea flowers have the same intense colors as stock and a fragrance that is different but just as pleasant.

If you planted broccoli and cauliflower or any of the other cabbage type greens they are probably doing well especially if you were alert for cabbage loopers and treated them with a Bt product. There is a long list of such products including Thuricide, Monterey Bt, Dipel, and Bio-Worm Killer. They all work well as long as they are relatively fresh (3 years old or less) and you follow the label instructions. Increase their effectiveness if you add a teaspoon of Dawn dish soap to every gallon of the mix. It works as a surfactant to help the Bt mix cling to the foliage.

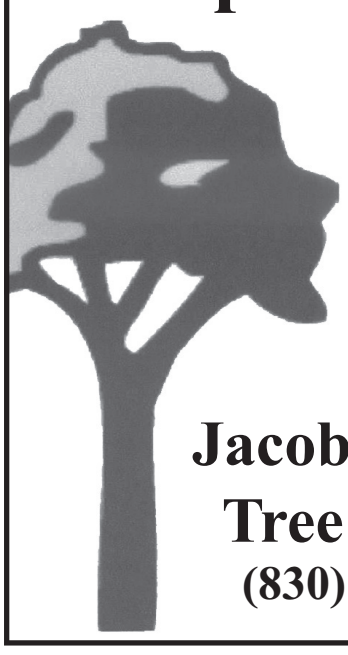
With the cool weather your fall-planted tomatoes have probably started to set fruit and now it will be a race between fruit production and cold weather. It is usually most effective if you harvest any tomatoes that reach full size and show any color change. If you bring any such fruit into the house they should quickly ripen. The peppers, okra, and squash production will decline as the month progresses. On the other hand, the radishes, beets, carrots, turnips, and beets should prosper in November. Plant your lettuce seed, onion transplants, and spinach transplants early in the month.

If your lawn is in good shape, hurry to fertilize it with a 18-06-12 fast release blend to prepare it for the spring green up. Our grass varieties react to the reduced day length by changing from a growth mode in the fall to a storage situation. The nutrients from the fertilizer will be stored in the roots until next spring. If the lawn is overwhelmed by shade, and/or weeds

See **CALENDAR,** page 5

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LIVESTOCK WEEKLY REPORTS

GONZALES LIVESTOCK MARKET
Sale Date: October 24, 2026
Receipts this week: 866 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 2.00-4.00 Lower.
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., 335.00-525.00;
500-600 lbs., 310.00-405.00;
600-700 lbs., 295.00-345.00; 700 -800 lbs., 310.00-325.00
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., 320.00-410.00; 500-600 lbs., 305.00-365.00; 600-700 lbs., 310.00-325.00
Replacement Quality Heifers: 400-600 lbs., 385.00-485.00.
Packer Cows: Good lean utility and commercial, 113.00-119.00; Cutters, 120.00-127.00; Canners, 75.00-105.00; High yielding fat cows, 113.00-120.00
Packer Bulls: Yield grade 1 & 2, good heavy bulls, 164.00-174.00; Light weights and medium quality bulls, 141.00-165.00
Stockers Cows: $2,100.00 to $2,600.00
Pairs: $2,200.00 to $3,400.00

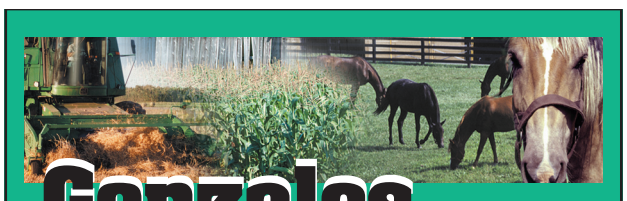
NIXON LIVESTOCK COMMISSION
October 19th, 2026
Cattle: 1070
Cows: 149
Bulls: 8
Steers:
200-300 lbs - 477-512-640
300-400 lbs - 422-452-580
400-500 lbs - 364-394-505
500-600 lbs - 314-344-415
600-700 lbs - 296-326-345
700-899 lbs – 287-317-337

Heifers:
200-300 lbs - 436-456-540
300-400 lbs - 376-406-530
400-500 lbs - 336-366-570
500-600 lbs - 299-329-530
600-700 lbs - 285-315-430
700-800 lbs - 271-301-348
Slaughter Cows: 85 - 133
Stocker Cows: 1800-2200
Slaughter Bulls: 100-165
Pairs: 1 pair @ 2250

HALLETTSVILLE LIVESTOCK
October 20th, 2026
CATTLE SOLD: 1692
Top #1 class Steer calves
LESS THEN 200# ~620-1000
200#-300# ~ 510-600
300#-400# ~ 430-545
400#-500# ~ 390-480
500#-600# ~ 350-417
600#-700# ~ 310-362.50
700#-800# ~ 290-336
800# & up ~ 285-314
Top #1 classHeifer calves
LESS THEN 200# ~ 560-800
200#-300# ~ 430-540
300#-400# ~ 400-470
400#-500# ~ 310-490
500#-600# ~ 310-372.50
600#-700# ~ 295-335
700#-800# ~ 280-320
800# & up ~ 250-290
Replacement heifer
350#-750# ~ 430-790
PACKER COWS
HIGH DRESSING: 116-129
MEDIUM DRESS: 100-120
LOW DRESSING: 80-100
POOR / WEAK: 65-80
PACKER BULLS
HIGH DRESSING: 168-178
MEDIUM DRESS: 155-170
LOW DRESSING: 145-158
3 F1 Braford Hfs 632# $4400
4 F1 Braford Hfs 561# $4450
GOOD STOCKER COWS & HEIFERS: $3400 - $5000
MED STOCKER COWS & HEIFERS: $1800 - $3100
GOOD COW/CALF PAIRS: 5
Brahman Pr $5000 - $5900
MED COW/CALF PAIRS: None
The calf market was stronger on the heavier weight classes selling $2 - $5 higher. Light weights sold lower losing last weeks increase. Still needing moisture in some winter grazing areas. Overall market remains strong with very good demand. Packer cows & bulls were lower again selling $5 - $8 lower on a supply of 125 head. Stocker cows sold very strong to great demand. If we can help arket your livestock please call 361-798-4336. Thank you to our customers & buyers!!

SEGUIN CATTLE COMPANY
October 21st, 2026
Cattle: 371
Sheep & Goats: 629
Quality overall was good. Stocker cattle steady with packer cows & buills off another $10
Medium & Large Frame #1 Steers:
200-300 lb. 2.50 – 5.00 – 6.50
300-400 lb. 2.55 - 4.30 - 5.10
400-500 lb. 3.10 - 3.80 - 4.40
500-600 lb. 1.50 - 3.37 – 3.88
600-700 lb. 1.60 - 3.00 - 3.42
700-800 lb. 2.90 - 3.10 - 3.20
Medium & Large Frame #1 Heifers
200-300 lb. 2.55 – 4.40 – 5.00
300-400 lb. 1.90 – 4.00 – 5.00
400-500 lb. 1.80 - 3.60 – 4.30
500-600 lb. 2.90 - 3.31 – 3.90
600-750 lb. 1.65 – 2.92 - 3.24
Cows:
Utility & Commercial .85-1.05-1.22
Cutters .65 - .90 - 1.12
Canners - .49 - .70 - .80
Palpated Cows: 1850 - 2700
Cow/Calf pairs: 2600
Bulls
Heavy High Yielding - 1.70 - 1.79
Light & Low Yielding – 1.60 - 1.69
Sheep & Goats
Nannies: 30.00-270.00
Kid Goats (Fat) – 3.20 - 4.15
Wethers: 1.70 – 4.50
Billies: 1.15 – 3.70
Dorp. Ewes: 45.00 - 225.00
Dorp. Lambs (Fat): 2.00 - 3.70
Wooled Ewes: .80 – 1.10
Wooled Bucks: 1.60 - 2.75
Lambs: 2.41 – 2.95
Barb. Bucks: 500.00 - 1800.00

CUERO LIVESTOCK MARKET
October 23rd, 2026
Weekly sales volume reached 2,189 head, including 205 cows and 25 bulls. Market prices for packer cows and bulls held steady to $3 lower. Lighter-weight calves traded slightly cheaper due to ongoing dry conditions in grass country, while heavier calves remained strong. If we can help in any way, please give us a call at (361)275-2329 - barn or (361)293-4625 – Jake's cell.
Packer bulls
-Higher yielding 173.00-190.00
-Lower yielding 105.00-151.00
Packer cows:
High yielding 120.00-133.00
-Medium yielding 105.00-112.00
-Poor & Weak 50.00-96.00
Palpated: 21 bred $1500-$3500
Pairs: None
Steer/Bull Calves: (AVG-HIGH)
200-250 lbs. 535.00-695.00
250-299 lbs. 450.00-575.00
300-350 lbs. 437.00-565.00
350-400 lbs. 410.00-500.00
400-450 lbs. 395.00-500.00
450-500 lbs. 375.00-485.00
500-550 lbs. 350.00-470.00
550-600 lbs. 337.00-366.00
600-700 lbs. 333.00-352.00
700-800 lbs. 316.00-344.00
Heifer Calves:(AVG-HIGH)
200-250 lbs. 528.00-660.00
250-300 lbs. 425.00-545.00
300-350 lbs. 402.00-450.00
350-400 lbs. 380.00-445.00
400-450 lbs. 365.00-430.00
450-500 lbs. 342.00-515.00
500-550 lbs. 325.00-490.00
550-600 lbs. 318.00-450.00
600-700 lbs. 307.00-365.00
700-800 lbs. 295.00-400.00
*replacement heifers



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Rodney Butler 361-645-5002

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The hour I didn't know I needed

BY LORRELL WRIGHT

I started October by declaring it the most wonderful time of the year, and I still stand by that.

I may just need to amend the statement a little.

After Come and Take It, football, volleyball, cross country, birthday month, Pilot, photography, newspaper deadlines and what feels like half the state of Texas passing underneath my tires, October has been wonderful, but it has also been exhausting.

This past weekend may have been the best example yet. I covered football in Pearsall, made my way to Temple for a few hours of sleep, headed to Waxahachie for Pilot, stopped back through San Antonio and then went on to Corpus Christi for regional cross country. By Monday evening, I had spent several days going from one place to the next with very little time spent actually being anywhere.

But I was in Corpus Christi, and I was not leaving without seeing the beach.

I grew up going to the coast with my family several times a year. Sometimes we only stayed a few hours, sometimes a few days, but beach trips were just part of growing up. This time I was there with one of my best friends, someone who knew my mom too, and we ended up doing a little of the beach the way my family always has and a little the way his family does.

We made it out to Malaquite Beach Monday evening as the sun was already starting to go down. By the time we pulled out of the park, it was nearly dark, but somewhere in that hour I walked into the water and finally stopped thinking about

I do not want a slower life. I like the games, the travel, the stories, the photos and being involved in the things that matter to me. What I do need is to stop treating every open minute like something that needs to be filled.

where I needed to be next.

That may have been the first time all weekend.

And once my brain finally got quiet, Mom was one of the first places it went.

Her birthday was two days before mine, and November will mark five years since she has been gone. She has been on my mind more than usual lately, and there have been more tears than most people around me probably realize. I can usually show up, laugh, work, make jokes and keep everything moving even when part of me is having a harder day than anyone can see.

The beach gave me a little room to quit doing that.

I thought about the trips we took growing up, the adventures we had and how much she would have loved the life I am living now. My family went to every game when I was growing up, so I know she would be in these stands too. She would know the schedules, want the scores and have plenty of opinions waiting for me when I got home.

For a little while, I could just miss her and remember her without needing to push it aside for whatever came next.

That was the part I did not realize I needed.

I tend to think rest is something that will happen later, after the deadline, after the game, after the trip, after everything on the list is finally finished. The problem is that there is always an "after" waiting to take its place. If I keep waiting for some perfectly clear day when nothing needs my attention, I am probably never going to find it.

Sometimes the pause has to happen before everything is finished.

This one was an hour on a beach in the middle of a work trip. Nothing disappeared because I stepped away. The drive home still had to happen, Tuesday afternoon still found me back at my desk, and my calendar did not magically clear itself while I was standing in the Gulf.

I did, however, finally find my missing iPad in the mail bin I use for the newspaper route, so apparently October was willing to resolve at least one thing for me.

I do not want a slower life. I like the games, the travel, the stories, the photos and being involved in the things that matter to me. What I do need is to stop treating every open minute like something that needs to be filled.

Because that hour at the beach did not take anything away from everything waiting on me. It gave me enough room to go back to it.

Enough room to think about Mom without immediately having to pull myself together for the next thing. Enough room to laugh with someone who already understood.

And enough room to watch the sun disappear behind the sand dunes instead of checking the time.

I started looking for hidden gems. didn't expect to find this



WORTH THE STOP
with Tammy

When I first started making these videos, my goal was pretty simple: find places people may not know about, try them out, and share them.

I thought I was looking for hidden gems.

What I didn't realize was that somewhere along the way, this would turn into something much bigger than finding good food, good coffee, or a fun place to spend a Saturday.

I started finding people.

Over the last few weeks, I've walked into businesses as a complete stranger and walked out feeling like I'd known the owner forever. I've heard stories about how businesses got started, watched people light up while talking about something they've poured their heart into, and been reminded over and over again just how much passion exists right here in our small towns.

This past week especially made me realize how much this little journey has changed.

I stopped by Top Bean in Cuero after being personally invited by the owner. Of course, I went for the coffee. Y' all know I'm always going to show up for coffee, but what stood out most was the conversation. You could genuinely tell how much he loves his business and the people he serves. And yes, the coffee was great, but he also gave me a pumpkin spice cheesecake to try, and I'm just going to say it: that cheesecake was a solid 12/10.

Then there are the completely unexpected moments.

While I was in Victoria recently, I pulled into a parking lot simply because I was trying to figure out where I was going. A woman pulled in, we started talking across the parking lot, and it turned out she was the manager of the facility I was sitting in front of. A few minutes later, she invited me inside to look around.

What I thought was going to be a quick stop turned into discovering an entire family entertainment center with an arcade, putt-putt, rides, go-karts, food and more. I immediately thought, "I have to bring my daughter back here."

That interaction probably never would have happened if I hadn't started doing this.

And then came one of my favorite experiences yet: meeting up with other local content creators.

If you saw that video, you already know it was a little chaotic, but in the best possible way. We met up, tried to film, talked, laughed, and somehow food just kept coming to the table. What started as one stop eventually turned into three.

But again, the best part wasn't really the food.

It was the connection.

Social media gets a bad reputation sometimes, and understandably so. But lately, I've gotten to see another side of it. I've watched a video turn into a conversation, a conversation turn into an invitation, and an invitation turn into a real connection.

And I think that's what I'm enjoying most about this journey.

Yes, I still want to tell you where the good coffee is. I absolutely want to tell you when I find a meal that's a 10/10. I want you to know about that little business you've driven past a hundred times but never stopped to visit.

But I also want to tell you about the person standing behind the counter.

Because I'm starting to realize that sometimes the hidden gem isn't the restaurant, coffee shop or little store at all.

Sometimes, it's the people you meet when you decide to walk through the door.

So I'll keep exploring, I'll keep trying new things, and I'll keep saying yes to the unexpected invitations.

And, of course, I'll keep bringing y'all along with me.

Until next time, keep exploring. You never know what might be Worth the Stop.

Thank you!

Tammy

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor, Gonzales Inquirer

Three months. For three months, residents of Waelder have endured train horns sounding at all hours of the day and night, disrupting sleep, disturbing households, and taking away the peace people should be able to expect in their own homes.

On February 1, 2013, the Gonzales Inquirer published an article titled "Waelder now a quiet zone for trains passing through." The article reported that the Waelder City Council had unanimously voted on December 6, 2011, to establish a quiet zone covering the area between the city's east and west limits. The article explained that the quiet zone was intended to stop routine train horn blasts within city limits while railroad crossing lights and warning signals remained in place.

The article even offered residents a simple reassurance: "Waelder residents should be able to sleep better now."

So what happened? Why, after years of having a quiet zone, are residents once again listening to train horns throughout the day and night? What has changed, and what are our current city leaders doing to address it?

We are not asking for anything unreasonable. We are not asking the railroad to disregard safety requirements or put anyone at risk. We are asking our mayor and aldermen look into the situation, communicate with residents, and work with the railroad and the appropriate authorities to determine how the quiet zone can be restored.

To our new mayor and aldermen: We want to know that our peace matters to you. We want to know that the concerns of residents are being heard and that restoring the quiet zone is being taken seriously. We should not have to beg for the opportunity to sleep through the night in our own homes.

Three months is long enough to live with this disruption without answers. Please put this issue before the City Council, explain the status of the previous quiet zone, and provide residents with a clear plan for pursuing its restoration.

We are not asking for special treatment. We are simply asking for peace in our own homes. Isn't that something every resident deserves?

Respectfully,

A Concerned Resident

GONZALES BEGINS
EXPLORING OUR TOWN'S RICH HISTORY

1894 – Eastern Star organized (later disbanded; reorganized in 1908)
– John Wesley Hardin had a law office in town. *(In what is now called "The Masonic Building")*
– A.J. Moore installed the first telephone in Gonzales in his saddle shop. By 1895 there were 25 telephones.
– May, the bond issue of $70,000 was authorized for the building of a new courthouse.

1895 – April, after much controversy, the commissioners laid the cornerstone for the new courthouse. First the Masonic Lodge was approved to do the honors and then a committee of the Gonzales Farmers Alliance was invited but in the end the county judge made the decision that the commissioners would lay the stone.
– J.B. Kennard House completed 621 St. Louis Street – architect, J. Riely Gordon
– W.B. Houston House built 621 St. George Street – architect, J. Riely Gordon
– Gonzales Telephone Company established by L.P. David and J.C. Moore in Dr. J.C. Jones' office building.
– The Drag Net newspaper existed
– Burchard built his building at 411 St. George Street
– May 22, the sixth annual commencement exercises was held for two lady graduates.

1896 – Fourth courthouse completed 414 St. Joseph Street – architect, J. Riely Gordon (An artesian well capable of producing 8000 gallons of water in three hours provided water for the courthouse). *(This is the current courthouse.)*
– March 26, the Seth Thomas clock was installed in the courthouse tower.
– Boothe and Lewis Hardware opened at 520 St Paul Street.
– Permanent fire department organized
– March 12, bids were received for construction the huge three-story Randle-Rather Building constructed on the corner 427 St. George Street; many businesses have had offices in this building over the years.
– March 26, bids were revealed by Randle and Rather for the erection of their three story building at 427 St. George Street. They range from $20,000 to over $30,000. The contract was awarded to Henry Kane of Houston.
– KD Social Club for men was formed and was active for about twenty years. They met in the Randle-Rather Building.
– July 9, litigation over the ownership of John Wesley Hardin's manuscript has been settled in favor of the Hardin heirs and will be published by Smith & Moore of Seguin.

1897 – June 1, Daily Inquirer newspaper begun; building constructed at 620 St. Paul Street.
– Hoskins Store (later known as Dudley Hoskins Menswear) opened at the corner of St. George and St. Paul Streets but moved that same year to the rock building on the southwest corner.
– Masonic Lodge moved into permanent quarters at 501½ St. Joseph Street.
– Order of the Sons of Herman, Gonzales Lodge #175 organized

1897 – 1902 American Cotton Gin was established; operated under various owners until 1944.

The Gonzales Inquirer™

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The Gonzales Inquirer
SERVING GONZALES COUNTY SINCE 1853

will be closed November 26 in observance of

Thanksgiving

Deadline for all advertising in November 26 issue is Monday, November 23 at Noon

We will also close at Noon on Friday, November 27.

Best Wishes to all for a Happy Thanksgiving!

OBITUARIES

George Humberto Flores



George Humberto Flores was born on February 27, 1953, in Gonzales, Texas, a place he proudly called home his entire life. It was there that he grew up, made lifelong friendships, married his high school sweetheart, and raised the family he loved so dearly.

George and his beloved wife, Rosie, shared 52 wonderful years of marriage. Together, they built a life filled with love, laughter, hard work, and family. They were blessed with two daughters and two grandchildren, who were his greatest pride and joy.

George was the kind of man who never met a stranger. He had a wonderful sense of humor, a heart of gold, and a genuine love for people. He would give you the shirt off his back and never expect anything in return. He was humble, generous, and selfless, always thinking of others before himself.

A hardworking man and devoted provider, George dedicated 44 years to Southern Clay Products, now known as BYK. His loyalty and work ethic spoke volumes about the man he was. Had cancer not forced him to step away, he probably would have kept right on working.

For 18 years, George quietly battled cancer. He rarely spoke of his worries or the difficulties he faced. He didn't want people feeling sorry for him, and he certainly didn't want his struggles to become anyone else's burden. He simply kept going, facing each challenge with a strength and determination that those closest to him came to admire.

Outside of work, George enjoyed the simple things in life. He loved music and sports, especially his Dallas Cowboys, San Antonio Spurs, and Texas Longhorns. He was a loyal fan, cheering for his teams through the wins, the losses, and everything in between.

George was also known for his delicious BBQ brisket and chicken. Growing up, family gatherings were always held at George and Rosie's home, where there was never a shortage of good food, laughter, and family. His barbecue became a tradition everyone looked forward to, and those gatherings created memories that will be cherished for generations. Their home was more than just a place to gather. It was where family came together, and George took great pride in being part of it all.

But more than anything, George loved being a husband, dad, and Popo. He was a protector by nature. No matter how old his daughters became, he never stopped looking out for them. A simple phone call to check in and make sure everything was okay was just one of the many ways he showed his love. He didn't need a special occasion or a reason to call. He just wanted to know his girls were doing alright. That's the kind of daddy he was.

He took great pride in his daughters and grandchildren, and nothing meant more to him than knowing his family was happy, safe, and taken care of. He gave them a lifetime of love, guidance, and memories that will forever be treasured.

On October 21, 2026, at the age of 73, George passed away surrounded by his loving family. George leaves behind a legacy that cannot be measured in years or accomplishments, but in the countless lives he touched, the kindness he showed, and the love he gave so freely.

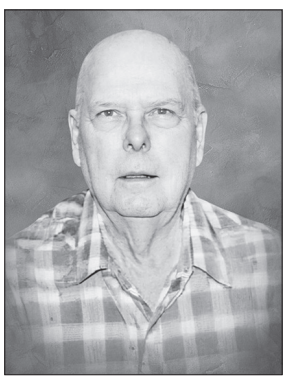
He was a wonderful husband, a proud Popo, a loyal friend, and a man who always put his family first. And to his daughters, he was simply the best daddy. The phone calls may have stopped, but the love behind them never will. That love will stay with his family for the rest of their lives.

George is survived by his adoring family, wife, Rosie Flores, daughters, Debbie Martinez (Robert), and Laura Flores, grandchildren, Austin Martinez and R.J. Tristan, and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, brother, Ruben Flores and brother-in-law, Freddy Soto.

The family will receive friends from 5 pm to 7 pm Sunday, October 25, 2026 in Seydler-Hill Funeral Home with prayers of the Holy Rosary following at 7 pm. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 am Monday, October 26, 2026 in Sacred Heart Catholic Church with Fr. Jason Martini as celebrant. Interment will follow in St. James Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the St. James Cemetery Fund.

Friends may leave their condolences to the family by visiting www.seydlerhillfuneralhome.com. Services are under the care and direction of Seydler-Hill Funeral Home.

William B. Miller



William B. Miller, 85, of Gonzales, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, October 13, 2026. William was born April 28, 1941, in Gonzales to Helene R. Piwetz Keeton. William attended school in Gonzales and graduated with the Class of 1959 from GHS. He was a member of St. James Catholic Church and spent much of his working life employed by ALCOA in Rockdale. After retiring, William eventually returned to Gonzales in 2001.

A quiet and private man, William generally kept to himself, but those who knew him understood his good heart and well-intentioned nature. He found satisfaction in the simple pleasures of life and took great pride in keeping his yard neat and well maintained. He enjoyed watching NASCAR, building and enjoying model trains, and had a particular fondness for driving a new Ford pickup every couple of years. These familiar interests brought him enjoyment and reflected the things he appreciated most.

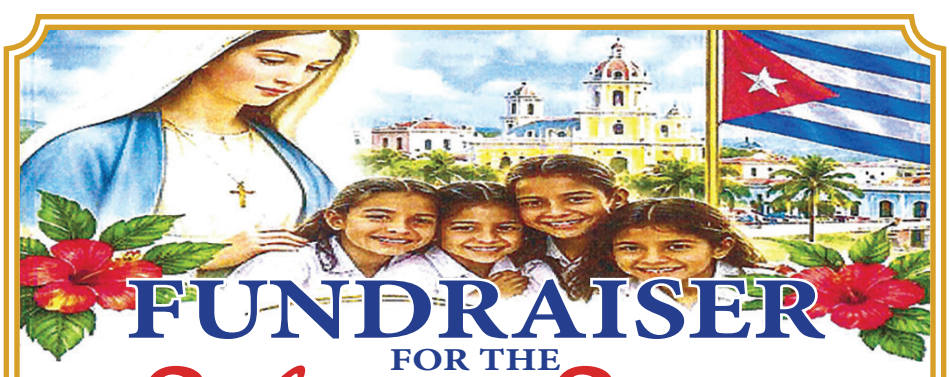
William will be remembered by his family for his quiet presence, good-hearted nature, and the simple routines that made up his life. He leaves behind loved ones who will cherish his memory.

William is survived by his loving family, sister, Carla Ann Ham (Jimmy), and his son, Wesley Miller (Julie), grandchildren, Evan, Brenden and Emma Miller. He was preceded in death by his mother, Helene R. Keeton; his daughter, Diana Leigh Miller; and his son, David Miller.

The family received friends from 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Saturday, October 17, 2026, at Seydler-Hill Funeral Home. Graveside services followed at 11:00 a.m. at St. James Cemetery, with Fr. Jason Martini officiating.

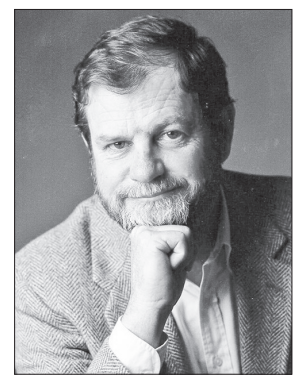
Memorials may be made to the American Heart Association. Friends may leave their condolences to the family by visiting www.seydlerhillfuneralhome.com.

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



Preston Wayne DuBose

In Loving Memory of Preston Wayne DuBose



With deep love and gratitude for a life well lived, we announce the passing of our beloved husband, father, and grandfather. Preston Wayne DuBose, on October 19, 2026. He passed away at home in Mena, Arkansas at the age of 77. Prior to his retirement, he and wife resided on the family ranch in Thompsonville, Texas for more than 70 years.

Preston was born on December 13, 1948, in Gonzales, Texas, to James Hartford DuBose and Lexi Estelle Gray DuBose. Preston married Barbara Jane Pearson on June 20, 1971 and they spent the next 55 years together with their children Paul and Christine.

Preston graduated high school from Waelder, Texas. After high school, Preston started a successful dairy business with help from his parents and was later awarded Young Farmer of the Year. In later years he added poultry and a commercial cattle operation to the ranch enterprises. Preston was also known for creating E-Z Open Cattle Feeders, a line of rancher-built cattle feeders he sold throughout Texas and surrounding states.

He is a man of deep faith. Preston felt the Holy Spirit prompting him at an early age, nor did he ever lose his conviction and love for Christ. In Texas, he was a member of Eastside Baptist Church, First Baptist Church, and lastly Thompsonville Community Church. He also lived out his faith by volunteering with the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief organization in cleanup efforts after hurricanes and floods. In Arkansas he served with the Mena community through various church outreach programs.

He and his wife raised their children in the church. Preston was a remarkable father, supporting his kids' activities and encouraging their further education. He was a steadfast rock the family could always rely on.

At the age of 72, Preston and Barbara retired to their own "dream come true" lake home with mountain views in Mena, Arkansas. He and Barbara belonged to a wonderful Christian community in Mena, where he was a participating member of the First Christian church.

Preston had a heart for beauty, adventure, and exploring roads less-traveled. He saw the beauty in nature: the mountains, streams, lakes. He enjoyed the long, far vistas of the southwest and the rugged terrains of Canada and the Alps. His concepts of beauty are reflected in his artistic metal and wood sculptures. He was awarded numerous ribbons from art shows for his woodworking. Preston would say that God and the piece of wood revealed to him what it should be.

Preston was preceded in death by his parents, brother James Louis DuBose, niece Denise Colburn, and nephew Elton DuBose.

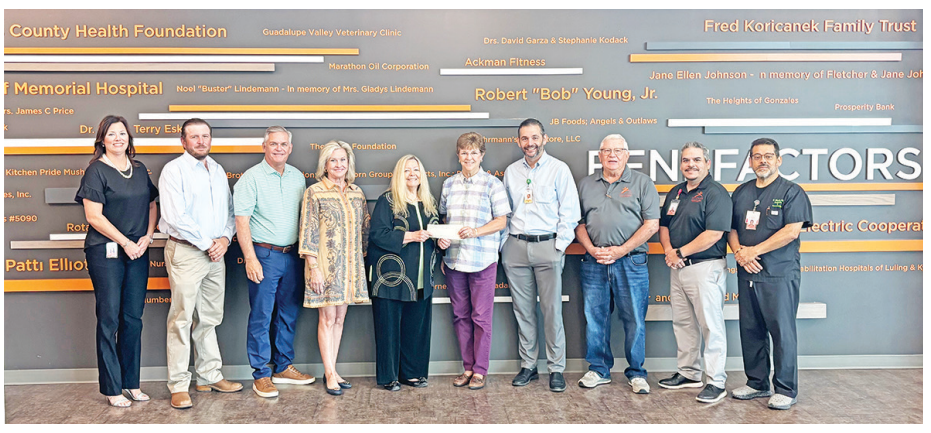
He is lovingly remembered by his son Preston Paul DuBose and daughter-in-law Kim; daughter Christine Allegra Presley and son-in-law Trey; and grandchildren Preston Benjamin DuBose, Grace DuBose, Karissa Rollins, Kaylee Kjosa, and Sam Presley, and nieces Donna Wurst, Laura Bredt, and Gwendolyn Brunet.

Though our hearts are heavy with loss, we find comfort in a lifetime of love and the legacy he left behind. His memory will live on through his family, the values he instilled, and the many lives he enriched.

A visitation was held 5-7 p.m. on Friday, October 23, and funeral was held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, October 24 at Seidler-Hill Funeral Home in Gonzales, Texas. A graveside service followed at the Thompsonville Cemetery. A memorial will also be held at First Christian Church in Mena, Arkansas. The family suggests that those wishing to honor Preston may contribute to their local churches or community services, or by spending time with loved ones and extending kindness to others.

Family and friends may leave their condolences online by visiting www.seydlerhillfuneralhome.com

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



GHS Foundation

Gonzales Healthcare Systems Foundation, ESD 1 receive donations

The Board of Directors of the Gonzales County Health Foundation (GCHF) is pleased to announce the recent donations to the Gonzales Healthcare Systems Foundation and the Gonzales Emergency Services District #1. The GCHF Board donated $25,000 to the Gonzales Healthcare Systems Foundation for the Lora Tschappatt Memorial Nursing Scholarship Fund and $10, 849 to the Gonzales Emergency Services District #1 for training supplies for its Education Program.

The Gonzales County Health Foundation was established in 1983 with the leadership of Dr. Bryan Denman to assist the hospital district in providing quality healthcare to Gonzales County residents. Dr. Walter A. Sievers contributed several millions of dollars and part of his life estate to the Foundation to ensure that Gonzales County residents had quality healthcare facilities for years to come. A portion of those funds were earmarked for the Sievers Medical Clinic. Walter and Sue Traeger were also significant contributors to the Foundation.



Gonzales ESD 1

The Gonzales County Health Foundation Board of Directors manages the assets of the Health Foundation. The Board is comprised of local community leaders; President Sue Ortman, Vice-President Mark Lindemann, Treasurer Darren Schauer, Secretary Dr. Terry Eska, and members Tim Markham, Dr. Humberto Rivas, Greg McLain, Chad Denman, Ray Lee Raley, Brandon Anzaldua, Jean Burns and Greg Tieken.

CALENDAR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

just keep it mowed until you can determine if it has too much shade to support one of our grass species. If that is the case, consider switching to a shade tolerant groundcover.

A key planning issue in November is to prepare for freezing weather. Move Porter weed, bougainvillea, tropical hibiscus, and other cold sensitive plants to a protected from cold structure such as a greenhouse or other heated structure. For cold sensitive plants in the garden such as citrus, have cloth to cover them when temperatures below freezing are forecast. It is even better if you can mount the cloth on a tent-like frame and heat the inside of the structure when temperatures are expected to fall below 30 degrees with mechanics lights. Not LED lights, of course!

The Monarch Butterflies will leave for their wintering grounds in Mexico in November, the earlier the better to escape any challenging weather. Expect them to be back here heading north in April. To make them welcome seed blue curl and coreopsis now, and have other nectar plants such as zinnias, Porter weed, pentas, and mist flower in place along with any milkweeds you can get to grow for egg-laying sites.

CLASSIFIEDS

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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

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.

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470 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

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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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For more information go to www.victoriacollege.edu and click on Jobs@VC.
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Is now hiring for Yard Hand

Forklift experience required.
Must be dependable.
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No phone calls

850 HELP WANTED

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Help customers with confidence while building meaningful relationships and growing your career in financial services. When you join us as a full-time hire, your medical and dental benefits start on day 1.

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WELLS FARGO

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE FOR PROPOSALS

The Gonzales Central Appraisal District is seeking proposals for Group Health Insurance. A statement of the benefit specifications may be obtained from the district office free of charge.

Proposals must be received by the Gonzales Central Appraisal District office, Physical Address: 301 N. St. Joseph Street, Suite A, Gonzales, Texas 78629, Mailing Address: P.O. Box 867, Gonzales, Texas 78629, no later than 12:00 Noon on Thursday, November 19, 2026.

All proposals must be addressed to the Board of Directors of the Gonzales County Appraisal District. All proposals must be sealed and marked on the outside of the envelope "Group Health Insurance".

Proposals will be opened and the contract awarded at the Board of Directors meeting to be held at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 19, 2026 at 301 N. St. Joseph Street, Suite A, Gonzales, Texas. All persons submitting proposals are welcome to attend.

The Board reserves the right to reject any and all proposals. If a proposal is accepted it will be the proposal considered most advantageous to the Gonzales Central Appraisal District. All parties submitting proposals shall use lump sum pricing. The method of payment will not be more often than monthly from the District's General Operating Fund. No bond is required.

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. AD25-0442
IN THE ESTATE OF DANIEL HENRY MAJEFSKI, DECEASED

To the following identified Heirs of Daniel Henry Majefski, if living, and if any or all of the above named Defendant(s) be dead, the unknown heirs of each or all of the said named persons who may be dead; and the unknown heirs of the unknown hears of said above named persons; and the executors, administrators, guardians, legal representatives, legatees, devisees of the below named persons:

Wayne Earl Danish
Glenn Gus Danish
Emily Sivak Whited
Mary Danish
The Unknown Heirs of Kathleen Wood Stephens

Michael Oneal, in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on September 16, 2025 an APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP & FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION in the estate of Daniel Henry Majefski, Deceased, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of Daniel Henry Majefski, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in said estate, and appoint Michael Oneal 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 its consideration, you or your attorney must file any contest, objection, intervention, or response in writing with the County Clerk of Gonzales County, Texas, on or before the above noted date and time.

Given under my hand and the seal of said Court at office in Gonzales, Texas, on October 21, 2026.

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

By: Margie Zapata
Margie Zapata, Deputy

Plaintiff(s) Attorney;
Robert Bland
P.O. Box 119
Gonzales, Texas 78629
Telephone: (830) 672-2437
Email: rbland@gvec.net

CLASSIFIEDS

Oct. 22 Puzzle Answers

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Lee Ford Newman, Jr. were issued on October 19, 2026, in Cause No. PW26-0512, pending in the County Court of Gonzales County, Texas, to VERNER R. LAGREGA.

All persons having claims against the estate, which is presently being administered, are required to submit them, within the time and manner prescribed by law, and before the estate is closed, addressed as follows:

c/o Matthew Graham
The Reese Law Firm, LLP
P.O. Box 887
417 St. George St., 2nd FL.
Gonzales, TX 78629

Dated October 20, 2026.

Matthew Graham
Attorney for Executor of the Estate of
Lee Ford Newman, Jr

CITATION BY PUBLICATION – TRC 109 & 114

THE STATE OF TEXAS — Cause No. 29,294

In the Interest of | IN THE 25TH DISTRICT COURT

Haven Gonzalez | OF

A Child | GONZALES COUNTY, TEXAS

To **SHELTON WHITE,** Respondent,

STATE OF TEXAS

You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do (does) not file a written answer with the clerk who issues this citation by 10 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of 20 days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. The petition of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Petitioner, was filed in the Court of Gonzales County, Texas, on the 9th day of March, 2026, against Shelton White, Respondent, numbered 29,294, and entitled 'In the interest of Haven Gonzalez, a child.' The suit requests termination of the parent-child relationship. The date and place of birth of the child who is the subject of the suit: Haven Gonzalez, (Born March 5, 2026).

The court has authority in this suit to render an order of the child's interest that will be binding on you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity, and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the child's adoption.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of the Court at Gonzales, Texas, this the 29th day of September, 2026.

Ruben Garcia
2635 S.E. Military Dr.
San Antonio, Texas 78223
512-460-7447

Clerk of the District Court of
Gonzales County, Texas
By: K. Alarcon

DISTRICT COURT OF GONZALES COUNTY, TEXAS

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Nixon invites community to celebrate Central Park and Veterans Wall of Honor Dedication November 7

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

NIXON, TEXAS - The City of Nixon invites residents, veterans, military families, former residents, and friends from surrounding communities to join in a special celebration on Saturday, November 7, 2026, as the city officially dedicates Nixon Central Park and the Veterans Wall of Honor.

The celebration will take place at Nixon Central Park, 302 E. Central Ave., Nixon, Texas, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., with the official dedication ceremony beginning at 10:00 a.m.

This occasion marks an exciting milestone for Nixon as the community comes together to celebrate a place designed to bring people together, preserve local pride, and honor the men and women who have served our nation.

At the heart of the celebration will be the dedication of the Veterans Wall of Honor, a meaningful tribute recognizing military service and sacrifice. The Wall represents not only the individuals who have worn our nation's uniform, but also the families, friends, and communities whose lives have been shaped by their service.

With Veterans Day just a few days later, the dedication offers a particularly meaningful opportunity to recognize those who have served and reflect on the freedoms their sacrifices have helped preserve.

"This is more than a park dedication. It's a celebration of our community, our veterans, and the generations who have helped make Nixon what it is today," said Nixon Mayor Sherrie Watt. "We hope everyone will come out, bring their families, and share in this special moment with us."

In addition to the formal dedication ceremony and guest speakers, the celebration will feature patriotic recognition, a display of veterans' memorabilia, and opportunities for neighbors and visitors to enjoy time together.

The event will also include the community farmers market, offering visitors an opportunity to support local vendors while enjoying the festivities. Members of Gonzales County Fire Department South will be grilling hot dogs, and cakes, cupcakes, and other refreshments are planned as part of the celebration.

More than the dedication of a public space, the day represents an investment in Nixon's future while honoring the people and traditions that have helped shape its past.

Nixon Central Park is intended to be a gathering place where families can make memories, neighbors can reconnect, and future generations can experience the importance of community and remembrance.

The City extends a special invitation to veterans, military families, community organizations, neighboring towns, and anyone with a connection to Nixon. Whether you have lived in Nixon your entire life, once called it home, or simply enjoy supporting small-town Texas communities, you are welcome to be part of this celebration.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 7, and come help Nixon celebrate this important chapter in its history.

The City of Nixon looks forward to welcoming everyone for a morning of remembrance, community pride, fellowship, and celebration.

EVENT DETAILS:

WHAT: Nixon Central Park and Veterans Wall of Honor Dedication Celebration
WHEN: Saturday, November 7, 2026
TIME: 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
OFFICIAL DEDICATION CEREMONY: 10:00 a.m.
LOCATION: Nixon Central Park, 302 E. Central Ave., Nixon, Texas
HOSTED BY: City of Nixon

All are invited to attend and help make this a memorable day for Nixon and the surrounding communities!

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St. James fundraiser to support Salesian Sisters of Cuba

STAFF REPORTS

SEGUIN — St. James Catholic Church in Seguin will host a dinner and dance Saturday, Nov. 14, to benefit the Salesian Sisters of Cuba, continuing the parish's efforts to help children and families served by the religious congregation.

Parish members previously participated in a humanitarian mission, delivering suitcases filled with toiletries, toys and monetary donations to the sisters and children attending their school. They also spent time together in prayer, sharing their faith and offering encouragement.

The Salesian Sisters of Don Bosco are a Catholic religious congregation founded in 1872, dedicated to educating and caring for young people, particularly those facing poverty and hardship. Today, more than 11,500 sisters serve in 96 countries.

Despite religious restrictions and exile beginning in 1961, the sisters have continued their mission in Cuba. Their work includes education, daily care and projects to improve living conditions, including installing solar panels and repairing electrical systems to provide power for essential equipment.

The Nov. 14 fundraiser will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Seguin, featuring a Cuban-inspired dinner and dessert from 5:30 to 7 p.m., followed by a dance and concert from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. The Original Remnants will provide music featuring favorites from the 1960s through the 1980s.

Tickets are $70 per person for dinner and the dance or $35 for the dance and concert only.

The evening offers an opportunity for the community to come together for food, music and fellowship while helping the sisters continue their work with children in Cuba.

Tickets are available through St. James Catholic Church in Seguin or through the QR code on the parish's Facebook page. For more information, call 830-379-1796.

Citywide tent revival slated for Nov. 7

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.

Free Bible study classses led by Apostle Sandra Gates

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.

Gonzales FCA brings community together for Fields of Faith

BY LORRELL WRIGHT

Apache Stadium became a place of worship Wednesday, Oct. 14, as students, families and community members came together for Fields of Faith, hosted by the Gonzales Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA).

The evening was filled with worship, personal testimonies and the sharing of God's Word, offering messages of hope, encouragement and inspiration.

Fields of Faith provides an opportunity for young people to step away from the classroom and athletic competition to celebrate their beliefs, strengthen their relationships and grow in their faith.

Beyond the messages shared that evening, the event reflected the strong sense of community that makes Gonzales special. With students, parents and neighbors supporting one another, Fields of Faith was a reminder that faith and fellowship have a way of bringing generations together. It was more than a night of worship at Apache Stadium. It was an opportunity to strengthen the connections that continue to make Gonzales a community where people show up for one another, both on and off the field.







PHOTOS BY LORRELL WRIGHT

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FM 794, Gonzales

Country Baptist Church
Highway 87, Smiley

Eastside Baptist Church
Seydler Street, Gonzales

Efeso Iglesia Bautista
Highway 87, Smiley

Elm Grove Baptist Church
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
E. of Highway 80
on CR 121

Memorial Heights
Baptist Church
1330 N. College, Gonzales

Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church
100 Capes, Gonzales

Oak Valley Baptist Church
Highway 97, Bebe

Old Moulton
Baptist Church
2287 FM 1680, Moulton

Providence Missionary
Baptist Church
1020 St. Andrew, Gonzales

Stratton Primitive Baptist
FM 1447,
9 miles east of Cuero

St. James Baptist Church
Hwy 80, north of Belmont.

St. Paul Baptist Church
SE 2nd Street, Waelder

Shiner Baptist Church

Union Lea Baptist Church
St. Andrew St., Gonzales

Union Valley Baptist Church
FM 1681, NW of Nixon

CATHOLIC
St. James Catholic Church
417 N. College, Gonzales

Sacred Heart
Catholic Church
St. John St., Gonzales

St. Joseph Catholic Church
207 S. Washington, Nixon

St. Patrick Catholic Church
Waelder

St. Phillip Catholic Church
Highway 87, Smiley

CHRISTIAN
First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
712 Crockett, Luling

CHURCHES OF CHRIST
Church of Christ
1323 Seydler St., Gonzales

Church of Christ
(Iglesia de Cristo)
201 E. Second St. Nixon

Church of Christ
E. 3rd & Texas, Nixon

Church of Christ, Belmont

CHURCHES OF GOD
Gonzales Memorial
Church of God in Christ
1113 Hastings, Gonzales

Episcopal
Episcopal Church
of the Messiah
721 S. Louis, Gonzales

EVANGELICAL
La Vos del Evangelio,
Mision Capilla del Pueblo
W. Central at Hwy. 87,
Nixon

FULL GOSPEL
Camp Valley Full Gospel
Hwy 80, 7 mi.
north of Nixon

Full Gospel Church
1426 Fisher, Gonzales

JEWISH
Adat Haderech,
a Messianic shul
HashemYeshua1
@yahoo.com

LUTHERAN
First Lutheran Church NALC
1206 St. Joseph, Gonzales

Abiding Word
Lutheran Church LCMS
1020 St. Louis St., Gonzales

METHODIST
Belmont Methodist
Highway 90A, Belmont

Dewville United Methodist
West of FM 1117
on CR 121

First Methodist
426 St. Paul, Gonzales

Flatonia United Methodist

Harris Chapel
United Methodist
S. Liberty St., Nixon

Harwood Methodist Church
Harwood

Henson Chapel
United Methodist
1113 St. Andrew, Gonzales

Monthalia Methodist
CR 112 off Highway 97

Nixon Methodist Church
310 East 4th Street, Nixon

Smiley Methodist Church
1 blk. S. of Hwy. 87, Smiley

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New Life Temple
for Jesus Christ
16214 US 90 W, Harwood

River of Life
Christian Fellowship
207 Steele St., Smiley

Thompsonville
Community Church
CR 423, Thompsonville
Between Harwood &
Waelder off old Hwy. 90

Two Rivers Bible Church
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Suite 210, Gonzales

INTER-DENOMINATIONAL
Faith Family Church
1812 Cartwheel Dr.,
Gonzales

Living Waters Fellowship
306 St. Paul, Gonzales

PENTECOSTAL
Faith Temple
Hwy. 80 (N. Nixon Ave.),
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Holy Temple of
Jesus Christ No. 2
1515 Dallas, Gonzales

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WAELDER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

finished 140th in 21:33.52, and freshmen Jimena Gutierrez and Alexis Carillo took 148th and 149th in 22:48.27 and 22:54.83, respectively.

Nino's final season came with its own challenges as she balanced volleyball and cross country while dealing with a knee injury. Asked what she was most proud of after reaching regionals, her answer went beyond her finishing place. "I'm proud of myself for finishing the whole season," Nino said.

Communication between her coaches helped her continue competing in both sports, while Tuesday's slippery course required extra caution to avoid further injury. She hopes younger athletes will be willing to try new things and challenge themselves, just as she did.

Behind the Wildcats' success is a community Metcalf said has supported the program every step of the way. He credited assistant Coach Torado, Superintendent Dr. Ron Lillie, school leaders and families, along with residents who donated drinks and honked encouragement as the athletes trained along local roads. "I could not do any of this without the community we have here in the school," Metcalf said.

Oliva and Medina will compete Saturday, Nov. 7, at the UIL State Cross-Country Championships at Old Settlers Park in Round Rock. Their Class 1A boys' 5-kilometer race begins at 10:10 a.m. After finding last year's state meet overwhelming at times, Metcalf wants his returning runners to approach this opportunity with confidence. They have already proven they belong, regardless of the size of their school or the competition waiting for them. "You have earned the right to stand right next to them and be confident," Metcalf said.

PINK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

time caring for everyone else that their own healthcare falls to the bottom of the priority list.

She encouraged attendees to prioritize preventive care, emphasizing that breast cancer does not always present obvious symptoms or come with a family history. While mammograms cannot prevent the disease, they can help detect it earlier.

Her message was simple: Don't forget about yourself while taking care of everyone else.

That emphasis on early detection carries into the work of Kathleen Koerner, D.O., a surgeon at Sievers Medical Clinic's Surgical Specialty Clinic who treats breast cancer patients locally and has made supporting the luncheon a personal tradition.

Since the event began, Koerner has purchased two tables each year, one for her office staff and another for current and former breast cancer patients she has cared for. While a few familiar faces return regularly, she also invites different patients each year, giving more of them an opportunity to experience the community's support firsthand.

"This is the way I can support them further," Koerner said.

She explained that bringing patients to the luncheon serves two purposes. It allows them to see how the community stands behind them while reminding those attending that breast cancer affects people right here in Gonzales, including individuals who continue to need encouragement and care.

Koerner believes access to mammograms should not depend on someone's financial circumstances, making the foundation's efforts especially meaningful.

"It's such an important preventative and screening tool that it should just be available to anybody and everybody," she said.

She also hopes the event encourages residents who have postponed their own screenings to schedule an appointment. Koerner praised the hospital's mammography equipment and experienced staff, noting that the process is generally quick.

"It's a simple, simple thing. You're in and out in 15, 20 minutes. Done deal," she said.

Beyond mammography, Koerner wants residents to understand that a breast cancer diagnosis does not necessarily mean all of their medical care must take place outside Gonzales.

As a local surgeon, she works directly with breast cancer patients, providing care close to home while helping connect those who need specialized oncology services with providers in surrounding communities. Gonzales Healthcare Systems also offers access to a variety of other medical specialties, including specialists who travel to Gonzales to see patients.

"We don't have a lot of the big city specialists, but a lot of them come in," Koerner said.

In her 15 years practicing in Gonzales, she has heard from patients who sought care elsewhere and returned saying they preferred the care available in their hometown. She hopes more residents recognize those local options before assuming they must travel for medical services.

Throughout the luncheon, attendees enjoyed lunch, popped balloons for prizes, purchased raffle tickets for a handmade quilt and visited with friends and neighbors, bringing a lighter atmosphere to a cause that has touched many families.

Holly Danz, Gonzales Healthcare Systems' director of public relations, expressed her gratitude for the businesses, individuals and community members whose continued generosity makes the annual fundraiser possible.

While the afternoon included plenty of laughter and fellowship, its purpose remained rooted in helping neighbors overcome financial barriers to breast cancer screenings and encouraging others to take their health seriously.

Picha closed her remarks by challenging attendees to take one step toward better health, whether scheduling a mammogram, making a doctor's appointment or simply finding time to rest.

"Don't forget about the woman looking back at you in the mirror," she said. "She deserves that kind of love and attention too."

For Koerner, seeing patients, survivors and supporters together was another reminder of what makes the Gonzales community special.

"This is Gonzales. This is what we do," she said.









FLASHES BY LOR

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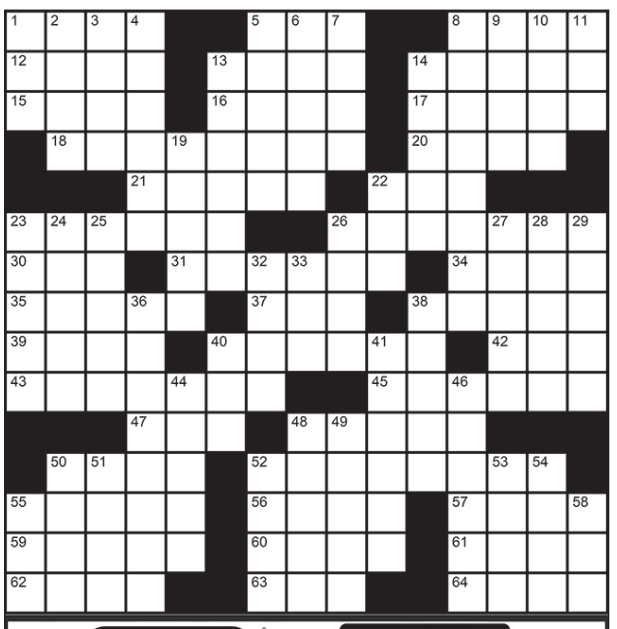
THEME: HALLOWEEN

CLUES ACROSS

1. *Count Dracula's creator
5. Zeppelin lead-in
8. Dry riverbed
12. Stew bean
13. Workbench holding device
14. Thing of the past
15. Just right (3 words)
16. "If all ____ fails..."
17. Thin mountain ridge
18. *Michael Jackson's Halloween party song
20. Exclamation, with Louise
21. Like days long gone
22. Lion's "hand"
23. Large seabird
26. YHWH
30. 50 states, acr.
31. Gone (2 words)
34. Drawn in the sand?
35. Long stories
37. Over there
38. Subsequently
39. Doris Day's "Que ____"
40. One million ohms
42. Vatican vestment
43. Causes of PTSD
45. Theater passages
47. Local Area Network
48. Like autumn air
50. '60s British teenagers
52. *Jason's last name
55. Subway in Paris
56. Pinnacle
57. First Nation nation
59. Cheerleader's prop
60. *____'s "swelter'd venom" in #36 Down
61. Capital of Ukraine
62. Any day now
63. Francisco lead-in
64. Dried-up

CLUES DOWN

1. Club alternative
2. '80s band "Quiet ____"
3. Wet nurse
4. Maid, after getting married
5. City in Northern France
6. Ruhr's industrial center
7. Hunted ruminant
8. *Full moon shapeshifter
9. Sheltered, nautically speaking
10. Flighty one
11. Skater's turf
13. South African grasslands
14. Indian prince
19. Intestinal obstruction
22. Liveliness in one's step
23. *Ghost at a Halloween party
24. According to
25. Nigerian money
26. Jupiter's sister and wife
27. Essential to life
28. Anoint
29. *Witches' hemlock and belladonna, e.g.
32. *Pennywise's are mismatched
33. *"Wool of bat, and tongue of ____"
36. *"....toil and trouble; fire burn and ____ bubble"
38. Anabaptist group
40. Gingerbread shape
41. *Red-____, like Winifred Sanderson of "Hocus Pocus"
44. Wide-mouth jar inventor
46. Small spots
48. "Cuckoo for ____ Puffs"
49. Kieran Culkin as ____ Roy
50. Not nice
51. Von Bismarck or Hahn, e.g.
52. Giant kettles
53. Great Lake
54. Tiresias in "Oedipus Rex," e.g.
55. Business degree, acr.
58. *All Hallow's ____



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Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

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

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Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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

Answers found in next week's Classifieds.

GONZALES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

onships on Oct. 26. The historic achievement was especially meaningful for the seniors who had spent years chasing that opportunity and first-year head coach Haley Garza, who once competed at state herself. "It honestly means more to me than I can put into words," Garza said. "I remember what it felt like to be a runner and have the opportunity to compete at the state meet, so being able to experience that again from the coaching side is incredibly special. Gonzales is home for me, and getting to lead this program in my first year as head coach makes it even more meaningful."

The Lady Apaches earned their trip with a second-place finish among 24 teams, scoring 115 points behind strong performances from both experienced runners and younger athletes. Four



FLASHES BY LOR

finished among the top 34 overall, including two freshmen.

Freshman Nataly Mar led Gonzales in 15th at 11:25.81, followed by senior Jordyn Gonzales in 20th at 11:47.23. Sophomore Riley Cantu finished 30th in 11:59.30, freshman Journie Matias placed 34th in 12:04.88 and sophomore Ellie Lester took 54th in 12:19.04. Sophomore Maya Shoulders finished 72nd in 12:38.68, while junior Khloeann Granados placed 94th in 13:02.12.

The girls' encouragement of one another began before they even reached the starting line. Faith has played an important role throughout their season, and Jordyn Gonzales shared her favorite Bible verse, Zechariah 4:6, with her teammates before the race. Describing its message as "Not by my strength, but his," she reminded them to lean on God when the race became difficult. "I've tried to motivate my teammates by just reassuring them that they can do hard things because that's what I reassure myself of on the course when I'm running," Gonzales said. "When I get tired, I just take a deep breath and remind myself that I can do hard things."

Lester will also return to state, but this time with her entire team. She



FLASHES BY LOR

Above: Senior Diego Leon races with determination, helping the Apaches secure their long-awaited trip to state. Left: Junior Homero Ruiz makes every stride count, earning a top-10 finish and another trip to state.

and junior Homero Ruiz are the only two Gonzales runners making repeat appearances after qualifying individually last year. Having missed much of the season with an injury, Lester was grateful to contribute to the Lady Apaches' success at district and regionals. "It feels really good, and I'm really happy for us and the team," Lester said.

Assistant coach Daniel Barrientos praised the confidence and maturity of the younger girls, some of whom he had watched develop from junior high competitors into successful varsity runners. Seeing them embrace the challenge of a major meet made their second-place finish particularly rewarding.

While the girls secured their state berth with a strong second-place performance, the boys faced a much narrower margin. Gonzales finished fourth among 23 teams with 162 points, edging fifth place by just three points. Senior Diego Leon provided one of the race's biggest pushes, entering the final stretch in 15th place before digging deep to pass six runners and finish ninth overall in 16:23.20. His late surge was especially valuable with so little separating the Apaches from missing state as a team.

Ruiz followed in 10th at 16:27.32, giving Gonzales two top-10 finishers. Junior Brayden Nichols placed 46th in 17:31.96, senior Christopher Gonzalez finished 63rd in 18:02.36 and senior Carlos Pedraza took 65th in 18:04.10. Sophomores Conrad Canales and Dillon Rosales rounded out the lineup in 89th at 18:26.47 and 127th at 19:18.35, respectively.

"We have preached all season that every runner matters and every point counts, and today was a perfect example of that!" Barrientos said. "These boys have worked extremely hard, pushed each other, and bought into what we are building as a program."

After falling short of qualifying together last season, the boys returned determined to make their final season alongside the team's seniors different. Pedraza described reaching state with his fellow seniors as one of his greatest accomplishments after four years of training. Christopher Gonzalez reflected on a journey that began in junior high, with early morning practices, after-school workouts and even running on rest days. "It means the world," Gonzalez said. "I'm proud of this team. We've come a really long way."

Leon also expressed gratitude for the chance to finish his senior season at state alongside his friends, crediting his coaches for pushing him throughout the year and thanking God for helping him through the challenges of the season.

Ruiz, meanwhile, said returning to state with his friends and senior teammates carries special significance because it will be their final cross-country meet competing together. "I feel honored to have the opportunity to race at the State meet again but now also with my friends and senior teammates," Ruiz said. Like several of his teammates, Ruiz also pointed to his faith when reflecting on the accomplishment. "I give thanks to God and always gotta put Him first in everything we do," he said.

Garza said watching the boys finally qualify was particularly emotional after seeing how they responded to last season's disappointment. "These seniors have invested so much into this program, and I'm especially proud that they get to experience this moment during their final season. They've earned it."

Both coaches credited the close relationships between the runners for helping the program reach this point, with athletes pushing one another, celebrating their successes and offering encouragement through difficult moments. "At the end of the day, these kids are more than just teammates. They have become a family, and I think that is what makes this group so special," Barrientos said.

Both teams will compete Friday, Nov. 6, at the UIL State Cross-Country Championships at Old Settlers Park in Round Rock. The Class 4A girls' 3,200-meter race begins at 10:55 a.m., followed by the boys' 5-kilometer race at 11:25 a.m.

Qualifying may have fulfilled a long-awaited goal, but the Apaches aren't treating it as the finish line. Christopher Gonzalez wants the boys to continue pushing themselves and race even harder, while Jordyn Gonzales hopes to enjoy every moment of her final high school cross-country race. "The goal for state is to have fun, of course, but compete my hardest for my last race," she said.





COUNTY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

missed during the county's budget process, but the service remains important for residents, particularly senior citizens who depend on transportation assistance.

Commissioners approved the agreement and a corresponding budget transfer to cover the expense, with Davis acknowledging the need to include the funding in future budgets.

The court also approved a $19.49 million budget amendment to account for proceeds from the county's 2026 courthouse restoration tax notes and the related project expenditures.

Three properties that failed to attract buyers during an Oct. 6 tax sale also moved closer to new ownership. Commissioners accepted bids totaling $44,607, including $26,106 for a 1.897-acre tract in Gonzales County and bids of $12,001 and $6,500 for two properties in Smiley. The sales remain subject to approval from the other taxing entities involved.

Commissioners also approved the 2026 tax roll, agreements for credit card processing services in several county offices and a resolution supporting the Texas Indigent Defense Commission's fiscal year 2027 formula grant program.

One matter will have to wait. A proposed budget amendment to fund a sergeant investigator position in the County Attorney's Office was tabled after officials requested more time to research the proposal. No executive session was held.

While much of Monday's business was settled, the burn ban remains dependent on something commissioners cannot control: the weather.

"We will leave the burn ban in effect as of now, and pray that we get a little bit of rain," Davis said.

Mustang XC turns muddy miles into lasting memories

BY LORRELL WRIGHT

The rain had stopped by the time Nixon-Smiley's cross-country runners took to the course Tuesday, but the mud left behind presented another challenge at the UIL Region IV Class 3A Championships. Even with the difficult footing at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, freshman Cayden Gonzales could be seen smiling and laughing during his race, making the most of an experience his teammates had worked all season to earn.

For head coach Trevor Johnson, reaching regionals was something worth celebrating, regardless of the conditions or finishing places. "Not every day you get to make it to the regional meet," he said. His message to the Mustangs was to enjoy the opportunity, trust their preparation and give everything they had. It was also a chance for seniors Oscar Gamez and Mariela Castillo-Limon to close their high school cross-country careers on a stage they had worked hard to reach.

The Nixon-Smiley boys finished 19th among 24 teams with 518 points, led by sophomore Kyzick Jantes, who placed 71st overall in 21:36.91. Freshman Wyatt Garcia followed in 101st at 22:38.16, while sophomores Nathan Ordonez and Jedidiah Alvarez finished 125th and 134th in 23:32.09 and 23:45.92, respectively. Sophomore Case Martin placed 148th in 24:35.65, followed by Gamez in 150th at 24:38.89 and Gonzales in 164th at 25:58.37.



Covered in mud but all smiles, Nixon-Smiley seniors Oscar Gamez and Mariela Castillo-Limon pose together after their final high school cross-country race Tuesday, Oct. 27, in Corpus Christi.

Competing at regionals for the second time, Jantes was proud of how much the team had improved, crediting Johnson and the work his teammates put in throughout the season. "I think we all improved a lot," he said.

Gamez also returned to regionals for a second year, although Tuesday's course offered a different challenge than he remembered. With earlier races and heavy rain leaving the ground slippery and torn up, simply maintaining footing required additional effort. "The mud probably made our feet heavier, but you know, all my teammates pushed through," Gamez said. "I was proud of them, each and every one of them."

That appreciation for his teammates reflects the kind of leader Gamez has become during his years with the program. He began running cross country in seventh grade and estimates he missed only five practices throughout high school. Johnson praised his dedication and consistency, describing him as one of the athletes who helped establish the foundation for the program's growth. Gamez, meanwhile, said having teammates he could count on helped him overcome the mental challenges of racing and made his final season meaningful. "I just want to say I hope that I inspired my teammates to be better," he said, hoping the younger Mustangs would continue putting in the work long after his graduation.

The Lady Mustangs were represented by two individual regional qualifiers, freshman Ahtziry Espino and senior Mariela Castillo-Limon. Espino finished 93rd overall in 16:51.67, while Castillo-Limon placed 109th in 17:10.22.

For Castillo-Limon, simply reaching the regional meet was a milestone. She joined cross country as a sophomore and spent the next three seasons working toward an opportunity that finally came during her senior year. Asked what went through her mind when she learned she had qualified, she struggled to find the words to describe the accomplishment, but knew she had not reached it alone. "Honestly, there's no words," Castillo-Limon said. "Honestly, couldn't have made it without my team."

She credited consistent practice and the encouragement she shared with her teammates for helping her improve.

Johnson recalled that Castillo-Limon initially became involved in cross country partly because of her twin sister, Gabriella, but watched her motivation become more personal as she developed confidence in her own abilities. "I think she did it for herself," he said. Reaching regionals gave Castillo-Limon the opportunity to finish her senior season having accomplished something of her own, and she hopes younger runners will challenge themselves rather than shy away from trying something new.

"Man, I'm so proud of those seniors," Johnson said. He has watched Gamez and Castillo-Limon grow not only as runners but as young people, and their commitment has helped shape the culture he hopes to continue building. When Johnson first arrived, fewer than 10 athletes participated in cross country. Since then, the Mustangs have developed a program that has sent boys and girls to regionals in consecutive seasons, an accomplishment he said has been rewarding to witness.

Although Nixon-Smiley did not advance to state, Tuesday's meet provided valuable experience for a young roster, with five sophomores and two freshmen among the boys competing. Johnson is also encouraged by the athletes coming through the junior high program, giving him reason to believe the progress will continue.

For the graduating seniors, the season ends with memories of difficult practices, challenging races and teammates who became an important part of their high school experience. For those returning, the work continues with the example those seniors have left behind.

"We've got so many great young runners," Johnson said. "So our program is going to be great for years to come."

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Apache Volleyball closes season with big jump in state rankings

BY LORRELL WRIGHT

Gonzales closed its volleyball season on the road Friday, Oct. 23, with a three-set loss to Floresville, falling 25-18, 25-22, 25-22. Senior Jordyn Gonzales contributed six kills and 12 digs in the finale, while junior Parker Petras added 10 digs and eight assists.

The Apaches finished 15-19 overall and fifth in district. Their 15 victories were seven more than last season's eight, and head coach Jenna Lamb reported a climb of nearly 200 spots in the Texas MaxPreps rankings.

For a program working to improve, those were significant steps.

"Those numbers represent a lot of hard work, growth, and commitment from this team," Lamb said. "We knew we had work to do early on, and I'm proud of the progress these girls made throughout the season."

Lamb pointed to the time the girls invested throughout the year, including practices, summer and spring leagues, club volleyball and fundraisers. She saw growth in their play and in the young women they are becoming, with each player contributing something different to the team.

"Some made their impact through offensive production, others through defense, serving, blocking, or setting, and others through the energy and leadership they brought to the court," Lamb said. "Volleyball requires all of those pieces to work together, and every role matters."

That recognition included seniors Gabriella Torres, Jordyn Gonzales, Blakely Mercer, Shykayden Clack and Alaina Valle. Lamb noted that all five have been part of Gonzales volleyball since seventh grade, investing years in the program through competition, leagues, camps and fundraising.

"Watching them grow up in this program and seeing the role they've played in it has been incredibly meaningful," Lamb said. "Each of them has contributed in her own way, and I'm grateful for what they've given to this team and the program as a whole."

As those seniors finish their high school volleyball careers, Lamb hopes the experience stays with them. Her message to all the players includes being dependable, supporting their teammates and understanding that reaching a goal requires consistent effort.

"One of the biggest lessons I want them to take with them is that you get out of something what you're willing to put into it."

Lamb sees the improvement this season as an example the girls can carry into school, careers and other parts of their lives. She wants them to understand how to respond when things do not go as planned and to recognize what they can accomplish through continued work.

"Our improvement this season is an example of what can happen when you continue working toward a goal, even when progress takes time," Lamb said.

Six players will have another opportunity to put that experience to work for Gonzales. Lamb named Lyndie Blackwell, Carsyn Carrizales, Lilah Coke, Gabriella Cobler, Parker Petras and Lainey Witzskoski as the returners she is looking forward to seeing develop next season.

Each now has another year of experience, and Lamb wants that to come with higher expectations. The improvement in wins and rankings has encouraged her about what the program can accomplish, while leaving goals still to pursue.

"We still have goals we want to reach, and I'm looking forward to continuing to develop this group, raising our expectations, and taking the next step as a program."

The five seniors leave having helped Gonzales nearly double its win total. For the six returning players, the next opportunity is to build on the season all 11 helped put together and keep that progress going.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

GONZALES HIGH SCHOOL

FOOTBALL
FRIDAY, OCT. 30
VS. SA MEMORIAL
Apache Stadium, 7:00 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL
SATURDAY, OCT. 31
INDUSTRIAL SCRIMMAGE
Industrial HS, 10:00 a.m.
TUESDAY, NOV. 3
VICTORIA WEST / ELGIN SCRIMMAGE
Gonzales HS, 6:00 p.m.

NIXON-SMILEY HIGH SCHOOL

FOOTBALL
FRIDAY, OCT. 30
VS. STOCKDALE
Mustang Stadium, 7:00 p.m.

WAELDER HIGH SCHOOL

GIRLS BASKETBALL
TUESDAY, NOV. 3
BLOOMINGTON
Waelder HS, 5:00 p.m.

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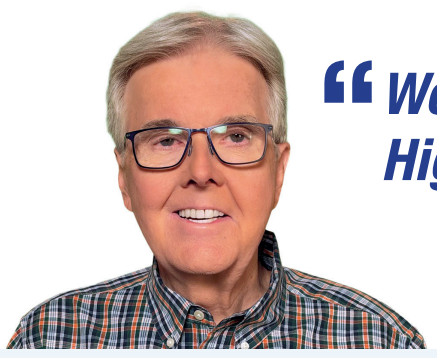
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- Lt. Governor Dan Patrick

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Two years ago, Dan Patrick sounded the alarm on rural data centers. They should not get any tax incentives and, if built, must follow strong guardrails and get local community approval.

Halting 765-kv Power Lines:
Dan Patrick has made clear that massive 765-kv power lines should go over roadway easements wherever possible, not over homes, ranches, and farms. He will form a commission to oversee the routing process, including current maps.

Cutting Property Taxes:
Dan Patrick increased the homestead exemption from $15,000 to $200,000, virtually eliminating school property taxes for the average senior, and will eliminate school property taxes for all homeowners by increasing the homestead exemption again.

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Dan Patrick led the effort to stop hostile foreign interests from buying Texas land, including agricultural land, water rights, and land near military bases.

No Boys in Girls Sports:
Dan Patrick wrote the bill stopping boys from playing girls' sports and men from going into ladies' restrooms.

Funding Rural Law Enforcement:
Dan Patrick wrote the bill to create the first-ever state fund to pay competitive salaries for rural law enforcement. He funded new ambulances and invested a historic $2.5 billion to build five new rural mental healthcare hospitals.

We need a historic rural voter turnout to stop the socialists and keep Texas Red. Without a strong rural Texas vote, Republicans cannot defeat the big blue counties. Every single vote counts in 2026.

Early Voting: October 19-30 ★ Election Day: November 3

Pd Pol Ad - Texans For Dan Patrick

Apaches rush for 410 yards in 62-22 win over Pearsall

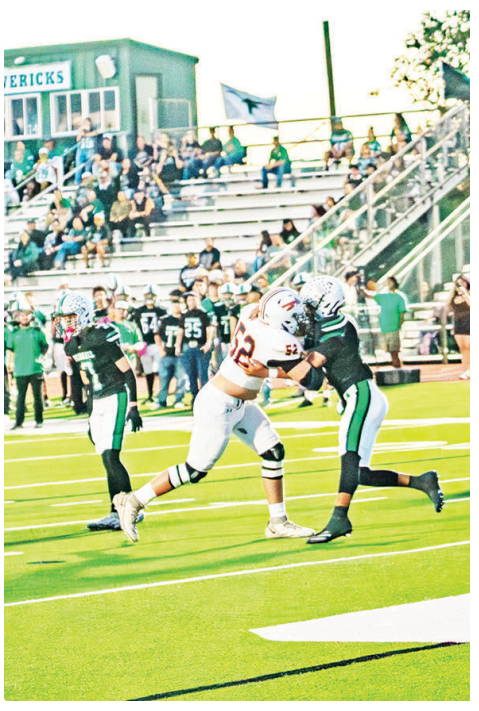
BY LORRELL WRIGHT



Senior James Sanchez runs the ball in for the final touchdown play of the game for Gonzales.



Senior Damian Hunt catches air to complete the pass leading into halftime for Gonzales.



Junior Will Miller takes on a Pearsall lineman.

Gonzales kept finding the end zone in a hurry Friday night in Pearsall, and the Apache cheerleaders kept sending souvenirs into the stands. Six seniors scored in the 62-22 district victory, with several scoring possessions lasting less than 30 seconds.

The cheerleaders tossed mini plastic footballs donated by Pecan Grove Vet Clinic to fans after each of Gonzales' nine touchdowns, giving them plenty of chances to take home a souvenir.

The win moved the Apaches to 3-5 overall and 2-1 in district, providing a strong response to their loss against Cuero.

"Our explosive players made some explosive plays," Gonzales head coach Lyndon Hamilton said.

The work behind those plays started in the trenches. Jose Garcia, Braxton Valle, Will Miller, Fabian Fernandez, Dyllan Sanchez, Jase Escobedo and Bryce Eleby led the way on the offensive and defensive lines. Their work helped Gonzales establish the line of scrimmage on both sides of the ball, with the offense producing 410 rushing yards and eight touchdowns on 25 carries.

The opening possession provided an immediate opportunity. In his first game back from injury, Brodi Ramos blocked Pearsall's punt, giving Gonzales the ball deep in Maverick territory and setting up Keath White Jr.'s first touchdown.

"It starts up front with our defensive line," Hamilton said, crediting the front and back end of the defense for working together to get the opening stop.

When Pearsall answered to pull within 7-6, Gonzales needed just two plays and 17 seconds of possession to score again, with Braelin "BJ" Jones finishing the drive in the end zone. The Mavericks later tied it at 14-14 on a punt-return touchdown and two-point conversion, only for White to break a 60-yard touchdown run before the first quarter ended.

Gonzales found another way to score early in the second quarter. Luis Zuniga Jr. connected with Jones, who got the ball to Damion Hunt as he was being tackled. Hunt finished the play in the end zone, helping send the Apaches into halftime ahead 28-14.

White finished with 187 rushing yards and four touchdowns on nine carries. When asked about his performance, he was quick to share the credit with his teammates and point to how well they played together.

"I think we played with cohesiveness," White said.

That connection showed throughout the lineup. Jones contributed 107 rushing yards and a touchdown, finishing with 148 all-purpose yards. Hunt totaled 124 all-purpose yards and a score, while Zuniga completed eight of nine passes for 91 yards and added 66 rushing yards and a touchdown.

As the lead grew, Zuniga said the seniors took responsibility for keeping everyone engaged on both sides of the ball.

"All the seniors had to step up and start talking to the defense and offense, offensive line, wide receivers," Zuniga said. "No step back, no layoff. Just keep on playing."

White scored twice more in the third quarter as Gonzales stretched its lead to 48-22. Deltin Pape supplied another spark in the fourth, returning an interception 65 yards for a touchdown, and James Sanchez, who finished with 22 rushing yards, added the final score.

Hamilton singled out Pape's defensive effort and said the performance reflected the growth he has seen across the roster.

"Hats off to our seniors for weathering storms this year, and our juniors and our younger classmen stepping up into roles and maturing throughout the course of the early season to get ready for district games," Hamilton said.

With two regular-season games remaining, White wants the Apaches to keep building on that progress.

"We just got to keep our foot on the gas," he said. "We can't really stay complacent. We got to keep wanting it more, man."

Gonzales will host San Antonio Memorial at Apache Stadium for Senior Night on Friday, Oct. 30. It will be the Apaches' first game on their own field this season after bleacher concerns forced earlier home games to be held at Texas Lutheran University. A win over Memorial, which enters 1-7 overall and 0-3 in district, will secure Gonzales' playoff berth.

Gates open at 6 p.m., with Senior Night ceremonies at 6:25 p.m. and kickoff at 7 p.m. With the home bleachers still closed, all spectators will use the visitor side, where bag chairs will also be allowed along the fence. Tickets must be purchased online.

The Apaches are tied with Bandera and Navarro at 2-1 and hold a head-to-head win over Bandera. Final district positioning will be decided in Week 11 on Nov. 6, when Gonzales visits Navarro and Bandera faces currently undefeated Cuero.

As Gonzales prepares to return home, Hamilton made sure to recognize those who have continued supporting the students on the road.

"It's a long trip, long drive," Hamilton said after the Pearsall win. "Just really happy to see our community come out and support our young men and our band and our cheer."



