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Vol. 174, No. 24

Thursday, November 5, 2026

The Gonzales Inquirer

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Gonzales County lifts burn ban after recent rains

STAFF REPORTS

Gonzales County Judge Patrick C. Davis lifted the county's burn ban Monday, Nov. 2, effective immediately. The ban had been in place since Aug. 25.

Recent rains and the gradual greening of pasturelands helped ease hazardous conditions, according to the county's public notice.

Residents are still urged to use extreme caution when burning because dead grass and undergrowth remain abundant across the county.

The Texas A&M Forest Service recommends checking the weather before burning and avoiding hot, dry or windy conditions. The agency also advises keeping water and tools nearby and staying with a fire until it is completely out.

GISD grievance hearing draws calls for transparency

Employee appeal remains unresolved as trustees approve Apache Field demolition at no net cost

STAFF REPORTS

Parents and community members pressed Gonzales ISD trustees for greater transparency and accountability Monday, Nov. 2, as a grievance hearing involving administrator Erin LaBuhn was held behind closed doors and ended without a ruling.

School employees joined other LaBuhn supporters in a packed meeting room.

Much of the grievance hearing had initially been expected to take place in open session. Trustees cited documents that had not been made available through an open records request in deciding to hear it privately. The posted agenda also included closed-session items for the grievance and consultation with legal counsel.

Trustees met in closed session for more than two hours, from 5:44 p.m. to 7:51 p.m.

When the board returned, Trustee Jami Owens moved to grant the appeal in part by removing documents related to LaBuhn's reassignment from her personnel file, while denying all other requested remedies.

Board President Justin Schwausch repeatedly called for a second and consulted legal counsel before declaring the motion dead when no other trustee offered one. No vote was taken.

See **GISD,** page 9

1 SECTION

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Gonzales County backs Republicans as Democrats win top Texas races

STAFF REPORTS

Greg Abbott, Ken Paxton and Monica De La Cruz each carried Gonzales County by more than 2,000 votes Tuesday. All three Republicans lost their races.

Democrat Gina Hinojosa defeated Abbott to become the first Democrat elected Texas governor in more than 30 years. She received 5,193,921 votes statewide to Abbott's 4,499,756, according to unofficial returns from the Texas secretary of state. In Gonzales County, Abbott drew 4,447 votes to Hinojosa's 2,147.

Paxton had a similarly strong showing in the county, where he received 4,316 votes to Democrat James Talarico's 2,241. Talarico won the U.S. Senate race with 5,405,050 votes statewide to Paxton's 4,227,281. And in U.S. House District 15, Democrat Bobby Pulido unseated De La Cruz, 126,204 to 76,305 across the district. De La Cruz carried

See **ELECTION,** page 9



Downtown Spooktacular draws more than 1,000 participants on Halloween



Businesses, county offices and first responders and more lined the streets of downtown Gonzales on Halloween with candy and prizes. More than 1,000 children and family members went from stop to stop at the fourth annual Downtown Spooktacular.

Gonzales Main Street hosted the event from 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 31. The trail gave kids a safe place to trick-or-treat between 319 St. Lawrence St. and 627 St. Paul St., and the evening included a costume contest.

Main Street Director

See **HALLOWEEN,** page 10

Gonzales Elks Lodge brings families together, welcomes new members

BY LORRELL WRIGHT

Halloween fun, support for local students and a welcome for new members filled October at Gonzales Elks Lodge.

The lodge hosted an inclusive trunk-or-treat Oct. 10, welcoming children of all abilities and their families to share in the Halloween festivities. Children could try their hand at a duck toss, paint pumpkins or spend time at the coloring station, with popcorn also available.

See **ELKS,** page 11





Apache cheer punches their ticket back to Disney



BY LORRELL WRIGHT

The Gonzales Apache cheerleaders had good news to bring home from Rosenberg. They finished in the top five at the UCA Regional Qualifier and earned another trip to the National High School Cheerleading Championship.

Head coach Danielle Craft said the girls were thrilled when they found out where they placed. She knew how much time they'd put in to get there, fitting practices and conditioning around school and everything else they had going on. In Rosenberg, she got to see that work come together.

"It's always rewarding to see their hard work pay off, but what made me most proud was their determination

See **CHEER,** page 9

Waelder Volunteer Fire Department awarded $30,000 grant

STAFF REPORTS

The Waelder Volunteer Fire Department has been awarded a $30,000 grant through the Texas A&M Forest Service to help purchase fire and rescue equipment, providing additional resources to support emergency response efforts in the community.

The funding is part of nearly $20 million awarded to 518 rural volunteer fire departments across Texas on Oct. 23 through the Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program.

The $19.6 million in statewide awards marks the first funding round of fiscal year 2027 and will help departments purchase firefighting equipment, emergency vehicles, protective clothing and other essential resources.

Rural volunteer fire departments play a critical role in emergency response, particularly in smaller communities where volunteers are often the first to arrive at wildfires, accidents and other emergencies.

"When an emergency happens, volunteer fire departments are often the first to answer the call. We are committed to strengthening our local responders across Texas by providing critically needed equipment and resources to save lives and protect property when it matters most," said Merrie Noak, Texas A&M Forest Service program leader.

The program provides cost-share funding to help volunteer departments maintain and improve their emergency response capabilities. It also supports firefighter training, volunteer recruitment and the replacement of equipment damaged or lost during disasters.

According to the Forest Service, requests for assistance routinely exceed available funding as departments work to maintain aging equipment and meet growing emergency response needs.

To help address the demand, the 89th Texas Legislature appropriated an additional $192 million in one-time funding for outstanding requests.

Applications not funded in the October round will remain under consideration, with the next round of awards scheduled for March 2027.









Diamond Gym gymnasts bring 95 ribbons, 22 medals home from meet

GONZALES — Diamond Gym athletes brought home an impressive collection of awards after competing in the Extreme Gymnastics League Series meet Saturday, Oct. 17, earning 95 ribbons, 22 all-around medals and multiple team honors.

The gymnasts collected 15 first-place ribbons, 18 second-place ribbons, 21 third-place ribbons, 34 fourth-place ribbons and seven fifth-place ribbons across their individual events.

In the all-around competition, Diamond Gym earned two gold, three silver and five bronze finishes, along with nine fourth-place and three fifth-place finishes.

The gym also enjoyed success in the team standings, with both the Gold and Bronze teams placing third and the Silver team finishing fourth.

The Gold team, coached by Mike Dolezal, included Harper Fullilove, Morgan Connor, Harper Patterson, Addison Chavez and Kimber Fehner.

Silver team members were Jillian Caka, Kyah Medina, Letty Robles and Havyn Cannon.

The Bronze team, coached by Lauren Harris, included Addie Gottwald, Vivian Gold, Emery Harris, Sofie Kuinta, Tinsley Breitschopf, Quinn Lopez, Rylah Arellano, Ellie Harris and Adalynn Kloes.

Diamond Gym's boys competitors included Merritt Fullilove, P.J. Candelaria, Keegan Lopez and Tucker Fullilove, coached by Ashley Candelaria.

The meet provided another opportunity for Diamond Gym's athletes to demonstrate their skills and represent Gonzales in competition, with strong performances across multiple levels bringing home individual recognition and team awards.

Lindenau Rifle Club to celebrate 125 years with fun, dancing

STAFF REPORTS

Lindenau Rifle Club and Dance Hall will celebrate its 125th anniversary Saturday, Nov. 14, with an afternoon of outdoor activities followed by live music and dancing.

The celebration will take place at the historic community gathering spot, located at 22 Streidel Lane in Cuero.

Established in 1901, the club is part of Lindenau's German-Texan heritage. German farmers settled the community in 1891, and a schoolhouse and community center followed two years later, according to Texas Time Travel.

Outdoor activities for children and adults will run from 3 to 5:30 p.m. The lineup includes face painting, balloon animals, magic tricks, a bounce house, a fish pond and more.

The festivities will move to the dance floor from 6 to 9 p.m., with music by the Drew Oliver Band.

Admission to the grounds is free, and food and beverages will be available for purchase.

SHINER CATHOLIC SCHOOL HONOR ROLL - FIRST QUARTER

(High Honors-All grades 94 and above; Honors-All grades 85 and above)

ST. PAUL HIGH SCHOOL

Seniors:

High Honors: Faith Brown, Gabe Darilek, Jack Ehrig, Sloane Kocian, Addison Matias, Gabriela Rivas, Tatum Walker

Honors: Jacob Arriola, Carter Chilek, Michael DeSarro, Frances Filip, Donnie Jones, Kylie Kelso, Clara Kinney, Jack Leonard, Skylar Mozisek, Andrew Nunez, Addison Pustka, Eden Rodriguez, Evan Rother

Juniors

High Honors: Noah Bonorden, Rebecca Brown, Reese Chilek

Honors: August Dodson, Celestine Filip, Lana Lucas, Jace Matias, Levi Morkovsky, Annie Werner

Sophomores

High Honors: Ashlin DeSarro, Reese Patek, Presley Rother

Honors: Eli Barton, Annabelle Collins, Jane Davis, McKinley Jacobs, Easton Jalufka, Ian Kennedy, Ellie Rodriguez, Emori Rodriguez, Hayden Rother Freshmen

See **HONOR,** page 4

Nominations now open for GVEC Public Service Award

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Do you know an individual or organization making a positive impact in the community? We want to hear from you! GVEC is pleased to announce that nominations for the 2027 GVEC Public Service Award (PSA) are now open. This annual award recognizes individuals and organizations within the GVEC service area who have demonstrated substantial, consistent, and unselfish community service.

The first PSA was accepted by former State Senator John A. Traeger at the GVEC Annual Meeting in 1986. Since then, this award has honored 50 more deserving recipients across a broad range of community contributions. From healthcare and education to veterans' services and first responders, PSA recipients reflect the core values of GVEC and the communities we serve: empowering lives, building stronger communities, and shaping a brighter future. You can see a full list of the past recipients at gvec.org.

Community participation is encouraged to recognize these dedicated individuals and organizations that serve in our area. Any community member, GVEC member, employee, or director may submit nominations. "We encourage everyone, including those who aren't GVEC members, to submit nominations. This community-focused award relies on your input to identify those making a difference and to honor the very people who impact our lives," said General Manager and CEO Darren Schauer.

The awards, along with a check for $5,000 to the individual's non-profit of choice and the selected organization, will be presented at GVEC's Annual Meeting on June 24, 2027. The award recipients, along with the individuals who nominated them, will be notified by GVEC staff in April 2027.

PSA NOMINATION PROCESS AND REQUIREMENTS

- Any community member may submit nominations.
- Nominees are not required to be GVEC members. However, nominated individuals and organizations must have provided community service to GVEC's

See **GVEC,** page 4

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Celebrations

Birthdays

November 5th
Tracey Edwards
Bailee Franks
Jewel Helmke
Scott Jansek
Richard Koch
Abby Lozano
Michael Oakes
Lee Ann Wyatt

November 6th
Linda Cedillo
Patrick DeCola
William Miller
Chelsea Schellenberg

November 7th
John Calendar
Sandra Gorden
Lucy Hernandez
Jo Mercer
Gregory Mikesh
Denise Navarro

November 8th
Tammy Kelso Bell
Deanna De La Cruz
Jaymie McMains
Courtney Rey
Susan Simper
Catherine Winegeart

November 9th
John Davis
Damaris Izaguirre
Karlee Krum
Bryan Tuch
Melanie Vega

November 10th
Ashlynn Clack
Mary Martha Ehrig
Jerry Gipson
Benji Hill
Joe Logan
Chris Tatsch

November 11th
Joanna Bermea
Alisa Clack
Juli Clay
Brenda Grauke
Curt Metzler

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Gonzales Weather

SUNNY	November 5 81°/57°	Plenty of sunshine 0% chance of rain • RealFeel 79
SUNNY	November 6 76°/52°	Plenty of sunshine 0% chance of rain • RealFeel 79
PARTLY SUNNY	November 7 78°/56°	Partial sunshine 1% chance of rain • RealFeel 77
MOSTLY SUNNY	November 8 78°/57°	Mostly sunny 2% chance of rain • RealFeel 77
SUNNY	November 9 80°/58°	Plenty of sun 1% chance of rain • RealFeel 81
SUNNY	November 10 74°/51°	Plenty of sun 20% chance of rain • RealFeel 78
MOSTLY SUNNY	November 11 78°/57°	Sunshine and a few clouds 20% chance of rain • RealFeel 79

Upcoming Events at J.B. Wells Park in Gonzales

November 5th - South Texas Tour

November 7th - Blue Bonnet Barrel Race

November 11th - Rafter E Productions Barrel Race

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Gonzales Master Gardeners to host lunch and learn on soil health, fertilization

From backyard vegetable gardens to flower beds and landscaping, healthy plants begin with healthy soil. The Gonzales Master Gardeners will help local gardeners better understand what is happening beneath the surface during an upcoming lunch and learn program focused on soil health and proper fertilization.

The free educational program will be held Thursday, Nov. 12, at noon at PACE, the Master Gardeners' building, located at 623 N. Fair St. in Gonzales.

Guest speaker Jay White, a horticulturist and owner and publisher of Texas Gardener magazine, will share his knowledge of local soil types, soil health and the role fertilizers play in successful gardening.

Texas Gardener has served as a resource for gardening enthusiasts across the state since 1981, offering information and practical advice for growing plants in Texas' diverse climates and soil conditions.

Understanding soil composition and nutrient needs can make a significant difference in gardening success, particularly in South Texas, where varying soil conditions and challenging weather can affect plant growth.

The presentation will offer gardeners an opportunity to learn more about caring for their soil, making informed fertilization decisions and creating healthier growing environments for their plants.

Whether tending a longtime garden or just getting started, attendees can gain valuable insight to apply to their own lawns, flower beds and vegetable gardens.

The program is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be provided, and participants are encouraged to bring their lunch while enjoying the educational presentation.

For more information, contact the Gonzales Master Gardeners at 830-672-8531.

Garden Q&A with CALVIN FINCH



Q. I don't understand how you can claim that mosquitoes are not a problem with bird baths? Why wouldn't they lay their eggs in the bird bath?

A. Typically, normal bird baths are under 2 inches deep and with the splashing action by the birds and the evaporation that occurs every day the bird bath ends up being dry before the end of the day. In my experience it is very rare for a bird bath not to have dried out by the end of the day and when they dry out each day they require refilling before any mosquitoes can successfully lay a new set of eggs.

Q. When is the best time to plant onion transplants? How many should I plant and what are your favorite varieties?

A. I like to plant my onion transplants after mid November. My favorite selections are Y 1015s and Red Creole. Other good choices are Granex, Bermuda, and Red Granex-. A normal bundle will fill 20 feet of row if you plant the seedlings 4 inches apart in the row.



METRO CREATIVE GRAPHICS

I try to harvest 2 out of 3 of the onions in the row as green onions and let the remaining 3rd onion in the row reach full size by the end of May.

Q. Tell us about Porter weed and blue curl as nectar sources in the garden. Are they as favored by hummingbirds and other pollinators as your discussions with gardeners on your radio show indicate? What are the tricks to successfully grow them?

A. Blue curl is a wildflower that should be seeded right now. Obtain the seed from a neighboring gardener or from the Native American Seed Co. It will grow in sun or shade, just make sure the seed makes contact with the soil. Porter weed is a cold sensitive perennial that needs to be protected from the cold by shelter in a green house during the winter. It grows to about 3 feet in diameter with tiny- sized intensely colored red or blue flowers that bloom up and down on weeping stems. They are a favored nectar source all through the summer for hummingbirds and bees.

Q. Which lawn grass has the most shade tolerance?

A. St Augustine grass has the most shade tolerance but even it requires at least 6 hours of sun every day to prosper. If you have less than 6 hours of sun consider one or a combination of the shade tolerant groundcovers such as Asian jasmine, ajuga, dwarf ruellia, mondo grass, English ivy or liriope. For a taller shade tolerant groundcover consider Turk's cap, shrimp plant, and fern.

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LIVESTOCK WEEKLY REPORTS

GONZALES LIVESTOCK MARKET REPORT
Sale Date: October 31, 2026
Receipts this week: 533 Cattle
Compared to our last sale:
Number 1 choice calves and yearlings sold steady and active. Less quality calves and yearlings sold steady. Packer cows and bulls sold steady.
Stocker-feeder Steers: Medium and large-frame No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 425.00-810.00;
300-400 lbs., 375.00-570.00; 400-500 lbs., 335.00-465.00; 500-600 lbs., 315.00-375.00; 600-700 lbs., 295.00-345.00; 700 -800 lbs., 310.00-335.00
Bull Yearlings: 700-900 lbs., 225.00-265.00
Stocker-feeder Heifers: Medium and large-frame No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 375.00-710.00; 300-400 lbs., 335.00-510.00; 400-500 lbs., 320.00-385.00; 500-600 lbs., 285.00-365.00; 600-700 lbs., 305.00-310.00
Replacement Quality Heifers: 400-600 lbs., 385.00-485.00.
Packer Cows: Good lean utility and commercial, 113.00-119.00; Cutters, 120.00-125.00; Canners, 75.00-105.00; High yielding fat cows, 113.00-120.00
Packer Bulls: Yield grade 1 & 2, good heavy bulls, 164.00-171.00; Light weights and medium quality bulls, 141.00-165.00
Stockers Cows: $2,100.00 to $2,600.00
Pairs: $2,200.00 to $3,400.00

NIXON LIVESTOCK COMMISSION
October 26th, 2026
Cattle: 1051
Cows: 109
Bulls: 12
Steers:
200-300 lbs - 461-491-545
300-400 lbs - 412-442-545
400-500 lbs - 361-391-480
500-600 lbs - 319-349-408
600-700 lbs - 304-334-353
700-899 lbs – 287-317-339
Heifers:
200-300 lbs - 376-406-475
300-400 lbs - 375-405-645
400-500 lbs - 341-371-660
500-600 lbs - 311-341-630
600-700 lbs - 287-317-327
700-800 lbs - 263-293-317
Slaughter Cows: 85 - 127
Stocker Cows: 2000-3750
Slaughter Bulls: 100-175
Pairs: 1675 - 300

HALLETTSVILLE LIVESTOCK REPORT
October 27th, 2026
Cattle Sold: 1342
Top #1 class Steer calves
LESS THEN 200# ~620-750
200#-300# ~ 520-770
300#-400# ~ 430-635
400#-500# ~ 390-538
500#-600# ~ 360-420
600#-700# ~ 325-400
700#-800# ~ 300-344
800# & up ~ 285-310
Top #1 class Heifer calves
LESS THEN 200# ~ 560-740
200#-300# ~ 430-570
300#-400# ~ 400-465
400#-500# ~ 330-460
500#-600# ~ 315-382.50
600#-700# ~ 300-348
700#-800# ~ 285-324
800# & up ~ 260-302.50
Replacement heifer
350#-750# ~ 440-700
PACKER COWS
High Dressing: 116-130
Medium Dress: 100-120
Low Dressing: 80-100
Poor/Weak: 65-82
PACKER BULLS
High Dressing: 168-181
Medium Dress: 155-170
Low Dressing: 145-157
3 F1 Braford Hfs 632# $4400
4 F1 Braford Hfs 561# $4450
Good Stocker Cows & Heifers: None
Med. Stocker Cows & Heifers: None
Good Cow/Calf Pairs: None
Med Cow/Calf Pairs: None
The calf market was higher this week. #1 heavier weights sold $3-$6 higher. Light weights sold $5-$15 higher. #1 and plainer kinds sold steady to slightly higher. Overall, a very strong sale. Demand was very good. Packer cows & bulls sold steady to $5 lower on a supply of 150 head. If we can help arket your livestock please call 361-798-4336. Thank you to our customers & buyers!!

SEGUIN CATTLE COMPANY
October 28th, 2026
Cattle: 311
Sheep & Goats: 468
Quality not as deep this week. Stocker cattle steady from last week. Packer cows & bulls 2-3 better.
Medium & Large Frame #1 Steers:
200-300 lb. 2.00 – 5.00 – 6.50
300-400 lb. 1.55 - 4.10 - 5.25
400-500 lb. 3.00 - 3.80 - 4.50
500-600 lb. 2.55 - 3.30 – 3.63
600-700 lb. 2.20 - 3.08 - 3.30
700-800 lb. 3.05 - 3.17 - 3.22
Medium & Large Frame #1 Heifers
200-300 lb. 3.00 – 4.50 – 5.40
300-400 lb. 3.00 – 4.00 – 4.80
400-500 lb. 1.80 - 3.50 – 5.40
500-600 lb. 2.50 - 3.15 – 3.75
600-750 lb. 1.60 – 2.78 - 3.10
Cows:
Utility & Commercial 1.00 - 1.10 - 1.22
Cutters .90 – 1.00 - 1.05
Canners - .60 - .80 - .91
Palpated Cows: 1400 - 1850
Cow/Calf pairs: 2100-3200
Bulls
Heavy High Yielding - 1.60 - 1.75
Light & Low Yielding – .60 - 1.59
Sheep & Goats
Nannies: 45.00-285.00
Kid Goats (Fat) – 3.00 - 4.45
Wethers: 2.30 – 3.00
Billies: 1.15 – 3.70
Dorp. Ewes: 120.00 - 270.00
Dorp. Lambs (Fat): 2.40 - 3.80
Wooled Ewes: .90 – 1.20
Wooled Bucks: 1.78 – 3.10
Lambs: 2.05 – 2.95
Barb. Bucks 250.00 - 350.00

CUERO LIVESTOCK MARKET
October 30th, 2026
A total of 1,535 head were sold this week, including 183 cows and 34 bulls. Packer cows and bulls traded steady to $5 higher. However, the calf market lost ground, driven down across all classes by noticeable declines in the futures market (feeders -$11, fats -$6). October brings about challenges with calf illness with temperature fluctuations. 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 165.00-180.00
Lower yielding 105.00-152.00
Packer cows:
High yielding 120.00-157.00
Medium yielding 105.00-112.00
Poor & Weak 50.00-96.00
Palpated: 21 bred $1700-$3650
Pairs: None
Steer/Bull Calves: (AVG-HIGH)
200-250 lbs. 447.00-555.00
250-299 lbs. 433.00-500.00
300-350 lbs. 423.00-500.00
350-400 lbs. 485.00-470.00
400-450 lbs. 375.00-445.00
450-500 lbs. 357.00-465.00
500-550 lbs. 336.00-382.00
550-600 lbs. 325.00-350.00
600-700 lbs. 315.00-340.00
700-800 lbs. 290.00-320.00
Heifer Calves:(AVG-HIGH)
200-250 lbs. 446.00-555.00
250-300 lbs. 415.00-480.00
300-350 lbs. 380.00-450.00
350-400 lbs. 365.00-550.00
400-450 lbs. 353.00-530.00
450-500 lbs. 330.00-500.00
500-550 lbs. 312.00-352.00
550-600 lbs. 306.00-500.00
600-700 lbs. 299.00-450.00
700-800 lbs. 260.00-316.00
*replacement heifers

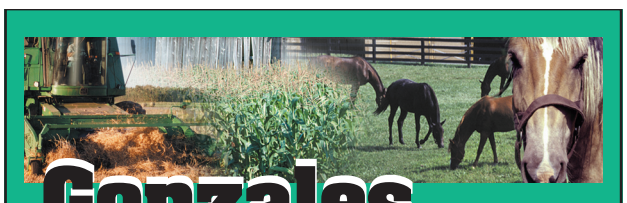
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They can hear us

BY LORRELL WRIGHT

I spend a lot of time at school sporting events, and sometimes I wish we could hear ourselves the way the kids hear us. Between the yelling at players, coaches and referees, we can be so focused on what's going wrong that we forget who is listening. We ask kids to keep their composure while the adults around them are losing theirs.

I understand getting caught up in a game. We love these kids and want to see them do well, and watching them struggle is hard. But they may hear our frustration and start worrying that we're going to be mad at them for a mistake or a loss. A kid who's already upset about a missed play is now trying to recover while wondering whether they've disappointed the people they most want to make proud.

That frustration can spread among teammates, too, until they're getting down on each other for mistakes they've made themselves. We want them to learn how to encourage each other through those moments. If we're asking them to take a breath, regroup and help one another, they ought to see us doing the same.

That includes how we treat the coaches and officials. By the time we take our seats, a coach has already put in hours of work most of us never see. Some officials have driven hours to be there and still have a long trip home after the game. We can disagree with a decision while remembering there's a person on the other end of our frustration who deserves to be treated with respect.

The kids trying to figure things out in front of us deserve some grace and compassion, too. We can expect them to work hard, listen and improve while making it clear a rough game hasn't cost them our support. They can hear what needs work and still leave knowing somebody believes they can get better.

So the next time we head to a game, let's think about what we're adding to it. We can be the voice that recognizes hustle, encourages a struggling player and helps them turn their attention toward what comes next. Thanking a coach or official lets the kids hear appreciation along with all the opinions, even when the scoreboard isn't going our way.

I love seeing a community show up for its kids, and there's plenty of room to be loud and excited. I want our kids to look toward the stands when the game gets hard and know they've still got people behind them. Let's put our energy into making sure that's what they hear.

Letters to the Editor Policy

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

Letters must either be about Gonzales County, from a resident of Gonzales County, or in response to a story that appears in print or online in The Inquirer.

During periods ahead of an election, The Inquirer does not accept letters to the editor urging voters to vote for or against candidates in local elections. Endorsements should be displayed in political advertising. In light of this policy, we reserve the right to reject or edit letters for references to candidates and whether or not they should be elected. The Inquirer will accept letters expressing views on bond measures, constitutional amendments and other such issues. Letters will not be accepted once early voting has begun.

The Inquirer will not knowingly publish factually incorrect information.

Only letters written exclusively to the newspaper will be published. Letters to a third party or those written to more than one newspaper are not accepted. "Wallpaper" – submissions that are in large part copied-and-pasted from another author or organization – will not be published.

Letters written in response to other letter writers should address the issue at hand. Discourse should be civil and people should be referred to in a respectful manner. Letters referring to news stories should also mention the headline and date of publication.

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

Please send Letters to the Editor:

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

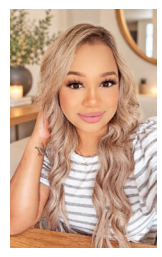
Further questions may be directed to 830-672-2861.

Sometimes, the rainy-day stops are the best ones

There's something about discovering a place that makes you immediately think, "How did I not know this was here?"

That was Darlin's Diner in Flatonia for me.

It happened to be raining the day we visited, and before we even walked through the door, I already loved it. The little space out front was so cute and inviting that I remember thinking we could have sat outside, listened to the rain fall and been perfectly content.



WORTH THE STOP
with Tammy

But then we walked inside, and it got even better.

Darlin's isn't just a diner. It's a coffee shop and boutique all wrapped into one, and somehow it works perfectly. The atmosphere immediately made me want to slow down, look around and stay awhile.

The young lady helping us was incredibly sweet. She was serving us, making drinks and helping us figure out what to order, and when I couldn't decide, I took her recommendation.

Thank goodness I did.

I ordered the Tex-Mex breakfast, which included chorizo and an over-easy egg, and y'all… this wasn't just a "that was pretty good" breakfast.

This was easily one of the best breakfast plates I've ever had.

I don't give that title away lightly, either. The flavors worked so well together that by the time I was finished, Darlin's had earned a spot among some of my favorite places I've tried.

And because apparently breakfast wasn't enough, I had to try the drinks too.

They offer several mimosa flavors, and I went with strawberry. I also ordered a snickerdoodle latte, which was an easy 10/10. Coffee, a mimosa and an incredible breakfast? At that point, Darlin's already had me.

But we weren't finished.

After eating, we made our way into the boutique, and this is where I developed another problem: I wanted everything.

And I mean everything.

The boutique was filled with the kind of pieces that make you pick something up, put it down, walk away and then circle back because you're still thinking about it. The prices are a little higher than your average store, but that's something I expect when shopping at boutiques. You're often finding more unique pieces and a completely different shopping experience than you'd get at a big-box store.

By the time we left, I realized this place checked just about every box for me.

Great food. Great coffee. A fun drink. Wonderful service. A beautiful atmosphere. Shopping. And the kind of experience that makes you start planning your next visit before you've even made it home.

If someone from Gonzales asked me whether Darlin's Diner is worth making the drive to Flatonia, my answer would be easy:

Absolutely.

Go hungry, give yourself enough time to look around, and don't skip the boutique.

Some places are good because of one particular thing. Maybe it's the food, the coffee or the atmosphere.

Darlin's was different.

I loved the whole experience.

And that is exactly what makes a place Worth the Stop.

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

Out near the West Texas town of El Paso…

It has been my policy--whether speaking or writing--to avoid "bathroom humor," and I shan't abandon it now. "Bathroom truths," however, sometimes are warranted, but stopping well short of calling "a spade a spade."

Perhaps the following account will entertain some readers, but for me--the victim--there was little to laugh about.

"B" will stand for bathroom, and "TP" for, well--what the letters have always stood for. These are words heard in mixed company of homes today, except perhaps the one so far out in the country that no one passes going to town.…

*****



DR. DON NEWBURY
The Idle American

On successive days recently, I drove the 600-plus miles from the Metroplex to San Angelo to El Paso. I knew that the trees and other foliage would give way to pumpjacks lifting oil with turbines atop tall towers harnessing wind-generated electricity.

My biggest "goof" occurred near the mid-point. It was particularly hurtful since I had been warned to exit US Highway 67 upon reaching Barnhart. Massive highway repairs loomed ahead, but I forged on, learning a lesson the hard way. Construction toward Big Lake caused traffic tie-ups FIVE times, flag men (and women) held "slow" and "stop" signs to control traffic flow.

A good hour was lost. Flustered, I wondered why I'd forgotten instructions. Charge it to a bad memory, perhaps terminal senility. Still, the sun was still hanging high when my fuel light glowed. I estimated that I had enough gas to cover about 60 miles, but El Paso was some 65 miles away.…

*****

Not too many years ago, I misjudged how far my gasoline would take us, leading to a few marital tiffs. I heard, "I told you so" more than once. Dotage causes one to exercise more care, so I heeded the billboard threatening: "Last chance for gas."

Stopping at what seemed to be service station/grocery combo, I immediately saw a sign that the "B" was for customers only. Okay, so I'd be a "customer," carefully stopping the pump at $13.50, a princely sum for three gallons. Meticulous as I was to honor the sign, I proceeded to the "B," only to find it locked. I waited for several minutes, finally learning from the cashier that "someone must have driven down I-10 with the key."

Chances, I thought, might be better at the other business establishment, a small cafe next door. It wasn't scheduled to open until a half-hour later, but the owner let me in. He also had a "for customers only" sign, so I bought a package of gum, and I don't chew gum.…

*****

The "B" wasn't even close to being "up to snuff." The "TP" rollers were empty, except for a large colony of spiders. Wasp nests clung to the ancient towel holder, which was defaced by a message scrawled long ago: "Herbert Hoover for President."

If there hadn't been paper peeling from the wall, the "B" would have been "paperless."

It was dimly lit by a single light bulb, but I noticed an almost-full liquid soap dispenser. I applied the soap liberally, creating quite a foam. Turning the knob for "hot" water, I was disappointed when nothing came out. It was more exasperating when the "cold" water faucet failed, too. That someone had played "tick-tack-toe" in dust accumulated in the lavatory should have been warning enough.…

*****

What to do? Hands dripping with soap, I trekked back to the adjoining store. I purchased a roll of Bounty ($3.00) and a bottle of water ($2.00). Counting the one-dollar gum purchase and $13.50 for gas, I had spent almost $20.00. I was tempted to deface the "Come Back Soon" sign when I left town.

Before you ask if I made it to El Paso with so little gas, the answer is "yes." There was even a teacup of gas to spare, and the "Welcome to El Paso" sign warmed both heart and soul.

Upon returning to the Metroplex, I learned that the spare tire thought to be wheelhouse-stored, well, lacked a wheel. Maybe the 1962 hit song, "Call Me Irresponsible," was written for me.…

Dr. Newbury, retired educator, lives in the Metroplex. His website, with archived digital and verbal columns, is www.speakerdoc.com. Phone: 817-447-3872. Email: newbury@speakerdoc.com.

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One year $52
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Out of county
One year $60
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Three months $38

E-Edition
One year $40
Six months $25
Three months $20

You can reach us at:
830-672-2861 OR
publisher@gonzalesinquirer.com

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

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

Staff
REPORTER Lorrell Wright
BOOKKEEPER Sanya Simmons

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

The Gonzales Inquirer is published every Thursday by Katy Newsmedia LLC.
USPS 221-740 • ISSN 1059-7158 • 622 St. Paul St., P.O. Box 616 • Gonzales, TX 78629

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HONOR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

High Honors: Evangeline Chilek, Hannah Machacek

Honors: Ellie Bargmann, Jude Boedeker, Claudia Escobar, Briana Hernandez, Matthew Mozisek, Grace Pesek, Jacey Picha, Emma Sanchez, Gabe Werner

ST. LUDMILA ELEMENTARY

Eighth Grade

High Honors: Ryan Bays, Anna Boedeker, Matthew DeSarro, Harper Patek, Honors: Luke Barton, Reese Blaschke, Isaac Bonorden, Wren Chilek, Paul Filip, Jake Good, Cash Kennedy, Gracyn Kennedy, Alaina Luedke, Tenley Wagner, Maggie Watkins

Seventh Grade

Honors: Emma Bargmann, Claire Coon, Bowen Davis, Jesslyn Garrett, Ricardo Gonzales-Moncada, Brooke Hermann, Evan Jahns, Hank Janecek, Hudsyn Parker, Kylie Schaefer

Sixth Grade

High Honors: Eli Bays, Adella Davis, Andrew Machacek, Ainsley McCord, Alexandra Rivas, Sonney Tuch

Honors: Brody Blaschke, Brunes Davis, Grady Hurt, Gage Janak, Tate Kutzer, Dario Lekgegaj, Evelyn Picha, Ross Tieken, Clay Wyant

Fifth Grade

High Honors: Adaline Appelt, Avery Knesek, Autney Marshall, Hallie Matias, Peyton Natho, Becka Schaefer

Honors: Graham Broussard, Chase Brown, Bailey Decker, Kimber Fehner, Cade Halliburton, Madison Haynes, Claudia Jones, Camlyn Kleypas, Avery Markham, Kinley Nollkamper, Luke Nunez, Eli Rother, Diego Sanchez, Teagan Wagner, Samuel Werner, Bridgette Woods

Fourth Grade

High Honors: Blayke Bacak, Agatha Bays, Bentlie Burnett, Karsyn Castello, Natalia Gonzales-Moncada, Emily Gottwald, Conway Hurt, Colt Janak, Beaux Kutzer, Rachel Machacek, Lincoln Perez, Clara Picha, Rich Rodriguez, Charlotte Stafford

Honors: Gunner Craven, Zaila Garcia, Tinsley Tuch, Gabrielle Wood Third Grade

High Honors: Maston Davis, Case Mraz, Blake Pilat, Jessi Turk Honors: Jake Kloesel, Sofie Kvinta, Azalea Martin, Carson Pilat, Tripp Pohler, Olivia Shimek

GVEC

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

service area in 2026.

• Previous GVEC PSA recipients are not eligible.

• Nominations are due December 15, 2026, at 5 p.m. Submitting online at gvec.org is preferred. Printed forms are also available for download or pickup at any GVEC customer service office during regular business hours. All nominations must be submitted, emailed, or returned to the office by the deadline.

For more information or to download the form, visit the website or call 800-223-4832.

A trusted, local partner since 1938, GVEC provides dependable electricity, high-speed internet, and services like AC/heating, solar and battery storage solutions, and electrician services. The Cooperative serves over 130,000 consumers through five service locations in Cuero, Gonzales, La Vernia, Schertz, and Seguin.

OBITUARIES

(Agnes) Inez West Webb



On Sunday, November 1, 2026, (Agnes) Inez West Webb of Smiley, Texas, passed away into the arms of Jesus. Inez was born on August 14, 1929, in Cheapside, Texas, to Delbert Burnett West and Mary Amelia (Leigh) West. Inez married Hugo Morris Webb on November 22, 1946, in Seguin, Texas.

Inez is preceded in death by her parents; husband; sisters, Hazel Pierce (Ed) and Bernice McCarley (Irby); sons, Hugo Morris Webb, Jr and Delbert Monroe Webb; daughter, Ellen Melissa Laging; granddaughter, Amber Webb; 5 brothers-in-law and their wives and 1 sister-in-law and her husbands.

She is survived by her daughter, Karen Lohse; son, John Webb (Lisa); daughters-in-law, Patty Webb and Barbara Webb; son-in-law, Micheal Laging; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and 4 great-great-grandchildren; as well as numerous other loving family and friends.

Inez loved to have vegetable and flower gardens, cook, bake bread, sew, crochet, travel and draw. An art college from San Antonio even sent a representative to her home to try to persuade her to go to their college. She loved getting together with family and friends and loved being the counselor for the youth group at her church, Nixon Assembly of God Church of which she became a faithful member in 1950. She also taught Sunday School for many years, was Sunday School Superintendent and filled the pulpit for the pastor when needed. She loved reading the Bible and read it through many times.

On Wednesday, November 4, 2026, a visitation will be held at 1:00pm and service at 2:00pm at Finch Funeral Chapel in Nixon. Burial will follow at Bundick Cemetery in Smiley. Rev. Michael Cowey will be officiant of the services.

We would like to extend special thanks to The Heights of Gonzales and Elara Hospice for the special care given to our mother by their dedicated staff.

You are welcome to sign the online guestbook at www.finchfuneralchapels.com.

Services in care of Finch Funeral Chapel, LLC.

Earleen Kay Hudson



Earleen Kay Hudson, 87, passed away on October 28, 2026. A beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and sister, she leaves behind treasured memories and a family who will always hold her close to their hearts.

Earleen was born on April 18, 1939, in Colorado Springs, El Paso County, Colorado, to Mary Jane Wilder and Earl Oliver Gallivan. She was the oldest of five children, with siblings Jerry Gallivan, Richard Gallivan, Michael Gallivan, and Sandra Stewart.

She met her husband, Paul James Hudson, at Casino Beach in Lake Worth, Texas. They shared 63 years of marriage and raised three daughters, Melissa, Barbara, and Paula. Their life together became the foundation of a family that grew through generations. Paul preceded her in death in July 2025.

Earleen was a beautiful, kindhearted woman who loved helping others and had a special place in her heart for animals. She had a spirited personality and an adventurous side, with a lifetime of experiences and stories that held more than people might have imagined.

She loved looking stylish, and her collection of glasses was part of her signature look. Her sense of style and individuality made her uniquely Earleen, and those personal touches will always be remembered with a smile.

Her family includes her daughters, Melissa Kay Hanson and husband Michael Scott Hanson, Barbara "Barbie" Cook and ex-husband Howard Cook, and Paula Hudson and ex-husband Bill Cox , her grandchildren, Justin Hanson, Krystal Wehmeyer, Brittanie Banta, Tiffanie Moore, Kimberly Cook, and Will Cox,and her great grandchildren, Zachary, Jaxon, Jameson, Kolson, Brynn , Wesley and Mackenzie.

Earleen also shared a special bond with longtime family friends Gloria Clark and her son, Charles Ray Clark.

After retiring in Burleson, Texas, she moved to Gonzales , Texas, to be closer to family. she worked at Wolff rental properties for 15 years

Earleen will be deeply missed for her kindness, her spirit, and the love she shared. Her memory will live on in the stories her family tells and the moments they will forever treasure. (Facebook interviews)

The family thanks everyone for their love, support, and prayers during this difficult time.



Gonzales DRT chapter shares plans for historic J.B. Wells House



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

J.B. WELLS HOUSE

The house is open for tours on Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Members of the Gonzales Chapter Daughters of the Republic of Texas (DRT) attended the District VIII meeting in Leander, Texas, on October 31, where they shared the remarkable restoration of the historic J.B. Wells House and exciting plans for its future.

Through before-and-after photographs, members highlighted the home's transformation following water damage earlier this year. The presentation also introduced plans to reimagine the Republic of Texas Room, featuring the Republic era ancestors of the T.N. Matthews and J.B. Wells families.

The new exhibit will bring these family histories to life through family trees, historical artifacts, and displays connecting their ancestors to the rich history of early Texas.

Built in 1885, the T.N. Matthews – J.B. Wells House remains a treasured part of Gonzales history. The Gonzales Chapter serves as the conservators of the home, preserving its past while creating new opportunities for education and public engagement.

The chapter invites the community to visit the J.B. Wells house, explore the beautifully restored home, and learn about the exciting changes ahead! Tours are offered Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 3. p.m., unless otherwise announced.

The public is also invited to attend the Gonzales Chapter's meeting on Saturday, November 7, featuring a special program, The Great Texas Land Rush: 1836-1898. This engaging presentation will explore how to navigate historic Texas land grants, the different types of grants issued, and the significance of the witnesses and individuals whose signatures appear on these documents. Attendees will also have the opportunity to view original Texas land grants.

Join the Gonzales Chapter DRT in discovering, celebrating, and preserving the stories of Texas for future generations.



CONTRIBUTED

Community service brings history and neighbors together

Preserving our history, strengthening community connections, and inspiring future generations are important goals of the Gonzales County Historical Commission (GCHC).

Recently, GCHC members partnered with the Daughters of the Republic of Texas and the Edwards Association during National Night Out. Families enjoyed pioneer games and learned about the tools and skills early settlers used in everyday life. The event provided an opportunity to share local history while encouraging community involvement.

During the evening, one woman shared that she and her husband wanted to teach their children the importance of giving back. After learning about local preservation efforts, she enthusiastically volunteered her family to help clean, maintain, and preserve historic cemeteries.

Her response demonstrates that many people are eager to contribute when given the opportunity. Community service not only helps preserve our heritage but also builds friendships, strengthens relationships, and creates a greater sense of belonging.

Everyone has something valuable to offer, whether through volunteering, sharing knowledge, or lending a helping hand. By making opportunities accessible and familyfriendly, we can bring more residents together to protect Gonzales County's rich history.

The Gonzales County Historical Commission invites the public to attend its meetings the first Wednesday of each month at 6 pm at the Gonzales County Courthouse. For more information you can contact 830-263-1488. Come learn about ongoing preservation projects, share your ideas, and discover how you can get involved. No historical experience is necessary – just an interest in our community and its heritage.

Together, we can preserve our past, strengthen our community, and inspire future generations.

Several specialty physicians utilize our outpatient space to see patients. If you are in need of any of their services, please call their direct phone numbers.

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Alpesh Desai, DO
713-864-2659

Nephrology
Azhar M. Malik, MD
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Yong Du, MD
361-576-0011

Pain Management
Eric Miller, MD
830-272-7746

Urology
Robert Ryan, III, MD
830-379-8491

Ophthalmology
Clayton Ckodre, OD
830-339-2843

Podiatry
Terri Quebedeaux, DPM, PA
830-303-0005

Austin Maternal Fetal Medicine
512-821-2540

Obstetrics
Alyson Kirchner, MD, OBGYN
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CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

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

ERRORS

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

CALL TODAY 830-672-2861

050 GARAGE SALES

YARD SALE: YA'LL Come Shop! Huge 4 family Yard Sale. November 6th & 7th, 8am-4pm. 730 FM 532E, Moulton Road, Gonzales.

HARWOOD COMMUNITY GARAGE Sale. Saturday, November 7th, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.. Harwood Community Center.

190 LAWN, GARDEN

MARIO BERMEA TREE SERVICE. We Trim Trees out of Power Lines & Over Houses. Remove Unwanted & Dangerous Trees. Proper Trimming & Canopy Work. Over 30 years Experience & Insured. 512-923-4650, Smiley, TX.

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.

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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850 HELP WANTED

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950 PUBLIC NOTICES

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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.

Oct. 29 Puzzle Answers

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950 PUBLIC NOTICES

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

Public Notice

The Annual Meetings of the Nixon Cemetery Association, Inc. and the Nixon Perpetual Care Cemetery, Inc., will be held jointly at the Nixon Methodist Church Annex, Nixon, Texas, Tuesday, November 17, 2026 at 6:00PM. All members are urged to attend.

Published Notice Gonzales Economic Development Corporation

In accordance with the Development Corporation Act, Section 505.159 of the Texas Local Government Code, the Gonzales Economic Development Corporation, a Type B economic development corporation, on Monday, November 16, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., at the Gonzales City Hall, located at 820 St. Joseph Street, Gonzales, Texas, will onduct a public hearing on the following projects: (a) Performance Agreement with Quality Inn - Gonzales, for an economic development incentive in an amount not to exceed Ninety Thousand and No/100 Dollars ($90,000.00) for eligible project costs associated with Business Retention and Enhancement-Façade/Exterior development located at 1804 E Sarah DeWitt Drive, Gonzales, Texas; and (b) Performance Agreement with Twin State Environmental LLC, for an economic development incentive in an amount not to exceed One Hundred Thousand and No/100 Dollars ($100,000.00) for eligible project costs associated with Enterprise/Start Up development located at 1045 CR 245, Harwood Texas. It is requested that you make your views known, either in person or by writing to the Gonzales Economic Development Corporation.

PUBLIC NOTICE

REQUEST FOR COMPETITIVE SEALED PROPOSALS (RFP-GCH-001)
GONZALES COUNTY COURTHOUSE RESTORATION – CONSTRUCTION SERVICES
GONZALES COUNTY

Gonzales County seeks Competitive Sealed Proposals from qualified general contractors for the Gonzales County Courthouse Restoration project.

MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE AND SITE VISIT at 10:00am CST on November 18, 2026, at the Gonzales County Courthouse, 414 St. Joseph Street, Gonzales, TX 78629. PROSPECTIVE OFFERORS MUST ATTEND.

DUE DATE AND TIME: Competitive Sealed Proposals must be received by December 16, 2026, no later than 10:00am CST, and will be publicly opened at that time at the Gonzales County Courthouse.

Proposals must be delivered by mail, courier, or in person to:
RFP-GCH-001
Patrick C. Davis, County Judge
Gonzales County Courthouse
414 St. Joseph Street, Suite 200
Gonzales, TX 78629

The RFP documents may be obtained at the County's bid website: https://newtools.cira.state.tx.us/page/gonzales.Bids

Proposals received after the time and date specified will not be considered.

Gonzales County reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, waive informalities in proposal submissions, and modify or cancel the RFP at any time.

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

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950 PUBLIC NOTICES

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.

Janice Sutton
Clerk of the District Court of Gonzales County, Texas

DISTRICT COURT OF GONZALES COUNTY, TEXAS

By: K. Alarcon

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



City of Waelder Invitation To Bid on City Surplus Items

Sealed Bids will be accepted at City Hall starting October 19, 2026 through December 1, 2026.

Public Works

2005 Chevy Silverado 1500 5.3L V8 – Runs, A/C works, bad oil leak. Min. bid $800
- Extended Cab
- Vin # 2GCEC13T951329848
- Mileage: 115,000

2000 Ford F350 – Runs, No A/C, needs a tune up & Battery. Min. bid: $800.00
- Vin #
- Mileage: 103,751

2004 Blazer PH 610 ULV Mosquito Sprayer – Runs, needs battery. Min. bid: $500.00
- Serial #

18' Utility Trailer – Needs wheel hub & has a bent axle. Min. bid: $100
- Good frame

All items are sold "AS IS" and "WHERE IS" with all faults. The City makes no warranty, express or implied with respect to the condition of the goods. The City specifically disclaims any and all UCC warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose.

Scrap price of $0.05 is based on A & S recycling per lbs.

All bids should be sent to the City Manager in sealed envelopes, plainly marked "Sealed Bid Enclosed – City Surplus Items" and mailed to the attention of the City Manager, City of Waelder, P. O. Box 427, Waelder, TX 78959, or hand delivered during regular business hours and to the attention of the City Manager, City of Waelder, 300 Hwy. 90 West, Waelder, TX 78959. General inquiries may be made by calling City Hall at 830-788-7331.

Sealed bids will be accepted until 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 1, 2026.

The City Council will open all received bids on Tuesday, December 8, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Waelder City Council Chambers, located at 300 Hwy. 90 West, Waelder, TX 78959. The City of Waelder reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, and to remove any or all items from the sale.



GONZALES COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORTS

The following information was provided by the Gonzales Police Department and the Gonzales County Sheriff's Office.

GONZALES POLICE DEPARTMENT
OCT. 13-OCT. 19, 2026

October 13

• Kera Tannan, 30, of Palmdale, California, was arrested on an out-of-jurisdiction warrant.

• A theft was reported in the 1800 block of Church Street.

October 18

• An assault was reported in the 200 block of Reid Street.

• Officers responded to 288 calls for service during the week.

GONZALES COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
OCT. 11-OCT. 17, 2026

October 11

• Joseph Ryan Camarillo, 18, of Waelder was arrested for possession of a controlled substance.

October 12

• Debra Eileen Lopez of Flatonia was held for another agency on a charge of theft of property valued at $2,500 or more but less than $30,000.

October 13

• Justin Casey of Kingsbury was held for another agency on two counts of indecency with a child by sexual contact.

• Saul Reyes of Hallettsville was arrested on two counts of manufacture or delivery of a controlled substance and charges of possession of more than 4 ounces but no more than 5 pounds of marijuana and tampering with or fabricating physical evidence with intent to impair.

• Pacoleon Wesley Brown of Hallettsville was arrested on two counts of manufacture or delivery of a controlled substance and a charge of possession of more than 4 ounces but no more than 5 pounds of marijuana.

• Kera Lorece Tannan of Gonzales was held for another agency on an aggravated robbery charge.

October 14

• Michael Ray San Miguel of Gonzales was arrested on a warrant for injury to a child, elderly or disabled person with intent to cause bodily injury.

October 15

• Valencia Wynnette Reese of Bessemer, Alabama, was arrested for possession of less than 2 ounces of marijuana.

October 16

•Jesus Hernandez Ramirez of San Antonio was arrested on a warrant for driving while intoxicated, third or more offense.

• Frederick Douglas Shanklin of Victoria was arrested on a warrant for driving while intoxicated.

• Nahun Alberto Flores-Rostran was held for another agency on a charge of theft of property valued at $100 or more but less than $750.

• Bryan Scott Condel of Gonzales was arrested for possession of a controlled substance.

• Miranda Rose Riojas of Gonzales was arrested for theft of property valued at less than $2,500, with two or more previous convictions.

• Jennifer Lea Maldonado of Harwood was arrested for possession of a controlled substance.

The Sheriff's Office listed 27 arrests, court commitments, other-agency arrests and processing entries in all, including 16 by GCSO, seven by DPS, three by GPD and one by NPD. The Sheriff's Office reported 718 calls for service during its reporting period.

The two departments reported 1,006 calls for service combined.

GONZALES BEGINS
EXPLORING OUR TOWN'S RICH HISTORY

1898 – sewer line connection is made between public school and county sewer line at southwest corner of Courthouse Square.
-March 26-27, Gonzales County interscholastic meet, both sports and academics
-April 1, Stahl Brothers sent out about 2,000 cases of eggs. Record-breaking year.
-April 1, Gonzales' first producing oil well brought in two miles west of Slayden.
-April 1, Daylight savings time bill repealed by Congress last year and will go into effect this year.
-April 1, Henry Kane of Houston won the contract to erect Randle/Rather Building.
-April 22, two carloads of hogs shipped out by Boothe (bought from Skinner Brothers) over Southern Pacific Railroad. Going to Galveston where they will be loaded on ships to be exported.
-Dave and Jake Stahl went into the produce business
-The Ladies Park Association was formed in order to give Gonzales "a pretty little park" Later articles reported that a fence had been erected around the entire block and it was a rare beauty spot, with lovely blooming plants. (This block is now known as Texas Heroes Square.)
-October 7, Jim Andrews (AKA Jim Barber) hanged for murder of his wife, on the jail gallows.
-City granted fifty-year franchise to Citizens Electric Light and Power Company.
-April 21, Spanish American War began. Many young Gonzales men served.
-June, three students graduate from Gonzales High School

1899 – January 5, twelve bales of cotton just received. 636 bales on hand
-January 12, the December school report says 286 students are enrolled. Four have been sent to the Superintendent this year for misconduct.
-January 12, this edition of *The Inquirer* also reports that the eclipse of the moon on December 27th was viewed with great interest.
-February 16, the ladies of the Park Association are sponsoring a social soon. All young ladies wearing pink bows are willing to marry and all young men wearing red ties will be considered "courting danger." If they wear black they are "not of this world."
-March 23, quite a number of ladies went out "ferning" recently.
-March 23, a monster catfish weighing eighty pounds, caught in the Guadalupe River, was brought to town by Mr. Fred Taube.
-March 23, D.W. Heye purchased W.H. Kokernot's saddle and harness shop.
-March 23, present-day Gonzales Fire Department organized
-March 30, because of the "Battle of Flowers" at San Antonio on April 21, San Jacinto Day, the Southern Pacific will sell excursion tickets from Gonzales at $1.50 for the round trip. Train leaves Gonzales at 7:30 a.m. and arrives in San Antonio at 10:45 a.m.
-April 27, W.H. Kokernot shipped this week over the SAP, eight carloads of cattle to Caney, Kansas. J.B. Wells shipped four carloads to Kansas City.
-April 27, the IOOF celebrated its 80th anniversary with a parade and a basket picnic. To add to the meal, eight carcasses of mutton, four hogs, and some beef were barbecued.



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Community HomeWord Class Invites You to Study Luke

CONTRIBUTED

Would you like to understand the Bible better, meet neighbors, and grow closer to God—all from the comfort of your home? The Community HomeWord Bible Class will begin an in-depth study of Luke on Monday, November 9, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Luke introduces us to individuals and crowds, women and men, the poor and the rich, sinners and saints. This message is for everyone because it emphasizes the universality of Jesus Christ and His salvation: "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people."

Everyone is welcome, regardless of church background or familiarity with the Bible. The atmosphere is friendly and informal, and you don't need any previous Bible-study experience. You may join the discussion or simply listen. This makes the class especially comfortable for newcomers, shy participants, and homebound attendees.

The class meets remotely every Monday via phone or Zoom. Anyone who can dial a phone can participate, or you can join via Zoom for a more immersive experience.

The class has been working through Warren Wiersbe's respected BE Bible study series. Before each class, participants receive a chapter summary. During class, the group studies the biblical passage verse by verse and discusses how its message applies to life today.

There is no charge. Participants need only a Bible and a desire to learn. You are encouraged to read the week's Scripture and summary beforehand, though it's not required.

If you have felt God calling you to study Scripture or learn more about Him, this may be the opportunity you have been seeking.

To learn more or receive instructions for joining, call or text Ralph at 830-672-6721 or email ralph_mcgarity@yahoo.com. To join the class by Zoom, visit https://homeword.s.gy/community on Mondays at 5:30 p.m. You may also participate by telephone; contact Ralph for the dial-in number and meeting code.

Have church news? Let us help you share it

There is always something happening in the churches of Gonzales County, and we want to help make sure the community knows about it.

The Gonzales Inquirer welcomes church and faith news from congregations throughout the area, including revivals, anniversaries, homecomings, fundraisers, Bible studies, special services, mission projects, youth activities and other events.

And sending something in does not have to be complicated.

Just give us the basics: Who? What? When? Where? Why?

Include the church name, event, date and time, location and anything readers should know. If there is a guest speaker, pastor, musician or group, tell us a little about them, too.

Churches are also encouraged to send photos from events that have already happened. Include names of those pictured whenever possible and a brief explanation of what was taking place.

Most importantly, send it early. We know church events sometimes run on faith, volunteers and somebody remembering at the last minute that the newspaper needs to know, but the sooner we receive it, the better chance we have of sharing it before the event.

So send us the revival, fish fry, anniversary, choir program, new pastor announcement or youth group photo.

If it matters to your church family, there is a good chance it matters to someone else in our community, too.

Send it to publisher@gonzalesinquirer.com.



Gobble, Gobble!

CONTRIBUTED

Enjoy a delicious meal and good company at the Thompsonville Ladies Club's free annual Thanksgiving luncheon at noon Friday, Nov. 13, at the Thompsonville Community Center, 2774 County Road 423 in Waelder.

The luncheon offers a chance to meet new people while giving the club an opportunity to thank businesses and community members for their generous support of its fundraisers and donations. Money raised provides higher education scholarships for qualifying students who reside in Gonzales County.

Donations will be accepted at the door and are greatly appreciated.

Save the date for the club's next fundraiser, the annual Chili Supper and Auction, on Feb. 20, 2027, at the Thompsonville Community Center.

Join us November 7 for 2nd annual citywide tent revival

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.

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First Baptist Church
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First Baptist Church
Highway 108 N., Smiley

First Baptist Church
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Leesville Baptist Church
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1805 Weimar, Gonzales

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
1600 Sarah DeWitt Dr.,
Suite 210, Gonzales

INTER-DENOMINATIONAL
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1812 Cartwheel Dr.,
Gonzales

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306 St. Paul, Gonzales

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ISF, corrections department collect toys and coats for Gonzales County children



If you're out shopping for the holidays, consider picking up a toy or a coat for a child in Gonzales County. A local drive is collecting both to help children stay warm through the colder months and give them something to look forward to opening this holiday season.

The 2nd 25th Judicial District Intermediate Sanction Facility (ISF) and the Community Supervision and Corrections Department (CSCD) are organizing the drive. They're inviting residents, businesses and community organizations across Gonzales County to take part.

Organizers are asking for new, unwrapped toys and new coats. You can drop off a single item or get together with friends, coworkers or members of a local organization to collect several. A toy or coat picked up on an ordinary shopping trip can make a difference for a child close to home.

Donations can be dropped off at the Intermediate Sanction Facility, 4024 FM 794 in Gonzales, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Collection bins will also be available at participating local businesses, so residents can drop off a donation while they're out running errands.

The toys and coats will go to children in Gonzales County. Local law enforcement, Child Protective Services or Norma's House will help identify children who could use them.

Organizers are asking people to spread the word, too. If you know someone who might like to take part, pass along the drop-off information or invite them to

CHEER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and the way they competed," Craft said.

Some of the work that goes into a competition happens right on the football sidelines. The girls will compete in the Large Varsity Non Tumbling Game Day division at nationals, and Apache football games give them a chance to practice in front of the people they're trying to get involved.

"Friday nights are actually an important part of our competition preparation because they give us opportunities to perform in front of a crowd, build confidence, and improve our crowd-leading skills," Craft said.

The girls are working on getting their routines more consistent before their next competition, the Nov. 22 San Antonio Regional. They already have their nationals bid, and Craft is looking forward to seeing what the team can do between now and Orlando.

"We're excited about where we are, but we're not satisfied yet!" she said.

Nationals run Jan. 29 through Feb. 1 in Orlando, Florida. Gonzales placed fifth in its first appearance last season.

For the 28 girls making the trip, there's also the matter of getting to Orlando. The cheer program is raising money to ease travel costs for families, and the community can see the team perform at its Nov. 7 showcase, which is open to the public. A poker chip fundraiser is already underway, and the program also has plans for a Polar Express Night and a booth at Winterfest.

"Every donation, sponsorship, and fundraiser participation

> **"Friday nights are actually an important part of our competition preparation because they give us opportunities to perform in front of a crowd, build confidence, and improve our crowd-leading skills."**
>
> *Danielle Craft, Head coach*

makes a difference, and we're incredibly thankful for the continued support from our community," Craft said.

Details about the poker chip fundraiser are available on the Gonzales Apache Cheer Booster Page on Facebook. Anyone interested in donating or sponsoring the team can reach out through the page or email Craft at danielle.craft@gonzalesisd.net.

GISD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Audience members said they could not hear the proceedings and asked what the motion had been. Schwausch told attendees that LaBuhn and her attorney knew what the motion was and that it had not carried.

Before the closed session, three speakers urged trustees to consider LaBuhn's service to students and families. Parents questioned communication about her reassignment and called for greater transparency, describing her help obtaining services and therapies and her continued participation in special education meetings.

Christy Stockstill Gold, a former GISD special education teacher and educational diagnostician whose children had attended the district, said she had experienced LaBuhn's leadership as both a parent and an employee. She described an administrator who listened to families' concerns and worked to resolve problems.

"She does not simply tell people what to do. She teaches, she supports, she problem solves, and steps in when her staff needs her," Gold said.

She urged trustees to consider the impact of LaBuhn's work beyond a title or job description.

"People like Erin are not easily replaced," she said.

In separate action, trustees voted 7-0 to accept a proposal from Superior Metal Recycling to remove Apache Field's home bleachers and press box at no net cost to GISD. The board authorized Superintendent Dr. Dana Arreola to finalize the contract.

The local company, owned and operated by GISD alumni, will recycle the recovered materials. Its offer came well below the demolition cost originally anticipated, making price a major factor in the administration's recommendation.

Chief Financial Officer Amanda Smith said the district requested prices for demolishing and hauling away the structures, as well as for dismantling them to salvage and recycle the materials.

The district received six proposals. Only two included a credit for the value of recovered materials, and those proposals differed in price by $150,000.

Trustees also voted 7-0 to use a job order contract for demolition and competitive sealed proposals for the remaining renovation work. Smith said the competitive proposal process would allow the district to provide designs and testing reports to contractors and negotiate after receiving their proposals.

Superior indicated the work could be completed by New Year's Eve, provided the required permitting does not cause delays. District officials said insurance and safety requirements were included in the request for proposals, and legal counsel will help prepare the contract.

Staff also said banners and the Apache image on the back of the press box would be recovered and returned to the district during removal.

Trustees adjourned with LaBuhn's appeal unresolved and more decisions ahead on Apache Field. District staff will seek bids to replace the home bleachers and press box, then bring the proposals and costs to the board for review and a vote.

ELECTION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Gonzales County, 4,380 to 2,259.

The county's picks fared better in the races for the Texas Legislature. Republican state Rep. Alan Schoolcraft won another term in House District 44, carrying Gonzales County with 4,442 votes to Democrat Eric Norman's 2,094. Republican state Sen. Lois Kolkhorst led Democrat Erica Gillum in District 18 returns after carrying the county, 4,544 to 1,983.

Elsewhere on the statewide ballot, Gonzales County favored Republicans Dan Patrick for lieutenant governor, Mayes Middleton for attorney general and Don Huffines for comptroller. Democrats Vikki Goodwin, Nathan Johnson and Sarah Eckhardt led those races statewide. Democrats Benjamin Flores, Clayton Tucker and Jon Rosenthal also led statewide for land commissioner, agriculture commissioner and railroad commissioner. Their Republican opponents carried Gonzales County.

Republicans led every judicial race on the Gonzales County ballot. Statewide, Democrats Maggie Ellis, Chari Kelly, Kristen Hawkins and Gisela D. Triana led the four Texas Supreme Court races. Democrats Okey Anyiam and Audra Riley led two Court of Criminal Appeals races, with Republican John Messinger ahead in the third. Democrats Jerry Zimmerer, Tom Baker and Marc M. Meyer led the three 15th Court of Appeals races, and Democrat John Ball led in the 13th Court of Appeals race.

County judge was the only contested race for Gonzales County office in Tuesday's general election. Republican Patrick C. Davis received 5,473 votes to 154 for declared write-in candidate Ashley Kamil Smith, according to unofficial returns. The county's preliminary reconciliation report showed 6,783 ballots counted.

Nine other Republicans ran unopposed. Voters elected Janice Sutton as district clerk, Lona Ackman as county clerk, Sheryl Barborak as county treasurer and Seth M. Fullilove as county surveyor. Robert "Bobby" Tomas was elected commissioner in Precinct 2 and Collie Boatright Jr. in Precinct 4. Deidra D. Voigt was elected justice of the peace in Precinct 1, Cody Mikulencak in Precinct 3 and Darryl Becker in Precinct 4.

Nixon-Smiley CISD's Proposition A was on track to pass after drawing 803 votes in favor and 376 against in Gonzales County's unofficial returns.

The vote would put the district's adopted property tax rate of $1.0446 per $100 of taxable value into effect for the current tax year. About three-quarters of that rate would go toward running the schools, with the rest going toward paying district debt.

At home, Gonzales County elected Republicans to all 10 county offices on the ballot and backed Nixon-Smiley's school tax measure by more than 2 to 1. The county's two Republican state lawmakers are on track to return to Austin, where a Democrat will take the governor's office. And in Washington, Gonzales County will have two new voices in Congress in Democrats James Talarico and Bobby Pulido.

THEME: BIRDS

CLUES ACROSS

1. Consumer
5. Drivel
8. Mary of direct marketing fame
11. Taxon, pl.
12. Mosaic piece
13. Speculate
15. Similar
16. Eye part
17. Belgian port city
18. *"The Birds" producer and director
20. *"Mourning" bird
21. Kicks out
22. *"Birds do it, ____ do it," sing.
23. "Hot" prefix
26. Suggest
30. Treaty of Rome org.
31. Dump
34. *Horus' mother
35. Spills over a container edge
37. Hole puncher
38. Finals
39. Type of balsam
40. Thumb, anatomically speaking
42. *New Zealand parrot
43. Suppresses
45. *Big Bird, e.g.
47. Shark part
48. Yo-Yo's instrument
50. Bleak
52. *Bird with largest wingspan
56. *Popular origami bird
57. Mongolian desert
58. *Hen to chick
59. Silly and scatterbrained
60. Affirm with confidence
61. Sailor's call
62. Number cruncher, acr.
63. Color
64. Totes

CLUES DOWN

1. D-Day beach
2. H. H. Munro's pseudonym
3. Sign of escape
4. Ill will
5. Basketball foot maneuver
6. Smart ones?
7. Reach a high
8. a.k.a. Kyiv
9. Green Gables resident
10. Hitherto
12. U of A home
13. Poet Nash
14. *Albus Dumbledore's companion
19. Dark fertile soil
22. Board of Directors, acr.
23. MCAT and LSAT, e.g.
24. Serf
25. Cause for food recall
26. Pay a visit
27. Japanese port city
28. Sand clock, e.g.
29. Test form
32. Vietnam's neighbor
33. *Parliament member
36. *Barbara's ____ Cereal
38. Glorify
40. Mightier than sword
41. Oblong cream puff
44. British sailor, slangily
46. Conventional
48. Garlic unit
49. What tide did
50. Golf club handle
51. Pro ____
52. Lab culture
53. Pearl Harbor island
54. Urban haze
55. Simon does what?
56. Public health org.



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Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

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

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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.



ELKS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the celebration with an alien-themed booth and candy for the children. The lodge said parents and children enjoyed the event and thanked families for taking part.

"Thank you to everyone for sharing your precious children with us," the lodge said in its announcement.

The lodge's outreach to local children continued through its support of Red Ribbon Week. Stephanie Ramos, the lodge's Loyal Knight, delivered 2,500 red ribbons to Gonzales ISD campuses Oct. 29 for their Red Ribbon Week activities.

October also brought three new faces into the lodge's membership. Victoria Serna, David Koch and Ryan Prochaska were initiated Oct. 15.

Gonzales Master Gardeners to dig into soil health at Lunch and Learn on Nov. 12

A healthy garden starts beneath the surface. Understanding the soil plants grow in, and what it needs, will be the focus of an upcoming Gonzales Master Gardeners Lunch and Learn.

The free program will begin at noon Thursday, Nov. 12, at PACE, the Master Gardeners' building, 623 N. Fair St. in Gonzales. The public is invited to attend.

Horticulturist Jay White, owner and publisher of Texas Gardener magazine, will discuss local soil types, soil health and proper fertilization. His presentation will help South Texas gardeners better understand the ground they are working with and the role fertilization plays in supporting healthy plant growth.

White brings both formal education and hands-on gardening experience to the subject. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees in agriculture, and his own gardening interests include vegetables, herbs, flowers, shrubs and trees, according to the Texas Master Gardener Program.

Texas Gardener has provided gardening information tailored to Texas growing conditions since 1981, offering guidance on everything from vegetables and fruit to flowers and landscaping.

Attendees are encouraged to bring their lunch and settle in for a midday program devoted to helping their gardens grow. Light refreshments will be provided.

For more information, call 830-672-8531.



METRO CREATIVE GRAPHICS







HALLOWEEN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Hallie Smith said about 40 businesses registered and handed out candy. Volunteers and community groups joined in, and Smith said the event gives families a chance to spend time together in historic downtown Gonzales.

"Gonzales Main Street is thankful for everyone who helped make this event a success, from our local businesses to the community members and volunteers who took the time to participate, pass out candy, and make Halloween a little more special for our children!" Smith said. "We look forward to continuing to bring our community together through events like this while highlighting everything Historic Downtown Gonzales has to offer."

> **"Gonzales Main Street is thankful for everyone who helped make this event a success, from our local businesses to the community members and volunteers who took the time to participate, pass out candy, and make Halloween a little more special for our children!"**
>
> *Hallie Smith, Main Street Director*

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Gonzales NJROTC cadets show growth, success at competition





Gonzales High School's Apache Company cadets raised their military knowledge score from 12 to 42 out of a possible 50 at the Sea Hornet Classic JROTC Drill Meet in Corpus Christi. Their overall score improved by 23%.

Flour Bluff High School hosted the annual meet Oct. 31. The Classic has served as an Area 18 qualifier for Navy JROTC programs across South Texas.

Gonzales also competed in color guard, where cadets had to stay in step and respond to commands together as they presented the flags. Performing in front of judges gave them a chance to build confidence, practice leadership and learn to count on one another under pressure.

Color guard is also one of the ways the cadets serve their hometown. They presented and retired the colors at the 2025 Come & Take It Memorial Golf Tournament, which honored local soldiers who died in the Vietnam War. They also performed a flag-folding ceremony at the 2024 Veterans Day luncheon at the J.B. Wells Expo Center.

The cadets are always looking for more ways to give back to Gonzales, and they're inviting the community to join in. Apache Company is sharing 30 days of challenges on its booster club's social media page, where anyone can follow along, try the challenges and show their support.



Lady Apaches hungry for more after historic district success

BY LORRELL WRIGHT

The Gonzales Lady Apaches accomplished something last basketball season that the program hadn't seen in roughly a decade, sweeping both Cuero and Navarro on their way to a second-place district finish and a trip to the playoffs. Now, with much of that team returning and expectations running high, the Lady Apaches have their sights set on a district championship and a deeper postseason run.

Entering his second season as head coach, Alex Metanic has plenty to build on after Gonzales finished 17-17 overall and 8-2 in district. The season ended with a heartbreaking overtime loss to Floresville in the opening playoff round, but the progress made along the way gave the girls something to be proud of and plenty of motivation heading into another year.

"We did a lot of good things last year. We had a lot of firsts, accomplished a lot of firsts in about 10 years," Metanic said. "But we're still hungry. We're not really satisfied."

That determination carried into the offseason, with players taking advantage of summer workouts, open gyms and opportunities to improve on their own. When official practices and tryouts began, returning varsity players appeared more confident and vocal, taking charge of drills and helping younger teammates without waiting for direction. After spending his first season establishing expectations and getting to know the program, Metanic is encouraged by the leadership developing within the team.

Among those returning are sophomores Amaris Johnson and Ellie Lester, who quickly became two of Gonzales' leading contributors as freshmen. Johnson finished last season with 453 points, 289 rebounds and 53 blocks, while Lester added 353 points, 106 assists and 142 steals. Both have continued developing their games, and their experience will be valuable as the Lady Apaches prepare for another competitive season.

Just as encouraging is the talent surrounding them. With players contributing in different ways, from scoring and creating opportunities to rebounding and defense, the team's depth and willingness to work together will be important to its success.

Senior Jordyn Gonzales brings leadership and defensive experience after recording 71 assists and 55 steals last season. Her ability to help handle the ball when opponents focus their attention on Lester, along with her willingness to do the smaller things right, makes her another important piece of the lineup.

"She does a great job of leadership. She does an amazing job on defense and just doing the little things right," Metanic said.

The Lady Apaches will have some production to replace following the graduation of Jayda Glass, whose rebounding and aggressive play contributed to last year's success. Senior Kinsley Aldalco and Kea'anna White are among those expected to take on larger roles, while freshman Zariah Washington has already impressed during offseason skill sessions and early tryouts. Maggie Farrar and Gabby Cobler are also expected to contribute more heavily, and senior Zoe Barfield provides another

See **BASKETBALL,** page 13



Sophmore Amaris Johnson goes for the layup in Tuesday's scrimmage.

FLASHES BY LOR

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Mustangs' Gonzales makes history with selection to San Antonio All-Star Game

BY VANESSA KIRBY

Nixon-Smiley Senior Becomes Just the Third Mustang in School History to Earn Prestigious Honor

NIXON — Nixon-Smiley senior standout Garet Gonzales has earned a place in Mustang football history after being selected to compete in the prestigious San Antonio All-Star Football Game. Gonzales is only the third player in Nixon-Smiley High School history to earn the honor, cementing his legacy as one of the program's most accomplished student-athletes.

The All-Star Game will be held on January 9, 2027, at the Alamodome in San Antonio, where Gonzales will represent the Nixon-Smiley Mustangs as a member of Team Blue. The event brings together some of the area's top high school football players, offering a chance to showcase their talents alongside other outstanding athletes from across the region.

For Gonzales, the selection is a fitting recognition of a remarkable four-year varsity career defined by consistency, toughness, versatility, and leadership.

Through the first six games of his senior season, Gonzales has established himself as one of the Mustangs' most productive two-way players. Offensively, he has rushed for 401 yards and six touchdowns, averaging 6.1 yards per carry. He has also made nine receptions for 152 yards and two additional touchdowns, bringing his total to eight touchdowns and 618 all-purpose offensive yards.

Defensively, Gonzales has continued to make his presence felt, recording 21 tackles and a tackle for loss in six games. His willingness to contribute wherever needed has made him an invaluable part of the Mustangs' success throughout his high school career.

Gonzales' impact extends well beyond his senior campaign. A four-year varsity letterman, he has been a fixture in the Nixon-Smiley backfield since his freshman season. He rushed for 510 yards as a freshman, 661 as a sophomore, and 605 as a junior, then added 401 more through the opening six games of his senior year. His combination of speed, physicality, and determination has made him a consistent offensive weapon throughout his career.



Senior SAS All Star Garet Gonzales with head coach Paul Kirby

His accomplishments have not gone unnoticed. Gonzales earned First Team All-District honors as a freshman at fullback, First Team All-District honors as a sophomore at running back, and Second Team All-District honors as a junior at fullback. He was also named the Nixon-Smiley Offensive Player of the Year after both his sophomore and junior seasons.

While his Friday-night production has been impressive, Gonzales' leadership and character have been equally important to the Mustang football program.

"Garet represents everything we want a Nixon-Smiley Mustang to be," said Nixon-Smiley Athletic Director and Head Football Coach Paul Kirby. "He has been a varsity contributor since his freshman year, but what stands out most is not simply the production he has accumulated. It is the consistency, toughness, and unselfishness he has demonstrated throughout his four-year career. Garet has been willing to do whatever our team needs to be successful. He has played running back and fullback, contributed on defense, returned kicks, and even handled punting duties. He doesn't worry about where he lines up or who gets the credit. He simply wants to help his team win."

Kirby also emphasized the importance of Gonzales joining such an exclusive group of Mustang football players.

"To be just the third player in Nixon-Smiley history selected for this game is an incredible accomplishment," Kirby said. "This recognition is a testament to the work Garet has put in over the past four years. He has earned everything he has received, and we couldn't be prouder of the opportunity he has to represent our school, our community, and the Mustang football program on this stage."

Beyond football, Gonzales has established himself as a leader throughout Nixon-Smiley High School and the surrounding community.

Gonzales has been a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes since seventh grade and currently serves as FCA President. He has helped lead schoolwide faith-based activities, including See You at the Pole and Fields of Faith. He has also been involved in Student Council since seventh grade and regularly volunteers at elementary school events, such as Field Day, Water Day, holiday activities, and pep rallies.

In addition to his football accomplishments, Gonzales has competed in powerlifting and tennis, further demonstrating his dedication to athletics and his representation of Nixon-Smiley across multiple sports.

Gonzales has also made plans to continue his academic and athletic career at Schreiner University, where he has verbally committed to play football.

For the Nixon-Smiley community, Gonzales' selection is more than an individual achievement. It is another milestone for a Mustang football program that continues to emphasize hard work, accountability, leadership, and pride in representing the school.

On January 9, Gonzales will trade his Mustang uniform for Team Blue as he takes the field at the Alamodome. However, he will carry the pride of Nixon-Smiley, the support of his teammates and coaches, and the distinction of being just the third Mustang ever selected for the San Antonio All-Star Game.

For Gonzales, it's a chance to represent his school again on one of the biggest stages in South Texas high school football.

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WEEK AT A GLANCE

GONZALES HIGH SCHOOL

FOOTBALL
FRIDAY, NOV. 6
AT NAVARRO
Navarro Stadium, 7:30 p.m.

CROSS COUNTRY
FRIDAY, NOV. 6
STATE MEET
Round Rock, Time TBD

GIRLS BASKETBALL
FRIDAY, NOV. 6
VS. BANDERA
Gonzales HS, 4:30 p.m.
TUESDAY, NOV. 10
VS. EL CAMPO
Gonzales HS, 6:15 p.m.

BOYS BASKETBALL
SATURDAY, NOV. 7
VS. MARION & LULING
Gonzales HS, 11:00 a.m.

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FOOTBALL
FRIDAY, NOV. 6
AT KARNES CITY
Karnes City Stadium, 7:00 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL
FRIDAY, NOV. 6
VS. JOHN F. KENNEDY
Nixon HS, 5:15 p.m.
TUESDAY, NOV. 10
AT POTEET
Poteet HS, 6:15 p.m.

WAELDER HIGH SCHOOL

CROSS COUNTRY
SATURDAY, NOV. 7
STATE MEET
Round Rock, Time TBD

GIRLS BASKETBALL
FRIDAY, NOV. 6
AT BARTLETT
Bartlett HS, 5:00 p.m.
TUESDAY, NOV. 10
VS. SOMERVILLE
Waelder HS, 5:00 p.m.

BOYS BASKETBALL
TUESDAY, NOV. 10
VS. SMITHVILLE
Waelder HS, 6:15 p.m.

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Mustangs battle to the end in Senior Night loss to Stockdale

BY VANESSA KIRBY


FLICKS BY NAT


VANESSA KIRBY


FLICKS BY NAT

NIXON, Texas — Mustang Stadium was an emotional Friday night as the Nixon-Smiley Mustangs celebrated Senior Night, honoring the young men who have devoted years of hard work, sacrifice, and commitment to the football program. Unfortunately, the Mustangs fell just short in a hard-fought district rivalry game against the Stockdale Brahmas, losing 28-21 on October 30.

With the stands filled with family, friends, and Mustang supporters, Nixon-Smiley took the field, determined to send its seniors out with a final victory on their home turf. The Mustangs came out strong, building a 21-14 halftime lead behind an explosive offensive performance. However, the Brahmas rallied with 14 unanswered points in the fourth quarter to escape with a seven-point victory.

Nixon-Smiley's offense produced 321 total yards, including 169 rushing and 152 passing, while finding the end zone three times. Junior quarterback Dallas Rhodes led the Mustang offense, completing 4 of 9 passes for 152 yards and two touchdowns. Rhodes also demonstrated his dual-threat ability, leading the team in rushing with 84 yards on 12 carries, averaging seven yards per attempt.

Junior wide receiver Joe White provided one of the biggest offensive sparks of the evening, catching three passes for 109 yards and a touchdown. His impressive 72-yard reception highlighted the Mustangs' ability to strike quickly through the air.

Zane Canion also made his mark in the passing game, hauling in a 43-yard touchdown reception, which accounted for Nixon-Smiley's second passing score. Senior running back Garet Gonzales remained a reliable offensive weapon, rushing for 70 yards on 14 carries and scoring the Mustangs' lone rushing touchdown. Gonzales averaged five yards per carry, helping Nixon-Smiley establish its ground attack against the Brahmas.

Defensively, the Mustangs battled throughout the evening, with several players turning in strong performances. Counting each solo and assisted tackle as one, Khali Jantes led the defense with 12 tackles, followed by Karson Rhodes and Jaylun Rodriguez with nine tackles each. Dallas Rhodes recorded seven tackles, while Omariel Baez Cruz finished with eight. Garet Gonzales and Jedidiah Alvarez each contributed six tackles, and Robert Doebber added five. The Mustangs also recorded six tackles for loss.

While the outcome was disappointing, Friday night was about much more than football. Before the game, Nixon-Smiley recognized its senior football players, honoring a group of young men who have poured their hearts into the Mustang program. For many of these seniors, their journey began together as seventh graders, growing from young athletes into leaders both on and off the field.

Senior Night was an opportunity to recognize not only the players but also the families who have supported them through countless practices, early-morning workouts, summer conditioning sessions, injuries, victories, and defeats. The memories made under the Friday night lights at Mustang Stadium will stay with these young men long after their playing days are over.

See **MUSTANGS,** page 14

BASKETBALL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

offensive threat with her outside shooting.

Some of those developing roles were put to the test during the Lady Apaches' first round-robin scrimmage against Victoria West and Elgin, particularly with Lester seeing limited playing time as she prepares for the state cross-country meet. With Lester's minutes restricted, Farrar stepped up to help bring the ball up the court, earning praise from Metanic. Washington also gained valuable experience against outside competition in her first high school scrimmage.

"I thought Maggie really stepped up," Metanic said, adding that Washington was thrown into the action early and learned valuable lessons that should help her development.

While the shortened live quarters made it difficult to fully evaluate his team, the scrimmage showed that the Lady Apaches have plenty to address before their regular-season opener. Metanic stressed that last year's accomplishments won't automatically translate into success this season, and the girls will have to continue putting in the work at practice, particularly with Friday's home opener approaching.

Despite some changes to the lineup, Gonzales will continue emphasizing a fast, physical style of basketball built around defensive pressure, rebounding and hustle. The Lady Apaches have the speed and shooting ability to create opportunities offensively, but their effort without the ball will remain a defining part of the team's identity.

Helping guide that development is a coaching staff combining continuity with new experience. Assistant Jessica Cantu returns for another season, providing familiarity with the players and handling many of the behind-the-scenes responsibilities of the program. New assistant Meaghan Palmer brings collegiate playing and coaching experience from Texas A&M University-Kingsville. She has already begun working individually with players, introducing new techniques and offering another perspective as the team prepares for the season.

That preparation will be especially important following UIL realignment, which places Gonzales in a district with Cuero, Floresville, Great Hearts Northern Oaks, La Vernia and Navarro. La Vernia returns as the defending district champion, while facing Floresville again will give the Lady Apaches another opportunity to measure their progress.

"We're looking forward and we're excited for the challenge. But we know that we can compete in this district as well," Metanic said.

Gonzales opens its regular season Friday, Nov. 6, at home against Bandera, beginning a new chapter for a team that has already helped bring renewed excitement to the program.

When Metanic arrived, he heard stories about the successful Apache basketball teams of years past and the community support that surrounded them. Last season, he began seeing some of that excitement return to Vic Salazar Gym, with larger crowds and renewed energy in the stands.


Seniors Kea'Anna White and Kinsley Aldaco show Elgin what Lady Apache defense is all about.


Freshman standout Zaraiah Washington gets valuable shooting experience against Victoria West in the scrimmage.

With the boys and girls programs again sharing home dates during district play, he hopes the community will continue filling the gym and helping make Gonzales a difficult place for visiting teams to play.

"Our girls deserve a packed house. They put in the work," Metanic said.

The Lady Apaches have already given Gonzales plenty to celebrate, but last year's accomplishments are only a starting point. What comes next will depend on the work they put in and how they respond when the games begin to count.

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Senior night win at Apache Stadium puts Gonzales in second place ahead of district finale

BY LORRELL WRIGHT







FLASHES BY LOR

Gonzales came home to Apache Field and scored on its first three chances with the ball. An opening kickoff return and two one-play touchdown drives sent the Apaches toward a 28-7 senior night win over San Antonio Memorial on Friday and back to the playoffs.

Families and supporters who had been there since day one cheered through the rain as players slid across the wet grass and cheerleaders kept going in the mud. After earlier home games at TLU, Gonzales was playing on its own field for the first time all season and everyone was happy to be home.

Families celebrated their seniors before kickoff. Coach Lyndon Hamilton welcomed the chance to have the players back with their families on the field they had known since junior high. He thanked the parents and fans who came out to share the night with the seniors. "They made it special for our 12th graders," he said.

Keath White Jr. said the team worked through pregame changes in the rain. "We handled it the right way," he said. Damian Hunt took the opening kickoff 65 yards for a touchdown with 11:48 left in the first quarter. After the defense forced turnovers on downs on Memorial's next two possessions, White and B.J. Jones each scored on Gonzales' first snap, building a 21-0 lead with 6:22 left.

Memorial answered early in the second to make it 21-7, and mistakes slowed Gonzales' young offense. The defense held Memorial scoreless the rest of the way, with freshman Jaxson Hill recording three interceptions and a fumble recovery.

Jones added his second rushing touchdown with 6:47 left in the game to make it 28-7. He finished with 149 yards on seven carries, while White added 56 yards on four carries. Gonzales' seniors supplied all four touchdowns, with help coming from across the roster.

Senior quarterback Luis Zuniga completed four of six passes for 52 yards, all to Hunt, and when not playing, could be heard coaching up his teammates from the sidelines. Junior center Will Miller also continued helping younger players who stepped up after an injury during the game took him out.

Hamilton praised his staff for keeping the players grounded and eliminating distractions. "Winning is difficult," he said, crediting a strong week of preparation and players across the roster who "stepped up big."

The night also brought one final walk across Apache Field after the game for all Gonzales seniors present before graduation. James Sanchez appreciated getting to finish at home with a win. "We came back home with it and took the dub," he said.

"Ever since I was a kid, I had the dream to play varsity football," senior Bryce Eleby said. He wanted to cherish every moment because "everybody don't get this moment." Keeping Jesus first and reaching his goals mattered to him, as did the people sharing the field. "I care about my teammates," he said. Of returning to Apache Field, he added, "I got to finish off where I started."

For Zuniga, who had returned when district play began, getting to share this night with his teammates reflected months of work. "Ever since I got hurt, I just locked in and just kept my head down and just kept working," he said.

Those friendships stretched back years for Brodi Ramos. "We've been playing since we were young, seventh grade," he said. "It just meant a lot to be able to come back and be here [at Apache Field]."

For Hunt, the joy of opening senior night with a touchdown came with the sadness of knowing it was his last game on this field. "It's kind of sad that it was our last game," he said. "We fought as a team. We didn't give up."

Jones knew he would miss sharing nights like this with his team, even if the full weight of that goodbye had yet to reach him. "It kind of hurt me a little bit. I was sad for a little bit because I'm not gonna get this back," he said. "It's not hitting me right now, but it's gonna hit me sooner or later."

They still have more football to play together. Gonzales heads to Navarro in Geronimo for the regular-season finale in second place behind Cuero. Bandera's 24-6 win over Navarro left Gonzales and Bandera both 3-1, with the Apaches holding the head-to-head edge from their 20-16 win. Playoff seeding and game details remain to be determined.

Hamilton wants Gonzales to play "our best football game of the year on the road" at Navarro. His first reaction to Friday's win, though, was about what it meant for his players: "I'm just excited that these young men get to play another football game."

MUSTANGS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

Although the Mustangs fell short of the Senior Night victory they had hoped for, their effort reflected the toughness, determination, and pride that have defined this senior class. Their legacy will not be measured solely by the numbers on the scoreboard, but by the example they have set for the younger Mustangs who will follow in their footsteps.

The loss drops Nixon-Smiley to 4-5 overall and 2-3 in district play. The Mustangs will now turn their attention to their regular-season finale against the Karnes City Badgers, aiming to finish the season with a victory.

For the Mustang seniors, Friday night marked the end of a chapter at Mustang Stadium, but the lessons learned, friendships formed, and memories made will last a lifetime. Their commitment to the program and willingness to fight for one another have left a lasting impact on Nixon-Smiley football.


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