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Vol. 174, No. 26

Thursday, November 19, 2026

The Gonzales Inquirer

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Cattle Country Festival announces 2027 lineup



Presale sign-up now open for Texas' largest country music and camping festival, April 8-10, 2027

Cattle Country Festival, the largest country music and camping festival in Texas, is returning for its fourth year from April 8-10, 2027 in Gonzales, Texas. Presale ticket signups are now open as the festival reveals its highly anticipated 2027 lineup featuring a special reunion show from Cross Canadian Ragweed and star-studded performances from Hudson Westbrook, Mark Chesnutt, Kameron Marlowe, Jackson Dean, Emily Ann Roberts, Larry Fleet, Stoney Larue, The Wilder Blue, The Droptines, and Jack Wharff Band.

Additional lineup acts to look forward to include Walker Montgomery, Tyce Delk, Kolton Moore & The Clever Few, Silverada, The Ransom Brothers, Shelby Stone, Slade Coulter Gunnar Latham, Cole Barnhill, Sterling Elza, Julianna Rankin, Lawson Knight, Taylor Hunnicutt, John Hollier & The Reverie, Caleb Lee Hutchinson, Haydon Wigington, Brandi Behlen, Tristan Roberson, Brooke Baird, Brayden Stewart, Logan Jahnke and more.

HOW TO GET TICKETS

Presale signups are live today at www.CattleCountryFest.com with a limited number of spots available. Presale tickets will be available to purchase at the lowest price possible for one hour only on Thursday, November 19

See **FESTIVAL,** page 5

Storey Jewelers announces going-out-of-business sale as owner Paul Neuse retires

The store originally opened more than a century ago in Downtown Gonzales

After more than four decades in the jewelry business and a lifelong connection to Gonzales, Storey Jewelers owner Paul Neuse is preparing to retire. The store – originally opened more than a century ago - launched a going-out-of-business sale on Monday, November 16.

Shoppers can expect discounts of up to 70% on a wide selection of fine jewelry, including bridal pieces, gemstones, Native American jewelry, and options ranging from sterling silver to platinum. The sale will also feature the Neuse's curated collection, including unique items never offered for sale before.

"The entire inventory is included in the sale, and there will be something for everyone," said Neuse.

The store's roots trace back to 1903, when E.A. Gomez and Chauncey Vaughn Bright founded Gomez and Bright Jewelry and Music Store. It later became Bright Jewelry House under Chauncey Bright, who owned and managed the business until his passing in 1941. Mr. Bright's daughter, known as Feetie, and her husband Glynn Storey, then took over, with Bill Storey assuming control in the early 1970s.

> **"I will miss seeing customers every day, and I'm grateful to the community that has supported us for so many years. It's been an honor to be part of so many special celebrations."**
>
> *Paul Neuse, Storey Jewlers*

For Neuse, Storey Jewelers has been a part of his life since high school. A Gonzales native, he began working at the store in 1979 while still a student. He later worked full-time at Storey Jewelers for several years, attending college while applying his skills in watchmaking and jewelry repair.

After graduation, Neuse moved to Houston, where he worked as a certified public accountant, but an opportunity to return to his hometown changed the course of his career.

In 1995, Bill Storey offered Neuse the opportunity to purchase the jewelry business. With a baby on the way, Neuse and his wife, Dianne, decided to leave Houston, return to Gonzales, and take ownership of Storey Jewelers January 1st, 1996.

Over the years, the business built its reputation on quality merchandise, expert repairs, and personalized service.

"We have always provided quality at a fair price," Neuse said. "Our commitment has been to offer both outstanding merchandise and expert repairs."

That philosophy guided the store's curated selec-

See **STOREY,** page 5

Gonzales turns out as Valle, Lester sign to play college softball

BY LORRELL WRIGHT

Students, families and supporters packed Vic Salazar Gym on Nov. 11 for National Signing Day. There were kids in the crowd who still had years before they'd get to high school. They had come to see where softball was taking two Lady Apaches, and when Alaina Valle took the microphone, she told them about someone who had helped her get there.

Valle thanked her mom for pushing her and showing up for her over the years. She told her she loved her and thanked God for the chance to keep playing.

Valle signed with Trinity Valley Community College, and fellow Gonzales senior Dixie Rae Lester signed with South Dakota State University. The shortstop and pitcher helped Gonzales go 10-0 in district last spring, its first unbeaten district season, and reach the regional final for the first time in program history.

At the ceremony, head coach Presleigh Scopel talked about how quickly Valle reads a play at shortstop. She sees what's developing and knows where the ball needs to go. Scopel has

See **SIGNING,** page 11



From left, Gonzales assistant softball coach D'laine Easley, Alaina Valle, Dixie Rae Lester and head coach Presleigh Scopel pose during the National Signing Day ceremony Nov. 11 at Vic Salazar Gym.
FLASHES BY LOR

1 SECTION
12 PAGES

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Shop Local. Love Gonzales.

Campaign celebrates local businesses, community pride and holiday shopping

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

GONZALES, Texas — The Gonzales Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture, in partnership with Gonzales Main Street and the Gonzales Economic Development Corporation, is launching Shop Local. Love Gonzales., a community-wide initiative encouraging residents and visitors to shop, dine and explore locally this holiday season.

Running through Dec. 31, the campaign celebrates the people, businesses and experiences that make Gonzales special while highlighting the importance of supporting the local economy.

The campaign goes beyond encouraging holiday purchases. It celebrates the people behind Gonzales businesses and recognizes their contributions to local jobs, entrepreneurship, community traditions and economic vitality.

The campaign launches during the week of Nov. 16, building on local shopping opportunities including Pink Friday on Nov. 20, a business-led shopping event supported by community partners, and Small Business Saturday on Nov. 28.

Throughout the holiday season, Shop Local. Love Gonzales. will feature local business spotlights, educational messages about the value of shopping locally, holiday shopping inspiration and interactive activities designed to encourage residents to discover businesses throughout Gonzales.

A LITTLE LOCAL LOVE AND A LOT OF HOLIDAY FUN

One of the campaign's featured activities is the Love Gonzales Challenge, a bingo-style activity encouraging participants to explore local businesses, enjoy local experiences, discover new favorites and celebrate the community.

Participants will also be invited to follow the adventures of Gonzo the Gnome, a traveling holiday visitor who will make appearances at participating Gonzales businesses. His visits will highlight local merchants, encourage photo opportunities and introduce residents to the people behind the storefronts.

The campaign also includes proposed weekly drawings featuring gift cards redeemable at local businesses, along with a grand-prize gift card bundle.

Pending final approval of the giveaway details, weekly drawings are planned for Nov. 30 and Dec. 7, 14, 21 and 28, with the grand-prize drawing scheduled for Jan. 4, 2027. No purchase will be necessary to enter or win. Official entry instructions, eligibility requirements, deadlines and prize details will be published before entries open.

SUPPORTING THE BUSINESSES THAT SUPPORT GONZALES

Local businesses do more than provide goods and services. They create employment opportunities, support entrepreneurs, contribute to the local economy and often play an active role in community events, school activities and charitable efforts.

By encouraging residents to consider Gonzales businesses first when purchasing gifts, dining out, booking services or planning experiences, the campaign aims to strengthen connections between local businesses and the community.

The partnership brings together organizations with complementary roles in business support, downtown revitalization and economic development.

EVERYONE CAN SHOW A LITTLE LOCAL LOVE

Residents are encouraged to participate throughout the holiday season by shopping and dining locally, visiting businesses they have never explored, recommending their favorite Gonzales businesses and sharing their experiences.

Businesses throughout Gonzales are invited to participate in the campaign and may be featured in promotional content and community activities.

Campaign announcements, participating business information, activity details and giveaway rules will be shared through the Gonzales Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture, Gonzales Main Street and Gonzales Economic Development Corporation's official communication channels.



Gonzales County 4-H invites community to annual poinsettia sale & pickup on Dec. 4

GONZALES, TEXAS – Community members are encouraged to support local youth and brighten their homes and offices for the holiday season by attending the Gonzales County 4-H Poinsettia Sale & Pickup on December 4 at 623 N. Fair Street in Gonzales.

Gonzales County 4-H Poinsettia Sale & Pickup

When: December 4
Where: Pace Building at 623 N. Fair Street, Gonzales, Texas

Proceeds from the sale help the Gonzales County 4-H program excel, making a lasting impact on the youth of our community. Thank you for your support.

Funds raised from the event help local 4-H members participate in projects, competitions, leadership workshops, community service, and other valuable learning experiences throughout the year. "Gonzales County 4-H provides young people with opportunities to develop leadership skills, build confidence, and gain hands-on experience that will benefit them for years to come," said Gayle Bludau, Gonzales County 4-H Coordinator.

Area residents are invited to come on December 4 to pick up at the Pace Building at 623 N. Fair Street and purchase poinsettias. Whether decorating homes, businesses, churches, or offices, purchasers can enjoy seasonal beauty while investing in the future of local youth.

Hometown Christmas Decorating Contest returns to Gonzales for the holiday season

Local businesses invited to decorate their storefronts, showcase Christmas trees and spread holiday cheer

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

GONZALES, TX — The Gonzales Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with Gonzales Main Street, is bringing back the Hometown Christmas Decorating Contest as part of this year's Winterfest celebration, A Hometown Christmas.

The contest invites businesses throughout Gonzales to decorate their windows, storefronts and publicly visible business exteriors, helping create a festive atmosphere while encouraging residents and visitors to shop local this holiday season.

This year, the contest will place a special emphasis on Christmas trees, complementing the community's holiday festivities and the lighting of the new Christmas tree at Texas Heroes Square on November 28. Businesses are encouraged to incorporate a Christmas tree or tree-inspired element into their decorations, whether traditional, miniature, handmade or creatively designed to reflect their business.

With the excitement surrounding our community Christmas tree this year, we thought it would be fun to carry that Christmas spirit into our local businesses. Whether it's a beautifully decorated tree or a creative storefront display, we hope businesses throughout Gonzales will join us in making this a memorable hometown Christmas.

The contest will feature a judged Downtown Window Decorating Contest for businesses within the Gonzales Main Street District, along with three communitywide awards open to eligible businesses throughout the Gonzales area, including downtown. These include Best Hometown Christmas Theme, recognizing the display that best captures the warmth and spirit of a hometown Christmas; Best Christmas Tree Display, celebrating creative and festive tree-inspired decorations; and the Hometown Christmas Community Choice Award, determined by public voting.

Participation is free, and Chamber membership is not required.

Businesses are encouraged to have their displays ready for Small Business Saturday and the Hometown Christmas Tree Lighting on November 28, as well as Winterfest on December 5. The official registration and decorating deadline is Friday, December 4, at 5 p.m.

Participating businesses must submit photographs of their completed displays by December 7. Judging and communitywide People's Choice voting will take place December 8–13, with winners announced in the December 17 edition of the Gonzales Inquirer and through Chamber and Main Street communications.

Businesses interested in participating can find complete contest details, official rules and the online registration form at https://gonzalestexas.com/hometown-christmas-decorating-contest.

Important Dates

- **November 28**: Early decorating encouraged for Small Business Saturday, Jingle Mingle and the Christmas Tree Lighting
- **December 4**: Registration deadline; all displays must be completed
- **December 5:** Winterfest — enjoy the festive displays throughout Gonzales
- **December 7:** Completed display photographs due
- **December 8–13:** Contest judging and Community Choice voting
- **December 17:** Winners announced in the Gonzales Inquirer and through Chamber and Main Street communications

American Legion Post 40 to host free barbecue lunch, VA benefits workshop

Bring your questions and your appetite. American Legion Post 40 in Gonzales invites veterans, spouses and survivors to a free VA benefits workshop with a barbecue lunch and door prizes Saturday, Dec. 5.

The workshop runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the post, 1612 Robertson St. The posting of the colors will begin at 9:45 a.m., followed by a welcome at 9:55 a.m.

Representatives from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Texas Veterans Commission will lead sessions on VA health care enrollment at 10 a.m. and mental health services at 11 a.m. Barbecue will be served from noon to 1 p.m.

The afternoon starts with a session on survivor benefits at 1 p.m. and wraps up with a session on disability compensation and the PACT Act at 2 p.m.

The event is sponsored by the county veterans service office, American Legion Post 40, VFW, Vaz Clinic, COPE, The Edwards Association, Next Concept Motorsports and Bluebonnet Trails.

CLASSIFIEDS WORK - CALL TODAY! 830-672-2861

Celebrations

Birthdays

November 19th
Pam Cripple
Matt Davis
Michael Gurleski
Rita Hendershot
Susan Ward

November 20th
Florence Baker
Maria Navejar
Sabrina Shirley

November 21st
Hattie Krueger
Christopher Tate

November 22nd
Walter Brown
Mariah Danielle Hernandez
Tommy Irle Jr.
Jonathan Tharp
Nicole Washichek

November 23rd
Bradley Bakken
Tabitha Barborak
Bill Cole
Freddie Fisher
Devin Gibson
Kelly Gibson
Marcus Pridgeon
Melissa Schneider
Kelly Wallace

November 24th
Doyle Heins
Katie Kuck
Sarah Miller
Loretta Schurig
Sherrie White

November 25th
Nolan Barborak
M.L. Brown
Mark Sawyer
David Turk
Jenny Turk

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Gonzales Weather

THUNDERSTORM	November 19 76°/63°	Occasional rain and a thunderstorm in the morning; otherwise, mostly cloudy and warmer 59% chance of rain • RealFeel 78
THUNDERSTORM	November 20 77°/60°	Watch for strong thunderstorms in the afternoon; otherwise, a couple of thunderstorms in the morning; considerable cloudiness 61% chance of rain • RealFeel 79
THUNDERSTORM	November 21 76°/57°	Variable clouds with a thunderstorm in spots 55% chance of rain • RealFeel 81
THUNDERSTORM	November 22 69°/47°	Watch for strong afternoon thunderstorms; otherwise, watch for a strong thunderstorm in the morning, mostly cloudy 77% chance of rain • RealFeel 72
SUNNY	November 23 70°/48°	Plenty of sunshine 0% chance of rain • RealFeel 73
MOSTLY SUNNY	November 24 67°/49°	Mostly sunny 0% chance of rain • RealFeel 70
RAIN	November 25 69°/52°	Overcast with a chance of rain 35% Chance of rain • RealFeel 69

Upcoming Events at J.B. Wells Park in Gonzales

November 19th
South Texas Tour

November 25th
Rafter E Productions Barrel Race

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Garden Q&A with CALVIN FINCH



Q. Which exotic tree Chinese pistache or vitex is the best choice for a tree in a small landscape ? I understand that both can be invasive. I find them both to be attractive and also like their wildlife contributions.

A. Chinese pistache makes a larger, more compact tree and if you obtain a female tree is loaded with berries that the birds love in the fall. The Chinese pistache also has a showy autumn color before it drops its leaves. The vitex has a less disciplined shape and is usually smaller but it responds to pruning and provides an attractive blue bloom over a long period, plus some berries. Yes both can be invasive. I grow both and have not seen any seedlings yet but seedlings from the Chinese pistache have shown up. I like both species for their appearances and wildlife value even though they are very different.

Q. Why do you think the pentas were not as showy this year as last year even though I planted them in the same locations?

A. There are lots of potential reasons. We had more rain and wind this year so they weren't subjected to as many doses of sun and calm air as last year which seems to be a factor in my penta plantings. Did you fertilize them the same? Did you use the same flower colors, some of the colors and selections seem to have different bloom characteristics beyond the bloom color. How about the number of pollinators that visited them? More attention or less attention? I don't have a good answer!

Q. My carrots did not germinate well this fall,

See **GARDEN,** page 5



GARDENING CALENDAR

DECEMBER

With global warming we may be less likely to experience the amount of freezing weather that we used to have to deal with but freezing weather starting in December is still something that gardeners in Central Texas must deal with. Start by moving the most cold sensitive plants such as tropical hibiscus, bougainvillea, mandevilla, plumeria, Whopper begonias and Porter weed into a greenhouse or other heated structure as soon as the temps in December start regularly falling below 40 degrees. Also have some fiber such as N-Sulate ready to cover citrus such as lemons and limes that are sensitive to freezing temperatures. If the temps are predicted to fall below 28 degrees you will probably also need a heat source to hang within the fiber cover. Mechanic's lights with non-LED bulbs work well. Cyclamen usually survive freezing temperatures without a heat source if the flower bed is covered with that same N-Sulate fiber as long as you weigh the edges of the cloth down so it can resist wind dislocation.

Pansies and violas usually survive freezes without damage. Snapdragons and stocks will often experience some damage but recover to produce a spectacular bloom period in the spring.

In the vegetable garden expect the tomatoes , peppers and other warm weather vegetables such as okra and squash to fall prey to freezes. The best strategy seems to be to harvest everything that can be used in the kitchen when freezes are forecast. The winter greens and root crops usually survive any winter cold. December is an excellent time to plant onion and spinach transplants. Plant onions every 4 inches in the row and harvest 2 out of 3 as green onions. Let the third onion reach full size, which it will usually do in late May.

Shade trees and hardy shrubs can also be planted in December. One idea that my family has had fun within past years is to link the Holiday season to the landscape by using Living Holiday trees first to decorate and then to plant as a permanent feature in the landscape after the holidays. I have done it with Deodora Cedar and also Arizona Cypress. Some nurseries have also had Japanese Pine, Aleppo Pine, and Italian Stone Pine available as Living Holiday trees. Sheared rosemary plants are also a favorite Holiday plant for apartments that is planted in the landscape after the holidays.

In the house consider cyclamen, Christmas cactus ,poinsettia , and even paperwhites for decorative plants. Paperwhites do not produce my favorite fragrance but you can plant them outside in the landscape after this first year's bloom. They will do well as naturalized bulbs.

One plant that retailers do not seem optimistic about this

See **CALENDAR,** page 5

LIVESTOCK WEEKLY REPORTS

GONZALES LIVESTOCK MARKET REPORT
Sale Date: November 14th, 2026
Receipts this week: 118 Cattle
Compared to our last sale:
Number 1 choice calves and yearlings sold steady to 2.00-3.00 higher. Less quality calves and yearlings sold steady. Packer cows and bulls sold steady to 3 higher.
Stocker-feeder Steers: Medium and large-frame No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 425.00-710.00;
300-400 lbs., 375.00-580.00; 400-500 lbs., 335.00-500.00; 500-600 lbs., 315.00-420.00; 600-700 lbs., 295.00-365.00; 700 -800 lbs., 310.00-340.00
Bull Yearlings: 700-900 lbs., 243.00-265.00
Stocker-feeder Heifers: Medium and large-frame No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 375.00-675.00; 300-400 lbs., 335.00-440.00; 400-500 lbs., 320.00-410.00; 500-600 lbs., 285.00-355.00; 600-700 lbs., 300.00-345.00
Replacement Quality Heifers: 400-600 lbs., 435.00-585.00.
Packer Cows: Good lean utility and commercial, 113.00-119.00; Cutters, 120.00-127.00; Canners, 75.00-105.00; High yielding fat cows, 107.00-111.00
Packer Bulls: Yield grade 1 & 2, good heavy bulls, 164.00-171.00; Light weights and medium quality bulls, 141.00-161.00
Stockers Cows: $2,100.00 to $2,600.00
Pairs: $2,200.00 to $6,000.00

NIXON LIVESTOCK COMMISSION
November 16th, 2026
WE WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2026! HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO EVERYONE!!!!
Cattle: 483
Cows: 50
Bulls: 12
Steers:
200-300 lbs - 484-514-600
300-400 lbs - 427-457-540
400-500 lbs - 373-403-475
500-600 lbs - 324-354-430
600-700 lbs - 294-324-343
700-800 lbs – 290-320-325
Heifers:
200-300 lbs - 433-453-455
300-400 lbs - 397-427-485
400-500 lbs - 344-374-500
500-600 lbs - 305-335-670
600-700 lbs - 289-319-331
700-800 lbs – 1 head at 296
Slaughter Cows: 80 - 137
Stocker Cows: 2100-2370
Slaughter Bulls: 145-168
Pairs: 1 pair @ 4700

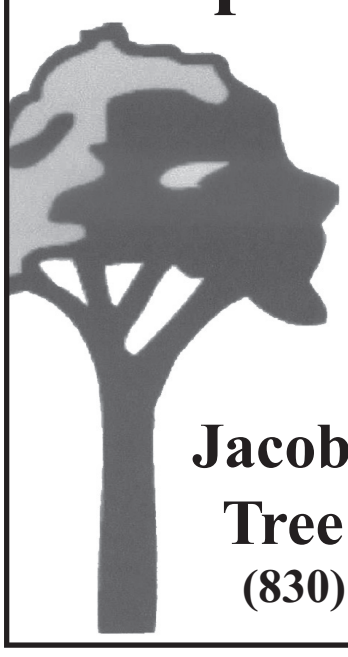
HALLETTSVILLE LIVESTOCK REPORT
NO SALE NOVEMBER 24TH, HAPPY THANKSGIVING. LAST SALE OF THE YEAR, DECEMBER 15, 2026. FIRST SALE BACK JANUARY 5, 2027
November 10th, 2026
Cattle Sold: 698
Top #1 class Steer calves
LESS THEN 200# ~570-640
200#-300# ~ 500-640
300#-400# ~ 435-600
400#-500# ~ 370-480
500#-600# ~ 330-402.50
600#-700# ~ 310-360
700#-800# ~ 290-324
800# & up ~ 275-300
Top #1 classHeifer calves
LESS THEN 200# ~ 530-600
200#-300# ~ 420-510
300#-400# ~ 400-505
400#-500# ~ 330-430
500#-600# ~ 310-360
600#-700# ~ 290-332
700#-800# ~ 270-310
800# & up ~ 250-280
Replacement heifer
350#-750# ~ 1 HF 615# @ 430/lb
PACKER COWS
High Dressing: 115-127
Medium Dress: 100-118
Low Dressing: 80-100
Poor/Weak: 60-80
PACKER BULLS
High Dressing: 166-178
Medium Dress: 155-168
Low Dressing: 140-155
Good Stocker Cows & Heifers: None
Med. Stocker Cows & Heifers: 2000-3550
Good Cow/Calf Pairs: None
Med Cow/Calf Pairs: 1 pair 3550
The market this week was mixed. Light weights sold stead/strong. Heavier weight classes sold some weaker. #2 and plainer classes sold lower. Overall, still a good market. Packer cows sold $4-$8 lower. Packer bulls sold steady. Supply consisted of 80 head. If we can help arket your livestock please call 361-798-4336. Thank you to our customers & buyers!!

SEGUIN CATTLE COMPANY
November 11th, 2026
Cattle: 70
Sheep & Goats: 445
Light run due to rain. No real test on market
Medium & Large Frame #1 Steers:
200-300 lb. 4.00 – 4.65 – 5.00
300-400 lb. 3.50 - 4.20 – 4.90
400-500 lb. 3.40 - 3.65 – 3.95
500-600 lb. 3.25 - 3.39 – 3.60
600-700 lb. 3.07 - 3.09 - 3.10
700-800 lb. 0 - 0 – 2.80
Medium & Large Frame #1 Heifers
200-300 lb. 0 – 0 – 4.75
300-400 lb. 4.00 – 4.20 – 4.50
400-500 lb. 3.50 - 3.70 – 4.00
500-600 lb. 2.90 - 3.70 – 5.30
600-750 lb. 2.60 – 2.95 - 3.07
Cows:
Utility & Commercial 1.12 - 1.20 - 1.28
Cutters - None
Canners - None
Palpated Cows: 1300 - 2750
Cow/Calf pairs: None
Bulls
Heavy High Yielding – 1.55
Light & Low Yielding – None
Sheep & Goats
Nannies: 20.00-305.00
Kid Goats (Fat) – 3.80 – 5.45
Wethers: 2.95 – 4.20
Billies: – 1.50 - 3.25
Dorp. Ewes: 90.00 - 270.00
Dorp. Lambs (Fat): 2.10 – 5.40
Wooled Ewes: None
Wooled Bucks: 1.70 – 2.50
Lambs: 2.40 – 2.50
Barb. Bucks- None
2026/2027 Holiday Schedule and Remaining Sales: Nov. 18th – Sale; Nov. 25th – CLOSED; Dec. 2nd & 9th – Sale; December 16th – LAST SALE; Dec. 23rd, 30th – CLOSED; Jan. 6, 2027 – FIRST SALE.

CUERO LIVESTOCK MARKET
November 13th, 2026
What a great week! We sold a total of 612 head, including 76 cows, 17 bulls, and 2 sheep/goats. Packer cows and bulls held steady, and the calf market saw a big boost—jumping up by as much as $40/cwt. Between the much-needed rain and prices moving in the right direction, we're counting our blessings this week! Reminder: There will be no sale on Friday, November 27, 2026. 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 162.00-171.00
Lower yielding 130.00-155.00
Packer cows:
High yielding 115.00-132.00
Medium yielding 105.00-110.00
Poor & Weak 50.00-105.00
Palpated: 15 bred $2300-$2500
Pairs: 1 pair $2800
Steer/Bull Calves: (AVG-HIGH)
200-250 lbs. 504.00-508.00
250-299 lbs. 518.00-600.00
300-350 lbs. 474.00-575.00
350-400 lbs. 455.00-535.00
400-450 lbs. 433.00-520.00
450-500 lbs. 410.00-480.00
500-550 lbs. 365.00-416.00
550-600 lbs. 352.00-380.00
600-700 lbs. 331.00-350.00
700-800 lbs. 316.00-330.00
Heifer Calves:(AVG-HIGH)
200-250 lbs. 476.00-535.00
250-300 lbs. 424.00-490.00
300-350 lbs. 384.00-440.00
350-400 lbs. 397.00-450.00
400-450 lbs. 379.00-410.00
450-500 lbs. 366.00-430.00
500-550 lbs. 331.00-392.00
550-600 lbs. 324.00-400.00
600-700 lbs. 294.00-305.00
700-800 lbs. 259.00-285.00
*replacement heifers

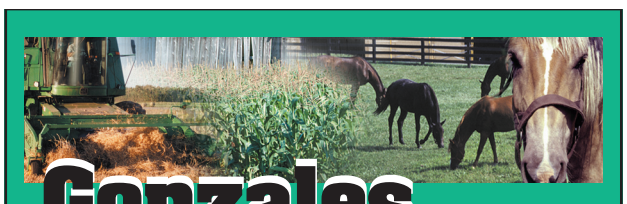
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Mike Brzozowski
830-857-3900
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Live Broadcast • www.cattleusa.com

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Gary Butler 830-857-4330
Rodney Butler 361-645-5002

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Best laid Thanksgiving plans gone awry

BY LORRELL WRIIGHT

Last week, I left off with a plan, one I made after finally admitting that I could not keep forcing the holidays to feel the way they used to.

I was going to leave town for Thanksgiving week, and I had Washington, D.C. planned down to the details. I knew what I wanted to see, where I wanted to go and even where I wanted to eat Thanksgiving dinner, in a tavern George Washington once frequented. For once, I was excited about giving myself a completely different holiday instead of trying to recreate an old one.

Then a knee surgery I have been trying to get for more than a year finally landed during Thanksgiving week. I am glad to finally be getting it done, but Washington is obviously out. Instead of getting on a plane, I will be recovering from surgery, unable to drive and staying at Grandma's with her and my aunt because I live alone and cannot exactly take care of myself immediately afterward. My house is literally next door, which makes it a little ridiculous that I cannot just go home. If everything goes as planned, I should be able to make the very long trip across the yard by Thursday.

Before surgery, though, I have things to do. The weekend before Thanksgiving, I will set up the Christmas village at Grandma's house, just like I have since elementary school, because nobody else can do it "right." Apparently I inherited at least a little of Grandma's "Perfect Ornament Placement Disorder." I will also do the holiday baking so the fudge, divinity, kolaches and everything else are ready before I am temporarily out of commission. In other words, I will spend the weekend before knee surgery doing exactly the sort of things someone about to have knee surgery probably should not overdo. That sounds about right.

This will also be my first surgery without Mom. I have dealt with some major health things in the five years since she died, but I have not had surgery. As a nurse, she knew what questions to ask, what was actually worth worrying about and when I was probably worrying too much. But mostly, she was just my mom, and she would have been there.

That part is harder to think about than the surgery itself. Five years later, there are still moments when I realize I am about to do something for the first time without her. You get through the obvious firsts, then life keeps moving and eventually hands you another one.

Recovery should be interesting too because sitting still has never been one of my strengths. Anyone who knows me knows I would rather have somewhere to be, something to cover, photos to take and a story to write than sit on a couch waiting for somebody else to do things for me. For a few days, at least, I am not going to have much choice.

There is something almost funny about finally deciding I wanted one Thanksgiving that looked nothing like the ones I was used to, only to end up recovering at Grandma's, right in the house where most of those holiday memories live, surrounded by the village I insisted on setting up and the food I insisted on making before surgery. Definitely not Washington.

But maybe there is some middle ground in that. Wanting something different does not mean I have to give up every tradition that still means something to me. The village can still go up. The divinity can still be made. Grandma can still point across the room at something that is clearly in the wrong place and expect the rest of us to know exactly what she means.

I just cannot expect those things to make the whole holiday feel the way it did when Mom was here.

Maybe that is one of the harder lessons about grief during the holidays. Keeping every tradition does not necessarily bring back the feeling you remember, and changing something does not mean you loved the old version any less. Sometimes you keep what still brings comfort and let the rest become something different.

I am still hoping Christmas may look a little different if recovery goes well. It does not have to involve some big trip. Christmas at a friend's table down the road sounds pretty good too.

I do not know what the holidays will look like for me five or 10 years from now. Maybe one day I will have a family of my own and create traditions with them. Maybe I will finally put up a Christmas tree in my own house again. Maybe somebody else will grow up eating our divinity and kolaches and watching me realize halfway through baking that we need one more thing from the grocery store.

I like thinking that some of the things Mom and Grandma gave me may eventually become part of somebody else's holiday memories. I do not have to recreate mine for that to happen.

For now, I have surgery to get through and a Thanksgiving that looks nothing like the one I planned. The village will still be there, the baking will be done and Grandma's house will still be full of familiar people and memories, even if the holiday itself feels different.

Maybe that is enough for this year.

Washington will still be there next Thanksgiving.

Hopefully George's old tavern will be too.

A little adventure goes a long way



WORTH THE STOP
with Tammy

I've come to realize something about myself lately. I absolutely love a good adventure! And no, I'm not talking about hopping on a plane or traveling halfway across the country. I'm talking about getting in the car, driving 30 minutes down the road, and discovering somewhere I've never been before.

Now, don't get me wrong. I love our little town of Gonzales, but sometimes you've just got to get out and see what else is out there!

Over the past several months, I've found myself exploring places like Seguin, Shiner, Cuero, Flatonia, Luling, and even Austin. And let me tell you, some of the best places I've visited have been tucked away in these smaller towns.

I've walked into restaurants that didn't look like much from the outside, only to have some of the best food I've ever tasted. I've discovered adorable little shops filled with handmade goodies, met some of the sweetest business owners, and tried foods I probably wouldn't have ordered in a million years.

And if you know me, you know I'm going to tell you ALL about it! Especially if the food is good. Ha!

One thing I've learned is that sometimes the experience is about so much more than what's on your plate.

Just recently, I traveled to Austin for a balloon decorating job. After a long day of working, my cousin and I decided to stop at Cedar Door in downtown Austin. I ordered brisket tacos that I seriously could not stop talking about, along with one of their famous martinis.

Now, let me tell you something about that martini. I took one sip, and I think my facial expression said everything my mouth couldn't! That thing definitely woke me up! Ha!

But as delicious as those tacos were, my favorite part of that afternoon wasn't even the food. It was getting to sit down with my cousin, laugh, catch up, and enjoy some quality time together.

And that's when it really hit me. Sometimes it's not necessarily about where you go. It's about the memories you make while you're there.

Another thing I absolutely love about these little adventures is meeting the people behind the businesses. As a small business owner myself, I know how much hard work, dedication, and heart go into building something of your own. There's just something special about walking into a place and seeing someone's dream come to life.

And here's the funny thing. Before I started exploring more, I had no idea how many incredible places were practically right in our backyard!

We are so fortunate here in Gonzales to be surrounded by communities with so much character, history, and charm. You don't have to spend hundreds of dollars or plan some extravagant vacation to have a good time.

Sometimes all you need is a little gas in the tank, a few dollars in your pocket, and an appetite for something new!

So here's my challenge to you this week. Get out and explore! Visit that little restaurant you've been meaning to try. Stop at that boutique you've driven past a hundred times. Take your kids on a little adventure, grab your best friend, or even enjoy a day to yourself.

And don't forget about all the wonderful businesses we have right here in Gonzales, too. Sometimes an adventure is simply walking through a door you've never opened before.

You might discover your new favorite restaurant, meet someone who makes your day, or create a memory you'll be talking about for years.

And if you happen to find somewhere amazing, please tell me about it! You know I'm always looking for my next little adventure.

Until next time, keep exploring, keep supporting small businesses, and remember...

A little adventure really does go a long way!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

No doer of good deeds goes unpunished

Over the last two years herculean efforts have gone into all aspects of improving and managing the Gonzales American Legion Post 40 and two of the issues confronted have been both bizarre, quite unusual, somewhat unbelievable, and at least one was akin to stepping on an adult version of industrial strength flypaper. Here is the one that has probably been the most frustrating, irritating, and nonsensical, involving a seemingly simple attempt to have the city utility account put in the name of the American Legion Post 40.

In 1986, that's 1986, according to standard ciphering, that's 40 years ago that someone other than an actual legionnaire incurred a debt totaling $1147.47 and absconded and the legion has been told that if the account is put in the name of the American Legion, the debt must be paid. This is where the thick plottens. A city utility employee was asked why the city didn't go after the miscreant and the answer was, "We don't do that, we write it off." When asked why this debt wasn't written off, the answer was, "It was." When asked why it remained an issue if written off, the answer was, "the American Legion is responsible for the debt." That is supposed to make sense, possibly in some parallel world.

Now it gets even more complicated and convoluted. The city representatives said on several occasions that "If the account was put in an individual's name, the debt wouldn't have to be paid, but to be put in the name of the American Legion, the $1147.47 would have to be paid in full". An appearance before the city council seeking just a glimmer, a mere semblance of understanding and coherence proved fruitless. Several contacts with other city officials, including the city manager were also to no avail.

On 11/12/26, the post commander agreed, in writing, to be the guarantor for the account and to pay $50 per month for 22 months, then a final monthly payment of $47.47 above the monthly invoiced amount, plus assorted fees of $585.00 to have the utility account put in the name of the American Legion. The rationale was to preclude paying these exorbitant fees repeatedly to the city, if, for example, the account was put in the post commander's name or an individual's name and that person croaked, then legion funds would be diminished again in putting the account in another individual's name.

About the only good thing to come out of all this, as far as the American Legion is concerned, is that this may have been resolved before the debt's golden anniversary and no gift needs to be procured. It's hard to believe that the American Legion, a charitable civic organization that does things for the community, such as to provide scholarships to high school students would be treated so shabbily. And I think it's even more unbelievable that this foolishness was carried on the city's books for 40 years. As a secretary once said, "There should have been head rolls."

The Gonzales Inquirer™

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

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

Mail Subscription Rates
Payable in advance

In county
One year $52
Six months $36
Three months $28

Out of county
One year $60
Six months $48
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

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

TPA MEMBER 2025 TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

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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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When the sky beckons...



ARIZONA PILOTS
Aerobatic Champion Kirby Chambliss and wife, Kellie

Decorated aerobatic pilot Kirby Chambliss, whose take-offs and landings have come out even for 50 years, doesn't remember ever NOT wanting to fly. He's still at it, this 67-year-old retired Southwest Airlines employee--SWA's youngest captain ever at age 28--and now a star of aerobatic air shows.

Alongside is his wife, Kellie, herself a pilot who leaves the "derring-do" to Kirby. With four aircraft hangared a few feet from their home at Stellar Air Park, Chandler, AZ, they fly recreationally at least twice weekly, often in their four-place helicopter.



DR. DON NEWBURY
The Idle American

Kirby was a SWA ramp agent for four years before starting his 40-year SWA career. A flight attendant for 43 years, Kellie is still at it, but on a reduced schedule.....

She is a graduate of Sul Ross State University, where her father, Herman Hudson, was a three-sport star in football, basketball and baseball.

Kellie, who received her pilot's license at age 36, successfully saved the lives of two passengers who had throat obstructions. Several years back, she was also employed by anl airline company that was well-known for taking skydivers aloft. On one flight, with 23 male flyers on board, she was unaware that they would take drastic measures to add a few seconds to their drop.

"They got this bright idea that it might help if they shed all clothing, thinking reduced wind resistance would allow them a bit more time aloft," she said. "So, after dropping all 23 flyers (in jaybird mode), I returned to the airport with piles of clothing." There were no injuries, and no news coverage resulted in the drop made over an isolated rural location in Iowa....

Reared largely by his late grandmother, Kirby's first 500 hours in the air were in a "Davis," a plane built by his father, a machinist in and out of his three children's lives.

Kirby and Kellie have divergent views on what retirement means. She'd soon be just as happy gardening, exercising, traveling and flying their helicopter.

Starting aerobatic flying at age 21, Kirby has eased back on his schedule, which typically included more than two dozen shows, but now he participates

See **NEWBURY,** page 5

FESTIVAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

at 9 a.m. Immediately following, all ticket sales open to the public online at 10 a.m. on November 19.

The festival also offers a Fast Pass option that will allow expedited entry into the festival and access to the fast pass bar line at all GA bars. Discounts are available for military, students, teachers, and first responders.

MORE THAN JUST A MUSIC FESTIVAL

Cattle Country Festival returns to its home on a sprawling 400-acre private ranch in Gonzales, Texas. Lovingly nicknamed "The Boot", the ranch sits along the Guadalupe River and is located conveniently an hour away from three major Texas cities: Austin, San Antonio, and Houston. The Boot boasts more than 150 acres of Texas pecan trees, creating shaded groves along the riverbank and a perfect natural backdrop for the festival-goers.

From tailgating and playing games, to fishing and floating on the Guadalupe River, the festivities begin before the first act takes the stage and continue long after the headliner's final bow. The Boot offers several inviting swimming areas, "Cowboy Coves", where attendees can cool off and enjoy the festival's refreshing waterside experience. This year, Cattle Country is also adding a special experience of allowing guests to float in the on-site river. Bring your own tube, and enter the Guadalupe River just north of the parking and camping lots, and you'll flow just south of the festival grounds, where you'll make your exit. The float lasts about 1 to 2 hours. Float entry at 12 Noon on Thursday and 9am on Friday and Saturday. We will close the float entry at 3pm.

The festival grounds will also feature a variety of food, wine, spirits, brews and shopping options on site. Participating vendors and sponsors to be announced in early 2027.

LODGING AND CAMPING

Back by popular demand, the festival will offer camping areas, a Glamping Village with a private glamping lounge, and RV spaces with on-site amenities for those staying on the grounds. Options include:

- Camping (GA + VIP Options)
- RV (Powered + No Powered Options)
- Glamping (Private Area + Luxury Tents)
- Options for alternative lodging nearby are also available on the Cattle Country website.

ABOUT CATTLE COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL

Cattle Country Festival is more than just a music festival — it's a uniquely Texas experience. Held on a 400-acre ranch known as "The Boot" along the Guadalupe River in Gonzales, Texas, the festival combines live music, outdoor adventure and Southern hospitality. Located about an hour from Austin, San Antonio and Houston, the scenic grounds feature shaded pecan groves, swimming areas known as Cowboy Coves, and opportunities for camping, fishing, floating the river and more. With a variety of lodging options, including GA and VIP camping, RV sites and luxury glamping, Cattle Country offers an unforgettable weekend experience. To learn more purchase passes or book accommodations, visit CattleCountryFest.com. Follow Cattle Country Festival on Instagram and Facebook for the latest news and announcements.



FLASHES BY LOR

Hometown sweetheart Brandi Behlen is back for year two at The Boot for Cattle Country Music Festival.



FLASHES BY LOR

Sam Canty of Treaty Oak Revival got the crowd going during his suprise performance with Austin Meade at the 2026 festival.

Stay in the know with announcements and updates by following on Instagram and Facebook, as well as subscribing to the Cattle Country newsletter at www.cattlecountryfest.com.

STOREY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tion, offering distinctive pieces for customers seeking something beyond standard retail options.

Around 11 years ago, the business relocated from downtown Gonzales—its home for over a century—to a freestanding showroom at Gonzales Marketplace. The new 3,700-square-foot facility provided more space for merchandise.

Neuse's involvement in the community extends beyond the jewelry business. He has served on city boards and commissions, participated in the Gonzales Chamber of Commerce, and supported local hospital and education foundations.

As he prepares for retirement, Neuse plans to remain in Gonzales, where he and Dianne have made their home. He also looks forward to spending more time with their two grandchildren, who live in Dallas and Denver.

"I will miss seeing customers every day, and I'm grateful to the community that has supported us for so many years," Neuse said. "It's been an honor to be part of so many special celebrations."

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NEWBURY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

in about a dozen each year. Kellie says, "He has nine lives, but has no idea which life number he's living now."....

Considered one of the world' most talented aerobatic pilots, he has generally dominated, including winning the US National Aerobatic Championship five times and the Red Bull Championship in 2004 and 2006. Winner of the men's freestyle championship in 2000, he was inducted into the Experimental Aerobatic Club Hall of Fame in 2021. All this by a guy who started flying lessons at age 13 and became a licensed pilot four years later....

Frequently in the company of the late SW presidents, Herb Kelleher and Colleen Barrett, Kirby and Kellie have repeatedly heard suggestions that SWA should sponsor him in air shows. "They already are," Kirby answers, "Providing paychecks on the fifth and 15th days of each month."

Truth to tell, air shows are about as patriotic as any event can be. Flag-waving, firearm salutes, unbelievable feats by skilled pilots, the Blue Angels and the Golden Knights, underscore cooperation between communities and military branches.

Highlights observed at the El Paso event included a jet providing a birth reveal with a blue vapor trail, and Kirby's "race" 10 feet above a jet-powered Chevrolet pick-up truck. They were "neck and neck" at speeds of 250 MPH. Jet flames 40 yards long trailed the truck, which won by a length. "Never saw anything like it" is an expression heard many times at air shows....

My chin dropped when he flew a half-dozen feet above the runway, then circled back to perform the same maneuver upside down. That he's survived two dramatic mechanical failures suggests that he's in a class of one.

Karly, the Chambliss' daughter, is an Arizona State University student.

Her interest in aviation is casual, but who knows? She might meet an airline captain in a jetway one day. Her mother did....

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.

GARDEN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

is there still time to reseed? What else can I still plant this fall?

A. Yes re plant carrot seeds, they had problems germinating in lots of gardens. Sugar peas did well in some gardens but you can still replant them along with beets, radishes, lettuce, turnips, and rutabagas. Plant spinach and onion transplants this month and potatoes in February. It is also not to late to plant new broccoli and other greens transplants.

Q. Why do you recommend that you spray new plantings with a deer repellent like "Liquid Fence" even when you are planting a plant that the deer don't usually eat like iris?

A. Deer are curious and will taste and cause damage to new plantings. Spraying "Liquid Fence", the stinky deer repellent once a week for 3 weeks reduces their curiosity. Plants fresh from the wholesale production process also often have higher nitrogen levels which reduces the plants chemical potency and defenses when they are first planted. The short-term spray tactic seems to work to discourage the deer from tasting the new plants.

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CALENDAR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

winter. is primula. For a number of years San Antonio gardeners have been able to use it as a spectacular winter shade plant like cyclamen but last year because of disruptions in the supply structure very few were available, and this year may be the same. It is grown in cooler climates such as Colorado and is a high demand product. The flowers are not as large as cyclamen but the colors are more diverse (the prices are just as high!) If you see any at your favorite nursery or on any of your holiday travels I recommend you purchase some so you can enjoy the unbelievable colors and patterned leaves. If you are lucky enough to obtain some, make sure you protect them with slug and snail bait! The snails love them as much as we gardeners do!.



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INVITATION TO BID

Sealed bids will be received by County Auditor Shawna Lehnert, at 427 St. George Street, Suite 302, Gonzales, Texas 78629, until 10:00 a.m., Thursday, December 3, 2026, for the purchase of un-branded gasoline, highway diesel and dyed diesel for Precinct 1, Precinct 2, Precinct 3, and Precinct 4.

The bids will be publicly opened in the third floor conference room of the Randle Rather Building, 427 St. George Street at 10:00 a.m. on December 3, 2026. This is a two year contract, the term is January 1, 2027 until December 31, 2028. All bids must be in a sealed envelope clearly marked with Bid Name and Opening Date in the lower left-hand corner of the envelope.

Specifications may be obtained from the County Auditor's Office and on the county's web site at www.co.gonzales.tx.us. Bids received after the time and date specified in the specifications will not be reconsidered.

Nov. 12 Puzzle Answers

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

S	O	A	P	S		C	W	T			F	E	A	T
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M	U	S	E			E	O	N		S	L	A	S	H

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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

By: K. Alarcon

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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. 20-OCT. 26, 2026

October 21

• Criminal mischief was discovered in the 1300 block of St. Lawrence Street.

October 22

• Officers took a report of sexual assault of a child in the 700 block of St. Paul Street.

October 24

• Kevin Samples, 51, of Austin was arrested for public intoxication.

• Jonah Jones, 22, of Killeen was arrested on an out-of-jurisdiction warrant.

October 25

• Bryant McKinney, 19, of Gonzales was arrested for theft.

• Criminal mischief was reported in the 1300 block of Cavett Street.

• Colton Johnson, 24, of Gonzales was arrested on two active warrants.

Officers responded to three mental health calls. All three patients were transported to out-of-jurisdiction mental health facilities.

The department responded to **238 calls for service** during its Oct. 20–26 reporting period.

GONZALES COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
OCT. 18-OCT. 24, 2026

October 20

• Mark Andrew Villanueva of Smiley was arrested on an other-agency hold for criminal mischief valued at $100 or more but less than $750. He was released.

October 21

• Troy Hester Jr. of Nixon was arrested for public intoxication. He was released.

• James Edward Price Jr. of Luling was arrested on an other-agency hold for criminal mischief valued at $750 or more but less than $2,500. He was released.

• Matthew Bryan Juarez of Katy was arrested for possession of a controlled substance in Penalty Group 2, at least 4 grams but less than 400 grams. He remained in custody.

October 22

• Dusty Branch Barta of Gonzales was arrested for driving with an invalid license with a previous conviction, suspension or without financial responsibility. Barta was released.

• Ka'Veon Quashaun Westley of San Antonio was arrested on a local warrant for possession of a controlled substance in Penalty Group 1/1-B of less than 1 gram. He remained in custody.

• Dustin David Jones of Houston was arrested for burglary of a habitation and assault of a family or household member. He remained in custody.

• Frank Corey Leal of Gonzales was arrested on an other-agency hold for assault causing bodily injury. He remained in custody.

October 23

• Stoney Rodel White of Gonzales was arrested on a local warrant for forgery of a financial instrument. He remained in custody.

• Bryan Scott Condel of Gonzales was arrested for possession of a controlled substance in Penalty Group 1/1-B of less than 1 gram. He was released.

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

• Ricardo Jr. Vera of Harwood was arrested for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. He remained in custody.

October 24

• Kevin Clark Samples of Gonzales was arrested for public intoxication. He was released.

• Bryant Benard McKinney II of Gonzales was arrested for theft of property valued at $100 or more but less than $750. He remained in custody.

•Jonah Alexander Jones, whose residence was listed as unknown, was arrested on an other-agency hold for assault on a public servant. He remained in custody.

The Sheriff's Office reported **30 arrests, court commitments, other-agency arrests and processing entries,** including 16 by GCSO, seven by DPS, three by Gonzales Police Department, one by Waelder Police Department and three by Nixon Police Department.

The Sheriff's Office recorded **494 calls for service** during its Oct. 18–24 reporting period.

The two agencies reported **732 calls for service combined,** covering Oct. 20–26 for GPD and Oct. 18–24 for GCSO.

GONZALES BEGINS
EXPLORING OUR TOWN'S RICH HISTORY

1901 – Henry Kane was selected to erect a cotton mill.
-January 31, ground was broken for the Cotton Mill on St. Lawrence Street.
-February 20, Oscar Schleyer, owner of Schleyer's saloon, was killed in the saloon in a gun fight with Jim Robert Tinsley. Schleyer was the only witness to the gunfight in 1899. (Shooting was August 24, 1899. Watch for May 5, 1904 for disposition)
-Brick cotton mill, B.N. Peck's three story building, and Kleine's eight buildings were all under construction.
-J.P. Randle and R.S. Dilworth soon to begin construction on six buildings, running north of the Randle-Rather Building on St. Paul Street to the corner of that block, where the G.N. Dilworth home stood.
-Coke Dilworth began construction on six buildings on the east side of St. Joseph Street
-Willie Ben Peck's building on the corner of St. James Street and St. Lawrence Street at 425 St. James Street was completed; it was known as the location of the Ara Brothers Pecan business for many years.
-The Women's Literary Club was formed. It was disbanded at beginning of WWI and reformed in 1925 as The Woman's Study Club.
-Lafayette Plaza opened for the sale of lots (bounded on the east by Patrick Street, the west by Darst Street, the north by St. Louis Street, and the south by St Vincent Street)
-March, the servant's house on the G.N. Dilworth homestead, at the corner of St. Paul and St. Francis streets) was rolled bodily through the streets of Gonzales to the Dilworth's new home site.
-Two cases of small pox are reported in the City.
-School is dismissed for a few days and all children are required to have the small pox vaccine before they may return to school
-James F. Miller House was begun, 121 St. Joseph Street – architect, J. Riely Gordon. Called "Walnut Ridge".

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Grief and surviving the holidays seminar on Dec. 5

CONTRIBUTED

For those who have experienced the loss of a loved one, the holiday season can be one of the most difficult times of the year. While the world around us celebrates, those who are grieving often feel a deeper sense of sadness, loneliness, and loss.

To help navigate the holiday season, Abiding Word Lutheran Church will be offering "GriefShare: Surviving the Holidays" on Saturday, December 5, from 2 to 4 p.m. at 1020 St. Louis St. It is a free, two-hour seminar for anyone in the community who is grieving and looking for support.

Through video, discussion time, and a guidebook, attendees will learn how to deal with the many emotions they will face during the holidays, what to do about traditions and other upcoming changes, and helpful tips for surviving social events.

Come find connection and encouragement with others who understand. For more information or to register, call 830-857-3855.

SHINER QUILTERS MEETING



CONTRIBUTED

Shiner Heritage Quilters Guild members Sandy Lynskey (left) and Darcy Curtin are pictured holding the Christmas ornaments that the members learned to make at the November 3rd meeting.

Forty-four members and guests attended the meeting. Two of the guests were from Giddings and the third guest was Candace Futch who had taught a silk-dying class in the afternoon. Hostesses Theresa Belicek, Rose Mary Havlik, Janet Zabransky, Carolyn Janak, Bennie Gerdes, and Suzanne Sestak served delicious tacos along with various desserts and provided door prizes. Bernadette Kresta reported that eight nursing home quilts were collected which brings the total of 84 quilts for the year. Laura Kaspar collected ten quilts for Norma's House located in Gonzales and Hallettsville which brought the total to 116 for the year.

Members will enjoy a festive Christmas dinner at the December 8th meeting. Log onto shinerheritagequilters.org and Shiner Heritage Quilt Guild on Facebook.



Shiner Heritage Quilters Guild members Christmas party to be held Dec. 1

CONTRIBUTED

Members of the Shiner Heritage Quilters Guild will enjoy a festive Christmas party on Tuesday, December 1st at the Shiner Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. Justin Fortune, owner of "On Point Barbecue," will provide the meat and members will bring side dishes and desserts.

A highlight of the evening will be the drawing to win a packet of Christmas blocks sewn by members using fabrics that were chosen by a committee. There will also be a gift-exchange. In the spirit of holiday giving, members will contribute monetary gifts to the Shiner Food Pantry at the Methodist Church.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
1206 N. ST. JOSEPH ST.
GONZALES, TX 78629

Please make plans to join The First Evangelical Lutheran Church for the following events:

November 22 at 10:30 A.M.
Thankoffering Service presented by the Women of the Lutheran Church. The speaker will be Heather Roeske from Westhoff, Texas. She will be speaking about the Women of the Bible.

December 5
Look for the First Lutheran Church float in the Winterfest parade!

December 13 at 10:30 A.M.
Children of the church and guests will present a special Christmas program on the birth of the Christ Child.

December 24 at 6:00 P.M.
First Lutheran will have their annual Candlelight Christmas Eve service.

First Lutheran Church invites all to join and worship with us on these dates or any Sunday.

Communion is served on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. We would enjoy seeing you.

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Mustangs' playoff run ends in bi-district battle against George West

BY VANESSA KIRBY

GEORGE WEST, TX – The Nixon-Smiley Mustangs saw their 2026 football season end Friday night, November 13, with a 66-9 loss to the George West Longhorns in the Bi-District Championship. While the scoreboard did not reflect the heart and determination the Mustangs displayed, the night marked the conclusion of a season filled with growth, adversity, and a long-awaited return to the Texas high school football playoffs.

Making their first playoff appearance since 2022, the Mustangs entered Friday's matchup determined to compete against a talented George West team. Despite an uphill battle, Nixon-Smiley fought until the final whistle, demonstrating the toughness and resilience that have become defining characteristics of the program under Head Coach and Athletic Director Paul Kirby.

For Kirby, the playoff appearance held special significance. The last time Nixon-Smiley reached the postseason was in 2022, when Kirby served as the Mustangs' offensive coordinator. Returning to the playoffs as head coach marked another important step in the program's continued development.

"Getting this program back to the playoffs means a lot to me, our coaching staff, and especially these kids," Kirby said. "The last time we were here, I was the offensive coordinator in 2022. Seeing how far this program has come and watching these young men fight through adversity to earn their way back is something I'm extremely proud of. We didn't get the outcome we wanted tonight, but one game doesn't define what this team accomplished or the direction this program is headed."

Perhaps the most meaningful moment of the evening came after the final whistle. Despite the intensity of the playoff matchup, both teams showed tremendous respect for one another as the George West Longhorns and Nixon-Smiley Mustangs stood together to sing each other's alma maters. The gesture was a powerful reminder that high school athletics are about much more than wins and losses. It was a display of sportsmanship, character, and mutual respect that reflected positively on both communities.

For Nixon-Smiley, Friday night was especially emotional for a senior class that has given so much to the Mustang football program. These young men have helped lay the foundation for the future through their leadership, commitment, and willingness to fight through difficult seasons. Their dedication to the program has extended far beyond Friday nights, helping establish expectations of accountability, toughness, and pride in wearing the Mustang uniform.

"I can't say enough about this senior class," Kirby said. "These guys have been through a lot during their time here, but they never stopped believing in this program or in each other. They helped change expectations around here. They showed our younger players what it means to work, sacrifice, and represent Nixon-Smiley with pride. Their impact won't be measured by wins and losses but by the foundation they've helped build. I'm forever

See **MUSTANGS,** page 10



FLASHES BY LOR

Senior Brodi Ramos starts the bi-district playoff game with a bang rushing the kick off return for over 60 yards.

One last Friday for the Apaches in Beeville

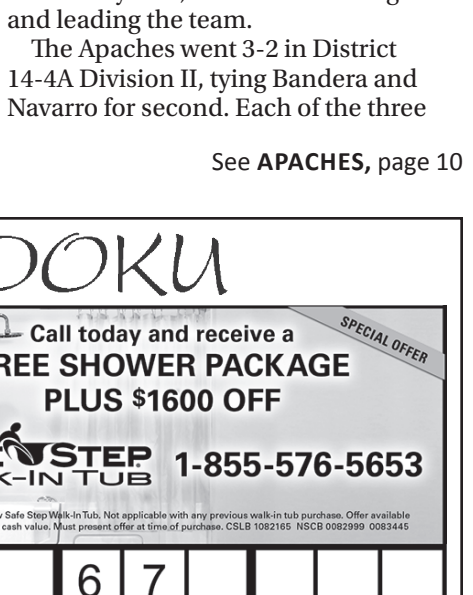
BY LORRELL WRIGHT

In Gonzales, "Once an Apache, always an Apache" stays with people long after their Friday nights in uniform are over. This year's football seniors played their last game together Friday night in Beeville. After the final whistle, players, cheerleaders and coaches hugged through tears.

Rockport-Fulton won 48-7 in the Class 4A Division II bi-district round at Veterans Memorial Stadium. The Pirates entered the playoffs 9-1 after going unbeaten in district play. Gonzales finished 4-7.

Earlier that night, the Gonzales band brought its energy to the visiting side, and the fans who made the drive had a reason to get loud before the offense took a snap. Senior Brodi Ramos ran the opening kickoff back more than 60 yards, putting the Apaches inside the Rockport-Fulton 5-yard line. The Pirates recovered a fumble on the possession and led 7-0 after one quarter and 28-0 at halftime.

Three seniors helped Gonzales get into the end zone in the fourth quarter. Bryce Eleby hauled in a pass from Luis Zuniga to put the Apaches in position to score, and Zuniga found Damion Hunt for their only touchdown. Zuniga had spent the opening weeks of his senior season trying to get back on the field.



FLASHES BY LOR

Senior Bryce Eleby adds a memorable catch to his final game as an Apache, pulling in a pass from Luis Zuniga during Friday's playoff matchup against Rockport-Fulton in Beeville.



FLASHES BY LOR

Once an Apache, always an Apache." It was an emotional night for senior Damion Hunt and his fellow Gonzales seniors as their final football season came to a close in Beeville.

Zuniga got hurt in the first scrimmage, and freshmen Harua Williamson and Jaxson Hill stepped in at quarterback. Williamson also punted, and Hill came up with interceptions and fumble recoveries on defense. Both stayed levelheaded as they learned the speed of varsity football.

"We had a lot of kids get varsity experience this year," coach Lyndon Hamilton said. He saw freshmen, sophomores and juniors grow into bigger roles alongside teammates who already knew what a varsity season asked of them. "Our seniors continued to push through the challenges of a long season," he said.

Zuniga said he tried to stay strong while he was out, unsure whether he'd get his touch back. He returned for district play and finished the regular season as the Apaches' leading passer. "I tried my best," he said of coming back and leading the team.

The Apaches went 3-2 in District 14-4A Division II, tying Bandera and Navarro for second. Each of the three

See **APACHES,** page 10

The Gonzales Inquirer
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will be closed November 26 in observance of

Thanksgiving

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

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

Best Wishes to all for a Happy Thanksgiving!

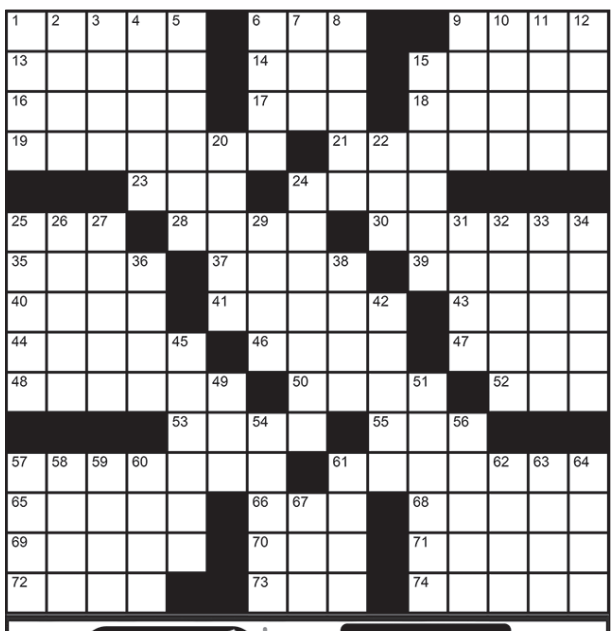
THEME: THANKSGIVING

CLUES ACROSS

1. Chevy of "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation"
6. Broadcast breaks
9. Electrical current unit, pl.
13. Mineral veins
14. Neighbor of Ger.
15. Gem state
16. 1960s abstractionism
17. "I" mania
18. *The only First Lady to issue official Thanksgiving Day proclamation
19. *First department store to host Thanksgiving parade
21. *Keeping turkey juicy
23. Use one's eyes
24. Same as island
25. Chasing game
28. 4th planet from sun
30. Milk-related
35. 1952 Olympic site
37. *Brad who starred in a Friends Thanksgiving episode
39. Remus Lupin's nickname
40. Continent
41. Most common vowel in English language
43. Try
44. Ascetic holy Hindu
46. Fail to mention
47. Ditty
48. Interruptions
50. "Do ____ others..."
52. P in m.p.g.
53. Partiality
55. Pie ____ ____ mode
57. *Gizzard, heart, liver, neck
61. *Soaking turkey
65. Heart chambers
66. Polite form of address
68. Outspoken
69. Behave like a coquette
70. "But I heard him exclaim, ____ he drove out of sight..."
71. Allergic reaction to bee sting
72. Bloodsucking hopper
73. "Ideas worth spreading" talk
74. Counseled

CLUES DOWN

1. Heidi's shoe
2. Kachina doll maker
3. * "The Thanksgiving Song" performer
4. Some Slavs
5. Put on a pedestal
6. Gorillas and orangutans
7. *National ____ Show
8. Pigsty dwellers
9. Mine passage
10. Neither mini nor midi
11. What phonics and cacophony have in common
12. Playlist item
15. Trouser measurement
20. Bounds' partners
22. Opposite of nothing
24. Isthmi, sing.
25. *Charlie Brown's meal: ____, popcorn, pretzels, jelly beans
26. Allegro ____, in music
27. Move like on ice
29. Organized crime-related ____ Act, acr.
31. Selling price minus profit
32. Add (2 words)
33. Absurd
34. *____ Monday after Thanksgiving
36. Hawaiian island
38. "The Parent Trap" child
42. Rose oil
45. Cheerful
49. Dog command
51. Dickens' Twist
54. Opposite of liability
56. Positive electrode
57. Gamecock's spur
58. It will
59. French hors d'oeuvre staple
60. Turkish money
61. Raised
62. Like some cakes
63. ID info
64. Happy
67. Ill temper



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Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

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

Apaches find their rhythm in season opener

BY LORRELL WRIGHT

The Gonzales boys spent most of Tuesday night in front at Vic Salazar Gym and a good part of it getting a feel for one another on the court. They'd had one practice with the football players back, and by the third quarter the Apaches were finding their rhythm together.

Port Lavaca Calhoun was within 10 at several points. Gonzales gave itself some room with a 31-point third quarter and went on to win its season opener 72-49 at home.

Coach Brady Keane saw some good stretches and some lulls from the Apaches in the first half. He wanted more from them after the way they closed the half, so he challenged his players at the break.

"I didn't know how they'd react so early in the year," Keane said. "They did a really good job of stepping up and setting the tone for the rest of the second half."

Keane wants the Apaches to play faster this season, and they got a look at what that can do for them in the third quarter. "We want to get easy buckets in transition," he said. A steal gives them a chance to get the ball ahead to a teammate before the defense can get set. Keane wants the same urgency after an opponent scores, starting with a quick inbound pass.

Sophomore Nick Villa and senior Damion Hunt gave Gonzales chances to run with eight steals apiece against Calhoun. Villa led the Apaches with 17 points and grabbed eight rebounds. Hunt finished with 11 points, five assists and three rebounds.

Gonzales was without Tommy Barnes, a key contributor sidelined by an injury. Hunt, Bryce Eleby and Keath White Jr. came over after football ended Friday and joined teammates who had already been practicing. Keane liked the athleticism the football players brought and how they rebounded. Eleby had seven points and pulled down 10 rebounds.





Above: Senior Braelin 'BJ' Jones goes for the outside 3 in Tuesday's game. Left: Junior Brayden Nichols looks to get open and around Port Lavaca-Calhoun's defender.

FLASHES BY LOR

Both Eleby and BJ Jones reached double figures in rebounds. Jones had a double-double with 13 points and 14 rebounds, along with four assists and four steals. Kason Salazar added 10 points and three rebounds, and Brayden Nichols finished with nine points and four assists.

There were stretches when the Apaches were still catching up to the speed Keane wants. He attributed some of their turnovers to players getting used to that pace again. With games coming quickly over the next couple of weeks, Gonzales will get more time to work out when to push the ball and where teammates will be.

Keane wants the players to have a say in what they can count on from one another by district play. The team had yet to hold the meeting where he gives the players room to put their ideas on the board. Tuesday gave them a game to draw from, especially the way they responded when Keane challenged them at halftime and several players stepped in to help put the game away.

Gonzales (1-0) gets its first road game Thursday at Lexington with a 6:30 p.m. tipoff. The Apaches return home to host Yorktown at 6:15 p.m. Monday.

At Vic Salazar Gym, the home crowd saw the Apaches work through the lulls of the first half and come out of halftime looking more at home with one another. Once Gonzales had some breathing room on the scoreboard, the cheers kept coming. The fans stayed right through the final buzzer.

Lady Apaches take perfect record into tourney season

BY LORRELL WRIGHT

The Lady Apaches went on the road twice in five days and gave up a combined 53 points. They scored more than that in each game, beating Canyon Lake 63-28 on Thursday and San Antonio Randolph 58-25 on Tuesday to improve to 4-0.

Senior Jordyn Gonzales led the Lady Apaches with 19 points at Randolph. Gabby Cobler finished with nine and Maggie Farrar had eight. The three accounted for 36 of Gonzales' 58 points and caught coach Alex Matanic's attention on the other end of the floor.

"Jordyn, Maggie, and Gabby Cobler all gave us a big lift with their defense and hustle," Matanic said.

Amaris Johnson, who scored 31 points against El Campo last week, finished with 10 against Randolph. Kea'anna White added eight, giving the Lady Apaches five players with at least eight points.

The Lady Apaches opened with home wins over Bandera and El Campo and have won each of their first four games by at least 30 points. El Campo's 35 points are the most Gonzales has allowed.

The Lady Apaches are ranked No. 6 by the Texas Girls Coaches Association and No. 23 by MaxPreps. Those rankings bring more attention to Gonzales, and the Lady Apaches will have to stay focused on their own game as expectations grow.

"We need to continue to play our brand of basketball and continue to work hard in practice," Matanic said when asked what he wanted to see from his team before district play. "Good things will continue to happen if we keep working hard."

Gonzales heads to the Caldwell tournament Thursday through Saturday before returning to Vic Salazar Gymnasium to host Poth at 12:15 p.m. Monday, Nov. 23. At Caldwell, the Lady Apaches will have their first chance this season to see how their defense holds up on consecutive days.

MUSTANGS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

grateful for what they've given this program."

Although the Mustangs will say goodbye to a special group of seniors, the future remains promising for Nixon-Smiley football. A talented group of returning players, including Joe White Jr., Dallas Rhodes, Acen Croft, Robert Doebber, and Zane Canion, will aim to build on this season's success. Along with a young offensive line that gained valuable varsity experience throughout the year, the Mustangs have several key pieces returning for the 2027 season.

The experience gained during the playoff season will be invaluable as these younger players step into larger leadership roles. With a full offseason ahead, the Mustangs will focus on building strength, refining fundamentals, and continuing to raise the program's standard.

"The exciting thing is that we're not starting over," Kirby added. "We've got some really talented young men returning, and they now understand what it takes to compete for a playoff spot. Guys like Joe White, Dallas Rhodes, Acen Croft, Robert Doebber and Zane Canion, along with our young offensive line, have a tremendous opportunity ahead of them. But nothing is going to be handed to us. We've got to get back in the weight room, go to work, and keep building on what these seniors started. Making the playoffs can't be the finish line for this program. It has to become the expectation."

While the 66-9 defeat was a difficult ending, the 2026 season marked an important step forward for Nixon-Smiley football. The Mustangs returned to the postseason, continued to build a competitive culture, and gave their community plenty of reasons to be proud.

For the seniors, their final chapter in a Mustang uniform may be complete, but their legacy will live on through the players who follow. For the returning Mustangs, the challenge is clear: apply what was learned this season, honor the foundation that has been laid, and come back stronger.

The 2026 season may be over, but the work to build a winning tradition at Nixon-Smiley is just getting started.

APACHES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

went 1-1 against the other two, and Gonzales took the fourth playoff seed on tiebreakers.

Hunt thought back to the early weeks, when the Apaches were still learning to play together. "Some people didn't think we would make it this far," he said. "We gave it all."

The freshmen who stepped in early finished their first varsity season in the playoffs beside the seniors who'd helped them find their footing. When it's their turn to lead, they'll have that experience to draw on.

"A lot of these seniors left a lasting mark on me as a coach and on our community," Hamilton said.

The fans who made the drive to Beeville were still cheering after the final whistle. They'd come for one more Friday with the Apaches, and the cheers were for everything the team had done to earn it.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

GONZALES HIGH SCHOOL

GIRLS BASKETBALL
THURSDAY, NOV. 19
FRIDAY, NOV. 20
SATURDAY, NOV. 21
CALDWELL TOURNAMENT
Caldwell HS, Times and Opponents TBA

MONDAY, NOV. 23
VS. POTH
Gonzales HS, 12:15 p.m.

BOYS BASKETBALL
THURSDAY, NOV. 19
AT LEXINGTON
Lexington HS, 6:30 p.m.

MONDAY, NOV. 23
VS. YORKTOWN
Gonzales HS, 6:15 p.m.

TUESDAY, NOV. 24
VS. STOCKDALE
Gonzales HS, 11:00 a.m.

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NIXON-SMILEY HIGH SCHOOL

GIRLS BASKETBALL
FRIDAY, NOV. 20
VS. SHINER
Nixon HS, 6:15 p.m.

MONDAY, NOV. 23
AT LYTLE
Lytle HS, 12:15 p.m.

TUESDAY, NOV. 24
VS. FALLS CITY
Nixon HS, 5:15 p.m.

BOYS BASKETBALL
THURSDAY, NOV. 19
VS. NORDHEIM
Nixon HS, 6:00 p.m.

MONDAY, NOV. 23
VS. RANDOLPH
Nixon HS, 12:30 p.m.

WAELDER HIGH SCHOOL

GIRLS BASKETBALL
THURSDAY, NOV. 19
FRIDAY, NOV. 20
SOMERVILLE TOURNAMENT
Somerville HS, Times and Opponents TBA

BOYS BASKETBALL
FRIDAY, NOV. 20
MCDADE TOURNAMENT
McDade HS, Times and Opponents TBA

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FLASHES BY LOR

Dixie Rae Lester dots the i's and crosses the t's on her signing paperwork as her family shares the moment Nov. 11 at Vic Salazar Gym. The Gonzales pitcher will play Division I softball at South Dakota State University.



FLASHES BY LOR

With her family beside her, Gonzales shortstop Alaina Valle signs her letter of intent to play softball at Trinity Valley Community College in Athens, Texas, during the Nov. 11 ceremony at Vic Salazar Gym.

SIGNING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

watched her become someone the Lady Apaches can go to for a hit in a close game, too.

"She's one of the best shortstops that's come through this program," Scopel said.

Valle led Gonzales in home runs as a junior and earned first-team all-district honors. Through three seasons, she has hit six home runs, driven in 72 runs, scored 82 and stolen 33 bases. She's also played volleyball, qualified for regionals in the triple jump as a sophomore and earned academic all-district honors in softball each year.

One of Valle's biggest hits came with Gonzales down to its last out against El Campo in Game 1 of the regional semifinals. Lester had held El Campo to three hits and struck out seven. The Lady Apaches still trailed 2-1 with two outs in the bottom of the seventh when Valle came up with two runners on. She brought them both home with a walk-off triple, and her teammates met her at second base to celebrate the 3-2 win.

"I think it gave us more faith in the fact that we can still keep going through this," Valle told the Inquirer in May.



FLASHES BY LOR

Alaina Valle and Dixie Rae Lester celebrate signing day with a gym full of Gonzales supporters.

Gonzales had been leaning on Lester in the circle since her first high school game, when she threw a no-hitter. She finished her freshman season with 219 strikeouts, threw a perfect game as a sophomore and struck out 20 in a no-hitter as a junior, the year she reached 518 career strikeouts.

Lester was already fighting back tears when she took the microphone. She remembered how long she'd talked about playing college softball back when it felt years away. She thanked her siblings for the weekends and birthday parties they'd given up. After a game, win or lose, she said she could count on them to make her laugh.

Scopel's goal for this spring is to reach state. She expects Valle to lead from shortstop and at the plate and Lester to strike out more than 200 batters. Lester said she wants to pitch with confidence, keep God at the center of how she plays and make sure her teammates know they can count on her away from the field, too.

Scopel said the two seniors have given younger Gonzales athletes an example they can take into any sport. Some of those kids were in the gym on signing day, hearing Valle and Lester talk about the people who helped them get there. At Lady Apache games, young fans can see what their coaches and teammates have come to count on, whether it's Valle making a play at shortstop or Lester working through a tight inning.

Lester remembers watching older girls play and dreaming about how far softball could take her.

"I hope seeing me sign my letter of intent to play collegiate softball shows them that a girl from Gonzales can reach those goals too," Lester said.

The kids who come out this spring will have one more season to watch Valle and Lester play in the Gonzales uniform some of them hope to wear one day.

Send us your child's letter(s) to Santa.

Please include the child's name and age.
These will be published in our
December 24, 2026 edition.

Deadline – December 14, 2026

The Gonzales Inquirer
SERVING GONZALES COUNTY SINCE 1853

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Or Email To:
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