

Giddings Times & News

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County to declare ice storm a disaster event

Lee County commissioners have given the go-ahead to file an Emergency Disaster Declaration for the county due to the recent ice storm. The court unanimously approved the measure at its Monday meeting.

According to Emergency Management Coordinator

Gregory LeBlanc, Bluebonnet Electric estimated they had \$325,000 worth of damages in Lee County. Initial county-level estimates are in the \$42,000 range, but final figures are not yet in.

LeBlanc reports most damage in the county was

Emergency radio group has room, antenna at jail

Update on courthouse repair provided

Lee County commissioners unanimously approved action items allowing the Lee County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (LeeCARES) to install and store equipment at the Lee County Sheriff's Department. The approval came at the last commissioners court meeting on Monday, Jan. 23.

The first action item specifically dealt with the installation of an antenna

on the roof. A conduit was installed for this purpose during the repairs to the back wall of the building at the jail.

The second action item allows LeeCARES to use the "ARES" room/closet located next to the Emergency Operation Center/ Training Room for their backup radio emergency equipment. LeeCARES has multiple radios that

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GROUP

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are rack-mounted, and Sheriff Casey Goetz has no problems with the arrangement, as long as there is enough room to store extra tables.

The third action item was an update to the "Memorandum of Understanding" between LeeCARES and Lee County. ARES members will be granted access to the equipment in the ARES room to use it when activated by the Lee County judge, emergency coordinator, or sheriff during an emergency or

disaster.

Also, when the EOC has not been reserved for other use by the sheriff or the county, ARES now has permission to use room for maintaining the equipment, training members, and other activities. The sheriff will be provided a schedule of events in advance for his approval.

Meeting opens

Public comments were made by Giddings resident Miranda Hilderbrand concerning her plan to tackle the growing number of sexual assaults against children in Lee County.

Jim Hanks of HESCO LLC, the engineer coordinating the courthouse restoration project, told commissioners there are no delays or unforeseen problems. All of the foundation piers have been placed. The focus of the work is now concentrating on the second floor courtroom. New concrete will be pumped using a hose through one of the windows.

County Attorney Martin Placke asked if the courthouse has shown any signs of significant foundation movement. Hanks said the string gauges show the building is stable, there

nearly 40 riders and horses from the Harris County Sheriff's Office Mounted Patrol, Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Mounted Patrol, Waller County Mounted Patrol,

County Expo Center.

By lunchtime, the baton arrived at the Cottonbowl Speedway in Paige. Bastrop County Area Go-Texan members were on

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Incumbent councilman Frank Castro has not filed for re-election.

The filing period to sign up for public service to the community started on

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OLD-FASHIONED RELAY -- Melissa Voigt of Bastrop County Go-Texan meets one of the Pony Express relay riders carrying a handwritten

invitation to the Texas Governor to attend the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo. This is the 74th year riders from the Harris County Sheriff's Office mounted

force have provided the old-fashioned mail service. Go-Texan members fed the riders lunch at a relay stop at Cottonbowl Speedway race track in Paige.

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building naturally shifted.

Railroad rescue
The court also heard from Giddings Economic Development Corporation President David Stedman, who unveiled a strategy to better utilize the railroad and associated grant funds to both grow the local economy and help ease the Hwy. 290 traffic problem.

No bike race

The court unanimously approved a bicycle event to be held in Lexington on March 5. However, the event sponsor, Capital City Racing, has reportedly canceled the event. Riders would have had a choice to follow a 20-

Judge pro-tem

The court also voted to appoint Pct. 3 Commissioner Alan Turner to serve as county judge pro-tem, to act in the absence of Judge Malinak.

Regular business

In other business, the court unanimously approved the minutes of the Jan. 9 meeting, all line-item transfers, and the payment of all bills.

The commissioners also unanimously approved the county auditor's September through December 2022 Report on County Indebtedness of Limited Tax Refunding, Series 2015 for the amount of

Man arrested here on stalking charge

A 57-year-old man was arrested by Lee County sheriff's deputies on Saturday, Feb. 11. Ronnie Ray Estrada of Hutto was booked into Jail for Stalking and Criminal Trespass.

signature cards to reflect current staff members.

Reports

The commissioners also received collected fee reports from Pct. 3 JP Don Milburn and Pct. 4 JP Danita Smith. Additionally, the sheriff provided his periodic racial profiling report.

Lee County EMS re-