



Man Sentenced for Continuous Violence Against Family Member

A Giddings man was sentenced in the 21st District Court of Lee County on January 7, 2025 for continuous violence against a family member. The Honorable Carson Campbell presided. Anselmo Chemo Ojeda, 29 yoa, was ordered to return from Shock Probation and to serve the remainder of a ten year sentence on Community Supervision. For this charge, he was fined \$,3000 and ordered to pay an additional \$1,370.42 in court costs, fees and restitution. He was also ordered to perform 200 hours of community service. In addition, Ojeda was sentenced to an additional seven year probation for evading arrest or detention with a vehicle. Additional charges were assessed for this count.

John William Guynes, 48 of Giddings, saw his original sentence revoked and he was sentenced to two years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) for having a prohibited substance in a correctional facility.

Jason Michael Surrency, 50 of Georgetown, also

had his original sentence revoked for unauthorized use of a vehicle – attempt, and he was sentenced to 90 days in the Lee County Law Enforcement Center (LCLEC).

Jovanna Shante Hurd, 31 of Houston, had her original sentence revoked and she was given 30 days in the LCLEC for unauthorized use of a vehicle – attempt.

Nicholas A. Dehoyos-Velasquez, 24 of Giddings,

was given eight years probation for evading arrest or detention with a vehicle. He was assessed \$3,715 in fines, court costs and fees, as well as being ordered to serve 300hours of community service.

Laci Marie Bradshaw, 25 of New Caney, Texas, was given two years probation for possession of a controlled substance (POCS) – Fentanyl. She was assessed \$1,895 in

fines, court costs, fees and restitution.

A week later, on January 14, 2025, eight more people were sentenced in the 21st Judicial district Court of Lee County with the Honorable John Winkelmann presiding. Zachary Wayne Walker, 25 of Beaumont, TX, was sentenced to ten years in the TDCJ, probated 10 years, for evading arrest or detention with a vehicle. He was assessed \$3,240 in

fines, court costs and fees, as well as ordered to perform 300 hours of community service. On a second charge, Walker was given ten years probation for engaging in organized criminal activity – robbery. Court costs and fees were assessed.

Brandon Jerome Patterson, 35 of Giddings, was sentenced to ten years confinement in the TDCJ, probated three years, for failure to comply as

a sex offender’s duty to register annually for life. He was assessed \$1,715 in fines, court costs and fees. Patterson will have to serve 150 hours of community service too.

Alan Reyes, 26 of Houston, was given two concurrent terms of five years probation each for POCS – Methamphetamine and for tampering with or fabricating physical evidence with the intent to impair. Court costs and fees were assessed.

Terry Wayne Tusie, 56 of Dime Box, was given two years probation for deadly conduct discharge of a firearm – attempted. He was ordered to pay \$1,695 in fines, court costs and fees and to perform 100 hours of community service.

Natalie Nicole Willis, 43 of Baytown, TX, was given two years probation for POCS – Tetrahydrocannabinol. She will pay a fine, court costs, fees and restitution and perform 80 hours of community service.

Timothy Kenneth Miller, 42 of Giddings, was given two years probation for POCS – Methamphetamine and will pay a fine, court costs, fees and restitution, as well as service 75 hours community service.

Johnta Lamont Harris, 22 of Pflugerville, was given two years probation, ordered to pay \$1,645 in fines, court costs, fees and restitution, as well as to perform 75 hours of community service.

James Anthony Baty, 41 of Giddings, was sentenced to one year in the LCLEC, probated two years, for assault causing bodily injury to a family member. He will pay \$1,435 in fines, court costs and fees.

Amateur Radio Operators Prepare for Disaster

This past weekend, amateur radio enthusiasts from Lee County and Williamson County came together to

(ARES) and Williamson County ARES was more than just an exercise. It was a demonstration of the

organized annually by the Winter Field Day Association to encourage ham radio operators to practice setting

such as fluctuating weather and limited infrastructure. However, rare severe weather events, like the 2021 ‘Snowmageddon’ that caused widespread disruption across Texas, underscore the importance of preparedness even in regions with typically milder winters. These conditions make exercises like Winter Field Day an excellent opportunity to hone skills in realistic scenarios.

This year’s event saw Lee County ARES simulate a local disaster, requiring assistance from Williamson County ARES. During the exercise, a generator failure highlighted the importance of adaptability, as participants worked around the issue by employing an alternate power source. This real-time problem-solving reinforced the value of identifying and addressing potential weaknesses in emergency setups. The two organizations, bound by a mutual assistance agreement, coordinated their efforts to establish a fully operational

Continued on page B3
See RADIO



Lexington resident and amateur radio operator Mark Allison is seen in the foreground, working with another volunteer in one of two communication trailers used last weekend as Lee and Williamson County ARES practiced using their communication skills in case of disaster. PHOTO BY PHILIP CONCAN.

participate in Winter Field Day, an international emergency communications exercise. Held at Firemen’s Park in Giddings, the event highlighted the essential role of amateur radio operators in disaster preparedness while showcasing advanced communication techniques.

The collaboration between the Lee County Amateur Radio Emergency Service

invaluable capability amateur radio provides in ensuring reliable communication during emergencies. In scenarios where traditional communication methods fail, such as during severe weather or natural disasters, amateur radio can keep communities connected to first responders and other critical services.

Winter Field Day is

up portable operations in challenging conditions. While Texas winters may not bring the snow and ice faced by northern participants, local operators still contend with unique challenges

Elderly Woman’s Death Still Under Investigation

The death of an elderly woman from Rockdale is still under investigation by the Milam County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO), according to Brett Eberhart, Public Information Officer.

On Wednesday, December 18th, the MCSO responded to a home on Beverly Drive at about 1 o’clock in the afternoon, just outside of the city limits of Rockdale. The call concerned a deceased

female. Law Enforcement ordered an autopsy to determine the cause of death. A press release concerning the incident said, “Several dogs located on the property were removed and secured out of an abundance of caution.”

On Tuesday of this week, Officer Eberhart confirmed to the Leader that the autopsy results have been received by the MCSO, but more

tests have been ordered, the results of which have not been received. Officer Eberhart said the department does not know how long it will be before the results of the latest tests requested would be received by the MCSO.

Officer Eberhart said after they get all the information needed to conclude their investigation, the name of the deceased will be confirmed.

Rutherford VB Coach of the Year!

Coach Collin Rutherford was selected the volleyball coach of the year by the Texas Coaches High School Association. In his first year as head coach of the Lady Eagles Volleyball he led the

girls to a 34-19 season. The record was what propelled the girls a Regional Finals playoff. Last year the girls lost in the first round after not making the playoffs the year before.



STATE BOUND! Two Cross Examination teams at LHS will be going to State in March! Case Boettcher and Jace Bryan finished 1st; Oliver Conner and Braden Rodgers finished 2nd. Both teams went undefeated on the day. The final placement was determined by speaker points. Boettcher was also named the Best Speaker at the tournament!

It’s Noteworthy

Local Author to be Included in Round Up

Lexington resident and well known local author, Ruth Meyer, will be among seven authors who will be featured in the sixth annual Texas Lutheran Writers Round Up on Friday, January 31, from 9:00-2:00 at Faith Lutheran High School of Central Texas, located in Warda. This is a free event for the public and one that students at Faith Lutheran High School enjoy very much, especially since they will go from classroom to classroom for writing workshops with the featured authors. Adults attending will also get to spend some one-on-one time with the authors, as well.

Sessions for the adults include “Time and Manure” by Christina Hergenrader, “Writing, Reading, and Repetition in Isaiah” by Rev. Kachelmeier, “Fitting Fiction Into History” by Sarah Baughman, a Bible study by President Newman on “Courage in the Cultural Furnace,” and more.

Lunch is provided for all who attend. Faith Lutheran High School shares facilities with Holy Cross Lutheran Church at 600 FM 1482 in Warda.





Dust Off Your Cowboy Boots for the Alamo's Rodeo Round Up!

The Alamo invites visitors to immerse themselves in the vibrant spirit of the Wild West during Rodeo Round Up on Saturday, February 1, 2025, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. This annual event, timed to coincide with the San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo, promises a day rich in historical education and engaging activities.

The Alamo's Living History team will demonstrate frontier traditions of roping, branding, candle making, and blacksmithing. Special activities for kids include games, target shooting with rubber-band guns, story time, and even a giant tumbleweed. Storytelling, live music, and firing demonstrations will round out this cowboy-themed day.

Rodeo Round Up is free and open to the public. Attendees are encouraged to embrace the spirit of the occasion by donning their favorite cowboy attire. Join us for a day of fun, learning, and unforgettable memories! The Rodeo Round Up will be held at The Alamo, located at 300 Alamo Plaza in San Antonio.

Giddings Library News

Children age six and younger are invited to join us for storytime with crafts Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. Visit soon to explore these recent book arrivals:

Be Ready When the Luck Happens, long-awaited memoir of award-winning Food Network personality Ina Garten — As a bestselling cookbook author and celebrated television host, Garten has blazed

her own trail and taught millions of people how to cook and entertain. Now, she invites them to come closer to experience her story in vivid detail and to share the important life lessons she learned along the way.

Pro Bono, legal thriller by prime time television producer Thomas Perry — Attorney Charlie Warren dedicates himself to aiding people in financial straits.

While helping a widow find money missing from her late husband's accounts, Charlie recognizes a familiar scheme—one that once targeted his own widowed mother. Within hours of starting his investigation, he's attacked and robbed of his briefcase. Someone doesn't want him following the trail of missing money, but as Charlie continues his pursuit, he becomes entangled in a web of fraud and betrayal.

To explore these titles and more, visit the library Monday-Friday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

TEXAS STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING NETWORK

TexSCAN

TexSCAN Week of Jan. 26-Feb. 1, 2025

MEDICAL

CHARITY
Donate your car, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-855-808-4152 today!

CELLULAR PHONE SERVICE
Consumer Cellular - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just \$20/month. For more information, call 1-855-493-3803.

ENERGY
Backup power — peace of mind. Get a standard warranty of 7 years, \$849 value. Call 888-925-0261, Briggs & Stratton Energy Solutions.
Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-855-704-8579 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

HOME IMPROVEMENT
Jacuzzi Bath Remodel can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, waiving ALL installation costs! (Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. (Offer ends 3/30/25.) Call 1-855-965-0841.

Oil & Gas Rights
We buy oil, gas & mineral rights. Both non-producing and producing including Non-Participating Royalty Interest (NPRI). Provide us your desired price for an offer evaluation. Call today: 806-620-1422. Lobo Minerals, LLC, PO Box 1800, Lubbock, TX 79408-1800, LoboMineralsLLC@gmail.com.

Water Damage
WATER DAMAGE CLEANUP & RESTORATION: A small amount of water can lead to major damage in your home. Our trusted professionals do complete repairs to protect your family and your home's value! Call 24/7: 1-877-727-3027. Have zip code of service location ready when you call!

Texas Press Statewide Classified Network
200 Participating Texas Newspapers • Regional Ads
Start At \$250 • Email ads@texaspress.com

NOTICE: While most advertisers are reputable, we cannot guarantee products or services advertised. We urge readers to use caution and when in doubt, contact the Texas Attorney General at 800-621-0508 or the Federal Trade Commission at 877-FTC-HELP. The FTC web site is www.ftc.gov/bizop.

Pick up the Leader at any of these fine stores:

In Lexington:
Peterson Grocery
Lexington Food Mart
Herk's Store and Grill
Hildebrandt Meat Market

In Giddings:
Citgo
Chevron Food Mart
Rattler's/Stripes
Hilltop Chevron
Giddings Travel Center

In Elgin:
Chevron
Hwy. 290 at FM 696.

Radio

Continued from A1

emergency communication setup. This simulated disaster scenario emphasized the importance of regional cooperation and demonstrated how prepared both groups are to respond to real emergencies.

The two groups brought a range of advanced equipment to the field. Each organization deployed an emergency communications trailer, equipped to provide reliable power and connectivity in remote areas. Williamson County also brought a portable station housed in a tent, which took approximately 90 minutes to set up and was designed for one or two operators. These mobile setups demonstrated how amateur radio operators can quickly establish a communications hub even in areas with no infrastructure.

Marida Favio del Core Borommo, Emergency Coordinator for Lee County ARES, said, "A key aspect of the event was the use of diverse communication techniques. Operators utilized traditional radio frequencies across HF, VHF, and UHF bands while also leveraging modern technologies like radio-over-internet. This technique allowed radio transmissions to connect directly to internet-based networks, enabling broader communication beyond the immediate area. Such methods ensure flexibility and adaptability in real-

world emergencies, where operators may need to bridge local radio transmissions with global internet-based systems."

She went on to explain that the equipment used during the event, including the trailers and much of the communications gear, was made possible primarily through grants. These grants represent a significant investment in the community's emergency preparedness, ensuring that Lee County is equipped with the tools needed to handle a crisis. The exercise also served as a reminder of how critical funding and community support are in building and maintaining these capabilities.

Marida said, "Participants worked tirelessly to prepare for the event, arriving on Friday afternoon to set up the trailers, antennas, and the tent-based portable station. Once the infrastructure was in place, the 30-hour exercise began on Saturday morning, running continuously until Sunday afternoon. During this time, operators connected with participants across the country and around the world, testing their equipment and practicing their skills under realistic conditions."

In addition to refining technical abilities, Winter Field Day provided an opportunity to build camaraderie among the amateur radio community. Operators shared knowledge, collaborated on problem-solving, and demonstrated the resilience and adaptability required in emergency

situations. These skills are essential for maintaining effective communication when it matters most.

The success of this year's Winter Field Day highlights the vital role amateur radio plays in disaster preparedness. While it may seem like a niche hobby to some, amateur radio is a lifeline during emergencies, providing a reliable means of communication when cell towers and internet connections are unavailable. Exercises like Winter Field Day ensure that operators are ready to step in and serve their communities at a moment's notice.

As the event concluded on Sunday, participants reflected on the importance of their work. The simulated scenario had proven that the collaboration between Lee County and Williamson County ARES is not only functional but highly effective. By testing their equipment and practicing their coordination, these amateur radio operators have demonstrated their commitment to keeping the community informed and connected, no matter what challenges arise.

For residents of Lee County, the efforts of these dedicated volunteers provide peace of mind. Whether responding to a local disaster or assisting with broader emergencies, amateur radio operators are prepared to ensure that critical communications remain intact. Thanks to their work, the community is better prepared to face the unexpected.

BACK PACK BUDDIES LUNCH

SOUP, SALAD, BREAD & DESERT
\$12

FEBRUARY 10TH

• 10:30 AM-1:30 PM •
DINE IN OR TO GO

• LEXINGTON UMC •
FAMILY LIFE CENTER

Roostout, LLC

Roofing & Construction

979-702-2017

Jimmy Terrell
LHS Class of '07