



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.

2024 VOLLEYBALL LEXINGTON HIGH SCHOOL COACH OF THE YEAR PRESENTED BY TEXAS FARM BUREAU INSURANCE REGION 5 AAA Collin Rutherford



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.

