

# Giddings Times & News

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## Buyer of old elementary backing out of contract

### **GISD to incur demolition expenses to spur sale**

The Giddings ISD Board of Trustees was recently thrown a curve ball when the contracted buyer of the old elementary school building and surrounding property backed out of the agreement.

The property, located at 1010 East Industry Street in Giddings, went up for sale through a sealed bid process back in February. Only one person submit-

ted a bid by the deadline in April.

Superintendent Dr. Ray DeSpain explains that the buyer has since exercised his clause to back out of the deal.

In addition to 27 acres of land, the package sale included an abandoned old elementary school that is considered beyond repair and no longer habitable or usable.

School Board President Jason Locke had said demolishing the old school structure was a very costly endeavor, and one the board hoped the purchaser would be willing to tackle.

The original sale of the property stipulated that expenses for the demolition and complete removal of the existing buildings were to be incurred by See Buyer, 4

## Blue residents at odds with judge over gas power plant

### **Malinak: County can't stop building of facility**

Several residents in the Blue community in northwest Lee County are apparently finding themselves at odds with county leadership in regards to the planned construction of a natural gas power plant in their area.

Nearly 60 people turned out to a Blue Neighborhood Watch meeting at the Blue Volunteer Fire Department on Thursday, Oct. 17. The main focus was to discuss the gas plant, slated to be built at the intersection of county roads 309 and 312.

A group known as Move the Gas Plant spoke in opposition of the plant's location, believing it would

be better suited at the old Alcoa power plant location in Milam County.

In turn, Lee County Judge Frank Malinak III made a presentation on the county's position regarding the plant.

Travis Brown, spokesperson for the Move the Gas Plant steering committee, told the audience that if built, the 1,200-megawatt gas plant would be among the largest such plants in the state.

"This huge industrial facility would dramatically alter the rural nature of the Blue community," said Brown.

He explained the gas plant's negative impacts

would include air pollution, noise, lights, traffic, and decreased property values.

Much of the meeting's discussion delved into a resolution submitted by See Blue, 8

### **Community prayer vigil this Saturday**

Lee County residents are invited to attend a Prayer Vigil that will be held on Saturday, Oct. 26 at 6 p.m. The Silos on 77.

Local pastors Kenny Smith, Ricky Washington, Johnny Spray, and Blake Anderson will be leading the vigil.

The pastors urge every- See Vigil, 3b



RELAY FOR LIFE -- Cindy Hart (right) of Lexington leads a group of local residents who have lived through cancer dur-

ing the "Survivor's Lap" at the Lee County Relay for Life held Saturday, Oct. 19 at Veterans Park in Giddings. The annual

event celebrates those who have fought and survived cancer, and to remember those who have been lost to the dreaded disease.

## Elm Creek bridge on 77 undergoing major repair

### **Barricades narrow traffic to one lane each way**

Travelers on US 77 north of Giddings have no doubt noticed that construction has begun on a segment between FM 1624 and the intersection of SH 21.

Large concrete barriers have been erected on both sides of the highway, restricting travel to one lane in each direction.

According to the Texas Department of Transpor-

tation, the barricades are part of a bridge maintenance project on US 77 over Elm Creek.

Some residents speculated the construction is related to TxDOT's massive "US 77 from FM 2440 to SH 21" project that involves creating a divided highway, much like US 290 beyond Giddings in both directions.

TxDOT launched a public study last fall with a local workshop to collect information about such an undertaking. TxDOT public information officer Jeff Barker assures everyone the current construction is not linked to the more expansive project.

"The US 77 from FM 2440 to SH 21 project See Bridge, 6

## Trick-or-treaters gearing up for Halloween events

### **Trunk-or-Treat parties aimed to promote safety**

Trick-or-treaters will be out and about again this year for the much-anticipated Halloween season.

Naturally, the safety of all citizens on Halloween night is a concern for local law enforcement officers, who will do everything they can to keep children safe.

"As Halloween approaches, we urge our

motorists to be extra cautious with all of the extra foot traffic in our various communities," says Sheriff Garrett Durrenberger. "Deputies will be out to ensure everyone's safety."

Several "Trunk or Treat" parties will be happening around town. On Friday, Oct. 25, kids and their parents are invited to a pre-Halloween event at

the Lee County Sheriff's Office at 2122 FM 448 from 5-7 p.m.

Kids are encouraged to wear their costumes, and Sheriff Durrenberger promises there will be plenty of candy. New patrol vehicles will also be on display, with the trunks filled with treats.

Youth of all ages will See Events, 7



LET'S TAKE MY CAR -- The third Cars & Coffee event held Saturday at the Downtown Plaza parking lot in Giddings

brought out everything from classic road machines to mobile communications units. Onlookers spent the day admiring the vehicles

while sipping coffee and making new friends. This year marks the first time the event was handled by the Chamber of Commerce.

## 1st annual Oktoberfest in Giddings on Saturday

### **Music, pumpkin painting, cornhole**

Giddings residents and visitors will be lifting beer steins and rolling barrels in celebration of the first annual Oktoberfest, which will be held from 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. this Saturday at the Downtown Plaza at 199 N. Bursleson St.

The event is sponsored by the Giddings Economic

### **Buffaloes to host Bellville Brahmas**

The Giddings Buffaloes varsity football team will host the Bellville Brahmas in the third district game of the season this Friday at 7:30 p.m.

The Buffs (2-5 overall, 1-1 in district) will be trying to bounce back from a 34-13 loss to the Sealy Tigers last week.

The Brahmas (4-3 overall, 2-0 in district) are coming off a 63-20 win See Buffs, 5

Development Corporation with assistance from Giddings Brewhaus restaurant owner Steven Ahsan.

The day will largely be focused on music, with side attractions and contests to keep everyone engaged. "There's going to be a 1-hour set for each artist, with a 30-minute break in between so the next band can set up," See Fest, 9b

### **Lexington to host Blanco this Friday**

The Lexington Eagles varsity football team will try to keep the undefeated season alive with a home game against the Blanco Panthers this Friday, with kickoff at 7:30 p.m.

The Eagles (7-0 overall, 1-0 in district) are coming off an Open Date on the schedule, meaning they See Host, 5

## Jeff Dock Center is first area site-built Head Start

### **Brand-new facility gives children more space**

Giddings Head Start -- a program to promote the school readiness of infants, toddlers, and preschool-aged children from low-income families -- now has a new home.

A ribbon cutting ceremony was recently held to celebrate the opening of the new Jeff Dock Child Development Center at

1058 E. Industry Street in Giddings, right between the new and old elementary school buildings.

Construction on the 7,911 square-foot facility began earlier this year. Though the official opening ceremony was held just a couple of weeks ago, it actually opened its doors to kids at the beginning

of July.

The building features six classrooms, a kitchen, conference room, several offices, and lots of storage space. Each classroom has a different name, such as Loving Llamas, Zany Zebras, Tranquil Turtles, Leaping Leopards, and Gentle Giraffes. Each one See Center, 3b



BRAND NEW START -- Classrooms inside the new Jeff Dock Child Development Center, otherwise

known as Giddings Head Start, are very spacious, clean, and filled with new materials designed to keep

kids engaged. The building, which opened its doors in July, held its official grand opening on Friday, Oct. 11.

