Giddings Times & News

SERVING LEXINGTON, DIME BOX, LINCOLN, SERBIN, NORTHRUP, PAIGE, LEDBETTER, MANHEIM, FEDOR & GIDDINGS PUBLISHED AND EDITED BY A NATIVE LEE COUNTIAN -- PREUSS PRINTING CO., INC.

VOLUME 135

GIDDINGS, LEE COUNTY, TEXAS 78942-0947

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2024

NUMBER 24

Buyer of old elementary backing out of contract

GISD to incur demolition expenses to spur sale

of Trustees was recently in April. thrown a curve ball when the contracted buyer of the old elementary school property backed out of the agreement.

1010 East Industry Street cluded an abandoned old expenses for the demoliin Giddings, went up for elementary school that is tion and complete removal sale through a sealed bid considered beyond repair of the existing buildings process back in February. and no longer habitable were to be incurred by Only one person submit- or usable.

The Giddings ISD Board ted a bid by the deadline School Board President

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

In addition to 27 acres of The property, located at land, the package sale in- property stipulated that

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 See Buyer, 4



RELAY FOR LIFE -- ing the "Survivor's Lap" Cindy Hart (right) of Lex- at the Lee County Relay ington leads a group of for Life held Saturday, cancer, and to remember local residents who have Oct. 19 at Veterans Park those who have been lost to lived through cancer dur- in Giddings. The annual the dreaded disease.

event celebrates those who have fought and survived

Blue residents at odds with judge over gas power plant Malinak: County can't stop building of facility

northwest Lee County are tion in Milam County. apparently finding themselves at odds with county leadership in regards to of a natural gas power ing the plant. 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 lo-

Several residents in be better suited at the old would include air polluthe Blue community in Alcoa power plant loca- tion, noise, lights, traffic, In turn, Lee County

Judge Frank Malinak III made a presentation on the discussion delved into a the planned construction county's position regard-

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 cation, believing it would plant's negative impacts

and decreased property values.

Much of the meeting's 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

Elm Creek bridge on 77 undergoing major repair Barricades narrow traffic to one lane each way

of Giddings have no doubt part of a bridge mainte- lic study last fall with a noticed that construction nance project on US 77 has begun on a segment over Elm Creek. between FM 1624 and the intersection of SH 21.

Large concrete barriers related to TxDOT's mashave been erected on both sive "US 77 from FM sides of the highway, re- 2440 to SH 21" project stricting travel to one lane that involves creating a diin each direction.

Department of Transpor- in both directions.

Travelers on US 77 north tation, the barricades are

Some residents speculated the construction is vided highway, much like

TxDOT launched a publocal 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 According to the Texas US 290 beyond Giddings 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 motorists to be extra cau- the Lee County Sheriff's out and about again this tious with all of the extra Office at 2122 FM 448 year for the much-antici- foot traffic in our various from 5-7 p.m.



-- The third Cars & Coffee event held Saturday at the Downtown Plaza

LET'S TAKE MY CAR brought out everything while sipping coffee and from classic road machines making new friends. This to mobile communications units. Onlookers spent the the event was handled by parking lot in Giddings day admiring the vehicles the Chamber of Commerce.

year marks the first time

1st annual Oktoberfest in Giddings on Saturday Music, pumpkin painting, cornhole

visitors will be lifting beer with assistance from Gidsteins and rolling barrels dings Brewhaus restaurant in celebration of the first owner Steven Ahsan. annual Oktoberfest, which will be held from 1 p.m. focused on music, with to 10 p.m. this Saturday at the Downtown Plaza at tests to keep everyone 199 N. Burleson 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 trya 34-13 loss to the Sealy Tigers last week.

See Buffs, 5

Giddings residents and Development Corporation

The day will largely be side attractions and conengaged. "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 ing to bounce back from Panthers this Friday, with kickoff at 7:30 p.m.

The Eagles (7-0 overall, The Brahmas (4-3 over- 1-0 in district) are coming all, 2-0 in district) are off an Open Date on the coming off a 63-20 win schedule, meaning they See Host, 5

pated Halloween season. communities," says Sher-

Naturally, the safety of iff Garrett Durrenberger. all citizens on Halloween "Deputies will be out to night is a concern for local ensure everyone's safety. law enforcement officers, who will do everything parties will be happening they can to keep children around town. On Friday, safe.

proaches, we urge our pre-Halloween event at

Several "Trunk or Treat" Oct. 25, kids and their "As Halloween ap- parents are invited to a

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

Jeff Dock Center is first area site-built Head Start

Brand-new facility gives children more space

Giddings Head Start -- 1058 E. Industry Street in of July. a program to promote Giddings, right between the school readiness of the new and old elemeninfants, toddlers, and tary school buildings. preschool-aged children Construction on the from low-income families 7,911 square-foot facility -- now has a new home.

Development Center at to kids at the beginning

A ribbon cutting cer- Though the official open-

The building features six classrooms, a kitchen, conference room, several offices, and lots of storage space. Each classroom has began earlier this year. a different name, such as Loving Llamas, Zany emony was recently held ing ceremony was held Zebras, Tranquil Turtles, to celebrate the opening just a couple of weeks ago, Leaping Leopards, and of the new Jeff Dock Child it actually opened its doors Gentle Giraffes. Each one





BRAND NEW START -- known as Giddings Head Classrooms inside the new

Start, are very spacious, Jeff Dock Child Develop- clean, and filled with new ment Center, otherwise materials designed to keep

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

BLUE **Sports Corner**

BY SLOAN PREUSS

SHOCKING LOSS --

Well, kind of. When I said the #1 Texas Longhorns weren't going to cover the point spread at home against the #5 Georgia Bulldogs, I was right.

But it all went wrong. And way wrong, when the Bulldogs broke the chain on both sides of the ball and rumbled to a 30-15 upset in Austin.

Instead of Bevo charging and chasing the Bulldog mascot around, the suddenly unafraid pooch ran in circles around the steer in this one, so to speak.

The chaos and anger were real. It kind of looked like 6th Street when the student section of UT fans started throwing water they could get their hands on into the end zone after a bad call by the referees.

Yes, it was a bad call that was eventually and finally overturned after a lengthy discussion by the refs, but it shouldn't have resulted in a temper-tantrum by the fans.

Matthew McConaughey even agrees, saying the bad behavior was a disgrace to UT. But why is he going around talking about a disgrace to the university? Did Matthew quickly forget about him smoking weed and playing the bongo naked with friends after a UT game?

Not saying his behavior Austin, but surely not a sight I would like to see as a responding police officer.

Don't get me wrong. Matthew seems like a good guy. My wife loves him. Many other women do, too. But don't be a hypocrite deciding what is right or wrong, when you've done plenty of other things even worse than throwing a water bottle onto a football field.

Texas just didn't look like or play like the Texas Alan Jackson's "Pop a beau Leap" to celebrate team we've gotten used top again" song as the #14 the victory at Lambeau to seeing. Or a national Aggies host the #8 LSU Field in Green Bay, Wis-

I've never heard that before. Doesn't matter.

the Bulldogs were going to keep it close? Or were the bettors going crazy taking A&M to cover the spread? I honestly didn't know.

It turned out that my original gut feeling was the right one, with the Aggies only winning 34-24. Whew. What a relief. For me and my pocketbook.

It sort of reminded me of breaking it down studying for a test in high school or college and knowing all the right answers, but still wondering if the same questions were going to be asked on the test.

it's not like making an "A, would think it's a nobottles and everything else B, C, D, or F" on a test. It's more like moving on to the "G" for Good, "H" for Honesty, "I" for I'm the Man, "J" for Joking, and "K" for Knowing that I was right or wrong.

Something like that. Don't ask me to explain it. Can we just talk about it another time? Or never? I would prefer the latter. Especially since I don't have a rhyme or reason for anything I'm saying right this second.

I just turned the "Big 5-0" -- yes, that's 50 years old. I'm not getting old, I'm just getting warmed or at least hoping, it will up! I thought that I was be different. Dallas does 46 for two years, then sud- it in a high-scoring game denly turned 48. My wife 42-34. that night was a disgrace had to remind me of the to everyone, especially in truth, since I simply lost track of time. I was just too busy having so much fun! And I still am, kind of feeling like I was at the a game-winning field goal age of 40. The key words are "kind of."

> Were we talking about the Aggies? I got lost in Brandon McManus bootthe mix somewhere along ed the ball for the winning the way. Guess I should 3 points for the victory have been talking about in his first game with the the Dixie Chicken, Dudley's Draw, O'Bannons, or Carney's in College Station.

(FROM PAGE ONE)

made that up. Pretty sure the steering committee to Judge Malinak in mid-August. The committee Was I crazy for thinking asked him to place the resolution on an upcoming commissioners court meeting agenda, but that has yet to happen.

> The resolution asks the commissioners to oppose putting the gas plant in the Blue community, and instead support moving it to the site of the old Alcoa aluminum smelter and coal plants some 15 miles away in Milam County. The same developers own land at the Blue and Alcoa locations.

"Our resolution is a reasonable, feasible, and defensible position for Lee County to take," Brown These days in real life, said at the meeting. "You brainer."

Strategic planning

Although the county has no authority to stop the gas plant, Brown said a strong resolution from the commissioners court could help the steering

selor. Not happening.

Now it's time for a road trip to take on the San Francisco 49ers on Sunday Night Football on NBC at 7:20 p.m.

Who's going to win? The 49ers are favored by 5 points, but I'm thinking,

LOSES AT END -- The Houston Texans led for most of the contest, but the Green Bay Packers kicked for a 24-22 victory as time expired on Sunday.

Longtime NFL kicker Packers.

McManus promised he wouldn't ever take a leap of faith into the stands, but It's almost time to play he chose to take the "Lam-



include opposing the gas

plant developers' applica-

tion for an air permit from

the Texas Commission on

An Austin law firm hired

by the Move the Gas Plant

group has submitted a re-

quest to the TCEQ that a

contested case hearing be

held over the air permit

Malinak's position

Not long after learn-

ing of the proposed gas

plant, Judge Malinak

and Pct. 3 Commission-

er Alan Turner toured a

similar dual turbine Sie-

and gauge what effect

this plant might have on

Lee County and the Blue

Judge Malinak's presen-

tation at the Blue Neigh-

borhood Watch meeting

focused on the mechan-

ics of how the gas plant

would operate and the

air pollution measures it

During his presentation,

he told the crowd of Blue

residents that he was pre-

paring an alternate resolu-

tion for the commissioners

court concerning the gas

However, many at the

would implement.

Not convinced

plant.

application.

community.

Environmental Quality.

MEETING IN BLUE -- that focused on the build-Don Goerner (left) of Blue ing of a natural gas plant in Neighborhood Watch was their area. Nearly 60 people one of the many speakers attended, most of whom at a community meeting oppose the plant. A group

committee's efforts, which to incorrectly conclude I am supporting the power plant over our citizens."

Public hearings

After the meeting, Brown said, "We look forward to seeing the judge's resolution.'

Malinak reports that Senator Lois Kolkhorst and Representative Stan Gerdes have requested that TCEQ conduct a full public hearing in Lexington in the near future.

"We will be there to ask questions of SLR and TCEQ about EPA pollution standards and about hazards the power plant mens power plant outside may pose," he says. "I Temple to gain insight on hope our citizens attend. power plant operations Any resolution against the plant would certainly benefit from information derived from the TCEQ public hearing."

Water questions

Michele Gangnes, another Move the Gas Plant steering committee member, also spoke during the meeting. She said a big "unknown" about the gas plant is the amount of water it will require. She also raised the specter of how Sandow Lakes Ranch is seeking groundwater from Lee County for other projects.

During a July meeting of the Lost Pines Groundwacalled Move the Gas Plant would rather see it built on old Alcoa land in Milam County that was once home to a lignite power plant.

ter Conservation District, Alan Gardenhire, the vice president of operations for Sandow Lakes Ranch Properties, said the power plant would be cooled by air. "We're not going to be pumping any groundwater to cool that unit," he said. "Now there may be wells and groundwater needed for employees and things like that, but it will not be a significant amount."

Gardenshire said that he was aware of concerns members of the public had about the possibility of the proposed natural gas power plant requiring excess amounts of water from the aquifer system. He gave his phone number and invited the public to call him with any concerns at 512-810-3584.

Suspect jailed for public intoxication

Giddings police officers were dispatched to the 1000 block of N. Ellis Street on Friday, Oct. 18 at 10:32 p.m. for a report of a possible disturbance. Roderick Thompson, 42, of Kosciusko, Mississippi was arrested and booked into the Lee County Jail charged with Public Intoxication.

championship team. Not even close. What happened is anyone's guess.

Mark my words. The rest of their games, then play and win the SEC Championship game and go on to play in the College Football Playoffs.

The Horns might not be ranked #1 to start the college playoffs, but will win and keep winning to be crowned as the National Champs when it's all over!

But first, the now #5 Horns will play at the #25Vanderbilt Commodores this Saturday at 3:15 p.m. on the SEC Network. The Horns are favored to win by 19 points.

beat then-#7 Missouri before losing 30-27 in double overtime in Week 4, and upset the then-#1 ranked Alabama Crimson Tide 40-35 in Week 6.

Either the Longhorns are going to be so mad they win by 5 touchdowns, or the Commodores keep playing tough and make it close. I'm taking Vandy to keep it close. Horns pull it out 42-28. It's a win, but not covering the spread.

HARD-FOUGHT WIN

-- The #14 Texas A&M Aggies were favored to beat the one-win Mississippi State Bulldogs by 15 points or more, but I warned you the Dogs would keep it close and only lose 28-21.

When the point spread vaulted up to the Aggies favored to win by 21 points by game time, I was as nervous as a football player wearing metal cleats on a tin roof. I just

this Saturday at 6:30 p.m. on for the Cheeseheads! on ABC.

Longhorns will win the at LSU in Baton Rouge, Louisiana about 5 to 6 years ago, and it was one of the best experiences ever. Those Cajuns know how to "throw it down" --cooking everything from crawfish to alligators!

But for now, it's time for A&M to throw it down kickoff as Texans receiver and pull out a low-scoring 24-20 victory. That's just my take on it, this one could go either way.

Maybe bet a couple dozen eggs or a few chickens on it, but I wouldn't wager a cow or even a goat on it. Just saying. Play it safe, But wait. Vandy almost then kick back and watch give me a break! how it all plays out.

> COWBOYS OFF -- After an embarrassing 47-9 loss to the Detroit Lions, it was kind of good the Dallas Cowboys had the week off to rest up and hopefully practice a little. And it gave us a chance to release some of our this Sunday at 12 noon on pent-up anger. You can admit you had some. You can confide in me, just

going to be your coun- 28-17 victory.

"Your Cattle Are Our Business" RGIDDINGS LIVESTOCK SALE EVERY MONDAY AT NOON BARN RECEIVING: Sun (8am - 9pm), Mon (8am - end of sale) **RECEIVING PENS AVAILABLE:** Carmine - Melvin Schoenst (979) 540-8800 Fayetteville - Jay Baker (979) 224-5522 Industry - Glendale Krebs (979) 732-7462 La Grange - Donnie Zoch (979) 716-4066 Robert Zoch (979) 540-8257

(979)542-2274 www.giddingslivestock.com 🖸 🖪

Tigers in College Station consin. And the party was

Houston was seeking its I went to a tailgate party first four-game winning streak since 2018, when they won nine in a row. It just wasn't meant to be. I had to tell a lot of ex-girlfriends those exact same words. Let's stop talking about bad stuff.

> The emotions were evident before the opening Stefon Diggs exchanged words and shoves with two Packers cornerbacks.

> Diggs should have done more talking, or walking, on the field, instead of only catching 5 passes for 23 yards. All that jawing for that? Come on now,

> Have you ever noticed the players who do the most talking usually end up having the worst performance? And they lose? The same goes for this situation, apparently.

> Maybe he can learn to stay quiet as the Texans host the Indianapolis Colts CBS.

Houston is the better team, but Indy is hungry don't start thinking I'm for a win and pulls out a

meeting saw the judge as favoring the developers over the residents of Blue. "It appears to us that Judge Malinak is bending over backwards to appease the Sandow Lakes Ranch people," said Brown, adding that Malinak appears to want the gas plant built in Blue partly because of additional property tax revenue it might provide the county.

Sandow Lakes Energy is owned by Xebec, a Dallas real estate development company. In 2021, Xebec bought the 33,000-acre site of the old Alcoa smelter, coal plants and strip mine, now called Sandow Lakes Ranch (SLR)

Charlotte Leonard, Julie Drake, and Trish Siler, who all live with their families on CR 312 very close to the proposed site, also spoke during the meeting. Leonard asked Malinak, "Why won't you stand up for us?"

Misunderstanding

Malinak reportedly said during the meeting that he had to look out for the interests of all of Lee County, not just the Blue community.

"We know our citizens don't want a power plant in their midst," Malinak told the Times & News. "I wouldn't either, but the commissioners court does not have the authority to stop it."

"We have questioned SLR about the location and suggested it be moved deeper into their own property to shield our residents from negative effects," he continued. "My investigative actions have apparently led some



157 S. Manse Ave. Giddings, Texas 78942 (979) 542-1234 office (979) 542-0078 fax

Doug Westfall-Broker 979-540-0404 Cell



#5199 276+ ac. located East of Giddings on Hwy 290, stock ponds, Cummins Creek frontage, open pastures & areas with dense native brush cover, Bluebonnet Elect. on property, co-op water available, Ag exempt, residential, Ag, recreational & development potential.

#1462 3 bedroom, 2 bath brick home on oversized city lot, attached 2 car garage, bonus room for office/gym etc., indoor utility with storage area, spacious dep the autometiling & fireplace, remodeled kitchen & master bath, fenced yard with deck. 713 S. Knox Ave #1463 Restoration/development potential Older home on three city lots, antique charm, his eilings, a tached 2 car garage. Bonus lots may have potential for future development. 407 S. Williamson **#5197 REDUCED**138.4 Acres, FM 448 frontage, 5 ponds, great potential for use as residence or erreational property or for use as commercial cow/calf/ranching operation. PR 6029 **\$8,750 per ac.** #5200 Beautiful 30.30 ac. restricted tract located in Northwestern Lee Co. with CR 331 frontage, water and electric service on-site, new fencing on 3 sides, dense native brush cover & open areas, well suited for residential, small Ag operation or recreational use. **#5201** Looking for a place to relax and unwind, Try this beautiful 20.20 ac. restricted property on CR 331 in Northwest Lee County. This property has water and electric service on-site, both wooded and open areas, well suited for residential or recreational purposes. **#5202** 10.10 Ac. restricted home site in Northwestern Lee County with frontage on CR 331. Heavy native brush cover and open areas, wildlife habitat, rural water and electric service on-site, great place to build your forever home or for use as a recreational retreat. #5204 23.688 acre unrestricted tract with frontage on Hwy 21 & CR 114-A near Old Dime Box. Bluebonnet Elec. crosses property & Lee Co. water is nearby, lower areas with dense brush cover along Middle Yegua Creek & higher open areas suitable for homesite. #5205 27.095 ac. off FM 180 on PR 5015. Property is unrestricted, has small cabin with elect Str. Sock ppri, native pastures & brush. Great for residential home site, agricultural & recreational purposes.

Serving the area since 1995

For more information on available properties visit www.westfallrealestate.com