

THE OBSERVER/ ENTERPRISE

Serving Coke County

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Friday, January 11, 2013

County Livestock Show slated for next weekend

The 74th edition of the that is circulated in the Coke County Junior county.

Livestock Show will be The show will begin held Friday and Saturday, Friday, January 18, at 6:30 January 18 and 19, 2013, pm with the Market Lamb at the Sterling Lindsey show, followed by the Memorial Exhibition Market Goat show. These Building in Robert Lee. will be judged by Brent Hoover.

This year's show will feature animals in the Market Lamb, Market Goat, Market Swine and Market Steer shows, but more importantly, many young exhibitors from around the county. Saturday, January 19, the Market Swine show gets underway at 8:30 am, followed by the Market Steer show at 11 am, judged by John Osburne, Vocational Ag teacher in Menard. Showmanship judge is Jett Mason, Vocational Ag teacher in Stamford.

The county stock show offers the youth of Coke County an opportunity to exhibit their livestock projects which they have worked with for more than 11 months, in many cases. The Buyer's appreciation barbecue will be served at 12 noon. Following the barbecue, the premium sale will be held at 2 pm to honor the prize winning animals and exhibitors.

Besides being a worthwhile educational activity for our youth in teaching them responsibility, working with others and numerous life skills, it is an important economic endeavor when you consider the animals purchased from county producers, feed purchased locally and the premium sale monies that come in from county and other areas. The total amounts of monies generated by these exhibitors amounts to over \$150,000 per year. Persons wishing to donate to the Coke County Livestock Show can contact either the County Extension office in the courthouse or one of the Livestock Association directors which include Shane Kelton, Douglas Roberts, Tom Sawyer, Terry Austin, Michael Cervenka, Riley Coalson, Corby Kelso, Curtis Knight, Steve Oleksiuk III, Terry Queen, Jonathan Reeves, Ricky Ross, Ricky Royall, Rick



What a Christmas Gift! December 28 2012, will be remembered in the years to come as a good day for the taxpayers of Coke County, Texas. That is the day when the transaction was finalized on GEO Group's sizable donation of the detention facility to Coke County. The worldwide giant corporation once owned and operated this facility at the edge of Bronte.

In early December, Judge Blair was approached by GEO executives making this offer. Upon presentation of the offer at the next session of the Commissioners Court, all commissioners voted in favor of accepting the gift.

In 2008, Coke County sold the facility to the GEO Group for 3.2 million dollars. Since that date, the only benefit to Coke County from this facility has been the annual property taxes of approximately \$66,000.

Granted, with this gift, the county and the other taxing entities will lose the annual tax revenue that is generated from the property. However, the county has gained a property appraised at approximately 3.3 million dollars.

Coke County Judge Roy Blair expressed his sentiments "It is felt by the majority of persons who have examined all the aspects of this land deal that in the long run, this is a win-win for all the citizens and therefore is in the best interest of the county."

Judge Roy Blair and the Commissioners Court are currently exploring potential uses for the property to generate economic development for the county. Judge Blair states, "I have longed

for this facility to be open for business in some form or fashion and bring jobs and growth to Coke County. I feel with this generous gift that this translates to a very large windfall for our county."

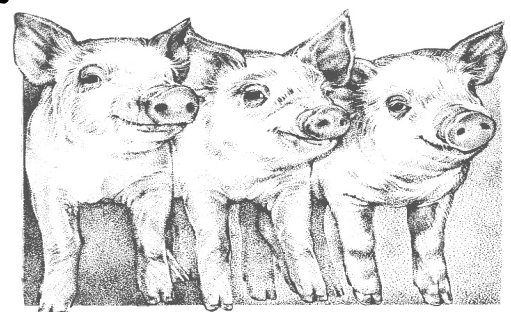
Sanchez, Bob Sheets, everyone to come and participate in this years Tinkler, and Mark Wright. County Livestock Show

The directors of the Coke and support the youth of County Junior Livestock our county for their hard Show would like to invite work and dedication.



Let it Snow! Coke County residents woke up last Friday morning to a beautiful blanket of snow. Reports range from 3-5 inches within the county, distributing much needed moisture.

Coming Soon! **Coke County Junior Livestock Show**



January 18-19, 2013

Sterling Lindsey Memorial Exhibition Hall • Robert Lee