

Commissioners Court minutes posted

The Coke County Commissioners Court met in regular session October 20, 2014, at the courthouse in Robert Lee. Members of the court present included County Judge, Roy Blair, Commissioner, Pct. #1 Gene Montgomery, Commissioner Pct, #2 Wendell Lee, Commissioner, Pct. #3 Gaylon Pitcock, Commissioner, Pct. #4 Bobby Blaylock. Clerk Mary Grim was also in attendance.

The meeting opened with prayer given by Judge Blair and pledge to the flag was recited.

Judge Blair announced the presence of a quorum.

Comm. Montgomery made a motion to accept the bid from Tank Sandblasting and Painting Inc. for \$122,848.00. The motion was seconded by Comm. Pitcock. Motion carried.

Court was recessed at 9:07 until Comm. Blaylock could arrive for next item on agenda.

Court was back in session at 9:18.

Judge Blair reported that the appraised value of the Coke County Detention Center is \$676,660.00.

Comm. Montgomery made a motion to list the Coke County Detention Center at \$700,000.00 with Pitcock Properties. The motion was seconded by Comm. Lee. Motion carried.

There were no reports from Commissioners and Judge.

Judge Blair adjourned the meeting at 9:25 am.

'Ditch the Rule' comment period extended again

Amid increasing opposition to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposed "Water of the U.S." rule, the agency has extended the public comment period to Friday, Nov. 14.

"The rule would expand federal jurisdiction well beyond what was authorized by

Congress," said Coke County Farm Bureau President John Ross Copeland.

Regulations previously used for rivers, lakes and large streams would be applied to flood plains, small creeks, ditches, farm ponds and drainage features in fields—even if these fields are dry most of the time.

"Farmers, ranchers, homebuilders and small business owners have led the charge in opposing this rule, because it opens the door for EPA or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to require permits for everyday farming and ranching activities," John Ross Copeland said.

The permitting process is not cheap, John Ross Copeland added, and would cause unnecessary delays. The permit itself also could be denied and landowners found in violation of the new rule could face excessive fines.

The U.S. House of Representatives has passed a bipartisan bill, by a 262 to 152 margin, to block the proposed rule.

To send EPA a comment on the proposed rule, visit: <http://www.texasfarmbureau.org/LegislativeVoter.aspx>.

More information about this rule can be found at DitchTheRule.fb.org.

AgriLife Extension targets deer management calendar app in time for deer season

Submitted by Morgan Runyan Texas AgriLife Agent
The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service has announced a new deer management calendar app on the cusp of this year's fast-approaching deer season.

"The brand new White-tailed Deer Management Calendar is meant to help landowners, hunters and wildlife managers understand what, when and how to implement practices that benefit deer herds," said Dr. Jim Cathey, AgriLife Extension



Ribbon Cutting Celebration! Members of Robert Lee's Vision with a Purpose were on hand with the Sheldon Family at the ribbon cutting ceremony recognizing the opening of the Pie Pizzeria in Robert Lee. Photo Courtesy of Leta Caston.

associate department head and program leader for wildlife and fisheries sciences at College Station.

Cathey said the easy-to-use app will help users create and implement a month-by-month plan to monitor and manage white-tailed deer populations to achieve their management goals virtually anywhere in the state.

The app is available on the iTunes store for .99 cents. While there, Cathey also suggested downloading the free Northern Bobwhite Management Calendar and Northern Bobwhite Habitat Evaluation apps. He further suggested perusing eight additional AgriLife apps also available on topics ranging from feral hog management to aquatic plants.

All the apps are compatible with iPhone, iPad and iPod Touch formats he said.

Link to the White-tailed Deer Management Calendar app at <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/white-tailed-deer-management/id939334551?mt=8>.

Link to AgriLife Extension apps at <https://itunes.apple.com/us/artist/texas-agrilife-extension-service/id445935232>.

Cathey said landowners and managers have long recognized the economic benefit of Texas' approximately 4 million deer.

"Stewardship that provides quality habitat and healthy herd numbers enhances deer production," Cathey said. "Now, as we are about to start what

promises to be one of the best seasons we've seen in years, it's important to know the beneficial practices to maintain that momentum in terms of healthy populations that fit the carrying capacity of the land.

"I really think a lot of folks are interested in deer management, but don't know the how-tos or where to go to get them, so we've provided that information through month-by-month prescriptions listing what needs to be done in terms of proper deer management to ensure healthy populations are maintained the year around."

Cathey said the calendar covers everything from habitat management to population monitoring, making it ideal for

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9 am to 2 pm

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

8 am to 12 noon

LOCATION:

**Convenience Center
101 W. 1st Street
in Fern Haven Park
in Robert Lee**



For More Information, Call City Hall (325) 453-2831