

Fund gathers donations for wildfire victims

Nearly half a million acres of the Texas Panhandle burned. Homes, barns and fences burned. Some lost livestock. Others lost their lives.

Now that the fires are out, farmers, ranchers and landowners are working to rebuild. But they need help.

“Some people lost everything,” John Ross Copeland, Coke County Farm Bureau president, said. “To help our neighbors get back on their feet, Texas Farm Bureau (TFB) has developed a Panhandle Wildfire Relief Fund for tax-deductible donations to meet the needs in the Panhandle.”

Following the fires, farmers and ranchers from across Texas and neighboring states trucked hay and other donations to the Panhandle. As of March 13, hay enough to meet the needs for surviving livestock had been met.

“Right now, fencing and financial support are very important,” John Ross said. “It’s hard to imagine losing everything you own—from the fence surrounding your property to the forage your livestock eat. Donations made to this fund will help those affected by the fires to rebuild their lives.”

Credit card donations may be made via the TFB website at <http://TexasFarmBureau.org/panhandle-wildfire-relief-fund>.

Checks may be made out to the Texas Farm Bureau Agriculture Research and Education Foundation and mailed to: Panhandle Wildfire Committee, P.O. Box 2689, Waco, Texas 76702-2689. Please include “Attention: Cyndi Gerik” on donation envelopes.

Commissioners Court posts minutes

Coke County Commissioners Court met in special session on February 28, 2017, at 9 am, at the Courthouse in Robert Lee. Those present included: County Judge Roy Blair, Precinct #1 Commissioner Donald Robertson, Precinct 2 Commissioner Paul Williams, Precinct 3 Commissioner Marshall Millican, Precinct 4 Commissioner Joe Sefcik, and Clerk Mary Grim.

The meeting opened with the pledge to the flag and prayer was offered by Commissioner Williams.

Judge Blair announced the presence of a quorum.

Commissioner Williams made a motion to approve the minutes for February 14, 2017. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sefcik. Motion carried.

Commissioner Millican made a motion to reinstate the burn ban. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Robertson. Motion carried.

Sheriff Wayne McCutchen presented his Racial Profiling Report. Commissioner Williams made a motion to approve the Sheriff’s Racial Profiling Report. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Robertson. Motion carried.

Commissioner Williams made



Blooming Bluebonnets! A black and white photo does not do this patch of bluebonnets justice. This photo was made west of Robert Lee late last week. As you drive through the county now, you will see bluebonnets blooming along many of our roadways. The trustworthy big mesquites are also putting on leaves. Is spring here ... or will the old saying of “Thunder in February, Freeze in April” be true this year? This week, we have seen temperatures in the upper 80s and lower 90s. For a full color photo, check out ObserverEnterprise.com.

a motion to accept the donation for materials, equipment and labor from WEB Construction. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sefcik. Motion carried.

Commissioner Williams made a motion to approve the Agreement with AEP Texas for tree removal. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sefcik. Motion carried.

Kandice Everitt, Coke County FCS Agent, presented two programs regarding Healthy Program Opportunity. One was Step Up to a Healthier You by Achieving a Healthy Weight and Step Up to a Healthier You by Walking Across Texas. She explained each of these programs and encouraged everyone to get a team of 8 and walk across Texas.

Commissioner Williams made

a motion to approve both Tax Deeds and property cards for Trust Property in the City of Bronte as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sefcik. Motion carried.

Commissioner Williams made a motion to approve purchasing caliche from MS/ Inc. and Joe David Key. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Robertson. Motion carried.

Commissioner Millican requested that no action be taken on the AEP Soil Boring Test on the corner of Salt Creek Circle and Dripping Springs Road until he had more details. No action was taken.

Commissioner Williams reported the restoring foundation level plans for Bronte. Bronte Volunteer Fire Department has acquired funds

to build a new station. He reported on Daryl Sowell and has a petition that he is still working on for closing a section on Hamilton Road.

County/District Clerk Mary Grim reported that

Commissioner Millican has completed his training on Public Information Act and Open Meetings Act. County Attorney Nick Arrott has completed Level 2 CJ/S Security Training and

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