

will repair them. Commissioner Williams made a motion to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Robertson. The motion carried. Commissioner Millican opposed.

Commissioner Williams reported the water well at the Bronte Park is up and going. He also addressed HJR70, SB2, and HB15.

Commissioner Millican reported on roofing.

County/District Clerk Mary Grim reported that she will be attending the State Law School next week in San Marcos.

Judge Blair reported that after the meeting he will be leaving for Lubbock for Probate School. There being no private road work requests, no action was taken.

Commissioner Sefcik made a motion to pay bills. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Millican. The motion carried.

Judge Blair adjourned the meeting at 9:50 am.

Fire Season Tips

By Mark Sides, RLVFD

Above average temperatures, large amounts of dry fuels, low relative humidity, and strong winds could again set the stage where a careless spark, a lightning strike, or an arcing power line become the opening number in a Texas Firestorm.

Robert Lee, Bronte and outlying communities are no different from other rural Texas towns where rangeland, pastures, and CRP may be near or immediately adjacent to homes and businesses.

These are a few simple items that will reduce the chances of your home going up in smoke:

1) Routinely clean gutters, especially in the fall. Keep your yard clean of leaves, limbs, and dead grass.

2) Remove tree limbs that extend over the eaves of the roof or within 10-15 feet of the

chimney

3) Keep your grass mowed to a 4” height or less, and if possible, well watered during periods of extreme drought. Prune tree branches at least 10 feet from the ground.

4) Landscape using deciduous trees and shrubs such as oaks, agarito, eastern redbud, desert willow, and sages. Avoid junipers, pines, and other evergreens unless they are planted 100 feet or further from the house.

5) Make sure your house number and street number are clearly posted to provide firefighters easy identification.

6) Maintain at least 30 feet of open space between your home and the surrounding brush line or CRP field.

7) Avoid concentrations of shrubbery or ornamental grasses up against the house.

8) Have garden hoses connected at all times and long enough to reach around the house.

9) Store firewood at least 15 to 30 feet away from the house.

10) Maintain roads and entrances to provide easy access and adequate turnaround space for emergency equipment.

11) Exercise extreme caution and keep a reliable, pressurized water source handy when doing any outdoor burning or welding.

12) Don’t allow tall grass and debris to accumulate against your house or under your porch or deck.

These items alone may not guarantee that your home will survive, but they will give your home and responding firefighters a fighting chance.



**EMT Class!** Coke County students are participating in an EMT class in Sterling City. These volunteers are desperately needed to maintain ambulance crews when emergency medical assistance is needed locally.

Farm Bureau pushes for eminent domain reform

The Texas Legislature is debating proposed changes in the states’ eminent domain process.

“For too long, entities and companies with eminent domain authority have been allowed to offer landowners below-market-value for their land,” John Ross Copeland, Coke County Farm Bureau president, said. “If the landowner wants what is fair, he’ll have to pay a lawyer and sue for what is right. It’s unfair, and it’s time for that to change.”

Fairness and transparency in eminent domain proceedings are

two of the goals of the Texas Farm Bureau (TFB) and its members this legislative session.

TFB President Russell Boening recently testified in support of several bills that would help landowners.

HB 2684 by Rep. DeWayne Burns, outlines requirements to make the eminent domain process more fair.

TFB also supports HB 2694 by Rep. Kyle Kacal, which would encourage those with eminent

domain authority to make fair offers by providing a disincentive for lowball offers.

Other bills, like HB 3687, outline project information and property rights protections through the eminent domain process.

“Eminent domain use is on the rise as Texas’ population grows,” John Ross said. “These bills will help ensure landowners receive a fair price for their land when it is taken and that the process is more transparent.”



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