

DAILY TRIBUNE

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County Court holds bond forfeiture docket

By LOU ANTONELLI - Managing Editor

County Judge Brian Lee presided over a court docket for bond forfeiture hearings Friday – the first time that’s been done that anyone at the courthouse can recall. Bail bondsmen can be fined and required to forfeit part of any bond they write on a suspect who doesn’t show up in court – but no one in Titus County can recall the last time that was done.



Judge Lee briefed members of the *Judge Brian Lee and Court Attorney John Mark Cobern.* commissioners’ court Monday morning at the end of its regular meeting. He said he couldn’t recall a to appear court docket ever being held before in Titus County.

County Attorney John Mark Cobern, who readies dockets for the county court, agreed, saying it was one since I have been county attorney. It was one of the things Judge Lee ran on.”

Cobern, who was elected to his post in 2008, said a member of his staff saw former County Attorney Taylor Monday and asked him. Taylor, who served in the post 20 years, reportedly replied he couldn’t ever being done.

According to figures supplied by County Investigator Paul Lindsey, there were a total of 45 cases called Friday; eleven cases were exonerated and 34 judgments were filed. The total court cost and bonds is \$12,365.

The cases dealt with Friday represent failures to appear cases from January, February, and part of March, said Lee. The bondsmen now have 30 days to pay their fines and fees or appeal, he said.

“It all really worked out well,” said Cobern. “It turned great.” He said the only issue was how to deal with defendants who had been deported. Lee said other exonerations involved defendants who were already in jail.