

The Dragon's Not Gone, Just Asleep.

By Mark Sides, RLVFD

The Robert Lee VFD will be selling car wash tokens as a fund raising effort. Contact a member for more details.

On a more serious note, several wildfires are currently burning across the state. A recent wildfire in Taylor County caused evacuations in the Eula Community, and several homes were lost.

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 are 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.

Commissioners Court minutes posted

The Coke County Commissioners Court met in regular session January 12, 2016, at the courthouse in Robert Lee. Members of the court present included County Judge, Roy Blair, Commissioner, Pct. #1 Troy Montgomery, Commissioner Pct. #2 Paul William, Commissioner, Pct. #3 Gaylon Pitcock, Commissioner, and Pct. #4 Joe Sefcik. Deputy Clerk Martha Ratliff was also in attendance.

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

Judge Blair announced the presence of a quorum.

Comm. Williams made a motion to approve the minutes for the December 22, 2015, meeting. The motion was



Hochheim Meeting! Keith Fletcher, president of the Hochheim Prairie Branch 95, presents Dell Bratcher, treasurer of the Bronte Volunteer Fire Department, a check for \$1,250. Each year, the Bronte VFD caters for the annual Hochheim Prairie branch meeting. There were over 60 people present for this year's meeting. Door prizes this year included six Yeti cups and \$30 Addona's restaurant gift card donated by Glenn-Bivins Insurance; and a 30" television donated by Floyd C Pettit Insurance.

seconded by Comm. Sefcik. Motion carried.

The Treasurers Report was presented by Treasurer Hal Spain. Comm. Pitcock made a motion that was seconded by Comm. Montgomery to accept the Treasurers Report as

presented. Motion carried.

No report presented on the extension reports.

Judge Blair presented the Sheriff's report.

The Tax Collectors report was presented by Judge Blair.

The District/Clerks report

was presented by Deputy Clerk Martha Ratliff.

Marshall Millican presented the Precinct 1 report.

Marty Boyd presented the Precinct 2 constable report.

Jackie Walker presented the

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HOLIDAY CLOSING NOTICE

All facilities of this bank will be closed

Monday, February 15.

In Observance Of

Presidents Day



Please plan your banking requirements during regular banking hours to avoid any inconvenience.

Robert Lee State Bank

Member FDIC

453-2545

Robert Lee, Texas

VOTE



Mike Salls

Republican Candidate For

**County Commissioner, Precinct 1
Coke County**

MY PLATFORM IS BASED ON EXPERIENCE, QUALIFICATIONS and SUCCESSFUL ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

Experience In

- * Economic Development
- * Emergency Medical Service-EMS
- * Water Systems
- * Landfill & Recycling Facilities
- * Recreation Facilities
- * Roads and Maintenance

County Commissioner for 12 Years in Madison County, Florida

"New insight can be the solution to old problems"

Juan Botino was Madison County's EMS Director for over 20 years and has just retired. He was kind enough to send his recommendation to the voters of Precinct 1, Coke County, Texas

"Don't forget Mike that you were once a newcomer to Madison County, as was I, but thanks to your hard work and leadership, you made Madison County a better place. You were also instrumental in improving our addressing and 911 system. Our EMS became the number one rural system in the state and we had one of the first Enhanced 911 system thanks to your support. You made my job easier and I am honored to have worked with you and count you as a friend. You stood up for what was best for the citizens and always put them first."

Mike, you would have the Cuban vote if I lived there...lol....you accomplished great things when you were a county commissioner in Madison County and always did the right thing. You kept hazardous waste out and built a much needed rec park among other things. Wish you were running for president. Take care my friend, and good luck. God Bless you and Georgia.

*Political advertisement paid for by Michael W. Salls (325) 453-2548.