

## The Dragon's Not Gone, Just Asleep

By Mark Sides, Chief, RLVFD

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

On February 25, 2008, Robert Lee almost learned the meaning of the phrase Urban-Wildland Interface the hard way. High winds caused arcing in overhead power lines. Temps in the upper seventies, coupled with 25 mph winds, and high fuel loads turned a few small sparks into a wildfire that destroyed several homes and outbuildings and consumed approximately 20,000 acres of rangeland. This fire was just one of the 26 wildland fires occurring on that day.

More recently, on February 27, 2011, Barnhart, Matador, and portions of Colorado City were evacuated due to wildland fires.

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 turn-around space for emergency equipment.

11) Exercise extreme cau-

tion 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.

### ... RL ISD Minutes

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seconded by Irma Torres. All voted for.

Jeffie Roberts made a motion to approve Supt. Hood's recommendation to sign extension for Depository Contract for Funds with Robert Lee State Bank until year 2013. The motion was seconded by Tom Sawyer. All voted for.

Supt Hood gave his report on enrollment numbers, Legislative Update, Update on budget process and staffing.

The Board took a break at 8:26 pm before entering into closed session at 8:37 pm. The Board reconvened into open session 9:30 pm.

A motion was made by Tom Sawyer and seconded by Beverly Sinclair to accept the resignation of Kathy McCown and Sheri Millican effective May 31, 2011.

Supt. Hood made recommendation to offer 11 month contract to Shay Avants, Jeff Brisbin, Denise Roberts and Sandy Sawyer for the 2011-2012 school year. The motion was made by Irma Torres and seconded by Brandi Brosh. All voted for.

Supt. Hood made recommendation to offer 10 month contract for the school year 2011-2012 for those presented; Patty Byrne, Audrey Devoll, Katie Drennan, Frankie Gartman, Mary Ann Hill, Maranda Hood, Sterling Myers, Amber Palmer, Wayne Alexander, Kerry Gartman, Brandon McDowell, Celeste Service, Kevin Meek, Elena Sanchez, Laura Gott and Dana Cauley. The motion was made by Tom Sawyer and seconded by Beverly Sinclair. All voted for.

Supt. Hood made recommendation to offer a One Year Probationary Contract to Vianna Madrid, Kelley Avants and Micah McDowell. The motion was made by Irma Torres and seconded by Brandi Brosh. All voted for.

A motion was made by Brandi Brosh and seconded by Beverly Sinclair to name Supt. Aaron Hood as Athletic Director. All voted for.

The next meeting for the RLISD School Board will be Wednesday, April 20, 2011, at 6 pm.

The Board moved back to Item 11 for discussion by Supt. Hood on Student Health Advisory Council Annual Report.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 pm.

### West Coke County Hospital Board meeting held

By Pat Stephens

The Board of Directors of the West Coke County Hospital District met in regular session Monday, March 28, 2011, in the office of the Administrator at the Robert Lee Care Center, due to renovation work at the facility.

Members present included President Mary Bessent, Dessie Kendall, Marilyn White, Sarah Green and Pat Stephens. Roger Alexander, Administrator was also in attendance.

President Bessent called the meeting to order at 9:40 am, and declared there was a quorum. Pat Stephens gave the invocation. The minutes from the previous meetings were approved.

The Board went into executive session at 9:44 am to discuss personnel matters. They returned to regular session at 11:08 am. No action was taken.

In the staffing update, Roger informed the Board of the hiring of 2 CNAs. He reported there are currently 10 residents in the Alzheimer's Unit, and 46 residents total in the Care Center.

The Board then discussed capital projects. The renovation of the dining room is

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progressing very slowly. Accounts receivable were discussed in depth.

The Board voted to cancel the May election since only incumbents had filed for office.

The website for the Open Records training session will be shared with those Board members and facility staff who need to attend. The signature card will be updated in the near future, and the Board voted to keep two Board member's signatures mandatory for the checks.

Tammy Riley gave the Board an update on the facility's Relay for Life team. The team, "Royal Flush", chose the t-shirts they will wear. The team logo is "Flushing Out Cancer", and t-shirts will be available to anyone desiring to purchase one. Luminaries can be purchased from any team member. The luminaries will line the track around the football field, and be held in place by donated canned goods, which will, in turn, later be donated to the Coke County Food Pantry. The team will serve hamburgers and chips the evening of

April 29 to kick off the festivities. The meal proceeds will benefit the fight against cancer. Go, Royal Flush!!!

Looking at the facility calendar for April, spring is definitely in the air!

The monthly birthday party will be held April 29 at 3:30. Those celebrating birthdays this month are Luis Pineda, Johnie Underwood, and Pauline Millican.

Everyone at the facility will be busy hunting Easter eggs April 22, at 2:30. Do you suppose there will be a grand prize for the person who finds the most eggs?

The monthly Sing-a-Long is scheduled for April 29, and everyone is invited to come and do just that!

The residents continue to enjoy Brother Steve Peyton as he comes on Mondays at 3:30 for a wonderful time of 'pickin' and grinnin'.

The financial statements were discussed and approved.

Future agenda items were discussed, and the next meeting date was set for April 25, 2011. The meeting adjourned at 11:55 AM, and the Board enjoyed a delicious lunch at the facility.

### HOW A CHRISTIAN SHOULD LIVE

For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them, and rose again. • *II Corinthians 5:14-15*

I am crucified with Christ: Nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: And the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me. • *Galatians 2:20*

For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: Whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's. • *Romans 14:7-8*

Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat, Then Jesus said unto them, verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not bread from heaven, For the bread of God is He which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world. • *John 6:31-33*

### Victory Assembly of God

Corner of 6th & Houston • Robert Lee  
Pastor Irving Smith

### Service Schedule:

Sunday morning  
Sunday School 9:45 • Worship & Childrens Church 10:45  
Sunday evening: Bible Study & Power Kids 6 pm  
Wednesday evening: Bible Study & Power Kids 6 pm

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Summer is coming soon!

Don't forget to check your radiator coolant and air conditioning systems!

Call Charles for an appointment.

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