

Drought spreads across Texas

Drought is spreading across the Lone Star State after months without significant rainfall. The U.S. Drought Monitor shows more than 90% of the state is in abnormally dry to extreme drought, and nearly 81% of the state is dealing with moderate-to-extreme drought. “It is dry, very dry in Coke County,” John Ross Copeland, Coke County Farm Bureau president, said. “We need several slow, steady rains that can soak into the soil to help the pastures green up, fill up stock tanks and help our crops grow.”

Catfish Stocking returns to Neighborhood Fishin’ Lakes

Springtime and catfish angling are back at Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) Neighborhood Fishin’ Lakes across the state. The program provides friends and families the opportunity to participate in the Texas traditions of outdoor recreation and reeling in catfish close to home. Starting the week of April 15, TPWD will begin stocking thousands of catfish at 18 Neighborhood Fishin’ lakes, including five in Dallas-Fort Worth, four in the Houston area, two each in Austin and San Antonio, and one each in Amarillo, College Station, San Angelo, Waco and Wichita Falls. “Neighborhood Fishin’ lakes are conveniently located in urban and suburban areas so that Texans don’t have to travel far to have a great experience,” said Craig Bonds, Director of Inland Fisheries. “Catfish are fun and easy to catch for anglers of all ages and experience levels. If you’ve never fished before, these are the perfect places to get started. If you are an experienced angler, these are the perfect places to introduce fishing to a friend or family member.” Each of the lakes will receive

The lack of rain in the fall and winter has local farmers planting crops into fields with no surface moisture and very little subsoil moisture. The forecast, unfortunately, does not look promising, according to State Climatologist Dr. John Nielsen-Gammon. He noted the La Nina weather system continues to hang on, delivering below-average precipitation to much of Texas. You can add information here about the last time your area received significant rainfall. “The drought, combined with

channel catfish every two weeks through the end of October - with a brief pause during the heat of August. This ensures there are plenty of angling opportunities for everyone throughout the spring, summer and early fall. Neighborhood Fishin’ lakes are located in city and county parks with ample parking, restrooms, lighting and other recreational amenities, in addition to fishing. Anglers can keep up to five catfish of any size per day. At some locations, cleaning tables are available nearby to make it easy for families to clean their catch. Children under 17 fish for free, but adults who fish must have a fishing license. Fishing licenses can be purchased for as little as \$11 for “one-day, all-water” access. All proceeds go toward management and conservation of the fish and their habitats. To find the Neighborhood Fishin’ Lake near you or to sign up for email updates, visit www.neighborhoodfishing.org. Stocking locations can also be found on the Neighborhood Fishin’ website. Neighborhood Fishin’ is supported by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation through donations from many local partners as well as the local municipalities across the state.

the increased costs for fertilizers and other inputs needed to grow a crop, has us feeling uncertain about this year’s crops,” John Ross said. As Coke County slips further into drought, John Ross said farmers and ranchers are worried but trying to stay positive. “We’re watching the cost of fertilizer go up, up and up as the land gets drier and drier,” John Ross said. “Some of our optimism for this year is dissipating, too. But each day brings us one day closer to the next rain. We just have to hang on until then.”

Fund gathers donations for wildfire victims

Donations of hay, feed and fencing supplies are needed to support those impacted by the devastating wildfires that have burned over 100,000 acres in parts of Texas in recent days. Homes, barns and fences burned. Some lost livestock. 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 West Texas Wildfire Relief Fund for tax-deductible donations to meet the needs in affected areas.” Gov. Greg Abbott has issued a disaster declaration for 15 counties. Those counties include Blanco, Brooks, Brown, Coleman, Comanche, Eastland, Erath, Grayson, Hood, Mason, Potter, Randall, Runnels, Starr, and Williamson. Donations of hay, feed and fencing supplies are being collected for those impacted by the fires. “Right now, fencing and financial support are very important,” 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 <https://texasfarmbureau.org/wildfire-relief-fund>. Checks may be made out to the Texas Farm Bureau Agriculture Research and Education Foundation and mailed to: West Texas Wildfire Relief Fund, P.O. Box 2689, Waco, Texas 76702-2689. Please include “Attention: Chris Daughtery” on donation envelopes. More information is available at: <https://texasfarmbureau.org/wildfire-relief-fund>.

On This Day in Texas History April 15, 1825

On this day in 1825, Haden Edwards, Green DeWitt, and Robert Leftwich received empresario contracts. The government of Mexico, which had gained independence from Spain in 1821, issued the contracts to encourage the settlement of Coahuila and Texas. The hopes of all three empresarios were frustrated. The Edwards Colony, near Nacogdoches, was plagued by conflicting land claims and other controversies which eventually caused Edwards to depart and resulted in the Fredonian Rebellion. The DeWitt Colony, on the Guadalupe River adjoining that of Stephen F. Austin, enjoyed some initial success, though DeWitt was unable to fulfill the terms of his contract by the time it expired in

1831. Leftwich’s Grant, along the Navasota River, later became known as Robertson’s colony, and was the subject of much legal disputation between Austin and Sterling C. Robertson. **April 15th, 1869** On this day in 1869, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in Texas v. White that the state still had the right to sue in the federal courts despite having seceded in 1861. In a suit originally filed by the state in 1867, George Paschal argued on behalf of the state for an injunction preventing defendants George W. White, John Chiles, and others from transferring bonds they received from the secession-era Texas State Military Board for supplying the Confederate States of America during the Civil War. The most historically significant question involved was whether or not Texas, having seceded and not having completed Reconstruction, had status in the Union and therefore the right to sue in the United States Supreme Court. Paschal argued that the Union was indestructible and that the state’s status in the Union therefore had been unchanged by the war. The defense argued that Texas, by seceding from the Union and later waging a war against the United States, had lost the status of a state in the Union and therefore had no right to sue in the United States Supreme Court. In its five-to-three decision, read by Chief Justice S. P. Chase, the court held the Union to be indestructible and thus not dissoluble by any act of a state, the government, or the people. The court thus repudiated the doctrine of state sovereignty.

May 7, 2022

Election Information

Early Voting

April 25 - May 3

Last Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail

April 26

THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE

Serving Coke County

Saluting the Robert Lee High School Class of 2020

Saluting the Blackwell High School Class of 2020

ENTERPRISE

Serving Coke County

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Friday, January 10, 2022

Joke County Water Supply Corporation awarded grant

The Texas Water Development Board approved resolution on December 15, 1975 financial assistance in the amount of \$500,000 in loan guarantees from the Drinking Water Revolving Fund to the Joke County Water Supply Corporation. The Corporation is now the authority to finance, construct, operate, maintain, and administer the water supply system. The Corporation will be responsible for the construction of water supply, wastewater treatment, flood control, and maintenance.

SPECIAL OIL & GAS SECTION

Workover Rig Southwest of Robert Lee

By Michaela McCarter, Publisher

Many Coke County citizens are familiar with the sight of a workover rig in a field. The rig is a perfect example of daily production that is essential to the county's economy. The rig is used to maintain and improve the productivity of an oil well. The rig is a complex piece of machinery that is used to perform a variety of tasks, including drilling, cementing, and repairing. The rig is a vital part of the oil and gas industry, and it is essential to the county's economy.

THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE

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Friday, December 10, 2021

Year in Review

Letters Inside

High School Graduates

Robert Lee High School

Blackwell High School

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Robert Lee High School

Blackwell High School

Special Government Section

Coke County Courthouse • Robert Lee

Coke County covers 928 square miles on the Edwards Plateau in west central Texas. The county was founded in 1889 and named for Richard Coke, the 15th governor of Texas. As of the 2010 census, its population was 3,328.

THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE

Serving Coke County

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Friday, December 17, 2021

Only \$35 in Coke County \$40 in Texas • \$45 in USA

Send check to PO Box 1329, Robert Lee, TX 76945.

Call or text (325) 453-2433 to use credit card.

2019 Year in Review Issue

Week at a Glance

High School Graduates

Robert Lee High School

Blackwell High School

THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE

Serving Coke County

Vol. 132, No. 30

Friday, December 24, 2021

Coke & Surrounding Counties HUNTING & FISHING GUIDE

Supplement to THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE

November 6, 2020

Saluting the Blackwell High School Class of 2020

Confirmed Cases of Covid-19 in Texas

Confirmed Cases of Covid-19 in Texas

THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE

Serving Coke County

Vol. 132, No. 31

Friday, December 31, 2021

Saluting the Robert Lee High School Class of 2020

Confirmed Cases of Covid-19 in Texas

Confirmed Cases of Covid-19 in Texas

Saluting the Blackwell High School Class of 2020

Confirmed Cases of Covid-19 in Texas

Confirmed Cases of Covid-19 in Texas