

THE OBSERVER/ ENTERPRISE

Serving Coke County

Single Copy 50¢



(USPS 467-480)
(ISSN 8750-197X)

Vol. 123, No. 40

Friday, April 22, 2011

Coke County ravaged by Wildcat fire



Escaping the Flames! *These brave firefighters escaped at the last minute when the fire went across the west end of FM 2662 this past weekend.*

Special Wildcat Fire Edition

This issue of the Observer/Enterprise is dedicated to the men and women who fought tirelessly over the last week to protect Coke County and its residents from the monster fire that swept across us. The photos on the following pages in black and white can't show the flames and smoke nearly as well as color pictures. However, readers can get an idea of the devastation from them. A full color edition is available at observerenterprise.com. In addition to the fire news and photos, this issue only contains upcoming articles.

Melinda McCutchen
Editor/Publisher

What has become known as the Wildcat Fire began with a lightning strike Sunday night, April 10, 2011, at approximately 11:30 pm near the upper end of Mountain Road just east of FM 2034 west of Robert Lee.

At that time, Robert Lee Volunteer Fire Department searched for the blaze and a way into the small fire throughout the night. The fire flared up once again Monday afternoon and was contained by trucks from the RL VFD and the Bronte Volunteer Fire Department.

It again flared on Tuesday afternoon and was contained by county firefighters.

Prior to Thursday afternoon when the fire came back and blazed out of control, less

than 75 acres were involved. That figure is now almost 160,000 acres burned in Coke County and Tom Green County.

At approximately 5 pm, Thursday, April 14, reports came in that the fire was burning in the original area. It quickly spread in the canyons and hills between State Highway 208 and FM 2034, north and west of Robert Lee. Due to the extremely rough

terrain and high winds, local firefighters requested assistance from the Texas Forest Service and other area departments. Among those responding on Thursday evening were Rowena, Miles, Quail Valley, East Concho, and Sterling City. Coke County Sheriff Wayne McCutchen and Sheriff's Deputies Trey Davis, Emmitt Crisp and Brandon Neal

(Continued on page 3)

***Please Support Our Coke
County Fire Departments
with a Donation!***