

# THE OBSERVER/ ENTERPRISE

*Serving Coke County*



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## Coke County touched by large fire once again

The McDaniel Fire west of Robert Lee between Highway 158 West and Green Mountain Road began Saturday, June 13, 2020. Initial reports were that a landowner was burning brush and it got out of control. East southeast winds pushed the fire from the back country of the new subdivision formed from the old Schooler country up and over the range of large hills. Due to this extremely rough terrain, fire fighters were at a significant disadvantage. The fire eventually jumped Highway 158 at least twice on Sunday afternoon a couple of miles west of Pecan Baptist Church. Fortunately when the fire jumped across Hwy 158, it jumped into a grass flat where fire fighters could get control quickly to get it out. Monday's battle appeared to be more on the east side of the hills with back burns being set by the

Texas Forest Service in an attempt to contain the blaze. As of presstime, the fire had burned over 4,216 acres and was at 75% containment according to a Forest Service representative. Many departments and agencies have responded to assist with fighting this fire. Volunteer fire departments from Robert Lee, Bronte, Blackwell, Sterling City, Dove Creek, Grape Creek, Colorado City, and Water Valley were among the many departments arriving in Coke County. Law enforcement agencies assisting included Coke County Sheriff's Office, Coke County Constable, Sterling County Sheriff's Office, Texas Department of Public Safety, and Texas Parks and Wildlife. Texas Department of Transportation assisted with traffic control. Coke County Precincts assisted with equipment and were joined by



LaSalle Energy, WEB, and Byler of Coke County stepped up with many other things needed by the citizens. The citizens donations of water, food and firefighters.

