

# THE OBSERVER/ ENTERPRISE



Serving Coke County

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## Stone Fire evokes memories of 2011

Last week's fire on the Stone Ranch in southwest Coke County set residents' and first responders' nerves on edge with memories of the Wildcat Fire of 2011. The Stone Fire began not long after lunch Friday afternoon, July 19, 2019, near where the Wildcat Fire began in April of 2011. As one law enforcement official related, "It was eerie being back in the same area, driving the same roads." As of presstime, no cause for the fire has been released.

Shifting winds and extremely rough terrain made containment difficult. However by Monday morning, July 22, 2019, the fire was suppressed after burning over 600 acres. Area volunteer fire departments responding included Robert Lee, Bronte, Water Valley, Carlsbad and Sterling City. Law enforcement agencies responding included Coke County Sheriff's Office and Texas Parks and Wildlife. Perhaps the game changer in containing this fire was the early arrival by Texas Forest Service with heavy equipment. Their dozers were able to cut a firebreak and surround the fire. With the intense heat and rough country, local volunteer fire departments ruined numerous tires on their trucks. Monetary donations to both of these departments will go a long way with the repair and replacement costs. Donations of water and Gatorade are also needed. All donations for the Robert Lee Volunteer Fire Department can be taken to the



**Retirement!** After 40 years of service to the East Coke County EMS, Jerita Taylor was honored with a retirement ceremony. Steve Salmon, East Coke County EMS president, presented Jerita (top photo) with a plaque recognizing all of her achievements. Current EMS members and members of Jerita's family enjoyed a wonderful meal, prepared by Noel and Clark Tinkler. Memories were shared and a beautiful thank you was given by Misti Bedford to all of the volunteers, past and present.

## WEEK AT A GLANCE

- Friday, July 26**  
Robert Lee Baptist Church  
Summer Lunch Program
- Sunday, July 28**  
Robert Lee Street Affair Brisket Fundraiser,  
12 noon - Sold Out, Robert Lee Catholic Church Hall  
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Lake Spence Cleanup Day, 4 pm - 6 pm,  
Meet at Wildcat Pavilion
- Monday, July 29**  
Mini Cheer Camp, 9 am - 11 am,  
Robert Lee High School Tennis Courts  
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Robert Lee Baptist Church  
Summer Lunch Program
- Tuesday, July 30**  
Mini Cheer Camp, 9 am - 11 am,  
Robert Lee High School Tennis Courts  
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Parent/Student Golf Tournament, 6 pm,  
Mountain Creek Golf Course, Robert Lee
- Wednesday, July 31**  
Mini Cheer Camp, 9 am - 11 am,  
Robert Lee High School Tennis Courts  
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Robert Lee Baptist Church  
Summer Lunch Program
- Thursday, August 1**  
Mini Cheer Camp, 9 am - 11 am,  
Robert Lee High School Tennis Courts  
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Vision with a Purpose meeting, 6 pm,  
VP Headquarters, Robert Lee
- Friday, August 2**  
Mini Cheer Camp, 9 am - 11 am,  
Robert Lee High School Tennis Courts  
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Robert Lee Baptist Church  
Summer Lunch Program
- Saturday, August 3**  
Ladies Retreat, 10 am - 3 pm,  
Robert Lee Baptist Church  
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Benefit Meal for Jaycee Crisp, 2 pm - 6 pm,  
San Angelo Cowboy Church

County Judge's office at Coke County Courthouse in Robert Lee. Donations for the Bronte Volunteer Fire Department may be taken to Bronte City Hall.

With the continuation of hot, dry weather, fire safety is of the utmost importance. In this issue on page 3, we are reprinting an article from the March 10, 2017,

issue of The Observer/Enterprise entitled "The dragon is not gone, just asleep".

**HIGH FIRE DANGER  
BURN BAN IN EFFECT**

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