

The dragon's not gone, just asleep

by Mark Sides, RLVFD

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Smoke on the wind this morning generated a lot of phone calls and questions. North winds brought smoke from fires near Amarillo as far as the Concho Valley and Permian Basin. Two fires in the Panhandle have consumed approximately 125,000 acres, and are still active.

This is just a reminder that Wildcat, Dos Amigos, and Whitehat became household names in Coke County during 2011. Wildcat, Rockhouse, Deaton-Cole, Possum Kingdom and others made national headlines.

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

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.



New Signage! The new directional signage at the corner of Austin Street and Highway 208 in Robert Lee is now set up. Vision with a Purpose had the individual signs made and Rick Drennan volunteered his time to construct the beautiful frame.

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 turnaround space for emergency equipment.

11) Exercise extreme caution 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.

Street Affair set for September 28

The Robert Lee Street Affair will be held on Saturday, September 28, 2019. Events planned at this time include a BBQ Cook-off and Vendor Fair. Cook-off events include BBQ, brisket, pork ribs, chicken, and jackpot beans. The Vendor Fair will be held outdoors and 10'x10' booths will be available, some with electricity as well. Additional 10'x10' spaces can be purchased. A dance will also be held with local band Crow Haven opening up for Texas Country favorite, Mark McKinney.

For more information on the the Robert Lee Street Affair event, contact Kassie Carrera at (325) 428-8831 or Skyler Rainwater at (325) 763-7216.

VP holds July meeting

Vision with a Purpose met Thursday, July 11, at their headquarters on Austin Street in Robert Lee. Debbie Childers opened the meeting with prayer, followed by a delicious meal prepared by Nancy Wilson.

Sheri Millican read the minutes and Floyd Pettitt gave the treasurer's report. Both were approved.

Floyd Pettitt gave an update on the executive committee meeting. Also under our maintenance committee, it was decided we need to shore up one side of our sea containers and provide a good stepping area in front of both.

Jeffie Roberts gave an update on the Hunter's BBQ, which is to be held Saturday, November 2, at the Rec Hall in Robert Lee.

Debbie Childers presented

plans for Small Town Christmas this year. More structures, lights, and trees are in the plan. We want to encourage more vendors and see if we can get a local experienced person to help

with some of the lighting. Christmas Cards will again be erected and anyone interested in buying one can contact Floyd Pettitt Insurance or any VP member.

Watch for new directional sign soon to be erected. The sign is finished, we are just waiting for ground to be prepared.

The next meeting will be held Thursday, August 1, at the VP

Event Center at 701 Austin Street in Robert Lee, at 6 pm. Please join our organization for supper and see what great plans we have for Robert Lee. All are welcome to attend.

Texas Anthrax Situational Update

Since the July 16, 2019 update, anthrax has been detected on one premises in northwest Kinney County and one new premises in southwest Sutton County. This is the first confirmed case of

anthrax in Kinney County this year and the sixth confirmed case in Sutton County.

The Texas Animal Health Commission quarantined the premises after animals tested positive for the reportable disease. Anthrax quarantines are

typically lifted 10 days from

vaccination or the last death loss.

To date, 10 premises in 4

Texas counties have had animals confirmed with anthrax.

(Continued on page 5)

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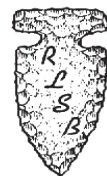
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