

## THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE

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Per Year in Coke County ... \$35.00  
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# UPCOMINGS!

## Annual Brown Bag fundraiser set for November 9

The Friends of the Robert Lee Care Center will be having their annual Brown Bag fundraiser on Thursday, November 9, 2023, at the Methodist Family Life Center from 11 am until sold out. This year's brown bag will include a pulled pork sandwich, chips, a bottle of water, and home baked cookies.

Brown Bag meals can be pre-ordered for either pick up or delivery, within Robert Lee city limits. Pre-orders can be placed by calling or texting 806-445-3089 no later than Friday, November 3. The bags will also be available for drive by pickup during the times stated above at the Family Life Center.

## RLISD to host Veterans Day Program

The annual Veterans Day Program, sponsored by Robert Lee ISD, will be held on Friday, November 10, at 9:30 am in the school cafeteria. The program will include patriotic speeches, entertainment by the elementary students in grades 2 - 6, and a touching slide show presentation. A reception is planned immediately following the program.

All Coke County veterans are urged to attend and be recognized for their unselfish contribution to our nation's security. Please notify the Robert Lee ISD office at (325) 453-4555 so that they can be properly recognized during this year's program.

## Youth Ministry to be held every Wednesday

The Coke County Youth Ministry is holding gatherings each Wednesday evening from 5:30 pm until 7:30 pm at the Rec Hall in Robert Lee. The event will include great food, amazing testimonies, uplifting praise and worship, transformational bible studies, and fun activities.

For more information, call/text Amber Bosworth at (325) 450-3005 or Inga Elliott at (325) 453-1137.

## Friends of the RLCC meeting held

The Friends of the Robert Lee Care Center met on Monday, October 23, 2023, at 10 am with 9 members present.

The minutes and treasurers' report were accepted as read.

Della Alexander stated that research has been done on the purchase of a Karaoke machine for the residents to enjoy. At this time the purchase has been put on hold to wait for Black Friday sales.

Della Alexander reported that the fall metal yard decorations have been purchased and Mary Rodriguez is in the process of getting them set up in the yards.

The main time of discussion was spent on working out all the details for this year's brown bag fundraiser which will take place on Thursday, November 9.

Members were reminded that dues need to be paid.

The November meeting will be held on Monday, November 27. The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 am.

## Important election deadlines

The filing period for public office candidates requesting a place on the 2024 Republican primary ballot opens Saturday, November 11, and closes Monday, December 11 at 6 pm.

County Chair filing begins November 11 and closes Monday, December 11 at 6 pm.

Filing period is currently open for Republican Precinct Chairs in Precincts 1, 2, 3, and 4 Coke County and will close on December 11, 2023, at 6 pm.

Those interested in running for one of these positions may contact Coke County Republican Chair Deborah Bailey at 325-277-9128.

## End of Year Party slated for December 30

A Eve of New Year's Eve Party will be held on Saturday, December 30, from 8 am until midnight at the Robert Lee Rec Hall. Music will be provided by Coke County's own Backroads West and the event is BYOB (please also bring a snack to share).



## A Community of Neighbors

By James M. Decker

You've probably noticed that over the last year-ish, my writing has begun to arc away from specific ideas about rural revitalization and instead towards more towards concepts about how we live as humans. There's a reason for that. It has become clear to me that we will never solve the questions of rural prosperity without first

solving the problems that destroyed rural prosperity in the first place.

Our government could dump trillions of new dollars into rural communities (it will not and, given the finances of our country, it definitely should not), but so long as those problems remain, most of those trillions of dollars would just be trucked right out of rural places and leave those places only marginally better than they are now.

My mind is awash with ideas and thoughts on how we make systemic changes in society. It can be difficult to harness those ideas and thoughts into a cohesive plan of action. But without a doubt, whatever plan of action we have, it has to start local. I wrote about the courage to embrace our parochial nature over the last two weeks for a reason. As we look all across our national and state institutions, many of them are dysfunctional at best and outright on fire at worst. It can feel overwhelming to list everything that needs to be fixed in our government, business, and cultural institutions. Like I've written before, we cannot change those large items alone. We can, however, influence our local community. One person flailing away in a sea of national dysfunction will likely be ignored. A vast sea of individual people working to make a

positive influence on their individual community will impact local, state, and national institutions on a collective level.

On that note, let's talk about Halloween. I read an article a few weeks ago (and for the life of me, I cannot remember where), that observed how Halloween is perhaps the holiday in which the most people in America have the same tradition. Think about it—Christmas, Thanksgiving, and July 4th may all have very different traditions depending on geography and your individual family, but for the most part, Halloween is largely celebrated by some minor variation on trick-or-treating.

Last year, I wrote about how I chose to await trick-or-treaters on the front porch instead of sitting inside and waiting for the doorbell to ring. This one move caused an extraordinary increase in the traffic to our house, from only a handful of visitors to me giving out practically our entire stock of candy and other treats. This year, I am stepping it up a notch. While Lauren takes the girls on their trick-or-treat adventure, I will be cooking hot dogs in the front yard and inviting all ages of trick-or-treaters to grab a hot dog, in addition to the candy, beef sticks, and fruit that we will have for visitors.

Like I wrote last year, a healthy trick-or-treating culture alone is not sufficient to sustain a

## Area Churches Invite You to Worship

### Bronte

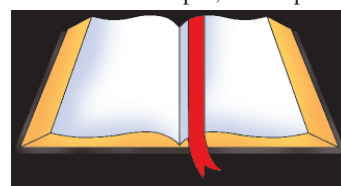
**Bronte Church of Christ**  
PO Box 346  
118 S. Jefferson • Bronte  
Sun. 10 am & 6 pm, Wed. 7 pm  
**Central Baptist Church**  
324 S. Franklin • Bronte  
(325) 473-2331  
Dale Patterson, Pastor  
Sun. 10 am Sunday School  
11 am & 5 pm Worship

**First Baptist Church**  
424 S. Washington • Bronte  
(325) 473-2331  
firstbronte@gmail.com  
Pastor George Cooper  
Sunday 9:45 am Sunday School,  
10:30 am Worship  
Wednesday 6 pm - 8 pm  
Children and Youth

**Bronte Methodist Church**  
Corner of Washington & Holmes  
Bronte • (325) 650-4836  
Pastor Keith Fletcher  
Sun. 10:00 am Sunday School  
11:00 am Worship

**St. James Catholic Church**  
215 N. Washington, Bronte  
(325) 365-2687  
Rev. Timothy Hayter, Pastor  
Sunday Bilingual Mass 8 am  
**4C Cowboy Church**  
Drawer R • Bronte • (325) 895-4080  
Robert Lemmond, Pastor  
Sunday, 10:30 am - Texas Theater  
Wednesday Bible Study 6 pm -  
4C Feedlot Youth Building

**Pecan Baptist**  
PO Box 542 • 12 miles West of  
Robert Lee on Sterling City Hwy  
(325) 453-2065, Bill Hood, Pastor  
www.pecanbaptistchurchrl.com  
Sun. 10 am, Sunday School  
11 am & 7 pm, Worship



### Robert Lee

**Bible Baptist Church**  
PO Box 938 • 9th & Austin  
Sunday 10 am Sunday School,  
11 am and 5 pm Worship,  
Wed 5 pm Bible Study  
**Emmanuel Pentecostal**  
PO Box 794 • 1004 Hillcrest  
Pastor Brantly Robertson  
(972) 841-2009  
Sundays 10 am, Wednesdays 7 pm

**First Methodist Church**  
PO Box 144 • 9th & Chadbourne  
Robert Lee • (325) 453-2417  
Sun. 11 am Worship,  
**Iglesia Bautista Betel**  
101 Houston • Robert Lee  
Sun. 9:45 am • Sunday School  
11 am Service • Bible Study Wed. 6 pm

**Northside Church of Christ**  
PO Box 698 • 8th & Houston  
Robert Lee (325) 453-2176  
Sun. 10 am, Sunday School  
11 am Worship  
Wed. 6 pm, Worship

**Northside Church of Christ**  
PO Box 508  
9th & Chadbourne • Robert Lee  
(325) 453-2685, (325) 763-2118  
or (325) 473-1053  
Services: Sun. 10 am  
**Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church**

601 W. 10th, Robert Lee  
(325) 365-2687  
Rev. Timothy Hayter, Pastor  
Saturday Vigil Mass 6 pm  
**Robert Lee Baptist Church**  
PO Box 493 • 22 W. 11th  
(325) 453-2724  
Chris Walls, Pastor  
Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School  
11 am Worship  
Wed. 6:30 pm, Prayer Meeting  
**Victory Assembly of God**  
(325) 453-2208, PO Box 638  
202 E. 6th Street, Robert Lee  
Rev. Rocky Youngblood, Pastor  
Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School  
10:45 am & 6 pm, Worship  
Wed. 6 pm, Bible Study

**Russell Davis**  
Agent  
611 Austin Street  
PO Box 1079  
Robert Lee, Texas 76945  
(325) 453-4505 office  
(325) 453-4524 fax  
(325) 650-1904 mobile  
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