



Poster Contest! Seeley Maddox, a student at Robert Lee ISD, was honored at a banquet in Wall on Tuesday evening, May 2. She won first place in the soil and water conservation poster contest in area two that consists of 52 counties. The Coke County Soil and Water Conservation District is proud of Seeley for representing our county so well.

lack human feeling and emotion. A machine never argues or questions authority. A machine is never unpredictable in its behavior. A machine never calls in sick, struggles with personal problems, or has a bad day where focus is lacking. There are two sides to that coin, though. A machine is never there for you when you need it. Siri will answer your questions but she'll never ask how you are doing, and then say, "no, really...?" when something is off. A machine coworker will never hand you a Kleenex or put its hand on your shoulder during that bad day at work. A computer might diagnose your symptoms of illness but it will never boost your spirits when the diagnosis is grim. A machine will never high-five or hug you with enthusiasm when you receive good news.

I'm not here to rail against the evils of all technology. I wrote this on a yellow pad but I edited it on my computer and then posted it to my website and social media. Even if I deeply admire Wendell Berry's legendary essay "Why I Am Not Going to Buy a Computer," I am not going to ditch my computer just yet.

Berry famously said that tools should make our lives better, but we should not become enslaved by them. Without a doubt, there are more than a few adherents to

technology—inventors, financiers, and politicians—who would be perfectly fine having us subjugated to technology in that manner. Business would be "simpler" and "more efficient." Things would be less messy. Worker drones cause fewer problems than independent thinkers. Business would be more profitable.

Contrary to the ideals of utopian technology, that's not what people are designed for. Whether your belief of human origin is deeply religious, deeply scientific, or composed of a belief that Creator and science can co-exist, you should be deeply offended by the idea that humans are merely destined to be technology-enslaved drones subjugated to a predetermined order. Human beings are aggravating, but they are also special.

Wendell Berry once asked years ago, "is the obsolescence of human beings now our social goal? The great question that hovers over this issue one that we have dealt with mainly by indifference, is the question of what people are for."

So what are people for? People were not created to be subjugated by technology. People are not meant to endlessly scroll their days away and they are surely not meant to live their lives in so-called virtual reality. People are not meant to have their decisions controlled by automation in some



Accident! The Coke County Sheriff's Office and East Coke County EMS responded to a one vehicle accident north of Bronte on Friday evening, May 5.

manner that is more dystopia than utopia.

People are for sharing their humanity, no matter how frustrating and inefficient it might be to the economic order. People are for community. You might doubt me. You might think that the horse is out of the barn at this point, that society is too far gone in its technological obsession to live this way. I disagree. It might be countercultural and radical at this point, but that's fine. It just takes individual choice. I choose to emphasize humanity. I choose to emphasize community. Will you join me?

James Decker is the Mayor of Stamford, Texas and the creator of the West of 98 website and podcast. Contact James and subscribe to these essays at westof98.substack.com and subscribe to West of 98 wherever podcasts are found.

Bronte City Council meeting minutes told

The Bronte City Council met in regular session on Thursday, March 16, 2023, at the Housing Authority Community Center.

Mayor Paul Gohman called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm and a quorum was established. Those in attendance included Council Members Gwen Dyess, Clabe F. Webb, Zach Davidson, Mike Bailey, and RA Morris; and staff members Teresa Ballard, Ricky Royall, and Tina Smith.

Mayor Gohman led the pledge and Mike Bailey offered prayer.

Mayor Gohman addressed the citizens and there were no citizen comments.

Fire Department Report

Teresa Ballard reported one fire and one EMS assist for the month of February. The Bronte Volunteer Fire Department now

has Carolla Withrow as secretary. The new form report was distributed to the council and is working well.

EMS Report

Teresa Ballard reported a total of 45 personnel runs for the month of February.

Sheriff's Enforcement Report

Teresa Ballard reported two citations and two warnings were issued for the month of February.

Municipal Court Report

Teresa Ballard reported one citation with two violations and one warning for the month of February.

Economic Development Report

Gwen Dyess reported that the Loan Forgiveness Grant application is now complete and ready for applicants.

Cemetery Committee Report

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Unofficial Election Results

Bronte ISD Board of Trustees

Ryan Webb - 89

Blaine Dyess - 73

John Seales - 57

Robert Lee ISD Proposition A

For - 91

Against - 16

Please Pray for our Communities, Our County, Our State and Our Country



And Don't Forget to Pray for Rain!