

THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE

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Death Notices

Jones

Carl G. Jones, 85, of Bronte, Texas, passed away Wednesday, May 17, 2023, at Shannon Hospital in San Angelo.

Carl is survived by his wife, Carole; sons, Jim Coleman and wife Michelle, Doug Jones and wife Gina, Mike Jones and wife Laura; daughters, Beverly Dymke and husband Tommy, Sabrina Key and husband Joe, Carla Sexton and husband David, Brenda Hayes and husband Robert; and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at First Christian Church on North Broadway St. and Murrell Avenue in Ballinger, on June 3, 2023, at 2 pm.

Robert Lee

Cemetery Memorials

Alice and Fred Beaty
 Lane and Dorothy Beaty

Lois and Bill Calvert
 Marjorie Bollier

Finis Calvert
 Marjorie Bollier

John M. Cox
 Rosavelia and John Cox

Morgan A. Cox Jr.
 Rosavelia and John Cox

Hughes Family
 Susan Faircloth

Stratlyn Pitcock
 Darrel and Sharon Pitcock



The Counterculture of Localism

By James M. Decker

“The real wealth of a country...does not reside in the hectic exchanges on the stock market or the rivers of commodities that flow through every household without belonging there. It resides in local communities, in the work that holds them together; and the deep investment represented by a home, a place and the endowment across generations of human love.” --Sir Roger

Scruton

If there is one overarching theme in my five-plus years of weekly essays, that theme is the importance and value of the local, both people and place.

At times, it feels like our society has never been farther away from valuing the local. Just look at the economic, cultural, and political landscape. The companies on which we depend for goods and services continue to grow larger and farther removed from any specific locale. Our cultural institutions are more representative of Genericville USA than any place in particular, to try and appeal to everyone at once. There’s an old saying that “all politics is local” but our political class and those who enrich themselves in the political economy are bent on replacing that notion with the toxic idea that all politics are national. I fundamentally reject that poison, but that’s a topic for another day. Recently, in the aftermath of some regional bank failures, leaders of our financial industry pushed the appalling notion that Americans should put their money only in the largest of national and

international banks, “for security.” Sprawling metropolitan areas grow ever larger, swallowing prime farmland and formerly-unique communities. Meanwhile, rural communities struggle to grow or simply stay even.

If you value the local, then that paragraph might be fairly depressing to read. Don’t be alarmed or deterred. The value of something is not based on popularity alone, nor on immediate results. If there’s anything I have learned from Wendell Berry, it is that good work is not less meaningful if the results do not show up quickly, even in your lifetime. Theodore Roosevelt illustrates this idea better than anyone, with the famous statement that “far and away the best prize life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.” That contains qualification or requirement for immediate results.

To follow on my ideas from last week, as everything has gotten bigger and less local, we have become unhappier as a society. We are too busy, many of us are stuck in traffic or tied to our electronic devices, and all of us are overwhelmed by noise and clutter. We are digging the hole deeper and then asking ourselves why it is getting darker around us. The first rule of getting out of a hole is to stop digging. When we focus on things that are truly meaningful, like humanity and simplicity, we should train our eyes on the local.

This is not purely a call for a nationwide return to rural life. Across America, there are thriving urban neighborhoods that exemplify these very same values. They have unique local culture. They have neighborhood bars, restaurants,



Scholarship! RL4Restoration recently awarded their Tom Sawyer Memorial Scholarship. This year’s recipients were Roxana Rangel (left) and Presley Oleksiuk.

libraries, and other gathering places in which local community is strengthened. The entire English soccer system is built around neighborhood clubs, even if some of those clubs are now multibillion dollar enterprises (yes I’ve been watching “Ted Lasso”). Urban neighborhoods have neighbors looking out for each other and lifting one another up when in need. If you saw the recent Tom Hanks film “A Man Called Otto,” you saw these concepts of positive localism exemplified in Otto’s neighborhood in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. A very

dear friend from law school was born and raised in Pittsburgh and moved back home right after law school. She and I have compared these ideas in rural and urban neighborhoods and they are far more alike than a small town citizen might think. My wife spent a decade in Washington D.C, a place in which neighborhoods are the primary orientation of community life. These concepts exist in healthy, thriving urban communities all across the world.

Our society feels like it is pushing away from the local, so it’s more than a little

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) 473-4811
 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

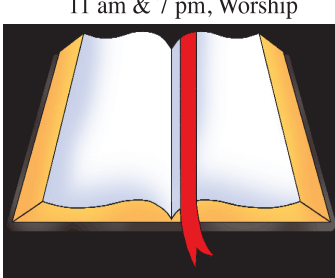
4C Cowboy Church

Drawer R • Bronte • (325) 895-4080
 Robert Lemmond, Pastor
 Sunday, 10:30 am - Texas Theater
 Wednesday Bible Study 6 pm -
 4C Feedlot Youth Building

Coke County

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

First United Methodist Church

PO Box 144 • 9th & Chadbourne
 Robert Lee • (325) 453-2417

Cyndi Weidner, Pastor
 Sun. 10 am Sunday School
 11 am Worship,
 5 pm Choir Practice

Iglesia Bautista Betel

101 Houston • Robert Lee
 Sun. 9:45 am • Sunday School
 11 am Service • Bible Study Wed. 6 pm

Southside Church of Christ

PO Box 698 • 8th & Houston
 Robert Lee (325) 453-2176

Recardo Reyes, Preacher
 Sun. 10 am, Sunday School
 11 am & 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 & 7 pm, Worship

Wed. 7 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

Edward Jones

Member SIPC

Congratulations, graduates!



Larry M Gilbert, CFP®, AAMS™
 Financial Advisor

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