

# THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE

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(325) 453-2433 (325) 277-9210 Cell

observerenterprise@gmail.com

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## STAFF

Morgan McCutchen, Publisher/Editor

Ashley McCutchen Braswell, Social Media Coordinator

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## Friends of the RLCC monthly meeting held

The May meeting of the Friends of the Robert Lee Care Center was held on Monday, May 22, 2023, at 10 am with six members present.

Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved and the treasurer's report was presented and accepted.

Della Alexander shared that Betty Lewis has joined the auxiliary and will be taking over the monthly RLCC employee birthday gifts project.

Discussion was held regarding the new bird feeders which are not tall enough. No decision was made on whether to completely replace them.

Della Alexander reminded everyone that the Homecoming Bake Sale will be held on Friday, September 22.

Reminders will be sent to the membership in August since this date is actually before the next meeting, which will be held on Monday, September 25.

Mary Rodriguez would like some additional items to be used to decorate the lobby seasonal tree for the patriotic holidays in the next couple of months. A motion was made and passed to allot \$100 to help with the decorations.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 am.

societal pursuit is a good and decent thing that is worth preserving and defending. But when it comes to unfettered liberty as a personal pursuit, let's be honest: that is a very dangerous and potentially harmful thing. One need only look at two classic examples of the dangerous of a person who indulges in liberty without limitation.

In the classic film "Back to the Future Part II," Biff Tannen has been given access to a book of sports statistics from the future. He becomes extraordinarily wealthy from gambling as a result. Already prone to unbridled ego and self-assurance, Biff becomes absolutely drunk on wealth and power. He replaces the iconic Hill Valley Courthouse (and its famous clock tower) with a palatial casino, penthouse, and monument to himself. With absolutely no limits on his life or actions, he murders a high school rival to take his wife, who jilted him as a teenager.

Then there's "Road House," where a successful small-town businessman named Brad Wesley becomes more wealthy and powerful than he can handle and he undertakes a self-appointed mission to "gather unto me what is mine" as if he was divinely appointed to rule Jasper, Missouri. He extorts other businesses, hires a small army of thugs to enforce his rule, and runs amok until a man named Dalton courageously stands up to him and inspires others to do the same.

I'm not here merely to recount some of my favorite movies and I admit that Biff Tannen and Brad Wesley are some extreme examples of the dangers of unbridled liberty. But as I have discussed countercultural ideas over the last few essays, I've talked about the dangers of unbridled technology and other "advances." We live in a world where MORE is perceived as

better and that is not always accurate.

Patagonia founder Yvon Chouinard uses a quote that hits me in my heart. It comes from French writer and adventurer Antoine de Saint-Exupery: "freedom is the acceptance of responsibility."

We live in the land of the free, which has its basis in the concept of liberty set forth by Thomas Jefferson and for which millions have served to defend. That liberty is powerful and something that we should not

give away nor waste with an unbridled desire for more of everything, lest it turn us into a grotesque character of our own worst impulses.

Liberty and freedom are powerful. And with that power comes great responsibility.

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.

## RL City Council meeting minutes told

The Robert Lee City Council met in regular session on Thursday, April 20, at City Hall.

Those present included Mayor Jason Moran; Council Members Tracy Grantham, Josh Tennison, and Mike Stephens. Council Members Brantly Robertson and Jonathan Torres were absent.

The call to order was held, quorum determined, and the meeting declared open at 6:33 pm.

The Consent Agenda (March 16, 2023 minutes, Municipal Court Report, Animal Control Report, Code Enforcement Report, and Financial Report) was presented. A motion was made by Josh Tennison to approve the Consent Agenda and was seconded by Tracy Grantham. The motion carried with a vote of 3 - 0.

The update on the financial consultant was tabled until the next meeting as Mr. Bedford was not present at the meeting.

The second reading of 5-23 Nuisance Ordinance was held. A motion was made by Josh Tennison to approve the second reading and was seconded by Mike Stephens. The motion carried with a vote of 3 - 0.

The second reading of 6-23 Noise Prohibition Ordinance was held. A motion was made by Tracy Grantham to approve the second reading and was seconded by Mike Stephens. The motion carried with a vote of 3 - 0.

The second reading of 7-23 Itinerant Vendors Ordinance was held. A motion was made by Tracy Grantham to approve the second reading and was seconded by Josh Tennison. The



## The Counterculture of Limits

By James M. Decker

"We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." -- Thomas Jefferson, United States Declaration of Independence

One might find it contradictory or confounding to write an essay with a title about "limits" and then immediately open with the most famous statement ever written on "liberty." In some quarters, limits and liberty are opposites. And that, my friends, is the point of today's conversation.

The word "liberty" and its associated concept of "freedom" are freely thrown around in what passes for modern political discourse. Those conversations are often less of the Jeffersonian ideal and more of an exhausting strain of performative liberty that is best described as "I'll do what I want and you're oppressing me if you object." To those folks, liberty is less of a principle and more of a cudgel to wield only when convenient to your other

agendas.

The origin story of Jefferson's words (and whether they originated with John Locke or elsewhere) is something of a great academic debate on which numerous scholarly volumes have been written, but regardless, Jefferson's words were directed at the principle of government, that the people should have the right to pursue life, liberty, and happiness, without a tyrannical government determining their life's destiny.

Whether we can do something and whether we should do something are different matters entirely. Jefferson's notion of liberty as a



**Russell Davis**  
Agent

611 Austin Street  
PO Box 1079  
Robert Lee, Texas 76945  
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(325) 453-4524 fax  
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## 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

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

#### 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

Sundays 10 am, Wednesdays 7 pm

#### 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

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 & 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