

THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE

Published Weekly

The Observer/Enterprise, LLC

(325) 277-9210

observerenterprise@gmail.com

www.ObserverEnterprise.com

Periodical Rate Postage paid at Robert Lee, Texas

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to
Observer/Enterprise

PO Box 1329, Robert Lee, Texas 76945

STAFF

Morgan McCutchen, Publisher/Editor

Ashley McCutchen Braswell, Social Media Coordinator

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Per Year in Coke County ... \$35.00

Per Year Elsewhere in Texas ... \$40.00

Per Year Outside of Texas ... \$45.00



Freedom

By James M. Decker

Making history is a funny thing. By nature, "history" is a prism through which we look back in time. It is not always evident in the moment that a person is "making history." It may take some time, even many years, for all the dust to settle and the momentous nature of a moment to become apparent. When the Declaration of Independence was signed on July 4, 1776, it would be seven long years before those fifty-six men learned whether they had changed the course of world history or signed their own death warrants. Abraham Lincoln knew the stakes when he issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, but he was still trying to turn the tide of a bloody and vicious war. Much blood would be shed before the end, including Lincoln's. He had been dead by John Wilkes Booth's bullet for just over two months when General Granger arrived at Galveston.

Did General Granger know that he was making history? Surely he knew that he was entrusted with an important task. He was arriving as part of a massive military occupation of territory that had been in open rebellion. It would not be less hostile to Federal soldiers simply because the fighting had ended. He was delivering a message that would liberate a group of people who had been held in bondage for their entire lives. News traveled slowly, so one can

only wonder whether Granger knew this was the final group of enslaved people in the United States of America. He may not have even contemplated the immediate status of enslaved people in the other states. I doubt he considered that his General Order No. 3 would be the centerpiece of a national holiday just over 150 years later.

As we all know, General Order No. 3 did not end the struggle on that day. Reconstruction, Jim Crow, "separate-but-equal," desegregation, and a massive civil rights movement would lie ahead over the next century. Stamford, Texas, did not exist on June 19, 1865, but it would be touched by the good, bad, and ugly of that struggle. Through that struggle, our community is full of stories and experiences that are worth considering, sharing, and honoring.

In "The Work of Local Culture," Wendell Berry writes something particularly important to me today:

"[W]hen a community loses its memory, its members no longer know each other. How can they know each other if they have forgotten or have never learned each other's stories? If they do not know each other's stories, how can they know whether or not to trust each other? People who do not trust each other do not help each

other, and moreover they fear each other. And this is our predicament now."

May we use Juneteenth as an opportunity to learn, know, and cherish each other's stories, even if those stories can be uncomfortable to hear. By doing that, we come to better know one another. We learn to better trust one another. And most importantly, we strengthen the bonds of living in community together.

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

Stuff from the Pastor

I have been watching the Olympic trials and they have not failed to impress. These swimming, diving, track, and field events are special. I don't know why Snoop the rapper is there offering comments. I don't think he could pass the blood test. Did I miss something? I have to correct my statement about the folks in Indianapolis digging a hole in their stadium floor for a swimming pool. Actually they built walls to contain the water and make the swimming pool. Still pretty impressive. Those Olympic divers are different. To do those

UPCOMINGS!

Hunter Education to be held August 3

There will be a classroom hunter education course taught by Texas game wardens on Saturday, August 3, 2024. The class will begin at 8 am at the Robert Lee High School library and will continue until approximately 5 pm. There are no pre-requisites for the course but students must be at least nine years old. Course cost is payable at the time of the class by cash, check, or via Venmo. There will be a one-hour lunch from 12 noon to 1 pm. Students will be free to leave with parents during lunch or are welcome to bring a sack lunch. For those remaining at school during lunch, we ask that parents remain with them. The class is limited to 20 students. Students must pre-register at the following site: <https://tpwd.elementlms.com/course/hunter-education-classroom-course-10060/>.

Kid Fish Event slated for October 19

The third annual Bronte Kid Fish event is set for Saturday, October 19, 2024, from 8 am to 12 noon at Lake Knierim (Old City Lake) in Bronte. Bait, tackle, and lunch/snacks/drinks will be provided. This event is provided for children up to age sixteen (16) in Coke and surrounding counties. No fishing license is required for children under the age of seventeen. Parents are highly encouraged to attend with children. Volunteers will be on hand to assist with rigging tackle, baiting, and fish removal. Participants are welcome to take

their catch home. Prizes will be awarded for biggest fish, biggest bag, etc.

Bronte Kid Fish is now a non-profit organization and is accepting donations to help with this event. Donations can be made at Bronte Guns and Tackle at 103 W. Main St. or at PO Box 151, Bronte, Texas 76933. Tax deductible donation forms available upon request. Bronte Kid Fish board of directors are Dan Waddell, president; Tim Smith, vice-president; and Jennifer Addona, treasurer/secretary.

Tom Sawyer Jr. Memorial set for September 21

The 3rd Annual Tom Sawyer Jr. Memorial Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday, September 21, at Mountain Creek Golf Course in Robert Lee. The tournament will begin at 8 am and lunch will be provided. If you have your own cart, please bring it as the golf course has limited carts available.

To register, fill out the form online at <https://forms.gle/eWPgrLa4zMkb7Fw69>.

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
TXFB-INS.COM

Are you earning enough on your savings?



Tommy E Neal, AAMS®
Financial Advisor

2412 College Hills Boulevard
Suite 102
San Angelo, TX 76904
325-223-8244

Edward Jones®
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Member SIPC

MKT-5894I-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) 473-4811

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

Robert Lee

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

Pastor Gary Karschner

Robert Lee • (325) 453-2417

Sun. 11 am Worship,

Southside 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

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

Email

Your News

and Photos to

ObserverEnterprise

@gmail.com