

**THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE**

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**UPCOMINGS!**

**Mini Cheer Camp  
slated for July 31 -  
August 4**

The annual Robert Lee Mini Cheer Camp will be held Monday, July 31, through Friday, August 4 from 9 am until 11 am each day at the old gym at RLISD. Cheers, chants, and sidelines will be taught by the 2023-2024 Robert Lee High School cheerleaders. The camp is open to campers going in to Pre-K through 6th grades.

Those attending are asked to bring a water bottle and wear tennis shoes. Campers will get to perform at one high school pep rally and five minutes at a home football game.

For more information, contact McKayla Fiveash at [mckayla.fiveash@rlisd.net](mailto:mckayla.fiveash@rlisd.net).

**Tom Sawyer Memorial  
Tournament  
set for August 26**

The 2nd Annual Tom Sawyer Memorial Golf Tournament will

be held Saturday, August 26, at Mountain Creek Golf Course in Robert Lee. The tournament will include shotgun starts at 8 am and 2 pm. Lunch will also be provided. Carts are limited so it is encouraged to bring your own cart if you are able to.

All proceeds will benefit Robert Lee High School athletes.

For more information, contact Sandy Sawyer at [sandy.sawyer12@gmail.com](mailto:sandy.sawyer12@gmail.com) or (325) 450-6567 or Inga Elliott at [inga.elliott@rlisd.net](mailto:inga.elliott@rlisd.net) or (325) 453-1137.

**Scrambles held at  
Mtn. Creek Golf Club**

Mountain Creek Golf Club in Robert Lee is hosting evening scrambles each Tuesday at 6 pm.

For more information, call (325) 453-2317.

**Fort Chadbourne  
to host event  
September 16**

Fort Chadbourne will be hosting "An Evening with Barry Corbin" on Saturday, September 16. Tickets include dinner, show, and a question and answer period with Barry after the show. All proceeds benefit the Fort Chadbourne Foundation.

For more information, contact Fort Chadbourne at (325) 743-2555 or (325) 743-2556.

memories of what made that place special. It becomes just another faceless town with the same chain restaurants, the same big box stores, and the same homogenous culture. It is functionally no different than thousands of other suburbs in America. A transplant can move from another suburb across the country and never know much difference.

I have been occasionally guilty of dispensing with the value of nostalgia. Warm memories do not repair streets, build new water lines, or provide jobs to struggling families. It is frustrating to see once-tiny hamlets outside of a major metro area that were once a fraction of Stamford's size become booming suburbs with 5A football teams. Some of those communities were only incorporated a few

decades ago and Stamford elected its first city government in 1900. Some places don't even have a community history because the community did not even exist until a developer paved over a field and gave it a name. What sort of sense does that make? Nostalgia is overrated, we need prosperity first. The local culture can worry about itself. Those thoughts run through the mind of a local leader, if they are honest enough to admit it.

And then I read "Jayber Crow."

Stay tuned next week.

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](http://westof98.substack.com) and subscribe to West of 98 wherever podcasts are found.

**Game Wardens remind of boating safety for July 4th**

Thousands of Texans will hit the lake this weekend ahead of the Fourth of July holiday. While the annual holiday is a time of celebration and community, it's also a time when Game Wardens see boater's safety at risk.

Todd Long, Texas Game Warden for Gregg County, said some of the common risk factors they see in boater incidents is high levels of alcohol consumption along with other

risk factors. "The increased risk with alcohol, varying levels of boater experience, late weather conditions," Long said. "There's a lot of different factors that play a part in making holiday weekends dangerous."

Long advises if you plan to drink alcohol while boating his weekend, to drink in moderation to avoid high levels of consumption.

"We encourage boaters that



**Informed Nostalgia**

By James M. Decker

*Nostalgia: a wistful or excessively sentimental yearning for return to or of some past period or irrecoverable condition.*

Nostalgia is a tricky thing. It is an ideal of days gone by and the positive memories we have of that time. It evokes imagery of people, places, activities, and experiences that hold a special place in our hearts. This is all objectively good. Nostalgia connects us to our roots. Nostalgia informs our relationship with our ancestors. Nostalgia helps us shape the generations who come after us.

Nostalgia also has a downside. Our memory can distort our perception of the past. The passage of time smooths away the rough edges and it exaggerates the best aspects of days gone by. Hard times can be chalked up to "educational" even if they didn't feel educational in the moment. Traumas might be repressed or outright purged from our memory. We also don't have the whole picture in our mind. We might remember that our family had limited means and we are proud of

how that shaped us. That is true but it does not account for the anxiety that our parents suffered trying to feed their children and keep the lights on. We enjoy the memories of our childhood, but through no fault of our own, childhood might not have been equally happy for other children in town, similarly made in God's image but discriminated against through no fault of their own, but on the basis of their skin color. As I have said before, it is important to remember that the "good old days" weren't always good for everyone.

Over the years, I have struggled with how to handle nostalgia within the context of improving our rural communities. Older generations remember our towns at their peak of population and prosperity. They are rightly wistful for that life and what it meant for jobs, friendships, quality of life, and other positive qualities in town. Even at my age, I am old enough to remember Stamford in the last

vestiges of the pre-Amazon retail economy. This, too, was often not the whole picture. What seemed prosperous at the time was already in the early stages of decline before everyone realized it.

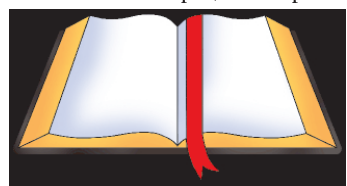
Yet, we should not dispense with nostalgia as a foolish waste of mental energy. If we are to ignore our past in the community and build a future without regard for any such nostalgia, then we erase local culture and all that comes with it. We erase the memory, purpose, and power within a community's unique story. As suburbanization has swallowed up communities that surround larger cities, I see that very thing happening. A place may retain its name, its ZIP code, and its high school mascot, but it is no longer the same town. Sure, there are more people, more jobs, and more money flowing through the town, but what was the cost? Within a generation or two, the old folks in town are gone and so too are the

**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](mailto: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](http://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. 10 am Sunday School  
11 am Worship,
- 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  
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 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



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