

at the rodeo performance after the parade. There, his introduction DID cause a raucous response, culminating with the crowd shouting "Coke! Coke! Coke!"

When Johnson phoned from Aspermont to check on the situation in Stamford, he heard of the welcome given to Stevenson. He canceled the stop in Stamford, using an excuse of "low fuel," and flew his helicopter to Abilene instead.

A legacy remains

Everyone is biased about their local event and I recognize that, but the TCR has a truly special legacy. It was borne of the Great Depression. It was built to tell the story and preserve the heritage of the open range cowboys. On the back of rural America's peak population and prosperity, it became a sensational event. It survived World War II. It survived the post-war rural decline that has continued to this day. It survived the COVID-19 pandemic. 94 years ago, those 13 men concocted an idea and sold 52 shares of stock at \$25.00 per share to launch the organization. Today, the Texas Cowboy Reunion thrives.

There are no longer any cowboys from the open range. Professional rodeo cowboys are interspersed with the amateurs, although the number of amateur entrants at the Texas Cowboy Reunion is still second to none. A video replay board helps guide the action. Country and rock-and-roll music are used to supplement the legendary work of the Hardin-Simmons Cowboy Band. To our knowledge, Stamford has the only rodeo performance remaining in America with a live band. The rodeo performance is held in the same natural amphitheater where it all began in 1930. There is still no air conditioning in the arena, and the dirt is just as red and perilous to your clothes when it turns to mud, but the art gallery and shopping pavilion are blissfully cooled. 94 years later, the Texas Cowboy Reunion is one of the largest tourist attractions in the entire West Texas region and will draw close



State Bound! The Bronte Rangers 8 and under baseball team recently placed second at the regional playoff tournament and advanced to the state tournament this week.

to 20,000 visitors over five days to a town of 3,000.

Will Rogers admonished his readers in 1935 to quit listening to the politicians and appreciate the fine feelings he saw in his travels across America. I'm not sure a man could have any better advice in 2024. Quit listening to those goons. Turn off your television and resist the urge to doomscroll on social media. There's a real cowboy reunion happening in a real

cowtown. You're welcome to join us. That, my friends, is a legacy that I am proud to call the cornerstone of Stamford's heritage.

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.

Sondra and Clint Caves
Cynthia Davis Garzonie
Ricky and Reba Green
Kenneth Hester
Lynn Holbrooks
Todd and Marlo Holbrooks
John and Jeanette Jacobs
Robert Lomas
Thomas and Suanne McBroom
Mr. and Mrs. Winton Milliff
Cathy and Judd Pitcock
Mrs. Jeffie Roberts
Donnie and Ruth Robertson
Joe L. and Brenda Roe
Jimmy C. and Marion Stewart
J. Lynn White
Royce and Eunice Wilkerson

motorist, funeral escorts, alarm call, assist Fire or EMS, etc) - 247
Citations issued - 20
Warnings issued - 23
MHMR interaction - 1
Felony Arrest - 1
Misdemeanor Arrest - 0
Warrants Served - 3
Prisoner Transports - 6
Accidents worked By County - 5
Assist DPS W/ Accident - 5
Civil Process - 0
Total number of Public Services - 311
Number of inmates in jail as of last day of reporting month:
Males - 7
Females - 0

Robert Lee Cemetery Memorials/Donations

Memorials

- Ray Aldridge**
Leta Aldridge
- Vernon and Maggie Byrne**
Jimmie and Patty Byrne
- Bruton Family**
Bruton Family Turst
Paula and Greg Belt
- Morgan Cox Jr.**
Sandy Newlin
- AZ and Emily D'Ean**
Terry D'Ean
- Fikes Family**
David Baker
- Karla Hinnard**
Leta Aldridge
- John Hurley**
Bette Hurley

JB and Samantha Robertson

- Leta Aldridge
- Lena and Jirdl Roc**
Sheila and David Hooper
- Slaton Family**
Sheila and David Hooper
- Calvin and Gova Sparks Family**
Jerry Colburn
- John Mark Washburn**
David Baker
- Jackie and Kenneth Williams**
Pat Penton

Donations

- Mary Bessent
- Frank and Martha Blair
- Johnnie Brock
- Jay and Shelly Carman



June 2024

Calls For Service (criminal matters, civil matters, livestock, reckless driver, suspicious vehicle, suspicious person, welfare check, stranded

Stuff from the Pastor

I learned there was some vandalism that occurred in Robert Lee this past week. An individual or individuals caused some major damage to the community swimming pool. It's a shame some folks think destroying others property is not a problem. If karma does exist, I kind of wish it would drop a big ol' dose on those destructive folks. Nothing malicious, just something that would(you fill in the blank). Nuff said.

(Continued on next page)

The Bronte Health and Rehab Center July 4th Celebration was a HUGE success thanks to so many people! Thanks to the wonderful staff for providing the meal of chili dogs and watermelon. Thanks to Duke Johnson and other staff for being in charge of the silent auction. Thanks to Keith Fletcher for being the auctioneer. The auction was fun and more than \$4,000 was raised to be used for the residents at BHRC. Thanks to the generous people in Bronte who donated items for the auction and the more than generous people who bought the items. Bronte is truly lucky to have Bronte Health and Rehab Center and the caring staff and volunteers.