

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

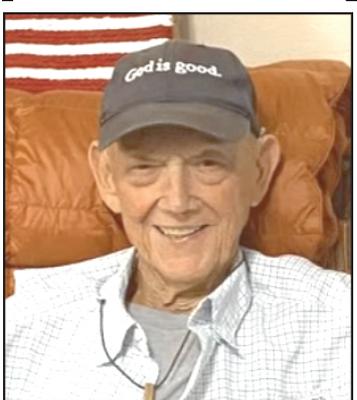
STAFF

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

Obituaries



Williams

Frederick Edward Williams, aged 92, of Robert Lee Texas, peacefully passed away on Thursday, July 27, 2023. He was surrounded by his loving family, wife Mary and his

greatest legacy, his children and grandchildren.

Fred was a man of strong faith. He always said, I'm just a regular ole guy who happens to love Jesus! He now has his eternal reward of peace and everlasting life.

Born March 4, 1931, with a heart full of joy and a great sense of humor, he was known for his love for the outdoors, tending to his garden and sharing fresh produce with family and friends.

The family requests donations be made to the Robert Lee Food Pantry where Fred and Mary volunteered for decades.

A celebration of Fred's life will be held on Saturday, August 26, at 11 am, at First United Methodist Church (Family Life Center) in Robert Lee, Texas.

05-1twp

athletes.

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

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.



Neighbors in Real Life

By James M. Decker

When I wrote my last essay entitled "Neighbors," Stamford was not yet in a full-blown water crisis. When I published that essay two days later, we were grappling with the ramifications of an equipment failure at our brand-new water treatment plant and it would be several more days before the matter concluded itself. I'm not here to talk more about the details of that crisis, because any of you who follow me on Facebook have seen me spill enough words on it already. Now that the crisis has resolved, our folks in Stamford are more than pleased to be back to "normal" life. But there was something unexpectedly powerful about the timing of last week's events.

I wrote 650 words on the

importance of being a neighbor. Then, in the days to follow, we watched our community live out the concepts of neighborliness. I wrote:

"Neighbor is a powerful word. Let's explore that power."

Did we ever explore it! In the span of about five days, I saw a group of people mobilize into action in a truly inspiring manner. People bought bottled water and made it available to others. A local bulk water company set up their truck and passed out water to anyone with a container that could haul it away. People checked on their vulnerable neighbors. As we mobilized state resources to assist and received deliveries of massive quantities of bottled water and ice, a literal army of people volunteered themselves for distribution and delivery. People took it upon themselves to check on homebound residents and then deliver ice and water. Companies and other communities contacted us to make donations and deliver donated water. Kind citizens offered to bring drinks and snacks to City employees manning the water treatment plant to fix the problem. A local church gave away hamburgers while they volunteered in the distribution of water and ice. There are even a handful of stories of water appearing on people's porches and they had no idea how it got there.

The point of this essay is not

to recount all the acts of kindness that we witnessed in town. Simply put, even if I *could* remember all the goodness that I saw, I would still miss countless acts of kindness that I never even knew about. People were just doing kind things and not telling anyone about it. Rather, this is today's point. We spend a lot of time talking about ways to make communities better. I do it and so do many other people. People write books and make careers out of these topics. Occasionally, it can become an abstract topic full of hypotheticals and those conversations can become detached from reality and real life.

If there's one overarching reason why I so deeply admire and respect Wendell Berry, it is that he has spent a lifetime writing on the topics that he lives out. There are no mere hypotheticals and abstractions written from the comfort of a far-away place. He actually left a prestigious position in New York City as a young man and moved back to Kentucky for that very purpose. He writes about farming while driving a team of mules across his fields. He writes about the loss of local community while living within local community and experiencing that decline.

Good ideas are only good to a point when they stay in the hypothetical, abstract realm. Good ideas truly matter when they impact real people in real places.

UPCOMINGS!

Central Baptist to host prayer times

Central Baptist Church in Bronte, encourages everyone to meet at the open pavilion at the Bronte Park from 8:30 am to 9 am for a time of prayer each Sunday in August. They will spend time praying over the following:

August 6 - Pray for rain

August 13 - Pray for our schools

August 20 - Pray for our churches, community, and families

August 27 - Pray for our county, state, and nation. If you are not able to attend, you are encouraged to join in prayer from wherever you are.

WCCHD meeting slated for August 29

The West Coke County Hospital District Board of Directors will meet on Tuesday, August 29, at 9:30 am. The meeting will be held at the WCCHD board room, located at 722 Washington in Robert Lee.

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

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

Edward Jones

Member SIPC

Larry M Gilbert, CFP®, AAMS™
Financial Advisor

122 N 8th St
Ballinger, TX 76821
325-365-2505

Give your SEP or SIMPLE plan a checkup.

edwardjones.com

MKT-5894N-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

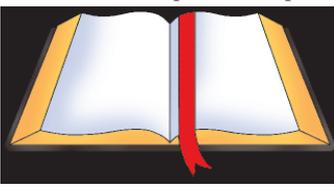
Bronte Methodist Church
Corner of Washington & Holmes
Bronte • (325) 650-4836
Pastor Keith Fletcher
Sun. 10:00 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship

St. James Catholic Church
215 N. Washington, Bronte
(325) 365-2687
Rev. Timothy Hayter, Pastor
Sunday Bilingual Mass 8 am

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 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