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UPCOMINGS!

The Shindig slated for October 7

The Shindig will be held on Saturday, October 7, at the park in Robert Lee. Activities throughout the day include inflatables for the kids, car show, food vendors, live music, BBQ cook off, and much more. The evening will conclude with a dance with headliner Kyle Park.

Emergency Services District information meeting set for October 10

The date for the Information Meeting concerning the possibility of establishing an Emergency Services District for

Coke County is slated for Tuesday, October 10, 7 pm, at the Rec Hall in Robert Lee. The Bronte area meeting was held previously on August 21, with a large audience on hand. Presentations for the Robert Lee meeting will include reports concerning the current status of the Robert Lee and Bronte EMS units, as well as cost estimates for establishing the proposed district across Coke County. There will also be time scheduled for public comments on the proposal from those in attendance.

All residents are urged to attend this important meeting, which will affect emergency services in Coke County and the

costs to implement the proposed district. For additional information, please contact the County Judge's office at (325) 453-2641.

Bronteoberfest to be held October 21

The 9th annual Bronteoberfest will be held on Saturday, October 21, at the park in Bronte. The event will include a vendor fair, food truck court, Kid's Korner, BBQ cook off, Running of the Wieners, and Beer Stein Holding Contest. There will also be live music throughout the day, including the Fox Fire Trio at 6 pm, Kickapoo Creek Band at 8 pm, and ending the evening at 10 pm will be headliner William Beckmann.

Classic Car Show slated for October 21

A Fall Classic Car Show will be held at the Bronte Depot on Saturday, October 21, from 9 am until 1 pm. Prizes will be awarded to the Best of Show, Crowd Favorite, and Participant Favorite. Car Show participants are asked to parade to Bronte Health and Rehab Center at the conclusion of the show.

Kid Fish set for October 21

The 2nd annual Kid Fish event is slated for Saturday, October 21, from 7 am until 12 noon at Lake Knierim (Bronte Lake). Tackle, bait, and lunch will be provided. The free event is open to all kids 17 years of age or younger.

which leaves the world better as a result of that life's contribution.

At the close of the Gilded Age, when the ultra-rich possessed an outsized portion of the national wealth, TR applied this doctrine to all segments of society. Strenuous living was not to be adopted by the working classes alone. TR drew a hard line: *if you are rich and are worth your salt, you will teach your sons that though they may have leisure, it is not to be spent in idleness.* He called for the wealthy to pursue improvement of the world through science, letters, art, exploration, and historical research. Roosevelt was born into wealth and privilege himself, but never shirked his own duties to the world, so in many ways, he became his own case study on this point.

On Labor Day 1903, Roosevelt gave another memorable speech in which he said *"far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing..."*

For decades, we have devalued the virtue of work. We have resisted the notion that working hard at work worth doing is a good thing. It is! Work has been portrayed as drudgery. Minimize it, avoid it, or pawn it off on someone else, preferably someone below your station in life.

By devaluing the goodness and value of work, we devalue the goodness and value of humanity itself. When Theodore Roosevelt warned against the doctrine of ignoble ease, he warned of something deeply harmful to the human spirit. Ignoble ease rots a society from the inside out.

Work is good. It should be honored and valued. By doing so, we honor and value the goodness of each of us as human beings.

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.

Parklands Passports available to Veterans, Service Members

Thanks to a recent bill passed during the last legislative session, active-duty military, honorably discharged veterans and the immediate family members of a service member who died while serving now qualify for one of three new Parklands Passports. These passports are available at no cost and grant the cardholder free entry to all Texas State Parks.

The new categories of Parklands Passports, which can be obtained at any state park, are Active Duty, Veterans and Gold

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

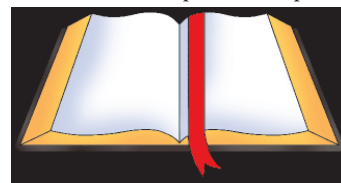
St. James Catholic Church

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 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

shakes out to about 30 minutes of oratory), Roosevelt sets forth his vision of America in the 20th century. He gave this speech on April 10, 1899 in Chicago, which was a significant setting. 19th century America was dominated by the Eastern cities. Chicago did not even exist at the dawn of the 19th century but held over 1.5 million people in 1899. Roosevelt saw that the coming century would bring new challenges and opportunities and believed that the hardy, energetic leaders of Chicago epitomized the American spirit for the new century.

I am an unabashed TR fanboy, but his legacy is complicated. TR's presidency was that of an action hero and his example spawned an inglorious line of politicians with similar heroic aspirations. Some of his views were ahead of his

time, while others are decidedly retrograde. TR's transformation from a sickly child into a model of physical and intellectual fitness is the stuff of legend and an inspiration to many, myself included. This "tough guy" edge also helped fuel his inclination toward warmongering and jingoism in the Spanish-American War and World War I, the latter of which factored into his son Quentin's death in aerial combat over France in 1918.

If you read this speech (which I have many times), you can see TR's flaws on display. You can also see some of his finest qualities. Roosevelt delves into the idea of a person and a people making the most of life and doing things of value. This does not mean "value" in the mere sense of some contribution to the national GDP; rather, it is a value of a truly satisfactory life



The Peril of Ignoble Ease

By James M. Decker

What does it mean to live a strenuous life, anyway?

Many of you (especially if you have followed me for any length of time) already know that "The Strenuous Life" is a phrase that comes from a speech of the same name by Theodore Roosevelt. One of TR's most famous speeches, it opens with this renowned statement:

"I wish to preach, not the doctrine of ignoble ease, but the doctrine of the strenuous life, the life of toil and effort, of labor and strife; to preach that highest form of success which comes, not to the man who desires mere easy peace, but to the man who does not shrink from danger, from hardship, or from bitter toil, and who out of these wins the splendid ultimate triumph."

It is a powerful and bold line in a speech full of bold statements about life and public policy. For 4,500 words (which

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