

...West of 98

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I will not attempt to guess my friend's mindset, because I do not know. I will speak from my own perspective here, because I thought deeply about it yesterday. Coping with or repressing a mental health struggle can manifest in different ways, based on our personality. Sometimes people pour themselves into their work, or into a topic about which they are passionate, as a form of distraction from other issues. I have done it myself. I distinctly remember taking deep dives into reading on the most random topics while I was in law school, because it was a coping mechanism for the stresses and anxieties I felt at the time. Sometimes, I have done the same in my professional life, when my to-do list is so long and frightful that I do not know where to begin.

Remember, mental health struggles do not begin with severe challenges. Sometimes they start in simple ways and build up over time to become a bigger problem. We all cope in different ways with the stresses and anxieties of life. That is quite alright, but we cannot let our coping methods repress our struggles until they boil over into harmful decisions. Yesterday, I called on my readers to check on their people. Please do that, but make sure you check on the ones who are seemingly excelling in life, too. We do not know who is struggling, how they are struggling, and how they might be coping unbeknownst to you. A well-timed hello from a friend, a random encouraging comment on a social media post (even if you've never met them in person) might go a long, long way.

If you are struggling personally and don't have an outlet for help, please call 800-273-8255, visit suicidepreventionlifeline.org, or text HOME to 741741 right now. Be well, friends. Next week, localism!

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 and subscribe to West of 98 wherever podcasts are found.

**On This Day
in Texas History**

October 8, 1821

On this day in 1821, a filibustering army under James Long surrendered at La Bahía to Mexican forces commanded by Colonel Juan Ignacio Pérez. The Long expedition was an early attempt by Anglo-Americans to wrest Texas from Spain. The expedition was mounted by citizens in the Natchez, Mississippi, area who were opposed to the boundary of the Louisiana Purchase as set up in the Adams-Onís Treaty. After initial successes in 1819, the filibusters were driven out by Pérez in October of that year. Long regrouped and joined forces with José Félix Trespalacios, who was organizing an expedition in New Orleans to support the Mexican liberals. Long established his headquarters at Point Bolivar, where he was joined by his wife,

Jane Long, the "Mother of Texas." He later broke with Trespalacios, and the expedition led an uncertain existence at Fort Las Casas on Point Bolivar until September 1821, when Long and fifty-two men sailed to capture La Bahía. The town fell easily, but four days later Long was forced to surrender to Pérez. Long was taken prisoner and sent to Mexico City, where about six months later he was shot and killed by a guard. With Long's defeat and capture at La Bahía

the early filibustering era in Texas came to an end.

**NRCS application
deadline announced**

The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Texas has announced that the first funding application deadline of October 29, 2021, for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). A second funding deadline will be February 11, 2022.

Applications are taken year

round for NRCS programs, but deadlines are announced to rank and fund eligible conservation projects. Producers interested in signing up for EQUIP should submit applications to their local USDA service center. If already a USDA client, a producer can submit applications online via Farmers.gov.

EQIP is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers. Technical assistance is provided

without a fee from NRCS specialists to help landowners and land managers plan and implement conservation practices to help them meet their land management goals, address natural resource concerns and improve soil, water, plant, animal, air, and related resources on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland.

For additional information, visit the NRCS Texas website at www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov. Applications for EQIP are

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION ON CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS
(AVISO DE ELECCION ESPECIAL EN EL CONSTITUCIONAL ENMIENDA)**

THE STATE OF TEXAS
(EL ESTADO DE TEXAS)

TO THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF COKE COUNTY, TEXAS:
(A LOS VOTANTES CAPACITADOS DE COKE COUNTY, TEXAS)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the polling place listed below will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., on November 2, 2021, for the purpose to adopt or reject the proposed Constitutional Amendments as submitted by the 87th Legislature, Regular Session of the State of Texas;

(La Presente se Notifica que el lugar de votacion liste a continuacion estara abierto de 7:00 am a 7:00 pm, el 2 de Noviembre de 2021, para del proposito para adoptar o rechazar las enmiendas a la constitucion propuestas tal como fueron presentadas por la 87th Legislatura Sesion Regular, del Estado de Texas)

LOCATION OF POLLING PLACE:
(DIRECCION DE LUGAR DONDE LOS ELECTORES:)

- Robert Lee Recreation Center, 150 County Park Rd, Robert Lee, Texas, Precinct 1
- Bronte Recreation Center, 350 E. Park Rd, Bronte, Texas, Precinct 2
- Coke County Courthouse, Room 10, 13 E. 7th St, Robert Lee, Texas, Precinct 3
- First Baptist Church, 424 S Washington, Bronte, Texas, Precinct 4

Early Voting by personal appearance will be conducted each weekday at:
(La votacion adelantada en persona se llevara a cabo de lunes a viernes en:)

County Clerk's Office, Coke County Courthouse, Room 10, 13 E. 7th St, Robert Lee, Texas, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday, 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Friday, beginning on October 18 and ending on October 29.

Oficina del Secretario del Condado, Coke County Courthouse 13 E. 7th St, Robert Lee, Texas, entre el horario de 8:00 a 17:00 el lunes al jueves, de 8:00 y 13:00 el viernes, 18 de octubre y el 29 de octubre

Applications for ballot by mail shall be mailed to:
(Las solicitudes para boletas que se votaran adelantada por correo deberan enviarse a:)

MONICA REYES, COUNTY CLERK
monica.reyes@co.coke.tx.us
www.co.coke.tx.us
325-453-2631
(Monica Reyes) (Nombre del Secretario del Condado)


EARLY VOTING CLERK
(Secretario de la Votacion Adelantada)

13 E. 7th St.
(13 E. 7th)(Direccion)

ROBERT LEE, TEXAS 76945
(Robert Lee) (Ciudad) (76945) (Zona Postal)

Applications for ballots by mail must be received no later than the close of business on: November 2, 2021.
(Las solicitudes para boletas que se votaran adelantada por correo deberan recibirse para el fin de las horas de negocia el: 2 de noviembre, 2021.)

Issued this 8 day of October, 2021
(Emitada este dia 8 de Octubre, 2021.)


Hal Spadin, County Judge (Juez del Condado),
Coke County, Texas