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Death Notices

Gregory

Janet Dean Baker Gregory, 92, of Bronte, Texas, passed away Friday, January 26, 2024, with her family by her side.
Janet is survived by her three daughters, Dianne Parker and husband Gary of San Angelo, Cheri Mashburn and husband Rick of Salado, and Mary Kay Brasuel and husband Mike of Eden. She is also survived by nine grandchildren and nineteen great-grandchildren.
At Janet's request no funeral will be held. Cremation and arrangements are under the direction of Robert Massie Funeral Home.



It is Always Personal

By James M. Decker
“Business is always personal. It’s the most personal thing in the world.” --Michael Scott
Let’s give credit where credit is due: Michael Scott had more wisdom than we thought. In his seven seasons on “The Office” as manager of the Scranton office of Dunder Mifflin Paper Company, Inc., Michael made some horrifying management decisions. He was an HR nightmare, constantly causing problems with and between employees with inappropriocity (a word he coined in an episode that I find to be quite useful).
And yet, at his core, he was a deeply caring human. He wanted people to love him and he wanted to love other people. He wanted friends and a family to care about. He did not always express this love properly, and he should have gone to counseling for issues that stemmed from childhood trauma and abandonment, but dadgummit, the man cared.
One of my favorite episodes of is “Business School” in the third season. This is the same episode where “don’t be an idiot”was revealed as powerful

advice that more public servants should hear. In it, young know-it-all employee Ryan Howard invites Michael to speak to one of his business school classes. It’s not exactly a show of respect. Ryan gets extra credit for bringing his boss to class and based on the topic of the class (technology and business), he knows Michael will be humiliated. Sure enough, Michael is ambushed. He’s peppered with questions by MBA students about the doomed nature of the paper business. He storms out angrily, but not before unleashing some brilliant one-liners like “you cannot learn from books” and “real business is done on paper.”
Afterwards, Ryan attempts to apologize, thinking he’s about to be fired. He tells Michael, “it wasn’t personal” and Michael responds that business is always personal. More business leaders could stand to be like this, as they ignore the humanity and dignity of workers in the name of “efficiency.”
It is also how I feel about local government.
This is not an endorsement of large-scale government as your “friend” or any gobbledygook like that. Rather, this is one of the biggest lessons I have learned in my tenure as mayor of a small town. Much of state and national government is

bureaucratic, impersonal, and far removed from its effects on everyday life. People who make those large-scale decisions rarely live among the people who are affected by the decisions.
At the local level, lives are impacted on a direct daily basis and the leaders deal with the direct consequences of those decisions in their own lives. Water service, sewer service, streets, and trash collection are essential aspects of daily life. When those services have issues, be it a pothole, a water/sewer leak, or a missed trash pickup, the effects are noticeable. This is deeply personal to people, especially when those issues disrupt their daily routines, their personal lives, or their businesses. And as a local leader, it becomes deeply personal and troubling when those problems arise. Even when the problems are caused by an issue out of your control, be it unpredictable weather or ancient pipes that have had leaks in the making for decades, it is still personal. You still feel it when your own life is affected. You especially feel it when other people are affected and you cannot immediately solve the problem.
My disdain for state and national politics is mushrooming and I think this is part of the reason why. When I look at the political landscape, I see a whole lot of talking to generate clicks, fundraising, and re-election campaigns. It is not personal (though it is full of personal attacks), it is a coldly-calculated business of accumulating, retaining, and expanding power.
On the local level, government and politics are deeply personal. It is the most personal thing in the world. Lives are impacted each day for good or bad. It can be stressful to realize the gravity of its impact, but it also underscores the importance of running for local office. When you embrace



20 Years! *Misti Hayes was honored with a reception on Thursday, January 18, to mark her 20 years of service to the Coke County Sheriff’s Office. She is pictured with Coke County Sheriff Wayne McCutchen.*
the personal nature of local government, you will realize just how much it truly matters.
James Decker is the Mayor of Stamford, Texas and the creator of the West of 98 website and

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

Bread of Life Church
314 Fayette • Bronte
(325) 227-0010
Michael Crane, Pastor
Sunday, 9 am
Wednesday, 6 pm

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
Pastor Gary Karschner
Robert Lee• (325) 453-2417
Sun. 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