

THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE

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Per Year Elsewhere in Texas ... \$40.00

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UPCOMINGS!

Fundraiser meal set for April 7

The Bronte Educational Enrichment Foundation will hold a chicken spaghetti fundraiser on Sunday, April 7 at 11:30 am at the Blue Goose in downtown Bronte. The meal will include chicken spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, and a dessert.

Spring Stampede slated for April 27

RL4Restoration's annual Spring Stampede will be held on Saturday, April 27, at 6:30 pm at the Coke County Rec Hall in Robert Lee.

Tickets will be sold on a pre-sale basis only for the brisket dinner and are available at

Austin St. Coffee House. Tickets for the dance, which will feature live music by Backroads West beginning at 8 pm, will be available at the door.

This year's fundraising proceeds will go towards improving the "city" signs that welcome people in to the community.

For more information, contact Crystal Stanford at (325) 262-2529.

RL4Restoration is also seeking sponsors for the event. There are various sponsorship levels available. Donations may be mailed to PO Box 581, Robert Lee, Texas 76945. For questions regarding sponsorships, call (281) 236-4841.

Ernie is survived by his loving mother, Lou Ann Nanny; his significant other, Laura Dee Richmond; his sisters, Jo Lynn Nanny, Candace Bergen Gentry, and Lacy Gonzales (Gino), brother, Charles Levi Rose; and eight nieces and nephews, Shawn Alex Parks, Levi Blake Parks, Gage Lee Jacob Gentry, Jaxx Conner Gentry, Aaron Ryder Gentry, Koleson Lane Gonzales, Kynslee Ryan Gonzales, and Karlee Rae Gonzales.

Ernie also leaves behind his Aunt Terri and Uncle Austin Holland, Uncle Brian Fedor and family, Uncle Daniel Fedor and family as well as Echo Holland and family, Aunt Brenda Rose and family Reagan Holland and family, Billie Holland and family and Aunt Melissa Nanny and children, Cord and Mondee. He also leaves behind his Grand Dad and Henry (Joan) Nanny. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

A memorial service to celebrate Ernie's life was held on Saturday, February 24, 2024, at 10 am, at Lange Funeral Home in Ballinger, Texas.



A Presidential Ideal

By James M. Decker

What do our presidents think about agriculture and rural America? I was thinking about this on Presidents' Day. It is not just an idle thought (though I have plenty of those). This goes to the fundamental question that I am currently pursuing in my writing: how do we truly build lasting prosperity for the future of rural communities, so that those communities and their

24, 2024, at 2 pm at the chapel at Lange Funeral Home in Ballinger, Texas with Todd King of High Mesa Cowboy Church and Seth Moore of Coleman Cowboy Church officiating.

Rose

Ernest "Ernie" Joe Rose III, 27, of Bronte, Texas, passed away alongside his beloved nephew, Trevor Wyatt Parks, on February 17, 2024.

Death Notices

Parks

Trevor Wyatt Parks, 15, of Brownwood, Texas, passed away on Saturday, February 17, 2024.

He is survived by his father, Randall Kevin Parks, Jr. and wife Alicia Michelle of Brownwood; his mother, Jo Lynn Nanny of Miles; his paternal grandparents, Randy and June Parks of May, Texas; and his maternal grandparents, Lou Nanny of Bronte and Freddie Reel of Eldorado. Wyatt is also survived by his siblings, sister, Miranda Whipkey and husband Kevin of Corpus Christi, sister, Kaitlin Bishop and husband Cody of Robert Lee, sister, Rani Kohutek and husband Kevin of Robert Lee, brother, Randall "Lil Kevin" Parks of Bronte, sister, Halle Parks of San Angelo, Texas, brother, Shawn Parks who currently serves in the United States Marines, and brother, Levi Parks of Brownwood. He will be greatly missed by numerous aunts and uncles as well as numerous nieces and nephews that Wyatt loved dearly.

A funeral service for Wyatt was held on Saturday, February

people HAVE a future?

I've made no secret my disdain for the last several decades of political discourse in general, but especially as applies to rural America. At best, rural places and rural people are ignored. At worst, they are outright patronized or disdained (both treatments are equally bad and unhelpful). Should we be surprised, though? When a government spends almost 75 years prioritizing "cheap food" and telling its citizens to spend less money on food and more money on literally everything else, that government has only cheapened and dismissed the value of the people and places that grow the food.

In his 2019 book "The Art of Loading Brush," Wendell Berry recounts his brother John's futility as a delegate to the 1992 Democratic National Convention, where he tried to contribute a meaningful statement in the party platform that would support actual rural prosperity. He was blown off to the extent that he simply gave up. A quick scan of the most recent platform by both major parties shows references to rural America and agriculture, but a man need not be a political scientist to see the patronizing statements and the focus on bolting pre-existing party beliefs onto rural and agricultural

voters.

Jimmy Carter was the only president in recent history to make his living as a farmer. Sure, others have had an affinity for rural life—think of Reagan's horses, George W. Bush's brush clearing, LBJ's ranch on the Pedernales—but this was an a hobby afforded by success elsewhere in life.

Dwight D. Eisenhower uttered one of the most famous presidential lines about agriculture: "farming looks mighty easy when your plow is a pencil and you're a thousand miles from a cornfield." It is an accurate, admirable, and oft-repeated line for which he deserves credit. Yet, one wonders if it was a mere platitude and nothing more. After all, Eisenhower's Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson was the first American policymaker to utter the infamous and deeply harmful instruction to farmers to "get big or get out!"

Harry Truman grew up with farm roots but moved to what he saw as more prosperous career opportunities. Franklin D. Roosevelt heavily influenced American agricultural policy through aspects of the New Deal. He came from old New York City money and would never be called a "farmer," but Roosevelt deeply loved growing and selling

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

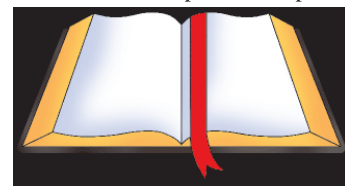
Bread of Life Church

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

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

Russell Davis
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