

THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE

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STAFF

Melinda McCutchen, Publisher
Morgan McCutchen Brigham, Editor

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Red Hat Society to meet March 6

The glorious Red Hat ladies will hold their next meeting at 11 am on Tuesday, March 6, in Ballinger. The Ladies Club there is sponsoring a potato bake and salad luncheon to raise money for scholarships. The bake will be held at the Family Life Center next to the First Baptist Church at 410 N 8th Street.

The salads are always wonderful, as is the company. Please come and join a delightful group of ladies at an excellent lunch for a great cause!

Ambassador Drill Team Tryouts set for March 18

The San Angelo Ambassador Drill Team will be hosting tryouts on Sunday, March 18, at 1 pm at the Spur Arena. Tryouts are open to all girls ages 13 - 24. Look at the San Angelo Stock Show and Rodeo website at sanangelorodeo.com for specific paperwork that should be brought to tryouts (click on Rodeo and then Ambassadors).

For more information contact Carmen Schwertner at (325) 763-8175.

Donations being accepted for local family

Donations are being accepted for Roger Graves and Kendra Graves, due to a house fire that was a total loss. Donations are being accepted at First National Bank in Bronte for “Roger Graves House Fire”. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated.

The Joys and Discomforts of Leadership

by James M. Decker

Recently, I’ve noticed a few high profile instances of so-called leaders in the country exhibiting a hallmark leadership failure: refusing to accept responsibility. Whether casting blame on subordinates or using the excuse of outside forces and the acts of other agencies, it’s all the same: alleged leaders who are tasked with responsibility refuse to accept the responsibility when it becomes unpleasant.

President Harry S. Truman famously kept a sign on his desk in the White House’s Oval Office that said “The Buck Stops Here.” President Truman used

this sign to signal the reality of his leadership position: ultimately, when a decision rose to his level, there was no other person to make the decision or accept the responsibility. It was all on him, win, lose, or draw.

Human nature encourages us to accept our position of leadership when things are good (read: take the credit) but look for ways to minimize our leadership when things are bad (read: avoid the blame), but true leadership requires acceptance of responsibility for both good and bad. So it goes in rural leadership roles as well. Our decisions in rural leadership roles may not carry the worldwide gravity of President Truman’s decisions, but our decisions still have consequences.

Whether you’re a national, statewide, county, or local elected official, being entrusted with the decision to spend taxpayers’ money is a weighty matter that should not be taken lightly. When the decisions work, accepting responsibility is a fairly easy thing

to do. When the decisions don’t work, and the taxpayers’ money has been spent on a dud, or has not been used efficiently, accepting responsibility is not quite as easy and certainly not as fun.

But over the years, I’ve learned that people appreciate and respect honesty, even in failure. People see through excuses. When you blame others, refuse to accept the reality of failure, or avoid the conversation entirely, it rings hollow and fools no one but yourself. When you swallow the bitter pill and accept responsibility, people respect and support you more than when you attempted to fool them. A little bit of honest conversation in failure - “this didn’t work, and here’s why, but here’s what we’ve learned and we’re going to keep trying - will go farther than you can imagine.

This all makes a community leadership role sound like a burden, and it is. If you’re not willing to accept the burdens of responsibility, then leadership is a tough task. With that burden, though, comes opportunity. Those who are willing to shoulder the burden of responsibility also shoulder the ability to present and implement new ideas, to lead the way in reorganizing things for the better, and to create the greatest chances for success. Anyone can present a new idea, but without a leadership role, you can merely stand by and watch as others implement the idea to failure or success. When you accept the role of leadership, it’s within your control to give the idea the best possible chance for success.

Leadership comes with a burden of responsibility. If



Valentines! Gary Holloway and Jennie Marie Dowling were named the Valentine’s Day King and Queen at Robert Lee Care Center recently.

you’re a leader, there is a buck that will stop with you. However, it also comes with a burden of opportunity. If you are strong enough to accept the responsibility, oh what opportunities you can bring to your community!

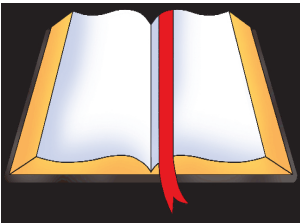
James Decker is a lawyer, farmer, and city councilman in Stamford, and the creator of the forthcoming “West of 98” podcast and website. He may be contacted through Facebook at facebook.com/james.decker.

Area Churches Invite You to Worship

Bronte
Bronte Church of Christ
PO Box 346
118 S. Jefferson • Bronte
Preacher David Lewis
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 • Pastor Lee Bevy
Sunday 9:45 am Sunday School,
10:55 am Worship, 6 pm Bible
Study & Worship
Wednesday 6 pm RA’s & GA’s,
6:30 pm Youth & Adults
First United Methodist Church
Corner of Washington & Holmes
Bronte
(325) 473-3281
Rev. Everett Boyce, Pastor
Sun. 10:00 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship
Forgiven Ministries
117 W. Main, Bronte
Russ Frasier, Pastor
Sun. 10 am
Tuesday 6 pm Table Time
St. James Catholic Church
215 N. Washington, Bronte
(325) 365-2687
Rev. Yesu Mulakaleti, Jr., Pastor
Sunday Bilingual Mass 8 am
4C Cowboy Church
Texas Theater, Downtown Bronte
Pastor James Brunson
Sunday, 10:30 am

Coke County

Pecan Baptist
PO Box 542 • 12 miles West of
Robert Lee on Sterling City Hwy
(325) 453-2065, Bill Hood, Pastor
www.pecanbaptist.org
Sun. 10 am, Sunday School
11 am & 7 pm, Worship



Robert Lee
Bible Baptist Church
PO Box 938 • 9th & Austin
Robert Lee, John Fiore, Pastor
Sun. 10 am Sunday School,
11 am Worship,
Emmanuel Pentecostal
PO Box 683 • 1019 Colorado City Hwy
Pastor Kevin Millstid 453-2360
Sundays 10 am, Wednesdays 7 pm
First United Methodist Church
PO Box 144 • 9th & Chadbourne
Robert Lee • (325) 453-2417
Cyndi Weidner, Pastor
Sun. 10 am Sunday School
11 am Worship, 5 pm Choir Practice
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
Recardo Reyes, Preacher
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, (806) 543-2118 or
(325) 473-1053
Services: Sun. 10 am
Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church
601 W. 10th, Robert Lee
(325) 365-2687
Rev. Yesu Mulakaleti, Pastor
Saturday Vigil Mass 5 pm
Robert Lee Baptist Church
PO Box 493 • 22 W. 11th
(325) 453-2724
Danny White, Pastor
Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School
11 am & 7 pm, Worship
Wed. 7 pm, Prayer Meeting
Victory Assembly of God
(325) 453-2208, PO Box 638
6th & Houston, Robert Lee
Rev. Irving Smith, Pastor
Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School
10:45 am & 6 pm, Worship
Wed. 6 pm, Bible Study
Tennyson
Tennyson Baptist Church
Hwy 277 • Tennyson
(325) 473-2040
Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School
11:00 am & 6 pm, Worship
Wed. 6:00 pm Prayer Meeting