

THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE

Published Weekly
 The Observer/Enterprise, LLC
 (325) 277-9210
 observerenterprise@gmail.com
 www.ObserverEnterprise.com
 Periodical Rate Postage paid at Robert Lee, Texas

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to
 Observer/Enterprise
 PO Box 1329, Robert Lee, Texas 76945

STAFF
 Morgan McCutchen, Publisher/Editor
 Ashley McCutchen Braswell, Social Media Coordinator

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
 Per Year in Coke County ... \$35.00
 Per Year Elsewhere in Texas ... \$40.00
 Per Year Outside of Texas ... \$45.00



February 2024

Calls for Service (criminal matters, civil matters, livestock, reckless driver, suspicious vehicle, suspicious person, welfare check, stranded motorist, funeral escorts, alarm call, assist fire/EMS, etc) - 219
 Citations Issued - 33
 Warnings Issued - 79
 MHMR Interactions - 2
 Felony Arrest - 0
 Misdemeanor Arrest - 0
 Warrants Served - 5
 Prisoner Transports - 3
 Accidents Worked by County - 2
 Assist DPS w/Accident - 3
 Civil Process - 2
 Total Number of Public Services - 361
 Total number of inmates in jail as of last day of reporting month:
 Males - 4
 Females - 0



The Yeoman's Ideal

By James M. Decker
 What did Thomas Jefferson think about farmers? To anyone who looks up quotes by Jefferson about farmers and rural life, this seems like a dumb question. Jefferson endorsed the farmer—specifically the small farmer—

more powerfully than any other president on record. Among other lines, Jefferson described farmers as the chosen people of God and the most precious part of a state.

But did Jefferson actually believe this?

Jefferson glorified the “yeoman farmer” as the ideal citizen of the new republic for which he worked so hard to help create. Jefferson envisioned and advocated for a society and economy built around the small farmer and landholder. Yet, Jefferson himself was no small landholder. His Monticello plantation sprawled across 5,000 acres in Virginia. Jefferson was no yeoman farmer either. He did not personally undertake cultivation of his fields of tobacco, wheat, and other groups in the age before mechanization and several decades even before John Deere introduced the modern steel plow in 1837. Instead, he relied on the toil of hundreds of enslaved people for his labor.

So was Jefferson just a fraud in his ideals? Jefferson's skeptics have questioned, criticized, and even dismissed his ideal of the yeoman farmer. They contend that it was mere propaganda that he did not believe and that this agrarian sentiment was used to enrich Jefferson and others in the American aristocracy of large landowners. It warrants mentioning that this criticism

does not come from agrarian-minded types who did not find Jefferson to be a true believer. There are no farmers shouting “he doesn't even go here” (gold star if you catch that reference) about Jefferson. No, the critics from Jefferson's era came from his nemeses the Federalists, who favored the centralization of economic and political power. In later generations up to the present day, Jefferson's ideal of the yeoman farmer is attacked by those who see agrarian life as a relic of the past and who favor industrialization, urbanization, and technology. In essence, Jefferson is decried as a fraud by people who refuse to accept or agree with his ideas in the first place. Unfortunately, Jefferson's deep moral failings on the slavery matter provide suitable ammunition for their criticisms.

I won't pretend that I am unbiased on the matter. Certainly, I favor a set of political and economic ideals that would benefit rural America, but I don't feign objectivity on the matter. However, I believe that Jefferson WAS sincere on the matter and that he truly did value the yeoman farmer as a core citizen of the new republic.

Professor Joshua Hochschild makes a keen observation as to Jefferson's motivation and authenticity: the yeoman farmer model promoted the decentralization of economic power consistent with Jefferson's

UPCOMINGS!

Friends of the RLCC to meet March 26

The March meeting of the Friends of the Robert Lee Care Center will be held on Monday, March 26, at 10 am in the WCCHD Board Room located at 722 Washington across from the Robert Lee Care Center. Anyone interested in finding out more about the organization is invited to attend.

WCCHD meeting slated for March 26

The West Coke County Hospital District Board of Directors will hold a meeting on Tuesday, March 26. The meeting will begin at 9:30 am in the WCCHD Board Room, located at 722 Washington in Robert Lee.

Sunrise Service to be held March 31

Bronte and the surrounding areas will celebrate the Risen Savior on Easter Sunday morning, March 31, at the Gentry ranch 5 miles west of Bronte. All the churches in Bronte will participate in the worship service which will begin at 7 am. Breakfast will follow the service. All are welcome to join in praising God for his gift of love and salvation.

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.

Russell Davis

Agent

611 Austin Street
 PO Box 1079
 Robert Lee, Texas 76945
 (325) 453-4505 office
 (325) 453-4524 fax
 (325) 650-1904 mobile
 TXFB-INS.COM

Are you earning enough on your savings?



Tommy E Neal, AAMS®
 Financial Advisor

2412 College Hills Boulevard
 Suite 102
 San Angelo, TX 76904
 325-223-8244

Edward Jones
 MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Member SIPC

MKT-5894I-A

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

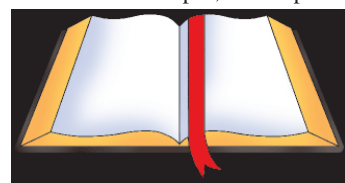
Bread of Life Church

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

Email
 Your
 News
 and
 Photos
 to

ObserverEnterprise@gmail.com