

THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE

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Obituaries



Grant

Donald James Grant, 56, was called to his eternal resting place on Friday, April 3, 2020, with funeral services directed by Fry-Smith Funeral Home in Tuscola.

Born March 10, 1964, to William Edward and Gina (Mullins) Grant, Donnie graduated from Bronte High School. He was an employee of American Electric Power for 35 years. He found pleasure in farming and ranching, tending to the crops and livestock. Donnie had many close friends and special co-workers. He will be missed by many that knew him. He had a heart of gold and would lend a helping hand to anyone in need.

Donnie is survived by his father, Bill and wife, Faye of Abilene; mother, Gina McCutchen and husband, Harold of Bronte; brother, Bill Jr. of Bronte; brother, Craig and wife, Kara of Abilene; aunts, uncle, cousins, nieces, and nephew. He is also survived by stepchildren, Andrew Marley, Nicole Olivares, and Kenneth Ryder.

Donnie was preceded in death by his son, Justin Edward.

The family will have a private graveside service. In lieu of

visitation, a memorial service will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the charity of choice.

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New Lessons of Nehemiah (Also: American Shutdown Encouragement #6)

by James M. Decker
 (Author's note: this is an updated version of an essay I wrote during Easter week in 2019. I thought it was appropriate to share, given the unique circumstances of Easter 2020.)

Nehemiah is one of my favorite leaders in the Bible, for several reasons. Nehemiah was a Jewish exile who was cupbearer to King Artaxerxes of Persia. The king controlled the areas that formerly belonged to the Jewish kingdoms of Israel and Judah after they collapsed. Nehemiah earned the trust of the king, who permitted him to travel to Jerusalem to aid the residents who were suffering and rebuild the walls of the city.

I once wrote an essay called "Walls to Build" that discussed Nehemiah rebuilding the walls

Conservation Rancher for 2019! *The Coke County Soil and Water Conservation District recently recognized Samuel Rawlings as their Conservation Rancher for 2019. Rawlings is a fifth generation rancher on the Rawlings property. His family settled the land in 1890 that rests in central Coke County, working the land during both the good years and drought. Sam contributes his hard work ethic and love of ranching to his father, the late David Rawlings. He said he felt fortunate to have a dad that took him and his siblings on whatever work that needed to be done on the ranch. "There was no doubt that he loved ranching and enjoyed teaching us about it," Sam said of his father. In 2013, Sam took his love for improving the land and turned it into a business, Rawlings Construction.*

Sam works through the NRCS and SWCD offices in Coke County to complete practices and get on the ground advice. He is eager to complete several practices and start new projects. It is because of these qualities that the Coke County SWCD is proud to name Sam Rawlings as their Conservation Rancher.

The SWCD board would also like to extend their condolences to the Rawlings family as they lost their grandmother, Lora Rawlings, on March 21, 2020. She enjoyed visiting with Sam about his projects and seeing photos of his progress.

of Jerusalem. He did it with no experience and in a hostile environment. Neighboring tribes threatened to overrun the city and did not want to see the walls rebuilt to their former strength. The Book of Nehemiah speaks of the workers undertaking the job with a shovel in one hand and a sword in the other. In that essay, I encouraged each of us to take inspiration from Nehemiah's wall-building to rebuild the proverbial walls of rural America. Nehemiah's wall-building wasn't the only magnificent project he undertook to rejuvenate Jerusalem and its people. It had been many generations since the people had heard the Laws given by God to Moses, so Nehemiah worked with the priest Ezra to restore the peoples' knowledge of the Law and to restore their covenant with God.

Late in the Book of Nehemiah, the people made a covenant with God to deliver to the temple their first fruits as a tithe to God - the best of their



grain, livestock, wine, olive oil, and so on. This was given for several reasons. First, it was a sign of obedience to God, to give your first fruits to him, and be blessed for your faithfulness, rather than selfishly keep them

for yourself. Second, these supplies would sustain the priests who served the people in the temple and would provide for the widows and orphans as a social safety net.

(Continued on page 5)

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 • Pastor George Cooper

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. Stacy Sprinkle, Pastor
 Sun. 10:00 am Sunday School
 11:00 am Worship

Forgiven Ministries

117 W. Main, Bronte
 Russ Frasier, Pastor
 Sun. 10 am

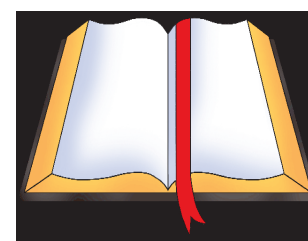
Tuesday 6 pm Table Time
St. James Catholic Church
 215 N. Washington, Bronte
 (325) 365-2687

Rev. Yesu Mulakaleti, Jr., Pastor
 Sunday Bilingual Mass 8 am

4C Cowboy Church
 Texas Theater, Downtown Bronte
 Interim Pastor Robert Lemmond
 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.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 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, (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. Yesu Mulakaleti, Pastor
 Saturday Vigil Mass 5 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 & 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

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