

THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE

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Drugs! On Sunday, April 8, 2018, Coke County Sheriff's Deputy Russell Johnson was dispatched east of Bronte on Highway 158 in reference to a hitchhiker acting strangely. Deputy Johnson made contact with the subject and observed a clear plastic bag in his hand. The subject was taken into custody for Possession of a Controlled Substance to wit Methamphetamine. The subject also had an outstanding warrant out of Tom Green County.

VP holds April meeting

Vision With A Purpose held their monthly meeting on Thursday, April 5, at 6 pm at the First United Methodist Church in Robert Lee.

Debbie Childers opened the meeting with prayer and then a meal was served. The meal was provided by Sheri and Marshall Millican.

Several new people joined us along with Abby Bounds who presented a program about the US Naval Sea Cadets Corp. VP presented a \$2000 check to the organization in order to help them on their journey to a competition to be held in Florida in May. We wish them the best.

The minutes were discussed and approved. Beverly Burdett presented the Treasurer's report and it was approved.

Dianne Hefner gave an update on the Beautification committee meeting that was held on Friday, March 30. Costs of benches, small flags and brackets to be displayed on Austin Street with the approval of the electric company, were on the agenda. New flag poles are finished and will be used on the next flag display. Sheri Millican has purchased plants to be placed in pots on Monday, April 9.

Crystal Stanford presented the latest progress on the meeting of the Restoration committee for the park playground. A meeting held on Friday, March 2 had good response and interest. Cody Bill park will be the first phase with new playsets, etc.

Robert Lee Trade Days, to be held May 5, has the community's interest. Flyers, Robert Lee Bulletin Board, Thrifty Nickel, and advertising in various papers are all giving information. Mark your calendars!

The meeting closed with prayer by Floyd Pettitt. The next meeting will be Thursday, May 3, with the location to be announced at a later date. Please join us to help Robert Lee with beautification and restoration.

On Landscapes and Expectations

by James M. Decker

In the 1980s, New York City adopted a concept called the "broken windows" theory of policing. This theory held that tolerating minor crimes like vandalism and subway turnstile jumping created an atmosphere

of disorder and lawlessness than larger, more serious crimes and issues of community disorder. Broken Windows was implemented as part of New York City's revitalization in the 1990s. There are criticisms to the theory, and certain aspects of it were applied in overly zealous fashion, but the results in New York City and elsewhere suggest the underlying theory is one worthy of discussion.

The research behind Broken Windows holds that individuals look for signals in a community as to the community's social norms. If people do not provide the signals, or if other people are not around, then the environment provides the signals through its general appearance. A disorderly landscape - litter, broken windows, and such - signals a lack of monitoring in the area and that such behavior, and even larger misbehaviors, will not be stopped. A more orderly landscape signals that disorderly behavior would be noticed and not tolerated.

Setting aside the policing and criminal aspects of this theory, this theory is instructive for improving our rural communities. High weeds in yards and vacant lots send a signal. Junk vehicles abandoned in front of houses send a signal. Litter in the streets

sends a signal. These issues may send a signal about the person who created them through their own personal action or inaction, but they also send a signal about the community at large - if you'll tolerate these issues, what else will you tolerate? And if you can't or won't do anything about these issues, do you have the means to stop bigger issues in town?

Many communities have these issues. It's not isolated to one place or another and these issues didn't pop up overnight. They tend to be the product of a long, slow deterioration in community standards and expectations. Perhaps it started out with just a little tolerance, but as resources diminished, more tolerance was given when bigger priorities needed addressing. In the moment, high weeds, junk vehicles, and litter don't seem like the highest priority, and

when there's a major water leak or a devastating loss of revenue to the city, they aren't. But in the grand scheme of things, they ARE a high priority.

Whether we realize it or not, our tolerance of these issues illustrates our community's norms and expectations. A disorderly landscape indicates that community expectations are minimal. Perceptions and attitudes flow accordingly. If a community has minimal expectations, how hard will it work to ensure its own survival, or to encourage the success of its

children? A community that sets high expectations for its weeds, junk vehicles, and trash probably has high expectations elsewhere in life.

What are your community's expectations for its landscape? Are you satisfied with them? And if not, what will you do to change them?

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 Bevly

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

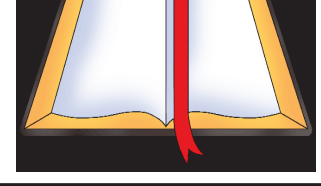
Pastor James Brunson
 Sunday, 10:30 am

Coke County

Pecan Baptist
 PO Box 542 • 12 miles West of
 Robert Lee on Sterling City Hwy

(325) 453-2065, Bill Hood, Pastor
 www.pecanbaptistchurchrl.com
 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

Retirement may be far off, but the April 17 deadline for IRA contributions isn't.

To learn more about the advantages of an Edward Jones IRA, call or visit today.

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