

THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE

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Obituaries



Leverington

Lois Jeanell Leverington went to be with our Lord on April 1, 2021.  
Graveside funeral services were provided by Shaffer Pioneer Funeral Home on Monday, April 12, at Wingate Cemetery at 11 am.  
Her full obituary may be seen on the memorial website of Shafferpioneer.com.

41-1tc



Where I'm From

By James M. Decker  
“I may not know who I am, but I know where I am from.” - Wallace Stegner  
The great Wallace Stegner, dean of Western writers, was speaking about the American West at large when he penned that immortal line about man’s purpose and connection to his place. I’ve been thinking about that line lately. Last week, I read a fine essay by Seth Wieck, a writer from the Texas Panhandle, titled “Larry McMurtry and Wendell Berry at the Dairy Queen.” It focuses on the differences and similarities between the recently-departed McMurtry and the 86 year-old Berry. If you are a fan of either author (or both, like me), I encourage you to check out Seth’s essay at FrontPorchRepublic.com. My attempt to briefly summarize it would not do it justice.  
As I get older and draw deeper into my life’s apparent purpose of rural revitalization, I find

you don’t know where you are, you don’t know who you are.” Stegner observes that this is not mere geographic knowledge, but rather true knowledge of a place. This knowledge comes “from working in it in all weathers, making a living from it, suffering from its catastrophes, loving its mornings or evenings or hot noons, valuing it for the profound investment of labor and feeling that you, your parents and grandparents, your all-but-unknown ancestors have put into it.”

Which brings me to another recent subject, Leslie Knope. As I wrote, the fictional star of NBC’s “Parks and Recreation” has remarkable passion for her own place. In the fourth season, there’s an episode called “Born and Raised.” Leslie releases a book called “Pawnee: The Greatest Town in America.” But there’s a problem. Leslie wrote that she was born and raised in Pawnee. A local journalist discovers that, in a fact concealed from Leslie by her mother for her entire life, Leslie was \*actually\* born in the vile, neighboring city of Eagleton. Pawnee’s citizens and media attack her mercilessly. She starts to question her identity that is wrapped entirely in being from Pawnee. Her boss tells her, “where you were born is a piece of trivia. Where you’re from, that’s what makes you who you are. And you are from Pawnee. You’re more Pawnee than anyone I know.”

Wendell Berry was born in Henry County, Kentucky, and after a brief sojourn as a young man, he returned in 1965 to the land that he was unquestionably from. Leslie Knope was born in Eagleton, but she was unquestionably from Pawnee. In my own piece of trivia, I was born in Seymour. Despite short periods elsewhere as an infant and a college student, I am from Stamford.

True knowledge of your place

- loving it, experiencing its difficulties, suffering with it, fighting for it - helps you truly make that place better. And if Wendell Berry and Leslie Knope have taught me anything, true knowledge of your place also

makes you a better person.  
James Decker is the Mayor of Stamford, Texas and the creator of the “West of 98” website and forthcoming podcast. Contact James and subscribe to these essays at westof98.substack.com.

UPCOMINGS!

Spring Stampede slated for May 1

RL4Restoration will hold their 2nd Annual Spring Stampede on Saturday, May 1, 2021, at the large rec hall and outdoor pavilion in Robert Lee. The event will include a pork tenderloin/pulled pork dinner beginning at 6:30 pm, dance kicking off at 8 pm, and a silent auction. Music for the dance will be provided by Robert Lee’s own Backroads West. Tickets for dinner and dance must be purchased in advance by Friday, April 23, and are available at Floyd C. Pettitt Insurance, Ivey Motors, or from any RL4Restoration member. Tickets for the dance only may be purchased at the door. The group is also seeking sponsors for the event. If you would like to become a sponsor, contact a RL4Restoration member by Friday, March 26. Sponsors from the cancelled 2020 event will be honored. Proceeds from the event will go towards the Coke County Playground

New venue to host open house event

The Ranch in Coke County is hosting an open house for their new venue, located at 15455 State Highway 208, Robert Lee, on Saturday, May 1. The event will have food available and is BYOB with live music beginning with JD Hollis at 7:30 pm and the Jack Nelson Band at 9 pm.

VP meeting scheduled for May 6

Vision with a Purpose will hold their monthly meeting on Thursday, May 6, at 6 pm. The meeting will be held at their Event Center on Austin Street in Robert Lee and a meal will be served. All are welcome to attend.

Bake Sale slated for May 7

Vision with a Purpose will host a bake sale on Friday, May 7, from 9 am until 1 pm at Robert Lee State Bank. Cakes, cookies, casseroles, and more will be available for purchase.

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  
**St. James Catholic Church**  
215 N. Washington, Bronte  
(325) 365-2687  
Rev. Yesu Mulakaleti, Jr., Pastor  
Sunday Bilingual Mass 8 am  
**4C Cowboy Church**  
Drawer R • Bronte • (325) 895-4080  
Robert Lemmond, Pastor  
Sunday, 10:30 am - Texas Theater  
Wednesday Bible Study 6 pm - 4C Feedlot Youth Building  
**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  
**Robert Lee Cowboy Church**  
James Brunson, Pastor  
(469) 834-3932  
10:30 am Sunday • Robert Lee Rec Hall  
**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  
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  
**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  
**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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