



Easter Festivities! *An Easter Extravaganza was held on Saturday, April 9, at the park in Bronte (above photo) and was enjoyed by local families. The Easter Bunny also made an appearance at Bronte Health and Rehab Center and made time to pose for a photo with some kiddos.*

ASU Honor Societies announce inductees

Angelo State University's chapter of the Alpha Chi national honor society recently inducted 20 new members for the spring 2022 semester during a ceremony in the Houston Harte University Center, including Garrett Knight of Robert Lee.

Alpha Chi is one of the nation's most prestigious honor societies that is open to students majoring in all academic disciplines. To be eligible, students must rank in the top 10% of seniors at their college or university, or in the top 7.5% of juniors.

Knight is majoring in Animal Science at Angelo State.

See the full list of inductees, listed by hometown and major, at angelo.edu/news.

The following people recently were initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines.

Local inductees include Madison Solis of Blackwell and Garrett Knight of Robert Lee.

They are among

approximately 25,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 under the leadership of undergraduate student Marcus L. Urann who had a desire to create a different kind of honor society: one that recognized excellence in all academic disciplines. Today, the Society has chapters on more than 325 campuses in the United States, its territories and the Philippines. Its mission is "To recognize and promote academic excellence in all fields of higher education and to engage the community of scholars in service to others."



A Well-Parked City

By James M. Decker

Last week, we introduced the idea that our rural communities might need more park areas, not less. I do not suggest that local governments invest limited government funds into new park areas with no direction or purpose. Believe it or not (and contrary to my wife's occasional concerns), there is a method to my madness!

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) annually surveys member cities



as to park acreage in each city. NRPA reports that its median member city has about 10 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. This definition of park land generally includes playgrounds, wilderness/natural areas, ballfields, and outdoor recreation areas that we generally consider as part of a local park system.

Our largest nearby city is Abilene and Abilene always struck me as a well-parked city. Parks large and small are scattered throughout the city, from playgrounds to ballfields to creekside natural areas to a beautiful zoo. As a child, various attractions in Abilene were destinations for school field trips, so Abilene's parks often factored into those trips for picnic lunches or other activities. Depending on which internet statistic is accurate, Abilene has between 1,000 and 1,200 park

acres for a population estimated in the range of 125,000. That places Abilene at or slightly below the national median.

What about Stamford? Using some trusty online measurements, Stamford has just over 20 acres of parks for a population of about 3,000. There are some caveats here. The 11+ acres of Harmon Park includes areas that are roughly maintained as a park on both sides of Highway 6, but the portion north of the highway is not necessarily promoted as a park. Washington Park's 2.7 acres includes adjoining property that has recently been added to the park, but for which development is in the planning stage. And to directly address a topic that I have written about before, the City of Stamford's maintenance of Washington Park has been historically neglectful.

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