

...West of 98
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Texas A&M was at a critical juncture in its history. Aggies had a celebrated record in World War II. Nine former students won the Congressional Medal of Honor and the school sent more officers to war than any school outside West Point and Annapolis. The world was changing, though. Texas A&M was a small, all-male, all-white military institution and it was being dwarfed on the educational landscape by larger universities.

Rudder opened Texas A&M to women. He integrated the student body. He made Corps of Cadets participation voluntary. These changes were unthinkable to many and unforgivable to some. After the school's military training became voluntary, some angry former students mailed Rudder their diploma and even their celebrated Aggie Ring. Over a half-century later, Rudder's foresight is obvious. Texas A&

M could have stayed the course and remained a prestigious military institute. It would have trained exemplary military officers, engineers, and agricultural scientists and remained well-respected, like schools such as the Citadel and VMI. Rudder made a series of bold steps and today, Texas A&M trains exemplary military officers, engineers, and agricultural scientists, while also becoming one of the world's foremost public research universities with the second-largest student body in America.

James Earl Rudder is one of the finest leaders that Texas A&M ever produced. That is not *because* of his actions in war and public service. His actions are the result of his qualities as a leader. I never got to talk to General Rudder, but I do not imagine that he set out to be a hero. He simply responded to the call of duty whenever it

came. When he called to lead his men up the cliffs of Pointe du Hoc, he did. When the people of Brady needed him to serve as mayor, he did. When Texas desperately needed a man of integrity to clean up the General Land Office, he did. When Texas A&M needed a leader willing to make the most difficult decisions in the university's history, with perhaps the university's entire future hinging on those decisions, he did it.

Whenever and however we are called to action - whether in our rural communities or otherwise - may we follow in the footsteps of James Earl Rudder and simply rise to the occasion.

James Decker is the Mayor of Stamford, Texas and the creator of the West of 98 website and podcast. Contact James and subscribe to these essays at westof98.substack.com and subscribe to West of 98 wherever podcasts are found.

Angelo State University announces Spring 2021 graduates

Angelo State University conferred 888 undergraduate and graduate degrees on 884 graduates during the 2021 spring commencement exercises on May 15, 2021, at the Junell Center/Stephens Arena in San Angelo, Texas.

A full list of the graduates is available on the ASU website at angelo.edu.

ASU spring graduates from our area include:

Bronte
Hannah Yevonne Brackeenm B.B.A., Hanna Grace Weatherly, B.S., magna cum laude

Blackwell
Jessie Lee Ehl M.Ed.
Angelo State University, founded in 1928, is a thriving four-year public school in Texas. Our Ram Family environment helps students feel at home, a place where they know faculty and staff care deeply about their success.

Our excellent faculty make it possible for students to conduct undergraduate research, rank above state acceptance averages for professional schools, and receive personal access to instructors and progressive facilities.

We are part of the dynamic Texas Tech University System

with campuses across the state. Angelo State has been ranked as one of The Princeton Review's "Best Colleges" in the nation since 2010, and we are also a College of Distinction. We were also recognized with a Gold Award for ranking in the top 15 of the 69 institutions in the Large Public University category that were awarded the "Military Friendly School" designation for 2021-22. We have been ranked as a Military Friendly School by Victory Media (VIQTORY) for 13 consecutive years.

For more information, log on to angelo.edu.

Angelo State University announces Spring 2021 Dean's List

Angelo State University in San Angelo, Texas, has announced the students achieving the Dean's List designation for the 2021 spring semester.

To be eligible for the ASU Dean's List, full-time undergraduate students must maintain a 3.25 or better grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

The complete Spring 2021 Dean's List is available at angelo.edu/commencement.

Students from our area making the Dean's List for spring 2021 include:

Bronte
Katelyn Bohensky, Hannah Brackeen, Tanner Braswell, Ismael Cecilio, E'lexia Davis, Melissa Perez, Alyssa Sallee, Chanel Smith, Hanna Weatherly

Robert Lee
Haylee Cason, Garrett Knight, Kandace Skipworth, Chelsea Wyatt

Blackwell
Hannah Edwards, Payton McKee, Dillon Solis, Madison Solis

Notes from...



Get Your Grill Cleaned for this Summer!

Whether your grill is the centerpiece of an outdoor kitchen or a small hibachi, a clean grill just works better. With a few tools and a little work, you will be ready to barbeque again. It is always helpful to check the owner's manual for specific instructions on cleaning your grill.

After Each Use

The key to a clean grill is to be diligent about cleaning it immediately after each use, rather than waiting until you are ready to start cooking. Besides, a warm grill is far easier to clean than a cold one. So, the next time you take the steaks off the grill, let any cooked-food residue burn away before turning it off. This is a simple thing to do while the meat "rests." Then turn off the grill and let it cool until slightly warm, then use a small wire brush to clean any food particles that remain on the cooking grates. If there is still gunk on the grates and they are removable and your sink is large enough, soak them in warm water with soap. After they have soaked for a while, remove them from the water and brush clean with a wire brush. Let them air-dry and return them to the grill.

Deep Cleaning

Most people love the smell of barbecue. But caked-on grizzle? Not so much. Yet, too many people seem to forget this important aspect of grilling and food safety. If the grill hasn't been cleaned in a while, start with the grates. If they are removable, take them out and soak them in warm water and

dish soap. Brush clean with a wire brush, and then reassemble the grill and let it air-dry. If other parts require cleaning, check the manual, and follow directions.

Sharing the Grill

When it is in your backyard or deck, it can be easy to keep the grill clean. But if you're grilling for a picnic or camping trip, the grate might not be in the best shape. Bring a small wire brush so if it looks less than appetizing you can to remove as much of the grilling debris as possible. Then fire up the grill and let the remaining residue burn off before cooking your food.

Grill Cleaning for Food Safety

Cleaning for grilling is more than just the grate! Clean surfaces, like the side table, before unpacking food, using disinfectant cleaning wipes or a spray cleaner and paper towels. Prevent cross-contamination by using different platters and utensils for raw and cooked food. After all that cleaning, do not forget to wash your wire brush!

New Texas State Park Reservation Features

Find adventure with friends and family this summer at a Texas State Park. Two new features, now available on the Texas State Park Online Reservations webpage, make it easier than ever to plan spontaneous camping trips. Visitors can now see and reserve available campsites for the same day and for the upcoming weekend.

The new Camping This Weekend tab on the online reservation system shows visitors where tent camping sites, RV/trailer sites and lodging are available for the coming weekend (Friday and Saturday nights). The search results can even be narrowed down by park or by city, so if a popular park

Please Pray for our Communities, Our County, Our State and Our Country



And Don't Forget to Pray for Rain!

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