

# THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE

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## SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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# UPCOMINGS!

## Grab-N-Go meals to continue through summer break

Robert Lee ISD will continue to serve Grab-N-Go meals curbside throughout the summer break. Pick up days will be Mondays and Wednesdays, unless a holiday falls on one of those days. If that happens, the pick up day will be the next regularly scheduled pick up day. Meals may be picked up on these days from 9 am until 10 am in front of the high school entrance. All children though the age of 18 may receive a meal.

Water Aerobics will be held each Monday from 6 pm to 7 pm.

## Library hosts Summer Reading Challenge

The Coke County Library in Robert Lee is hosting a Summer Reading Challenge. Local kids can stop by the library to pick up their reading log and books to read. Participating kids can earn a free kid's day pass to the pool. Library hours are as follows: Monday, closed; Tuesday, 8 am - 12 noon; Wednesday, 8 am - 4 pm; Thursday, 1 pm - 5 pm; and Friday, 8 am - 12 noon.

defeated a powerful empire. We know that he was our first president. We know that he's consistently ranked as one of our greatest Presidents.

But how often do we stop to fully consider the life of George Washington? The Mount Rushmore National Memorial contains the images of four specific Presidents for a reason. According to the National Park Service, sculptor Gutzon Borglum chose George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, and Theodore Roosevelt for the

memorial to represent the birth, growth, preservation, and development of the United States as a nation.

Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence and acquired the Louisiana Purchase. Lincoln held together the country in its darkest hour, giving speeches like the Gettysburg Address before giving his own life to the cause of America. Theodore Roosevelt overcome personal adversity and was a bottomless well of powerful quotes and lessons on leadership. Washington's story sometimes feels more abstract and general - we often simply laud him as the father of our country, but the specifics are worth celebrating.

George Washington was an incredibly wealthy man, even by today's standards (estimated over \$500 million when adjusted for inflation). He came from a prosperous family, but rather than resting on his laurels, he launched his family into an entirely new stratosphere of success. He inherited a sizeable estate called Mount Vernon, but ultimately became one of the largest landholders in America. Washington built a distillery that became the largest in America. He experimented with various brews of beer and whiskey. He grew a wide variety of crops, fruits, and vegetables at Mount Vernon and was the quintessential American entrepreneur, long before anyone invented "entrepreneur" as a word.

Washington's honesty and integrity has long been discussed. He was also a slave owner, but he ultimately saw the repugnancy of the institution and freed his slaves. He remains the only slave-owning President ever to do so.

Washington was something of a reluctant President and he ran for a second term to quell tension between factions that were

competing to replace him. He abhorred political parties and remains the only President never to join one. In his farewell address, he said something that bears deep consideration today:

*"However [political parties] may now and then answer popular ends, they are likely in the course of time and things, to become potent engines, by which cunning, ambitious, and unprincipled men will be enabled to subvert the power of the people and to usurp for themselves the reins of government, destroying afterwards the very engines which have lifted them to unjust dominion."*

One of the most remarkable aspects of George Washington is that he was a successful man who answered a call for public service, and then, after his time was complete, he quietly stepped

back into his successful private life. Presidential leadership was never an end goal, nor was it something that changed the trajectory of his post-presidential life. He simply answered the call, then went back to his life's work at Mount Vernon.

As we navigate our own opportunities for leadership and service, may we never forget the life of George Washington, nor minimize it into abstract generalities. Washington's integrity, his willingness to serve for service's sake with no desire to turn it into something bigger, and his disdain for political parties are all things we could learn from today.

James Decker is a lawyer, farmer, and mayor in Stamford, Texas, and the creator of the forthcoming "West of 98" podcast and website. He may be contacted through Facebook at facebook.com/james.decker.

## Bronte City Council meetings held

### May 21, 2020

The Bronte City Council met in regular session at the Blue Goose in downtown Bronte, on Thursday, May 21, 2020, at 6:30 pm. An audio recording can be requested through the Public Information Act through City Hall.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Paul Gohman and a quorum was established. Those in attendance included

Council Members Santiago Rodriguez, Lee Wommack, Steve Hines, Ron Cooper, and Stormy Vaughn, Utilities Director Ricky Royall, and City Secretary Teresa Ballard. City Attorney Eileen M. Hayman was not requested to attend the meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Paul Gohman and prayer was offered by Lee Wommack.

There were not citizen comments.

## 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

#### St. James Catholic Church

215 N. Washington, Bronte  
 (325) 365-2687

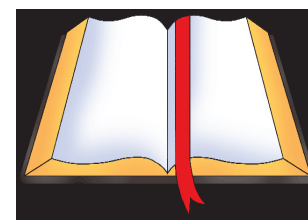
#### 4C Cowboy Church

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



## Towards Greater Unity

by James M. Decker

On Presidents' Day 2019, I wrote an ode to George Washington. I've been thinking of President Washington a lot lately. As our nation is inundated with debates about statues and the flaws and sins of our past, I think of Washington. As politicians and other actors seek to divide us for their own personal gain, I think of Washington. Washington's farewell address, written in September 19, 1796, is one of the most powerful calls to national unity ever written by an American.

Next week, I will pen an essay on Washington's farewell address and the need for unity in 2020. But as a primer of sorts, I am reprinting my 2019 essay on Washington, to refresh your memory on the man and leader that he was:

As schoolchildren, we all learn about George Washington. We come to know him as the father of our country. We know him as unfailingly honest. We learn about his brave leadership as a general, holding together a ragtag army that ultimately



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