

THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE

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UPCOMINGS!

Benefit lamb/goat show slated for September 4

The Climb benefit lamb and goat show will be held Saturday, September 4, at the Coke County Show Barn in Robert Lee. The barns will open at 5 pm on Friday, September 3, but there are limited pens available. Showing from the trailer is encouraged. The animals will be shown by breed and weight and showmanship order will be as follows: Seniors (14 and up), Juniors (9 - 13), and PeeWee (8 and under). Buckles, banners, and cash payout for the top five and buckles and banners for showmanship.

Proceeds from the event will go toward medical expenses for Ross Torres.

To pre-register or for more information, contact Ruben

Torres at (432) 234-9081 or Jonathan Torres at (325) 262-0399.

Bronte Pool to host weekly events

The Bronte Pool is hosting water aerobics each Monday evening from 6 pm until 7 pm.

They are also hosting a Teen Night each Tuesday evening from 7 pm until 9 pm. This night is set aside for junior high and high school students only.

Walk Workout & Chair Yoga held each week

A 1 mile walking workout will be held each Tuesday and Thursday beginning at 9:45 am at Bronte First United Methodist Church. Chair Yoga will then follow from 10:30 am until 11:30 am. Both activities will be held inside and any fitness levels are welcome.

For more information, contact Pastor Stacy Sprinkle at pastorstacy.bumc@gmail.com or (325) 473-3281.

Citations - 60

Total Inmates in Jail as of Monday, July 12, 2021:

Males - 3

Females - 2



Strengthening the Market

By James M. Decker

We have been talking in recent weeks about how to create good jobs in our rural communities. As evidenced by the length of this series, it is a complex topic with a lot of dimensions to it. There are no magic bullets here. If those did exist, then rural communities everywhere would have magically created hundreds of jobs and rural prosperity would be running amok.

Last week, we talked about the importance of valuing entry-level jobs as a path to growth and creating a larger, better labor force. Improving your labor force is critical to attracting more jobs to a community, because it is a futile effort to attract jobs that cannot be filled.

After writing that essay, I saw a discouraging report from the National Low Income Housing Coalition. According to new research, an employee making minimum wage cannot currently afford to rent a two-bedroom apartment or home anywhere in America. There are plenty of crazy dynamics at play within the American housing market right now, including right here in Stamford. For the first time in my adult life, the housing market in Stamford is extremely hot. Houses are selling for full listing price with multiple interested parties. If a listing comes on the market, you better move fast. The rental market is

even more difficult. This is not isolated to Stamford by any means. I could (and need to) write a whole series of essays about rural housing, but let's stay focused on jobs for now.

It remains to be seen whether these real estate dynamics are a short-term phenomenon or if they are here to stay. Regardless, it was already exceedingly difficult to make ends meet for the lowest end of the wage scale and housing costs are making it impossible. I am certainly not stumping for government intervention into wages, because I have enough agricultural economics training to know that market distortions cause all sorts of unintended consequences. What I AM stumping for is our rural employers to take the lead and find the best ways to support their employees.

I have done this in my own business and we are having these conversations at the City of Stamford right now as we plan our budget for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. The City of Stamford has excellent benefits. Our pension program is fully funded and our health insurance is very good. However, non-cash benefits are only part of the sales pitch to a young employee with a family. Non-cash benefits don't pay a mortgage, childcare, or a car payment. I applaud all employers who provide good

benefits, particularly as health insurance costs have spiraled out of sight. However, it all starts with wages. If you do not pay a good wage, you will struggle to retain employees, no matter how good the benefits. This includes starting wages, opportunities to receive raises, and bonuses.

I am not going to tell you I have all the answers. I am merely one rural mayor and business owner. I have made good decisions about employees, wages, and benefits. I have also made bad decisions. I would like to take some of those bad decisions back, but since that is not possible, I have done my best to learn from them.

As we work to improve rural economies, we have got to strengthen our existing employers and our labor force. There is a lot of data that suggests wages in America are not keeping up with inflation or the overall accumulation of wealth. That is distressing and harmful to the middle class and working class. I cannot do much about America at large, but I can be a voice in our rural economies. As an employer and a leader myself, I want to do a better job of providing better wages to our rural workers and I encourage other employers to examine when and where they might be able to do the same. By doing that, we make our jobs more desirable and we make our

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

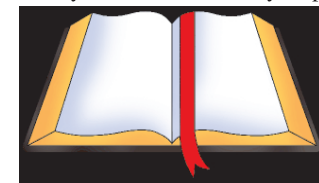
Robert Lee

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



June 2021

The Coke County Sheriff's Office answered 452 calls for the month of June 2021.

Sheriff's Information Report - 6

- Welfare Concern - 2
- Civil Matter - 5
- Criminal Mischief - 2
- Domestic Disturbance - 5
- Criminal Trespass - 1
- Runaway Juvenile - 2
- Burglary - 1
- Theft - 1
- Evading Arrest - 1
- Fraud/Scam Transactions - 3
- Out of City Limits Cat Bite - 1
- Out of City Limits Dog Bite Causing Injury - 1
- Public Service (includes funerals, court, motorist assist, alarm calls, etc) - 257

- MHMR Interactions - 3
- Civil Process - 1
- Prisoner Transport - (including arrest and to and from court) - 4
- Warrants Served - 1
- Livestock Calls - 29
- Accidents - 3
- Blue Forms Issued - 1
- Accident Assist - 6
- Traffic Stops - 87
- Traffic Stops Resulting in

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