

of Abilene, Texas, William, Brandy, and Julian Gunter of Point Blank, Texas.

Frank Otis King family: None
George King family: None
Lillie King Gaines family: None

Dave King family: Joyce and Bobby Walker of Robert Lee,

Texas; Jarrod, Laurel, Felicity and Kagan Holder of Odessa, Texas.

Mae King Blair family: None
R.B. King Family: None
Visitors for the day were David Hadley of Abilene, Texas, and Chris Delgado of Merkel, Texas.

within the facility. Games are still being played and birthdays are still being celebrated. And, speaking of birthdays, there are some residents celebrating July birthdays. Happy birthday to Charlotte Millican and Margie Smith.

Wishing everyone a blessed and safe 4th of July!

West Coke County Hospital District Board meeting held

by Pat Stephens

The Board of Directors of the West Coke County Hospital District met in regular session in the old jail annex building, June 23, 2020. The board would like to again express sincere appreciation to the Historical Committee for the use of their facilities for our meetings during this time. President Pat Stephens called the meeting to order at 3 pm, declared a quorum was present, and gave the invocation. Board members present were Beverly Burdett, Noel Tinkler, and Judie Andrews. Houston McGuire - RLCC Administrator, Janie Munoz - BOM, Chris Martin - Consultant, and Roger Alexander - WCCHD Administrator, were also present at the meeting. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved and there were no absentees from that meeting.

The Administrator gave his report.

There are 44 residents in the Care Center as of the meeting date. The facility is currently in need of CNA's, PRN workers in kitchen, housekeeping and laundry.

The DSO currently stands at 44, and an update was given on the QIPP program.

Under building maintenance, Houston reported on the aesthetic improvements to the facility. The inside work is still on hold due to the facility lockdown due to the COVID-

19 pandemic. The facility RO system needs replacing. One bid has been received and Houston is waiting on a second one.

The Administrator also informed the Board of a Special Infection Control Assessment which would take place the following day, June 24, at the facility.

TeleHealth Services are going great and are extremely beneficial to the residents at the facility.

Accounts Receivable were discussed.

The financial statements were discussed and accepted.

The board elected officers for the upcoming year as follows: President - Beverly Burdett, Vice President - Pat Stephens, and Secretary - Judie Andrews.

Future agenda items were discussed and listed. A budget workshop will be set for sometime in July.

The next regular meeting date is July 28, 2020. The public is invited to attend.

The calendar for the month of July is still in lockdown mode, with hopes of possible loosening some of the State regulations soon. Lots of in house fun and activities going on, but still can't have visitors to attend, and observing social distancing



Sincere Emotions

by James M. Decker

Our world has a problem with emotions. Men are criticized for crying or showing "too much" emotion. It's not "manly." Women have been criticized for having emotions and some have had the audacity to suggest that a woman's emotions limit her ability to be a leader. Minorities have been criticized for expressing their emotions (I won't go into the varying stereotypes that have been used in that regard). In short, unless you are completely stoic and emotionless, society is likely to criticize you for sharing your emotions.

This has long bothered me. Our cultural revulsion at sincere human emotions leads to dysfunction in friendships and family relationships. I have heard too many stories of sons and daughters who never heard "I love you" from a parent. The parent undoubtedly loved them, but didn't think it was appropriate to share emotions

like that.

When I think about the root causes of this problem, I see it as a problem with sincerity in our culture. This goes far deeper than just a parent saying "I love you." Our culture, for many years, has objected to sincerity. Recently, Russell Moore, president of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, wrote an insightful newsletter on this very topic, discussing it through the context of television. As he observed, television in the 1950s to the 1970s was rife with over-the-top sentimentality (*The Brady Bunch*, *Leave it to Beaver*, and *The Andy Griffith Show* come to mind). This era of television was great, but it probably was not a sincere reflection of society. This was followed by an era which saw the rise of shows that avoided sincerity at all costs - Moore uses *Seinfeld* and *South Park* as examples - and used irony and absurdity as a layer of protection from sincere emotions. I'm one of the world's foremost *Seinfeld* fans, but there's not a lot of sincerity there.

Moore brings up the observations of the late author David Foster Wallace, who saw comedy tools like irony and sarcasm as a good method to illuminate hypocrisy. However, when those tools are used without some sort of accompanying sincerity, they become destructive and not constructive. Wallace saw that destruction as leading to corrosion of the soul.

It is hard to disagree. The internet has only made this worse. I think back to my days in college and law school, when I spent too much time on internet message boards, mostly

discussing sports. Sarcasm is the language of the internet and when you spend too much time engaged in it, it becomes your first language. It becomes your defensive mechanism, and it becomes your response to everything. This eventually became tiresome to me. I experienced that very corrosiveness that Wallace talked about. Everything was a joke. Serious topics received a snarky response. When you start to see the world through that prism, you eventually begin to see the world ONLY through that prism.

When you have a culture driven by television and internet that centers around irony and sarcasm, and the snarky remarks that come with it, that is when you have a culture that recoils from sincere emotions. Vulnerability is to be mocked. Real emotions are to be avoided.

Moore made an interesting observation on television in recent years, pointing to shows like *The Office* and *Parks and Recreation* as a resurgence of sincerity in television - sitcoms about regular people doing regular jobs, and even if they have very little in common personally, they can still appreciate one another and realize that most of the time, people are striving for the same things in life like love and fulfillment. Moore sees the success of these shows as a sign that America craves sincerity in this snarky, ironic, sarcasm-filled age. We share posts on Facebook and we fire off smart-aleck tweets, but in reality, we crave sincerity.

I am currently reading Doris Kearns Goodwin's "Team of Rivals" about President Lincoln and his Cabinet (comprised of his rivals for the presidential nomination in 1860).

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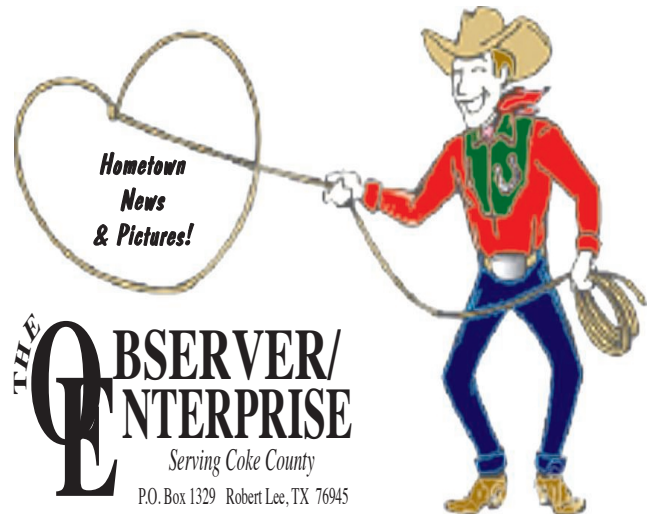
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