

School Menu

Blackwell CISD
Breakfast

Wednesday, August 15
Assorted cereal, fruit, juice, milk

Thursday, August 16
Breakfast pizza, fruit, juice, milk

Friday, August 17
Donuts, fruit, juice, milk

Lunch
Wednesday, August 15

Pizza, bread sticks, corn, salad, milk

Thursday, August 16
Sloppy Joe, chips, baby carrots, milk

Friday, August 17
Hot dog, chili and cheese, tator tots, milk



Imposing Your Will

by James M. Decker

It’s no secret that I’m a fan of University of Alabama head football coach Nick Saban. Perhaps the greatest college football coach of all time, Saban is also a master of leadership and management. Far beyond relying on coaching clichés and worn-out motivational tropes, Saban is a student of psychology and management science who truly understands how to make people better for the good of the individual and the larger organization.

Recently, after one of Alabama’s August football practices, Saban told the media something that struck me as particularly meaningful right now. Coaches often talk about their team “imposing their will” on an opponent; that is, the team, not the opponent, dictates the outcome of the game. Every team strives for this, but as with all greatness, it’s easier said than done. Nick Saban, seeing the big picture, said this:

“If you’re going to impose your will on someone else, the first thing you have to do is impose your will on yourself.”

Whether we use this lingo or not, those of us in community leadership desire something akin to a football team imposing its will on its opponent. We have ideas to improve our community that we believe to be worthwhile. We seek to implement those ideas and influence the community’s future, rather than sitting back and letting others dictate the future.

But before we can influence the future of our community, we have to impose our will on ourselves. Do we have what it

takes to actually accomplish our goals? Plenty of people have great ideas, but do we have the respect and trust within our community that will allow the community to listen to us? Do we have the confidence in our ideas and the necessary self-discipline to persevere when the going gets tough? There’s a long line of folks who showed up in a new town, or back in their hometown, and, without any respect or trust, their great ideas promptly fell on deaf ears. Others started a great idea, got some support, and then when they hit a wall, rather than persevering, they got frustrated and gave up.

Moreover, do we have the discipline to actually live out the ideals that we’re projecting onto the community? Are we agitating about junked-up properties but somewhat lax about mowing our own high weeds? Are we personally encouraging local business by shopping locally? What if we’re campaigning for people to visit our town and move here, but we personally spend most of our weekends out of town?

These are not easy, comfortable questions. All of us, myself included, can likely stand to improve in some form or fashion. But when we DO live out the ideals we have for our community and when we ARE willing to do what it takes to improve our community, that’s when we start imposing our will on our own lives and great things will blossom around us.



Cheer Camp! The Robert Lee Junior High and High School Cheerleaders participated in Crazy Day during the Mini-Cheer camp held last week at Robert Lee ISD.

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

VP meetings held

Vision with A Purpose has been busy with meetings the month of July.

On July 18, two back-to-back meetings were held with the first being a Long Range Planning meeting, chaired by Floyd Pettitt. The second was the Executive meeting, chaired by President Nancy Wilson and made up of VP officers. Budgets were

discussed and assigned and future programs and ideas are being planned.

The Hunter’s Bar-B-Q committee met at their offices in Robert Lee on Monday, July 23. Jeffie Roberts, chairman, called the meeting to order. The Bar-B-Q will be held opening day of hunting season, Saturday, November 3. Again, VP is asking for help and cooperation from the community. It was a great success last year because of lots of involvement from organizations and the community and it is needed this year in order to put on a successful event. This is a community-sponsored event,

not just VP.

On July 27, the 2018 Christmas committee met at their headquarters. They want to expand the celebration this year, starting with opening the new office where food will be available and more decorations up and down Austin Street and in the downtown area. VP is opening up the opportunity for organizations to set up for food and/or activity booths. More information will follow. Santa, pictures, and hayrides are in the works also. The celebration will be held Saturday, December 8, and all are invited to this very family-friendly event.

Bronte JV Lady Longhorns
Volleyball Schedule

August 7	Colorado City	Home	12 pm
August 10/11	Albany Tourney	Away	TBA
August 14	Sonora	Away	TBA
August 21	Clyde	Away	5:30 pm
August 28	Jim Ned	Home	5:30 pm
September 1	Clyde Tourney	Away	TBA
September 4	Clyde	Home	5:30 pm
September 8	Veribest	Home	12 pm
September 11	Water Valley	Away	5:30 pm
September 15	Sterling City	Home	12 pm
September 22	Paint Rock	Home	12 pm
September 25	Rochelle	Away	5:30 pm
September 29	Abilene Christian HS	Away	12 pm
October 2	Veribest	Away	5:30 pm
October 6	Water Valley	Home	12 pm
October 9	Sterling City	Away	5:30 pm
October 13	Miles	Away	12 pm
October 16	Paint Rock	Away	5:30 pm
October 20	Rochelle	Home	12 pm
October 23	OPEN		