

**...West of 98**

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Decades and centuries from now, they will be even more majestic. Folks will look at them in awe. They won't know who to thank and it won't matter. They were not planted for the rewards and the instant gratification of a thank you. They were planted because it was good.

One of Wendell Berry's most important lessons to me is to plant sequoias, because it is good and it leaves the world better as a result. On this occasion of his 90th birthday we plant sequoias, literal and metaphorical, throughout our lives. It is good and it will leave the world better as a result.

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

**Bronte student-athlete earns national award**

Eighty-four Angelo State University student-athletes, including Katelyn Bohensky of Bronte, have received 2023-24 Academic Achievement Awards from the Division II Athletic Directors Association (D2 ADA).

To be recognized, student-athletes must have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.5, have completed at least two years of college work, and be a member of an intercollegiate team during the last academic year.

Bohensky is majoring in Civil Engineering at Angelo State.

See more details at [angelosports.com](http://angelosports.com).

**Veteran suicide awareness ruck hikes scheduled**

September is National Suicide Prevention Month, and 16 Texas State Parks will be hosting hikes to shed light on this issue, which affects many veterans and their loved ones. The Veteran Suicide Awareness Ruck Hike, an annual event organized by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)

Veteran's Liaison Nicole Mechler, allows families, friends and veterans to network and build a support system, as well as spread the word about veteran-specific mental health issues.

The second annual Ruck Hike isn't taking place just on traditional park trails. The event features different kinds of "trails," including kayak and swim races, yoga sessions and guest speakers. Although the event is not a fundraiser, veteran and military groups have collaborated with participating parks to provide resources on site.

"We are so excited to have more parks involved in this initiative," said Mechler. "We encourage veterans from around the state to take part in these events and enjoy what Texas State Parks have to offer. There is no need to sign up for any of the park's activities, just show up!"

The following parks are hosting events throughout the month:

- Sept. 7 at 8:30 a.m. – Hueco Tanks State Park and Historic Site
- Sept. 14 from 2-4 p.m. – Swim Race at Balmorhea State Park
- Sept. 21 from 2-4 p.m. – Atlanta State Park
- Sept. 21 from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. – Brazos Bend State Park
- Sept. 21 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. – Cedar Hill State Park
- Sept. 21 from 10 a.m.-2p.m. – Eisenhower State Park
- Sept. 21 at 8 and 10 a.m. – Purtil Creek State Park
- Sept. 22 at 10 a.m. – Yoga before hiking at Dinosaur Valley State Park
- Sept. 28 at 9 a.m. – Abilene State Park
- Sept. 28 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. – Kayaking at Cooper Lake State Park
- Sept. 28 from 9 a.m.-11 a.m. – Daingerfield State Park
- Sept. 28 at 9 a.m. – Garner State Park
- Sept. 28 at 7:30 a.m. – McKinney Falls State Park
- Sept. 29 at 9 a.m.-12 p.m. – Government Canyon State Natural Area
- Sept. 29 at 10 a.m. – Possible water activities before hiking at Inks Lake State Park



**Kickoff!** Coke County 4-H held their kickoff event for the new school year on Monday, August 5, at the County Park in Robert Lee. Activities including team building exercises, community service projects, contests, and crafts.

Sept. 30 from 5-8 p.m. – Paddleboarding at Lake Bob Sandlin State Park

If there are any questions about the events, feel free to reach out to [Vetcontact@TPWD.Texas.Gov](mailto:Vetcontact@TPWD.Texas.Gov).

**Fishing Hall of Fame accepting nominations**

The Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame committee is seeking nominations for next year's induction into the hall of fame. Nominees can be either individuals or organizations who've made important contributions to fishing in Texas. Applications are being accepted through Nov. 1.

"The Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame is made up of a growing list of 39 individuals and organizations who have made a significant



impact on freshwater fishing in the state," said Kelly Jordon, Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame selection committee chairman. "Whether it's an

outdoor writer, pro angler, fishing club or industry leader, we look forward to continuing to honor and recognize everyone helping to make Texas fishing

**SHOP LOCAL**



**PUBLIC NOTICE  
PUBLIC HEARING**

**2024-2025 COKE COUNT BUDGET**

The Coke County Commissioners' Court will hold a public hearing on the 2024-2025 budget on August 26, 2024, at 9:00 am, at the Coke County Courthouse, 13 7th St, Robert Lee, TX 76945.

**THIS BUDGET WILL RAISE MORE REVENUE FROM PROPERTY TAXES THAN LAST YEAR'S BUDGET BY AN AMOUNT OF \$131,563, WHICH IS A 4.92 PERCENT INCREASE FROM LAST YEAR'S BUDGET. THE PROPERTY TAX REVENUE TO BE RAISED FROM NEW PROPERTY ADDED TO THE TAX ROLL THIS YEAR IS \$38,050.00.**