

Notebook paper - 2 packages
 Disinfectant Wipes - 2 tubs
 Kleenex - 3 boxes
 Supply Box or Bag
 Expo Markers - 1 package

Composition Notebooks - 3
 3-ring Binder - 1 (1 inch)
 Small Ziploc Bags
 Folders w/holes and pockets - 3
 Pencil Top Erasers

triumph. I have no doubt we will continue to do so. God bless those who have suffered and God bless those who have risen up to defend the defenseless.

“vacant.” The author found good, hardworking people who support their community and its youth. I concluded that essay with the following:

“Vacant buildings can be changed. It’s a lot harder to change a culture of vacant people. When I read over the words in that article, I am energized to ensure that the buildings and economy of Stamford match its people.”

I’ve been thinking more about that lately. Have you ever passed by the same vacant structure repeatedly for a period of multiple years? I’m thinking of some old farmhouses and barns on long abandoned homesteads, in which the current farmer now lives in town or in a newer house up the road. One day, you look up and that building is gone. Maybe it had help from a fire or a bulldozer’s blade. Or maybe it just slowly deteriorated day by day, week by week, year by year. The intermittent changes were slow enough to be imperceptible to the passerby. You didn’t notice the daily decline until the building just quietly sank into a

heap on the ground.

There’s something about vacancy that destroys a building. You might’ve learned that if you’ve ever compared the cost of insurance on a vacant building to the cost for an inhabited building. You would think that traffic and wear and tear would be harder on a building. In reality, it’s much more destructive for a building to sit silent and vacant. Vacant buildings deteriorate much faster than inhabited buildings. That’s why vacant building insurance is exponentially more expensive.

This concept randomly came up in Sunday school a few weeks ago. In the second chapter of the Book of James, James admonishes Christians to live out their faith through action. He asks “what good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds?” What good are we to encourage others in need, but do nothing to actually help their needs? He closes this discussion with this line: *“in the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”*

(Continued on page 8)

Good advice from rural Sheriff

[Editor’s Note: The article below is a reprint of a Facebook post by Eddy County, New Mexico Sheriff Mark Cage.]

In the wake of the recent mass shootings and several rumors being spread of more pending, I feel it necessary to address a couple of aspects relating to this issue.

New Mexico is statutorily an open carry/concealed carry state. My opinion is that concealed carry is a more tactically sound option, but it is ultimately up to the individual. ECSCO (Eddy County Sheriff’s Office), NMSP (New Mexico State Police), and local police can’t be everywhere at once in a county spanning over 5 thousand square miles. In the event that violence breaks out, you may be the first line of defense for yourself and loved ones as law enforcement responds. Although we still endorse the “run, hide, fight” theory for non-law enforcement personnel, the folks present at the time will ultimately make their own decisions based upon their individual levels of expertise and the situation.

My advice is to be prepared at all times. Train and plan for bad things to happen. Even if you don’t carry, always have a plan for escape and defense. If you carry, please do so in a responsible, effective manner. Know and follow the four basic firearms rules, know your weapon and how to deploy it safely and effectively, and know your own limitations as well as the law.

None of the heroes who emerged in these tragic situations sought that role out; it was thrust upon them and they rose to the occasion. Are you prepared to defend yourself and/or others if the situation arises? Are you confident and well-trained in the weapon you carry (if you carry)? Please don’t put folks in worse danger by carrying and deploying a firearm you cannot operate safely and accurately. Know when to run and hide and know when to fight.

When law enforcement arrives be aware that we may have no idea who the good guy is and who the bad guy is. Assumptions get people killed and we will be very cautious arriving at the scene. Show us your hands immediately and NEVER point a weapon in our direction. Follow our orders and understand that our immediate mission is to neutralize the threat as quickly and effectively as possible. We will probably not be saying please and thank you.

I am a staunch advocate of lawful, responsible concealed carry and the rights of citizens to defend themselves by deadly force, if necessary and justified.

We live in rural America where the number of law enforcement officers is nowhere close to enough to address all aspects of public safety at all times. There is a reason the statute books allow me as sheriff to call on any citizen to assist me if the need arises. Be prepared, be safe and always aware of your surroundings, escape routes and cover/concealment options.

Times have changed and they will continue to change. Avoiding victimization is your personal responsibility and how you chose to react to situations can have a very meaningful impact on the outcome for yourself and others. As American and New Mexicans, we are very resilient, resourceful people who always find a way to rise to the occasion and



Vacancy and Life

by James M. Decker

My very first essay, written way back in November of 2017, was entitled “On Vacant Buildings and Vacant People.” It was inspired by a national sportswriter’s visit to Stamford, in which the author noted Stamford’s vacant buildings. However, he also noted something more important, something that captivated him—its people. The people themselves were far from

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON COKE CENTRAL APPRAISAL DISTRICT BUDGET

The Coke County Appraisal District will hold a public hearing on a proposed budget for the 2020 fiscal year.

The public hearing will be held on August 19, 2019 at 5:30 pm at the Coke County Courthouse, second floor jury room.

A summary of the appraisal district budget follows:

The total amount of the proposed budget	\$ 232,925.00
The total amount of increase/decrease over the Current year’s budget	\$ 5,800.00
The number of employees compensated under The proposed budget	2
The number of employees compensated under The current budget	2

The appraisal district is supported solely by payments from the local taxing units served by the appraisal district.

If approved by the appraisal district board of directors at the public hearing, this proposed budget will take effect automatically unless disapproved by the governing bodies of the county, school districts, cities and towns served by the appraisal district.

A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection in the office of each of these governing bodies. A copy is also available for public inspection at the appraisal district office.

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