

Our Hometown

2019 Guide to Lamesa & Dawson County



Lamesa
Press Reporter





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Table of Contents

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 4-5 Annual Events | 23 Churches |
| 6 New Pavilion | 24 Hospital |
| Public Parks | 25 Healthcare Providers |
| 7 Municipal Golf Course | 26 Senior Services |
| Disk Golf | West Texas Opportunities |
| Youth Sports | 27 Emergency Help |
| 8 Lamesa Community Players | 28 County Government |
| Movieland | 29 County History |
| 9 Dal Paso Museum | Cemetery |
| 10 Boys & Girls Club | 30 City of Lamesa |
| County Library | 31 State & Federal Officials |
| 11 CFS Festival | Underground Water District |
| 12 Organizations | 32 Ackerly |
| 13 Chamber of Commerce | 33 O'Donnell |
| 14 Housing Projects | 34 Welch |
| 16 Agriculture | 35 Lamesa School District |
| 17 Oil Industry | 36 Dawson School District |
| Rainfall | 37 Klondike School District |
| 18 Wind & Solar Energy | 38 O'Donnell School District |
| 19 State Prison | 39 Sands School District |
| Sand Mining | 40 Howard College |
| 20 Economic Development | Christian Women's Job Corp |
| 21 Hunting & Fishing | 41 Head Start |
| Veterinary Care | 42 Lodging & Dining |
| 22 Airport | |
| News Media | |

Index of Advertisers

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Arvana Gin | 42 |
| Bethel-Nix Realty | 11 |
| Branon Funeral Home | 32 |
| Caprock Irrigation | 31 |
| Chamber/LEDC | 15 |
| Claiborne's Thriftway | 43 |
| Davis Furniture & Hardware | 22 |
| First Church of the Nazarene | 40 |
| First Presbyterian Church | 41 |
| First United Bank | 40 |
| First United Methodist Church | 13 |
| Gonzales Funeral Home | 33 |
| Grace Lutheran Church | 34 |
| Henry Norris Agency | 20 |
| Hill Insurance Agency | 17 |
| Isabel Molina Family Medicine | 27 |
| Jeanie Coor Statefarm | 21 |
| Jones McCall Pharmacy | 36 |
| Lamesa Bearing | 21 |
| Lamesa Church of Christ | 10 |
| Lamesa Movieland Theatre | 8 |
| Lamesa National Bank | 2 |
| Lamesa Physical Therapy | 13 |
| Lynn County Hospital District | 38 |
| Lyntegar Electric Co-op | 36 |
| McCall's by Julie | 22 |
| McDonald's | 41 |
| Ortiz Construction | 33 |
| Pedroza's | 39 |
| Pedroza's Travel Agency | 25 |
| ProAgri Spraying | 14 |
| Raider Pump & Supply | 37 |
| Ricky Minjarez | 13 |
| Dr. Robert K. Orr | 39 |
| Rose Plumbing | 27 |
| Sharon Youngblood Realty | 38 |
| Sissy's Dive | 9 |
| Sonic | 20 |
| South Plains Abstract Co. | 32 |
| State National Bank | 24 |
| Thairapy | 9 |
| U.S. Silica | 44 |

Lamesa Press Reporter

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Annual community events

JANUARY

Southern Mesa Agriculture Conference

Crop management practices and regulations affecting agriculture are the focus of this conference held at the Forrest Park Community Center. The program includes speakers from various agriculture agencies. It is sponsored by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension.

Dawson County Junior Livestock Show

Held at the Dawson County Fair Barn about the third week in January, the livestock show features lambs, goats, pigs and steers shown by 4-H members throughout the county as well as FFA students in the Lamesa, Dawson, Klondike and O'Donnell school districts. The show, which includes a premium auction to help reward top exhibitors, also funds scholarships for selected graduating seniors from the participating schools.

Aim HIGH

An event for Lamesa High School students, Aim HIGH includes a top motivational speaker for a high school assembly and various other LHS alumni and others meeting with student groups throughout the day.

Kiwanis Pancake Supper

Over its 68-year history, the Lamesa Kiwanis Club's annual pancake supper has become a much-anticipated event. More than 700 people normally show up during a four-hour span for all the pancakes, bacon and sausage they can eat. Scheduled the last Saturday in January, the event is held in the Lamesa High School Cafeteria and included musical entertainment this year. Proceeds are used by the club to support various community projects.



FEBRUARY - MARCH

Chamber of Commerce Banquet

The Lamesa Area Chamber of Commerce's annual banquet introduces new officers and directors of the organization while also recognizing those who have finished their terms of service. The event includes a catered meal, entertainment, and presentation of awards such as the Business of the Year, Man of the Year and Woman of the Year.



Rotary Club Scholarship Banquet

The Lamesa Rotary Club holds a dinner with live musical entertainment, accompanied by a silent auction, to raise funds for the organization's various scholarship funds.

Movieland Dinner & Theater

For the past 18 years the Friends of Movieland organization has held a dinner and special movie showing as part of its annual membership drive to raise funds for the non-profit Movieland Theater.

April

Easter Egg Hunts

Several local organizations and churches normally host Easter egg hunts for children during the Easter weekend. Churches also plan special services for Easter Sunday.

LaCopa Awards

The Lamesa Community Players theater organization recognizes the best actors and performances from the previous year and honors volunteers and supporters of the organization. New officers and directors also are introduced at the event. The date of the event varies, as it is held in conjunction with the organization's first production of the year.

Chicken Fried Steak Festival

Celebrating Lamesa as the legendary home of the chicken fried steak, this event is held on the last weekend in April at Forrest Park. Started in 2011, it quickly



became Lamesa's largest annual event. Promoting the overall theme is a chicken fried steak cookoff and a chicken fried steak dinner. Hosted by the City of Lamesa with support from the Lamesa Area Chamber of Commerce, the celebration includes a hot-air balloon rally, musical entertainment, numerous booths with food and other items, a team roping competition, wine tasting, classic car show, tumbling demonstrations, and various other activities.

MAY

Williams Walk

Hosted by the family of a local child with Williams Syndrome, this event raises funds to assist individuals and families affected by the cardiovascular disease. Held at the Lamesa High School football field, the event includes a meal and various activities.

JUNE

Lamesa Youth Day

Normally held in late May or early June, Lamesa Youth Day is sponsored by the Unite Lamesa Association. The event features a variety of activities to share the Lord's message in a non-denominational way and provide entertainment for the entire family. Usual activities include a softball tournament, prayer breakfast, games, several speakers, and musical entertainment both by local groups and some well-known gospel performers such as Micah Tyler and Sanctus Real.

July

Independence Day Celebration

Sponsored by the Lamesa Area Chamber of Commerce, the local Independence Day celebration is held at Forrest Park. The all-day event normally includes a parade, booths offering food and merchandise, live music, a team roping competition across the street at the rodeo arena, and a wide variety of other events. Putting the finishing touches on the day's events is a giant fireworks display launched from the parking area of rodeo grounds.



MS Bike: Cactus and Crude Ride

Lamesa hosts an overnight stopover with meals for a two-day, 150-mile bicycle ride from Midland to Lubbock to raise money for multiple sclerosis research and services. The 2018 event included 253 riders, plus support personnel, and raised about \$408,000.

offer array of activities

AUGUST



Lamesa Rodeo

The first weekend in August is rodeo time in Lamesa. For three straight nights the Lamesa Rodeo Association hosts roping and riding events at the rodeo arena on S. Houston Ave. It has recently been dubbed the "richest rodeo" because it gives the biggest cash prize in the area. In addition to the traditional rodeo events, activities include a parade, nightly calf scramble and nickel scramble for youngsters, crowning of a rodeo queen, and the finals of the association's team roping, calf roping and junior barrels competition. A women's steer scramble was added to the schedule in 2018.

Livestock Show Reverse Drawing

Each year the Dawson County Junior Livestock Show sells tickets to a reverse drawing for an opportunity to win a new pickup. The drawing is held during a steak dinner at the Forrest Park Community Center. Funds are used to assist with the annual Dawson County Junior Livestock Show and Scholarship Fund.

Back-to-School Giveaway

For 20 years a number of Lamesa churches have joined together with various local organizations to provide Dawson County students with new and used clothing, school supplies, and hygiene supplies for the approaching school year. The event assists several hundred children each year.

September

United Fund Drive

Starting in September and normally running until November, the drive raises money for the Dawson County United Fund. That fund provides financial assistance to various community organizations, including the Lamesa Boys and Girls Club, Dawson County Senior Citizens Center and Dawson County Teen Court.

Fiestas Patrias

For more than 50 years Lamesa has held a traditional celebration of Mexico's independence from Spain, achieved at a time when Texas was part of Mexico. Sponsored by the local Knights of Columbus, the event usually is held the weekend closest to Sept. 16 and sometimes spans two days. The celebration in Forrest Park usually includes a parade, food and game booths, music, dancing and the crowning of queens in several age categories.



October

Health Fair

Each fall Medical Arts Hospital hosts a Health Fair featuring services by various health and wellness vendors, activities and information, and free screenings for such things as blood sugar and cholesterol.

Halloween events

A variety of Halloween activities are held here each year, including costume contests organized by the Lamesa Area Chamber of Commerce. A trunk-or-treat event on the downtown square attracts hundreds of costumed children who visit dozens of booths set up by various individuals and organizations giving away candy and other items.

November

Veterans Day

Lamesa recognizes its military veterans with a variety of activities on Veterans Day. All veterans are invited to a free breakfast and program hosted by Lamesa High School student organizations. Later in the morning, the Lamesa Middle School Student Council hosts a special program, with music and a guest speaker, in honor of all veterans. North Elementary also normally has a program to honor veterans.

Denim and Dust Expo

Sometimes called "a street fair on the square," the Expo features a variety of vendors with booths offering arts, crafts, retail products and food. The Chamber of Commerce assists with the event, which features both indoor and outdoor booths.

Community Thanksgiving Service

Various churches in Lamesa unite to hold a joint worship service on the Sunday evening before Thanksgiving. The site for the service is rotated among churches with facilities large enough to host the event.

Thanksgiving Meal

For the past nine years, numerous donors and volunteers have worked together to provide a free Thanksgiving meal to those in need. This past year about 75-100 people were served meals at the Lamesa High School cafeteria, and another 200 or so were delivered to residents at various locations around the community.

December

Jingle Mingle

Jingle Mingle, held in conjunction with a canned food drive, is an event to raise money and collect food for Lamesa's Feed One Food Bank, which helps feed between 275 and 350 families per month.

Boys and Girls Club Gala

The Lamesa Boys and Girls Club hosts a themed dinner with live music and silent auction to raise money for the local organization.

Lights of Love

Lights of Love is an annual effort, sponsored by the Dawson County Child Welfare Board, to collect toys and clothing to give to the children of needy families at Christmas time.

Junior High Girls Basketball Tournament

The Lamesa school system and the Lamesa Area Chamber of Commerce host a two-day junior high girls basketball tournament. Separate divisions are held for eighth grade and seventh grade teams.

Follis Boys Basketball Tournament

Named for the legendary Lamesa basketball coach who passed away a few years ago, the O.W. Follis Basketball Tournament is sponsored by the Lamesa Area Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with the Lamesa school district. The event was only a boys tournament for many years before a girls' division was added in 2018.

Christmas on the Square

The Lamesa Area Chamber of Commerce hosts an evening of activities which include an appearance by Santa and Mrs. Claus, open house at various businesses, activities at the Dawson County Library, musical entertainment and more. The Chamber also hosts Christmas decorating and light contests.





NEW PAVILION

The new open-air pavilion on the north side of the Boys and Girls Club lake was built with funds donated by the Weaver Foundation, Wilton Foundation, and Lamesa Kiwanis Club.

LPR photo

Open-air pavilion graces local lake

Construction of an open-air pavilion, retaining wall, walkway and restroom facilities at Lamesa Boys and Girls Club Lake was completed in May of 2018 at a cost of just under \$475,000.

In addition to the construction of those items, an aeration system also was installed for the lake.

Other than in-kind labor by city personnel and equipment to prepare the site for construction, as well as completing the water and sewer connections for the restrooms, no city funds were used for the project.

A total of \$550,900 was raised for the project with \$425,000 from the William M. Weaver Foundation, \$70,000 from The Wilton Foundation and \$55,000 from the Kiwanis Club of Lamesa.

Some of the money donated was spent on architectural and engineering fees, as well as costs associated with the bidding process of the City of Lamesa.

Scott Leonard and Dale Newberry, trustees for The Wilton Foundation, oversaw the hiring of a contractor and the construction after getting permission from the Lamesa City Council to pursue the project about the middle of 2017.

JWT Construction, Inc. of Seminole was hired to complete the project at a total cost of \$471,873. Water and sewer work for the restrooms was done by Rose Plumbing.

Construction got underway in December of 2017 and the completed project



LAKE VIEW

Built on the site of a former youth baseball park, the pavilion overlooks the Boys and Girls Club Lake.

LPR photo

had a formal dedication in May of 2018.

Since the property that surrounds the lake actually belongs to the City of Lamesa, the improvements were donated as a gift to the city once the construction was completed.

In June of 2018, City Council members approved a rental rate of \$125 for use of the lake pavilion for private weddings, parties and festivals.

A refundable deposit of \$75 is required for reserving the facility. That deposit is refunded, if the facility is left clean with all trash having been picked up.

Dances are not allowed at the lake pavilion, council members decided, since it is too close to residential homes and there is very limited parking.

No alcohol is allowed at the lake pavilion.

Lamesa blessed with numerous public parks

Lamesa is blessed with a number of beautiful parks, which encompass a total of some 170-180 acres in various parts of the city.

■Forrest Park, on the south side of the city, between Bryan and Houston avenues, is the largest park. Known for its abundance of trees, the park includes a playground, restrooms, RV hook-ups, a covered pavilion, softball field, and a disk golf course.

■Webelo Park, located west of the Girl Scout Hut off Bryan Ave., has two softball practice fields.

■Pioneer Park, located on South 2nd St., includes an old rock community building.

■Triangle Park, along the Seminole Hwy., includes playground equipment.

■Skate Park, at South 1st St. and Akron Ave., is for local skate board enthusiasts and includes playground equipment and picnic areas.

■Charles Varner Park, on North 23rd St., includes playground equipment.

■Hollis Carver Park, at S.E. 15th St. and Elgin Ave., features playground equipment.

■South Eighth Street Park is near South Elementary School.

■Boys and Girls Club Park, behind the Boys and Girls Club, includes a new open-air pavilion, playground equipment and a small lake which is stocked each winter with trout.

■North 22nd Street Park includes playground, picnic facilities, outdoor basketball and tennis courts, and a walking track.

■W. M. "Bill" Weaver Youth Sports Complex, featuring baseball and softball fields with playground and concession/restroom building, is east of South Elgin Ave. about a block south of South 8th St.

■The Courtyard, at the corner of North 1st St. and Austin Ave., hosts outdoor events in the downtown area.

Public Swimming Pool

The city has one public swimming pool, with a small wading pool for children, in the North 22nd Street Park.

The pool opens each year around the first of June and closes about the end of July.



SOFTBALL ACTION

A new softball field in Forest Park has been the site of numerous tournaments since opening in 2017.

LPR photo

**ON THE COURSE**

Lamesa Municipal Golf Course hosts weekly scrambles along with various tournaments during the year. LPR photo

Municipal golf course hosts weekly scrambles

Lamesa Municipal Golf Course currently has right at 120 members.

Victor Dimas continues to serve as the course superintendent, a position he's held for the past 10 1/2 years.

The course demands continuous care, and Dimas is always looking to make additional improvements.

"It's been a pretty tough year for us mainly due to the drought we've been through which has been especially tough on our greens," Dimas said.

"We've already replaced one of our greens out here and we're hoping to replace a couple more as long as our members keep on cooperating.

"One of our long term goals is to replace all of our greens mainly to keep giving our next generation of golfers a nice place to play."

Dimas noted that several new trees have been planted at the course.

"We're hoping to plant a few more," Dimas said.

One of this course's favorite events remains its weekly scrambles which are held every Wednesday starting the first week in April.

Lamesa Municipal's golf calendar includes seven tournaments starting with the annual Golden Tornado Booster Club's four-person fundraising golf tournament on April 20.

The course not only hosts weekend tournaments for the public but also plays hosts to high school tournaments for Lamesa and area schools.

Green fees are \$20 per player during the week and \$25 on the weekend. There's a cart fee of \$15 per cart.

"That doesn't matter if it's nine or 18 holes," Dimas said of cart fees.

Lamesa Municipal Golf Course
201 N. Ave. S
872-8100

Superintendent Victor Dimas

Disc golf played locally on city course in Forrest Park

Disc golf remains a popular pastime among a number of local residents who play on a local course laid out among the trees in Lamesa's Forrest Park.

"We usually see 15 to 20 out there playing every weekend," said Joey Barron President of the Texas Tornadoes' Disc Golf Club.

Three disc golf tournaments currently are being planned here this year.

"Our biggest tournament is the one we have during the weekend of the Chicken Fried Steak

Festival. We've been getting over 100 golfers in that tournament each year," Barron said.

Barron sees a growth in popularity in this sport. "A lot of that's because we've got a great course here, mainly because of all of the different obstacles," Barron said.

"We've got three different pin places on each hole which basically means we've got three different courses. The players like the different looks."

For additional information about disc golf in Lamesa, call Joey Barron at 201-5235.

Lamesa offers sports leagues for local youth

Various youth sports programs are available here for kids to just have fun or begin developing the skills that someday will help them in high school or beyond.

Lamesa's Bill Weaver Youth Sports Complex hosts both baseball and softball games for local youth.

"The people with the city do a great job keeping everything up at our park. It's a great deal for all our parents involved, too," Lamesa Girls Softball President Manuel Benitez said.

Cal Ripkin baseball

Rick Wallace has served as Lamesa's Cal Ripken League president the past six years.

This youth baseball league is for boys between the ages of four and 12. This league averages about 250 boys playing each summer.

Lamesa's Cal Ripken organization has hosted at least one district or state baseball tournament each summer for the past six years.

"It's all about the kids. We're hoping to run the kind of league where our kids not only learn something about this game but also enjoy it," Wallace said.

"More than anything we're hoping to provide a good environment – a safe place for our kids to play."

Youth softball

Manuel Benitez is back for another year as president of the Lamesa Girls Softball Association.

"We want to run the kind of program where we're not only helping our girls develop their games but also learn things like how to become better teammates," Benitez said.

"Hopefully we're doing things on this level to help get them better prepared later when they get on up to high school and maybe even college ball."

The Lamesa girls softball league is open to girls between the ages of four and 14. There are four different divisions: tee ball for four and five year olds, pixie for six and seven year olds, minors for eight to 10 year olds and majors for 11 to 14 year olds.

About 150 girls play in the league each year, with games beginning in April.

Youth basketball

The winter months mean Saturdays for local youngsters in the Lamesa Youth Basketball League.

The league has separate divisions for boys and girls between the ages of five and 12 (kindergarten through sixth grade). Each league has three age groups: pee wee for kindergarten to the second grade, minors for third and fourth graders and majors for fifth and sixth graders.

The league played a majority of its games this season as either Lamesa High School or the old junior high gym.

Each team played about a dozen games this season.

"You can see a big difference in all of our kids from the first of our season to the last of it. We've seen vast improvement," league President Isaiah Martinez said. "All of that progress makes all of the time we put into it worth it."

Dal Paso Museum preserves area history

The Dal Paso Museum has been housed in the former Dal Paso Hotel since 1987.

The museum focuses on many different aspects of history in Lamesa and Dawson County.

Former hotel rooms located in the upstairs portion of the building feature permanent exhibits on such things as agriculture, education, military veterans, family life, newspapers, athletics, and more.

The upstairs also includes an open area that has featured many temporary exhibits over the years.

Museum board member Judith Holladay said the Dal Paso museum gets a lot of positive feedback from people who visit.

The term Dal Paso refers to a trade route between Dallas and El Paso, Holladay said. When the museum moved into the building that originally housed the hotel, it adopted the hotel's name.

Over the years, Holladay said, the museum has been a visible source to promote local history. She said there has been a continuing effort to add new exhibits and expand existing displays.

Holladay highlighted the museum's "beautiful lobby and tearoom" downstairs which are used for various gatherings throughout the year.

Those wishing to rent the museum for weddings, parties, reunions or other events may contact the Chamber of Commerce office for more information.

The museum's board of directors hosts a membership drive with a Christmas Open House each December, as well as programs and events throughout the year.

The museum is open from 2 to 5 p.m. on Saturdays. During weekdays, visitors may ask for entry into the museum by going next door to the Chamber of Commerce office.

Dal Paso Museum
300 block South 1st St.
872-5007

Board of Directors
Judy Beam, president
Theresa Estes, vice president
DeLois Burkett, secretary
Wayne Smith, treasurer
Sandra Adams
DeLois Burkett
Ima Dee Daffern
Esther Miers
Arthur Pedroza
Paula Simco
Jane Stone
Vicki Whitman
Judith Holladay



VETERANS ROOM

The Dal Paso Museum's veterans room highlights the history of residents in the area who have served in the armed forces.

LPR photo

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872-8655

SISSY'S
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1510 Lubbock Hwy 806-870-7867

Boys and Girls Club serves youth

The Boys and Girls Club of Lamesa provides a safe place for kids after school, director Tammy Wyatt said.

The club's after-school program allows children to visit with friends their own age. The program allows kids to have the opportunity to get homework done, play, and eat.

The club provides transportation from school to the club and is open until 7 p.m. Wyatt said the after-school program hosts "fun activities" like monthly birthday parties and holiday celebrations.

The Boys and Girls Club also offers a program for children during summer vacation. The club provides activities for kids from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

For the summer program, the children are grouped by age and participate in activities like swimming or watching a movie. Kids receive breakfast, lunch, and an afternoon snack. They also participate in less structured recreation time.

Some of the club's specialty pro-

grams focus on the kids' particular age groups. One program, Girls Strong, teaches girls life skills like self confidence and safety. Another program, Passport to Manhood, teaches boys what it means to be a man, like how to shake hands and respect others.

Lamesa Boys and Girls Club

400 N. 7th Street
872-3164

Director
Tammy Wyatt

Lamesa businesses have donated books to the Boys and Girls Club about making good choices for different age groups. The staff at the club goes through a chapter a week with the kids to teach them things like respect and honesty.

The Boys and Girls Club began holding parties once a month for all the students who have birthdays that month. Everybody gets cupcakes and the birthday boys and girls get a cup full of candy and a balloon.

The club also has begun implementing the services of junior staff. Kids apply and are interviewed for the position. Junior staff members are selected based on their grades, discipline, and attendance at school and at the club.



LPR photo

HAVING FUN

Two youngsters have fun in the Lamesa Boys and Girls Club's gym during the after-school program. Students' other activities during the program include doing their homework, utilizing the facility's computer lab, and eating dinner.

The club has a zero tolerance policy for bullying and fighting, Wyatt said, so parents can feel good about leaving their kids there.

Wyatt also praised her staff, which

is made up of "adults with years of experience in working with kids."

Wyatt said she likes for the kids to have a lot of fun, but to keep busy and not have a lot of "downtime."

County library offers numerous resources

The Dawson County Public Library is a resource where members of the community may check out books and enjoy the many other benefits the library provides.

Anyone who brings a valid picture ID with proof of their current residence is eligible to receive a library card. The first card a patron receives is free. Lost cards cost \$5 each.

Individuals may use the internet at the library if they have a library card and comply with the organization's internet policy.

Those who utilize the library's services may check out up to 10 books per card. The books are due after two weeks. Books cost \$0.10 for every day they are late.

Adults may check out three movies per household. They must return the movies in two days. Movies cost \$1.00 for every day they are late.

Other resources the library provides are copying, faxing, income tax forms,

laminating, voter registration, and Notary Public services.

Community programs the library offers include:

- Babygarden for infants ages 0-24 months. The program runs from June through April on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.

Dawson County Public Library
511 North 3rd Street
872-6502

Library Director
Debbie Garza

- Storytime for preschoolers. The program runs after Labor Day through April and May on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.

- The library also hosts Camp Bluebonnet and Summer Reading Programs for older children, with special activities each week.

Seasonal events are offered by the library at various times during the year.

While the library is owned and operated by Dawson County, it also is supported by a group called the Friends of the Library.

The library is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.



Lamesa Church of Christ

702 N. 14th Street
Lamesa, TX 79331
872-8369

lamesacofc.org

Schedule of Services

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Sunday: Bible Class | 9:30 a.m. |
| Morning Worship | 10:30 a.m. |
| Evening Worship | 5:00 p.m. |
| Wednesday | 7:00 p.m. |

Festival celebrates Lamesa legend

First held in 2011, Lamesa's Chicken Fried Steak Festival has quickly become the community's largest annual event.

With several thousand people in attendance, the festival regularly attracts visitors and vendors from across several states.

Even individuals visiting the U.S. from several European countries have made it a point to include the festival on their slate of events to attend while touring the country.

Annually scheduled for the last weekend in April, the 2019 festival is planned for April 26-28 in and around the city's Forrest Park.

More than 100 vendors set up booths in the park offering a variety of arts, crafts, food, clothing and other items.

The event normally includes such activities as a 5K run and walk, softball tournament, classic car show, team roping competition, petting zoo, wine tasting, pet costume contest, and games for children.

Live music is featured at various times throughout the festival, with well-known regional entertainers usually taking the stage on Friday and

Saturday evenings.

One of the big attractions is the Crossroads Balloon Rally held annually in conjunction with the festival. Some 20-30 of the big, colorful balloons are normally on hand, although traditional West Texas winds often keep the balloons grounded.

As would be expected with the theme of the festival, the chicken fried steak is an integral part of the activities.

Hundreds of hungry people annually turn out for a chicken fried steak dinner hosted by the Lamesa Area Chamber of Commerce on the opening evening of the event.

A chicken-fried steak cookoff offering hundreds of dollars in prize money is held during the weekend. Several food vendors also serve up the favorite dish at their booths throughout the festival.



FESTIVAL FUN

Hot-air balloons and a chicken fried steak cookoff are among the many attractions at Lamesa's annual Chicken Fried Steak Festival.



LPR photos

chicken fried steak, the cook battered and fried a steak as he would have cooked a piece of chicken, creating a dish that is now a staple food in Texas and the southwest.

The story, however, actually was a piece of fiction created in haste in 1976 to fill an empty page in the Austin American-Statesman.

The story took on a life of its own and has since been repeated again and again in various news outlets across the country and now around the world via internet.

The festival was established to help celebrate the legend that Lamesa is the birthplace of the chicken fried steak.

As the story goes, the dish was first created here in 1911 when a short-order cook at a local eatery received separate orders for chicken and fried steak.

Believing it was a single order for

Deciding to embrace the tale and capitalize on the recognition it has brought to Lamesa, local leaders created the Chicken Fried Steak Festival in 2011 and even convinced the state legislature to officially designate Lamesa as the "Legendary Home of the Chicken Fried Steak."

1409 N Dallas
Lamesa, TX
806-872-8858
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Organizations

Contact information listed is as of March 2019 and may change during the year. Any organizations not included in this listing are asked to contact the Lamesa Press-Reporter at 872-2177 to be included in the next community guide.

American Cancer Society

Elisa Benitez - 759-9523
Mari Ybarra - 200-3171

Meets monthly at the Women's Study Club building, 101 Juniper Drive

Beta Sigma Phi Chapter of Lambda Phi

Leslie Hawkins, Treasurer
497-6735

Meets the first and third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Women's Study Club building, 101 Juniper Drive

Boy Scout Troop 708

David Hailey - 806-789-3794

Meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Boy Scout Hut, 224 North 24th St.

Centennial Lions Club

Tommy Arguijo 200-0485

Meet twice each month on the second and fourth Thursday at 12 noon at Cornerstone Fellowship, 213 N. Houston.

Christian Women's Job Corp

Karen Presley, Director
872-5627

Board meets the third Monday of every other month at 1013 N. 2nd St.

Cub Scout Pack 722

Michael Hinkle, Cubmaster
759-8280

Meets at 7 p.m. every Monday at LeeRoy Colgan Building, 901 S. Houston

Dawson County Farm Bureau

Jeremy Brown, President
872-8333

Meets the third Thursday of each month at 7 a.m. in the Farm Bureau building, 1602 Lubbock Hwy.

Dawson County Historical Society

Wayne Smith
872-3909

Meets twice a year, January and July, at the Dal Paso Museum, 300 block S. 1st Street

Dawson County Library Board

Letha Leonard, President

Meets at 5:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every month at the Dawson County Public Library meeting room, 511 N. 3rd St.

Dal Paso Museum Board

Judy Beam
201-1184

Meets at 4 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at the Chamber of Commerce Presidents Room, 123 Main Ave.

Dawson County Teen Court

Shelley Barron, Director
806-787-2699

Meets at 5:45 p.m. on the second Monday of each month in the Dawson County Courthouse

Dawson County United Fund

Sharon Culp
872-5426

Board meets mainly during late summer and fall to organize annual fund drive

Dawson County 4-H

872-3444

Contact the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension office in Lamesa for information

Friends of Movieland

Mike Roy
872-2750

Board meets quarterly at Movieland, 604 N. Austin Avenue

Girl Scouts

Kimberly Castilla
806-752-1505

Golden Tornado Booster Club

872-8385

Meets three to four times during the school year

Green Thumb Garden Club

Virginia Leonard
872-8153

Meets on the first Thursday of each month at 9:30 a.m. at The Feed Lot, 104 N.E. 14th St., except during January, June, July and August.

Kiwanis Club

Scott Seymour, President
872-5409

Meets every Tuesday at 12 noon at the Forrest Park Community Center, South 9th St. and Houston Ave.

Knights of Columbus

Juan Ramirez, Grand Knight
806-332-6096

Meets at 7 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month.

Lamesa Bar Association

Marlin Carter, President
432-758-2181

Meets the last Friday of each month at K-Bob's, 2200 Lubbock Hwy.

Lamesa Boys and Girls Club

Tammy Wyatt
Executive Director
872-3164

Board meets at 12 noon on the second Thursday of each month at the Boys and Girls Club, 400 N. 7th St.

Lamesa Area Chamber of Commerce

Sandra Adams, President
872-2181

Board meets at 12 noon on the second Monday of each month in the Presidents Room at the Chamber office, 123 Main Avenue.

Lamesa Cal Ripken Baseball League

Rick Wallace, President
806-773-3539

Lamesa Community Players

Playhouse phone - 872-2705

Board meets at 6:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at the Playhouse, 214 N. Austin Ave.

Lamesa Cotton Growers

David Zant, President
432-213-7601

Board meets as needed and the annual membership meeting is normally in March or April.

Lamesa Gideons

Tommy Sanders
806-548-0435

Meets at 7 a.m. each Friday at the Lamesa Seniors Community, 122 N.E. 27th Street

Lamesa Rodeo Association

Cody King
806-781-1818

Meets annually in January, then as needed before the annual rodeo

Milam Lodge #11

Wayne Smith
872-3909

Meets the second Monday of each month at the lodge hall, North 2nd St. and Main Ave.

Medical Arts Hospital Auxiliary

Betty Leonard
201-2263

Meets at 9:30 a.m. the second Thursday of each month at Medical Arts Hospital Community Room, 2200 N. Bryan Avenue

Optimist Club

Billy Ray Smith
200-0368

Meets at 7 a.m. each Tuesday at the Dawson County Senior Citizens Center, 609 N. Austin Ave.

Rotary Club

Brant Stewart
936-648-8330

Meets at 12 noon each Wednesday at the Forrest Park Community Center, South 8th and Houston Ave.

Sunshine Garden Club

Letha Brown
872-7230

Meets at 7 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at the Northridge Retirement Center activity center, 100 N.E. 27th Street

Texas Tornadoes Lamesa Disc Golf Club

Joey Barron, president
201-5235.

Residential projects planned here

Two separate projects that will provide some much-needed housing options in Lamesa are expected to get underway this year.

Westwind of Lamesa

Westwind of Lamesa, an 80-unit apartment complex, is scheduled for construction on 7.25 acres a short distance northeast of the intersection of N.E. 7th Street and Lynn Avenue.

The complex will have 24 one-bedroom apartments, 48 two-bedroom apartments and eight three-bedroom apartments, according to the developer.

Each of the apartments will have a spacious interior design and be equipped with all appliances.

Fifty of the apartments will be designated as affordable housing for working individuals and families with the rental price based on a percentage of the median income for this area. The remainder of the apartments will be market rate units with no limit on income.

The complex will be composed of a club house and four apartment buildings. Two of the apartment buildings will be two-story structures with 16 units in each building, while the other two buildings will be three-story struc-



APARTMENTS PLANNED

Developers have indicated this is the type of – but not specific plans for – the apartment units that will be included in the planned Westwind of Lamesa.

tures with 24 units in each building.

Construction for the approximately \$11.5 million project originally was planned to get underway in January of 2018, but delays in financing have pushed back the groundbreaking by more than a year.

Permits for construction reportedly have now been issued by the City of Lamesa.

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA)

board awarded state housing tax credits for Westwind of Lamesa in July of 2017. Kelly Garrett, owner of Salem Clark Development in Greenville, has partnered with Mark Mayfield and the Texas Housing Foundation (THF), which submitted the proposal for housing tax credits to the TDHCA for development of the apartments.

Manufactured housing community
A manufactured housing commu-

nity, which will have spaces for about 70 manufactured homes, is planned for development on 11.2 acres of property al on the northwestern edge of Lamesa.

Chase Gardaphe, owner/operator of Stonegate Manufactured Housing Community in Midland, already has started clearing the property.

Once the property has been cleared, the installation of water and sewer lines will get underway. That will be followed by installation of utility lines, paving of streets and installing electricity.

Gardaphe has said he hopes to be moving houses into the development by the end of 2019.

In addition to leasing spaces to people for placement of their own manufactured homes that meet the requirements, Gardaphe said there will be some homes already in place that will be available for rent.

Lamesa Economic Development Project board members agreed in July of 2018 to sell the property to Gardaphe. That property is bounded by Avenue Q on the east and the undeveloped Avenue R on the west, North 9th Street on the south and North 11th Street on the north.

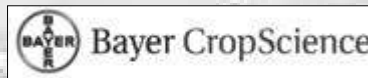
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Lamesa Economic Development

Phone: 806.872.2207

Physical Address: 123 Main Ave.

Mailing Address: 123 Main Ave.

Website: www.lamesadevelopment.org

Lamesa Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitor's Center

Phone: 806.872.2181

Physical Address: 123 Main Ave.

Mailing Address: PO Box 880

Website: www.lamesachamber.org

Cotton at core of agriculture

Miles and miles of farmland surrounding Lamesa make it clear that agriculture is a big part of life in Dawson County.

Agriculture has been the economic lifeblood of the county since it was established more than 100 years ago. It remains so today, even as the oil and gas industry and other energy production efforts are playing an ever-increasing role in the local economy.

And when it comes to local agriculture, cotton is definitely king.

Some 360,000 acres of cotton were planted in Dawson County during 2018. Although final figures haven't been released, only about 20 percent of those acres were harvested, the rest falling victim to extremely dry weather conditions during the first half of the year.

More than 2 million bales of cotton were produced here during the past 10 years alone (2008-2017). That's more than enough cotton to make a pair of jeans for every single person in the United States.

Lamesa is home to one of only 10 USDA cotton classing offices in the entire country.

But while certainly dominant, cotton is far from the only agriculture commodity produced in Dawson County.

Grain sorghum, peanuts, wheat, alfalfa, haygrazer, and sunflowers are among the other row crops grown here on an annual basis.

Dawson County also is home to four vineyards with a combined total of more than 200 acres of grapes.

Cattle are raised not only on a number of farms but also on rangeland in various parts of the county, particularly just off the caprock east of Lamesa.

A growing number of sheep also are being raised here for their meat.

All of those commodities drive an agriculture economy that reaches into almost all aspects of life in and around Lamesa.

Cotton gins, trucking operators, implement dealers, fertilizer companies, seed dealers, manufacturing firms, irrigation companies and aerial applicators are among the businesses that are vital to, and dependent upon,



COTTON HARVEST

Two cotton strippers are accompanied by a transport unit as they harvest an irrigated field of cotton north of Lamesa. Dawson County has produced enough cotton in the past 10

years to make a pair of denim jeans for every single person in the United States.

LPR photo

agriculture production.

But agriculture also is an important part of so many more businesses here, such as banks, tire dealers, fuel companies and others. The trickle-down effect can even be seen at local restaurants, grocery stores, hardware

businesses, convenience stores and retail shops.

Various federal agriculture programs – including the Conservation Reserve Program which pays landowners to keep fragile land out of crop production – also help boost the agriculture economy.

The Lamesa Cotton Growers and Dawson County Farm Bureau are two major agriculture organizations here. Local producers have a history of leadership in agriculture organizations at

the area, state and national levels.

The Lamesa Cotton Growers teams with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and Texas Tech University in the operation of a large research farm here that has helped improve production agriculture across the region.

Dawson County Cotton Production (past 10 years)

| Year | Bales | Harvested Acres |
|------|----------|-----------------|
| 2018 | *105,334 | - |
| 2017 | 343,200 | 274,900 |
| 2016 | 339,600 | 286,200 |
| 2015 | 328,800 | 294,900 |
| 2014 | 228,700 | 229,700 |
| 2013 | 86,100 | 47,000 |
| 2012 | 160,300 | 160,300 |
| 2011 | 68,000 | 64,800 |
| 2010 | 381,900 | 313,500 |
| 2009 | 271,000 | 258,000 |

Source: USDA Agricultural Statistics Service
*Estimated from Lamesa Press-Reporter survey



COTTON CLASSING OFFICE

Lamesa is home to one of only 10 cotton classing offices in the entire United States operated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The building, owned by the Lamesa Cotton Growers and leased to the USDA, is located on N. Elgin Avenue.

LPR photo

Oil fuels wide array of activity

Although both production and drilling activity here have slowed significantly since the most recent “boom” a few years ago, the oil and gas industry is definitely a major player in the Dawson County economy.

Statistics from the Texas Railroad Commission show Dawson County produced more than 3.57 million barrels of crude oil during 2017, the latest year for which complete figures are available.

With West Texas Intermediate Crude selling for an average price of about \$51 per barrel, that means more than \$178 million worth of oil was pumped out of the ground here in 2017.

The market value of that oil, however, is only part of the impact that the oil and gas industry has on Lamesa and the surrounding area.

Oil firms regularly rank among the top taxpayers for not only Dawson County but other local entities such as the hospital district, underground water conservation district, and local school districts.

Oil and gas is what prompted U.S. Silica to open a sand mine here that likely is now the county’s largest single private employer. That mine provides sand for oil well fracking activity across a large part of the Permian Basin. Dozens of other local businesses thrive off the oil and gas industry, including trucking firms, roustabout crews and pumpers, to name a few.

Production of water needed for drilling and fracking purposes

is a growing business, as is the development of disposal wells for oilfield brine water.

Current data from the Railroad Commission shows about 1,284 producing oil and gas wells in Dawson County, down from about 1,369 two years ago.

Oil production actually increased in 2017 from 3,479,628 the previous year but remains well below the 4-million-plus barrels produced here in 2013 and 2014.

Drilling activity has dropped dramatically since hitting a peak in 2011 when the Railroad Commission issued permits for 115 new drilling ventures here. Only 21 permits for new drilling were issued here in 2018, compared to 30 the previous year.

The Railroad Commission shows 141 different operators reported oil produc-

tion in Dawson County during 2017.

Oxy USA, with extensive operations in the northwestern part of the county near Welch, is the county’s largest operator with production of almost 628,000 barrels of oil during 2017. Roff Operating was in second with more than 360,000 barrels, followed by Diamondback Exploration and Production with more than 292,000.

Dawson County Oil Production (past 10 years)

| Year | Producing Wells | Barrels of oil |
|------|-----------------|----------------|
| 2017 | 1,369 | 3,570,539 |
| 2016 | 1,421 | 3,479,628 |
| 2015 | 1,432 | 3,763,511 |
| 2014 | 1,379 | 4,142,332 |
| 2013 | 1,320 | 4,174,390 |
| 2012 | 1,292 | 3,854,751 |
| 2011 | 2,291 | 3,712,837 |
| 2010 | 1,282 | 3,754,905 |
| 2009 | 1,155 | 3,923,610 |
| 2008 | 1,153 | 4,217,134 |

Source: Texas Railroad Commission
Complete data not yet available for 2018



PUMPING OIL
Oilfield pumpjacks are a common site in many areas of Dawson County, with a large concentration in the Welch area. *LPR photo*

Rainfall here averages about 18 inches a year

Lamesa traditionally has received about 18 inches of precipitation per year, but for the last 20 years that average has decreased some.

In 2017 the average for the previous 20 years was 16.85 inches, but over the last two years that average has inched up to 17.09 inches.

With three out of the 11 driest years on record being witnessed here during that most recent 20-year period, the decrease in the annual average for precipitation is understandable.

That information is based on rainfall records since 1932 provided by KPET Radio in Lamesa and the West Texas Mesonet’s website recording station in Lamesa.

With only 3.48 inches of rainfall recorded for the entire year, 2011 is the driest year on record for Lamesa, while 2001 is the seventh driest year at 9.57 inches and

2003 is the tenth driest at 9.87 inches.

Prior to 2011, the driest year on record for Lamesa was back in 1956 when

Rainfall

Annual precipitation totals in Lamesa from wettest to driest for the past 20 years

| Year | Inches |
|------|--------|
| 2004 | 28.53 |
| 2007 | 28.20 |
| 2015 | 25.43 |
| 2010 | 22.68 |
| 2016 | 21.60 |
| 2008 | 19.50 |
| 2002 | 18.09 |
| 2017 | 16.89 |
| 2013 | 16.73 |
| 2018 | 16.69 |
| 2006 | 16.54 |
| 2014 | 15.97 |
| 2009 | 15.65 |
| 2000 | 15.54 |
| 2005 | 14.41 |
| 1999 | 14.30 |
| 2012 | 12.15 |
| 2003 | 09.87 |
| 2001 | 09.57 |
| 2011 | 03.48 |

7.06 inches of precipitation were recorded, which was more than twice as much as was received in 2011.

For this year only 0.09 of an inch of precipitation was recorded in January and 0.04 of an inch in February, bringing this year’s total so far to only 0.13 of an inch.

Based on a 65-year average of local monthly records from 1953 through 2018: September is the wettest month of the year at 3.00 inches; June is next at 2.49 inches; then May at 2.32 inches; July at 2.00 inches; October at 1.93 inches; August at 1.71 inches; April at 0.99 inches; November at 0.85 inches; March at 0.83 inches; December at 0.71 inches; February at 0.64 inches; and January at 0.60 inches.



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SOLAR FARM

A Lamesa water tower can be seen in the background beyond row after row of solar panels installed just southeast of the city as part of the Lamesa Phase 1

Solar Project, the first solar energy facility completed in Dawson County. One more project has since been built and several more are in the planning stages.

LPR photo

Wind, solar energy expanding

If construction follows through as planned with three new solar facility projects announced here, Dawson County could be producing over 1,700 megawatts of electrical power from “green” alternative energy sources within the next few years.

One wind energy facility and two separate, but combined, solar energy facilities already have been completed and are producing up to 350 megawatts of electricity.

Plans are underway for the construction of five other solar energy facilities, including a 150-megawatt facility, a 570-megawatt combined facility (two projects) and a 650-megawatt combined facility (two projects).

Those wind and solar projects in Dawson County include.

■The **Mesquite Creek Wind, LLC**, project is a 200-megawatt wind energy facility completed in 2015. Covering a 25,000-acre site near the Caprock in eastern Dawson County and into western Borden County, the facility is about eight miles from Lamesa.

The facility consists of 118 GE 1.79-megawatt turbines standing 287 feet tall with 140-foot long blades.

Out of the total number of turbines, 110 are in Dawson County and the other eight are in Borden County.

The wind facility was sold by the developer – BNB Renewable Energy Holdings – to Sumitomo Corporation of Americas. Sumitomo, Duke Energy Corporation and Mars, Incorporated are corporate partners.

Sumitomo has agreements with General Electric to operate the facility and Mars to buy the renewable energy certificates generated.

With an annual output of over 800,000 megawatt-hours, Mesquite Creek Wind generates enough electricity to power 61,000 U.S. households for one year – or make 13 billion Snickers candy bars, according to the Mars website.

■Even before construction of the Mesquite Creek Wind project began, the original developers announced they were working on a solar energy facility just southeast of Lamesa.

The **Lamesa Phase I Solar Project**, which is a 100-megawatt facility, was completed in early 2017 by Renewable Energy Systems (RES), a global energy firm based in the United Kingdom with offices in Colorado.

Construction of **Project Ivory** (originally called Lamesa Phase II Solar Project), which is a 50-megawatt facility, began soon after and was completed in the last part of 2018.

RES sold Project Ivory to OCI Solar Power, but just prior to its completion OCI sold the facility to D.E. Shaw Renewable Investments (DESRI).

The 887-acre combined solar energy facility has 411,000 electricity-generating solar panels in place and is expected to generate a total of 150-megawatts.

The first phase of the solar project was constructed on the land between Lamesa and Los Ybanez. The second phase was constructed east of that area.

■Construction work is anticipated to get underway sometime this year on **Trex US Green Holly, LLC**, a 400-megawatt solar facility, and later on **Trex US Red Holly, LLC**, a 250-megawatt solar facility in northeast Dawson County near O'Donnell.

Plans call for the two facilities to be built adjacent to each other with the majority of the construction being underway at the same time, since both are projected to be completed and online by the summer of 2021.

With a combined total of 650-megawatts, the two projects “would be one of the largest combined solar facilities in the country,” Jon Burke, President Development of GreenGo Energy U.S., Inc., recently said.

The two projects would cover approximately 12 square miles of the county

with solar panels.

Denmark-based GreenGo Energy has close to 10,000 acres under lease for the two projects.

■Actual construction work also is anticipated to get underway no later than the fourth quarter of this year on the **Dawson II** solar facility about five miles west of Friendship Baptist Church in southwest Dawson County.

To be built by Core Solar, LLC, that project would be a 150-megawatt facility with solar panels covering about 1,000 acres.

A control building, warehouse and shop will be built on the fenced site.

■Plans were announced just this month for the two-phase construction of a solar energy facility that would produce 285 megawatts at each location for a combined 570 megawatts, making it the second largest combined solar energy facility in Dawson County and one of the largest in the country.

Sean Overeynder, executive director of Lamesa Economic Development Corporation and Lamesa Economic Alliance Project, said he had been contacted by a representative of ENGIE who said they were ready to pursue plans to construct the facilities.

Although no details have been made available about the exact locations where the two projects are planned, Overeynder said, one facility would be about five miles north of Lamesa and the other about 15 miles south of Lamesa.

ENGIE is a French multinational electric utility company, according to the internet, that builds renewable energy facilities all over the world. It has representatives in the U.S. and Canada.



WIND POWER

A wind turbine towers above a conventional water windmill near the caprock in eastern Dawson County.

LPR file photo

Prison helps diversify economy

Efforts by Lamesa community leaders about 30 years ago to diversify the local economy are continuing to pay off today through the Preston E. Smith state prison unit.

With over 400 employees when fully staffed, the unit generates a payroll of about \$16 million annually.

Out of those employees, almost 300 are part of the security staff and the remainder are non-security employees such as clerical staff, Windham Education employees or contract medical and mental health employees.

While many of the employees live in Lamesa, others commute from the surrounding area.

Consisting of separate minimum/medium security and high security facilities, the unit can house up to a maximum of 2,234 inmates but, under current state guidelines, is at no more than 95-percent capacity.

When staffing allows, prison officials attempt to aid local government enti-

ties by providing inmate work squads to assist with various projects.

Within the unit is a mattress factory, staffed by inmates, which produces mattresses and similar items for other

prison units and state agencies.

Educational opportunities available to inmates here include adult basic education, GED training, special education, English as a Second Language, cognitive

intervention, and pre-release counseling.

The unit offers career and technology training in electrical trades, mill and cabinetmaking, piping trades and plumbing.

Establishment of the unit came as the result of a year and a half of intensive effort by business and government leaders in Lamesa and the surrounding



MEMORIAL CEREMONY

Each spring the employees of the Smith Unit hold a memorial ceremony to honor prison personnel across Texas and the nation who have died in the line of duty.

LPR photo

area who offered the state a variety of incentives in competition with other communities across Texas.

After failing in their initial bid to obtain a prison, those leaders cheered in July 1990 when state officials chose Lamesa to become the site for a 1,000-bed minimum-medium security unit.

One year later, a \$17.2 million construction project began in what had previously been a patch of farmland.

Grand opening ceremonies were held at the unit on Oct. 17, 1992. On hand was former Texas Governor Preston Smith, a 1930 graduate of Lamesa High School for whom the unit was named. Inmates began arriving two days later.

An additional 300-bed housing facility was constructed inside the unit a few years later.

In 1997, with the City of Lamesa and the Lamesa Economic Development Corporation offering additional incentives, the Smith Unit was chosen to become the site of a new high-security facility.

Following a \$36 million construction project adjacent to the initial unit, that addition went into service in October of 1999 with room to house up to 1,320 inmates in 660 cells.

The Smith Unit is located about two miles east of Lamesa off of F.M. 827.

Sand mining is massive operation

Once it reaches full capacity later this year, the largest sand mine and processing operation owned by U.S. Silica will be located just northwest of Lamesa.

"Lamesa is not the largest (sand mine) that I know of (owned by others), but it's pretty close," Billy Ray Smith, Senior Vice President of U.S. Silica and President of Oil and Gas Proppants, recently told the Press-Reporter.

Smith is a 1989 graduate of Lamesa High School who went to work for U.S. Silica in March of 2017 after working 22 years with Halliburton. He is based at U.S. Silica's headquarters in Katy.

The company currently operates over 25 mines and production facilities, including five in Texas.

While U.S. Silica has a track record stretching back almost 120 years in mining sand for other commercial uses, such as the manufacture of glass, roofing tiles, etc., it started mining for



LOADING OPERATION

U.S. Silica sand mining and processing facility will be able to load 12 tractor-trailers at one time when the facility northwest of Lamesa becomes fully operational later this year.

LPR photo

frac sand in 2008 and reportedly now is the largest producer of such sand in the world.

The overall size of the Lamesa site is 3,500 acres but, company officials said, it has enough sand for more than 30 years of production.

Since going online last year, the annual production goal for the Lamesa

facility has been increased by 50 percent, going up from four million tons to six million tons of sand per year.

To help achieve that higher volume the facility is increasing its storage capacity with the construction of more silo-looking sand storage tanks. The facility has 18 storage tanks that are operational and six more under construction.

The high-quality, fine-grain sand – 100 mesh and 40/70 – being produced at the mine is slated for use in oil well hydraulic fracturing operations across the Permian Basin.

Also to help with the increased production goals, the facility is adding to its total number of truck loading lanes so it will be able to load 12 sand-hauling tractor-trailers at a time.

More than 500 truckloads of sand are expected to be leaving the facility on a daily basis when operating at full capacity, Smith said.

Only surface mining is used at the facility. Most of the usable sand normally is located within several feet of the surface, those officials said, but the maximum depth that the company will mine sand is 75 feet.

When preparing to mine an area, the sagebrush has to be stripped from the surface. After the sand is scooped up, it is washed to separate any impurities from the sand. It then is sorted and – since it is wet from washing – must be dried before being sorted again and placed in the large storage tanks.

The sand mine and processing facility will have about 150-200 employees when it reaches full capacity.

With its recent expansion to increase production, U.S. Silica will have invested more than \$225 million in the sand mine and processing facility.

"This sand mine is the largest investment that U.S. Silica will make and has made in the last five years in oil and gas sand plants," Smith said about the Lamesa facility.

The mining and processing operation is located about 10 miles northwest of Lamesa, about two miles west of the intersection of FM Highways 829 and 1064.

Two-fold effort boosts economy

Sales tax revenue funds projects

Two separate not-for-profit economic development corporations work together for Lamesa and Dawson County as they seek opportunities to benefit already existing businesses, as well as recruit new businesses.

Although they offer financial assistance in different ways, the Lamesa Economic Alliance Project (LEAP) and the Lamesa Economic Development Corporation (LEDC) have a lot of things in common.

Sean Overeynder is executive director of both organizations. Overeynder, who was hired here in August of 2018, has been working in the field of economic development for about four-and-a-half years.

Five board members serve on both the five-member LEDC's board of directors and on the seven-member LEAP board, while two other members round out the LEAP board.

Board members for each organization are appointed by the Lamesa City Council, while the officers are elected by the respective boards.

Since all five of the LEDC board members also serve on the LEAP board, the regular meetings of both boards are held jointly at 5:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at the Presidents Room of the Lamesa Area Chamber of Commerce.

LEDC actively recruits new businesses and industry for Lamesa and offers financial assistance to businesses creating new jobs here, while LEAP also is able to offer assistance to those located outside of the city limits but within Dawson County.

Within certain limitations established by law, the LEDC also looks for opportunities to help existing busi-

nesses expand and to improve the infrastructure serving local businesses.

The LEDC receives its funding from a Type A economic development sales tax. Type A sales tax funds are designated solely for the recruiting and retaining of manufacturing and industrial projects.

Lamesa Economic Development Corporation and

Lamesa Economic Alliance Project

123 Main Ave.

Lamesa, TX 79331

806-872-2207

www.lamesadevelopment.org

Executive Director

Sean Overeynder

sean.overeynder@lamesadevelopment.org

lamesadevelopment.org

LEDC Board of Directors

Scott Leonard - president

Bob Henderson - vice president

Bryan Nowlin - secretary

Jason Anzaldúa

Deedra Cope

LEAP Board of Directors

Scott Leonard - president

Bob Henderson - vice president

Bryan Nowlin - secretary

Jason Anzaldúa

Bobby G. Gonzales

Deedra Cope

Monica Castro

nesses expand and to improve the infrastructure serving local businesses. split equally between the LEDC and LEAP, providing each organization with one-fourth of 1 percent of the city sales tax collected each month.

Prior to voters approving the creation of LEAP in 2012, the LEDC had collected the total one-half of 1 percent on the local sales tax since that organization's similar creation by an election held in 1994.

In a city election in 2012, local voters approved a proposal to reduce the already existing Type A economic development sales tax rate and adopt a Type B sales tax rate, leaving the total sales tax rate exactly the same as it had been.

LEAP began collecting its portion of the sales tax on Oct. 1, 2012, but did not actually receive any tax revenue until December of 2012.

LEAP is funded by a Type B sales and use tax. Type B sales tax funds are available to provide funding for broader community development projects.

Some examples of those type of projects that could be funded by the Type B sales are a water supply facility (with a special election required for approval), sport and athletic facilities, and tourism and entertainment facilities, as well as direct incentives for local retail business.

One-half of 1 percent in sales tax collected by the City of Lamesa for economic development purposes is

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Deer, bird hunting are available here

Despite the miles and miles of open farm land surrounding Lamesa, opportunities for hunting and limited fishing actually are available in Dawson County.

In fact, the Texas Big Game Award winner for mule deer during the 2017 season was harvested right here in Dawson County by a local resident.

Dawson County has hunting seasons for both whitetail deer, mostly located in the eastern part of the county, and mule deer, generally found on the western side of the county.

Whitetail deer season normally runs from the first weekend in November to the first weekend in January. Mule deer season, however, normally spans only a nine-day period in late November.

With habitat provided by playa lakes and fields of grain, dove hunting is a popular activity each fall. Dove season typically runs from early September to early November.

Quail have been making a comeback across West Texas in recent years, with quail season in Dawson County run-

ning from late October to early February during the 2018-2019 season.

Sandhill cranes regularly overwinter in Dawson County and much of the South Plains region. While some hunting of sandhill cranes does occur here, a federal permit and migratory game bird endorsement are required in addition to a normal Texas hunting license.

A state hunting license is required in order to legally harvest most animals or birds in Texas.

Many people also enjoy hunting coyotes and feral hogs in Dawson County. A valid hunting license is required, and other restrictions may apply.

Fishing in Dawson County is basically limited to a small pond in Lamesa's Boys and Girls Club Lake. While a few small catfish and other fish are caught year-round, the pond is stocked twice each winter with several thousand rainbow trout for the enjoyment of anglers of all ages. Stocking of the lake is a joint project of the City of Lamesa, the local Wilton Foundation, and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Veterinary clinic known nationwide

Although they routinely care for dogs, cats, cattle and most other animals, Brock Veterinary Clinic in Lamesa has a reputation as one of the top horse clinics in the nation.

Horse owners often drive hundreds of miles to bring their horses – ranging from working ranch animals to top racing horses – to the clinic.

A half-dozen or more horse trailers can regularly be seen parked outside the clinic, which treats thousands of horses each year from across Texas and surrounding states.

An equine center includes pre-op, surgery and post-op facilities and is even equipped with a small magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) designed specifically for horses.

Established by Dr. Bo Brock in 1992, Brock Veterinary Clinic now has four full-time veterinarians, two full-time interns who actually live on-site, and a

number of other support personnel.

Dr. Brock and Dr. Michelle Bessire are among only about 54 veterinarians in the U.S. – and only 10 in Texas – with a equine diplomate certification from the American Board of Veterinary

Practitioners.

Dr. Dustin McElwee is a specialist in equine reproduction and Dr. Kasey Tweeten-King is certified to perform chiropractic work on horses, dogs, cats and other animals.

Brock Veterinary Clinic also hosts dozens of veterinary students from across the nation each

year who come to the clinic to perform externships for 2-3 weeks each.

Dr. Brock also has gained widespread acclaim as the author of "Crowded in the Middle of Nowhere," a book in which he shares numerous short and mostly hilarious stories about his experiences as a small-town veterinarian.

**Brock
Veterinary Clinic**
1204 S. Dallas Avenue
872-3183

Veterinarians
Dr. Bo Brock
Dr. Dustin McElwee
Dr. Kasey Tweeten-King
Dr. Michelle Bessire



Jeanie Coor, Agent

101 Main Avenue
Lamesa, TX 79331-3330
Bus: 806-872-9531

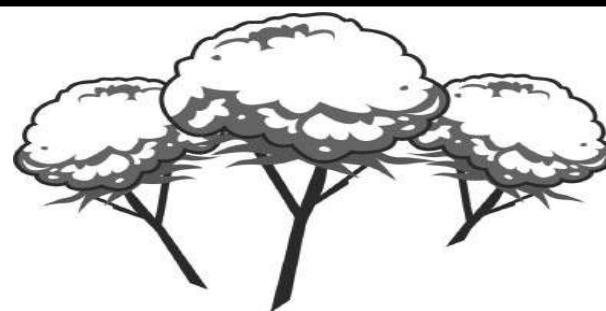
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(806) 872-2132

City, county operate public airport here

Rehabilitation of the runways, ramps and aprons at Lamesa Municipal Airport is expected to take place this summer.

The majority of the approximately \$1.6 million project will be funded by a grant from the Aviation Division of the Texas Department of Transportation, while the city and county will split the 10 percent matching portion.

Jointly owned by the City of Lamesa and Dawson County, Lamesa Municipal Airport is a public airport located about two miles northeast of Lamesa. Operation of the airport is overseen by a board appointed by the City Council and Commissioners Court.

Two asphalt runways are available at the airport. Runway 16/34, oriented generally north and south, is 5002 feet long and 75 feet wide. Runway 7/25, running west and east, is 4006 feet long and 60 feet wide.

Self-serve aviation fuel, including AvGas and jet fuel, is available 24 hours a day at the airport from the City of Lamesa. Aircraft parking (ramp or tiedown) is available.

A new terminal building with a

pilot's lounge, office spaces, restrooms and two garage areas was built in 2015.

One of the garages houses a courtesy car, which is provided for use by out-of-town pilots who visit the airport.

During a 12-month period ending on April 26, 2018, the airport averaged 28 aircraft operations per day, according to the AirNav website (www.airnav.com).

About 67 percent of the aircraft using the airport are local general aviation, that website shows, while 33 percent are transient general aviation.

The website shows a total of 37 aircraft based at the airport, including 33 single-engine airplanes and three multi-engine airplanes.

Major improvements at the airport in the past few years include:

- Installation of an Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS) that provides local weather information that can be accessed via radio, cell phone, Internet or satellite link.

- Installation of a Precision Approach Path Indicators (PAPI) lighting system that provides assistance to pilots approaching for landing.

Local newspaper, radio serving the community

The *Lamesa Press-Reporter* and KPET radio station are two long-time sources of local news and information for residents of Lamesa and the surrounding area.

Published each Wednesday and Sunday, the *Lamesa Press-Reporter* is a semi-weekly newspaper that has served the community since 1968 but traces its local roots all the way back to 1905.

Focusing specifically on people and events in Dawson County, the newspaper provides local news, photos, sports, advertising and opinion pieces.

In addition to the traditional print format, the newspaper is published in a digital version accessible on computers and mobile devices at www.pressreporter.com. That website offers updated information throughout the week and offers additional content not available in print.

KPET radio station, located just

south of Lamesa, has been providing news, music and other programming to local listeners at 690 AM since 1947.

Offering Classic Country music, the station provides local, state and national news at various times throughout the day.

Lamesa Press-Reporter
523 N. 1st Street
872-2177
www.pressreporter.com

KPET Radio Station
2210 County Road L
872-6511

It also provides play-by-play broadcasts of many Lamesa High School football, volleyball, basketball, softball and baseball games.

One of the station's most popular local programs is the twice-daily Tell-and-Sell, which allows local residents to call in with personal items to sell or give away.

The station also is the official weather recording site for Lamesa.

Several other radio stations in the area provide some local programming. Among those are KJJT 98.5 FM, dubbed The Red Dirt Ranch for providing what is being called Texas Red Dirt Music, licensed in Los Ybanez.

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872-3047

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Churches

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Bethel Assembly of God

7 Miles West of Ackerly in Flower Grove
432-353-4545
Mike Riggans, Pastor

Vision Worship Center

202 N Boston Ave., 806-200-1530
Jesse Salazar, Pastor

Faith Temple Foursquare Fellowship

1400 South 8th St., 806-872-5313
Jerry Walton, Pastor

First Assembly of God

North 7th and Bryan Ave., 806-872-3287
Mike Matheny, Pastor

Templo Ebenezer

Pastors Joe & Irene Martinez
Welch, TX

Temple Elim

Spanish Assembly of God
610 South Ave. F
Jesse Hernandez, Pastor

BAPTIST

Believers Baptist Church

528 North 1st Street 806-201-5292
Sunday School-10:00 A.M. Worship-11
A.M.
Sunday evening -5:00 P.M. Wednesday-7
P.M.
Pastor Brandon Littlepage

Cornerstone Fellowship

213 North Houston, 806-200-0563
Sunday Worship 10:30 AM
Daniel Reese, Pastor
www.806church.com

Crestview Baptist Church

Ave. V and Juniper Drive, 872-8414

Ebenezer Baptist Church

112 Canyon Ave.
Rev. Jerry Gardener, Pastor

First Baptist Church

801 South 1st St., 872-5451
Jim Medley, Pastor

First Baptist Church - Ackerly

103 Avenue A

First Baptist Church - Welch

O'Donnell Hwy., 972-896-1836
Kraig Kelly, Pastor
Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.

First Baptist Church - Gail

Randy Hardman, Pastor

Friendship Baptist Church

501 CR 24, 462-7403
Dennis Adams, Pastor

Iglesia Bautista Nueva Vida-O'Donnell

702 7th St, P.O. Box 138
806-428-3870

Rev. (Hno.) F. Daniel Herrera, Pastor

Klondike Baptist Church

801 CR 30, 462-7754

Midway Baptist Church

2317 CR T, 497-6456
Garland Stueart, Pastor

Mount Olive Baptist Church

1201 South Detroit, 872-4514
Reverend Ira Kelly

Northside Baptist Church

North 12th and Main Ave., 872-3002
Dee Woolam, Pastor

Primera Baptist Church

504 N.E. 4th St.,
Larry Gomez, Pastor

Second Baptist Church

1705 North Bryan Ave., 872-7400
Tobey Clements, Pastor

St. John's Missionary Baptist Church

South 10th and Akron Ave.
Reverend Ardin Medlock

Sunset Baptist Church

North 9th and Ave. O
Gerald Parsons, Pastor

CATHOLIC

St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church

908 South 2nd St., 872-8369
Father Joseph Kurumbel, Priest

Our Lady of Guadalupe Church

409 N. Hartford

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Ackerly Church of Christ

405 4th Street, Ackerly, 432-353-4771
Randy Mathis, Minister

Lamesa Church of Christ

702 N. 14th, 872-8369
Mark Hackett, Minister
Sun. Bible Class 9:30; Worship 10:30

Welch Church of Christ

Kalith Brown, Minister
806-543-2318

CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

Greater Johnson Memorial Church of God in Christ

212 South 13th St.
J.E. Evans, Pastor

Prayer House Church of God in Christ

Rufus Hunter, Pastor
Sunday 10:30 a.m.

LUTHERAN

Grace Lutheran Church

1002 North 11th St., 872-2858
Divine Service at 9:00 A.M.
Bible Study & Sunday School at 10:15

METHODIST

First United Methodist Church

409 N 3rd St. 872-5409
Scott Seymour, Pastor
Sunday School 9:00 AM
Morning Worship 10:00 AM

La Trinidad United Methodist Church

1002 South 4th, 872-5237
Pastor Jesse Pena
Sunday School 10:00 A.M.
Sunday: Morning Worship 11:00 A.M.
Evening: 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 7 pm

Northridge United Methodist Church

N. 26th and Lubbock Hwy., 872-5959
Al Martin, Pastor
Sunday School - 9:15 AM
Sunday Morning Worship - 10:15 AM
Wednesday Worship 6:00 PM

NAZARENE

Church of the Nazarene

912 North 1st St.
Lee Lennon, Pastor

PENTECOSTAL

Calvary United Pentecostal Church

502 North 22nd St., 872-3486
Rev. John Lanham, Pastor

House of God Gates to Heaven

1015 North 1st
Henry & Josie Cantu, Pastors

House of Prayer Pentecostal Church

504 South 1st St.
Lee Iglesias, Pastor

PRESBYTERIAN

First Presbyterian Church

1305 North Ave. G, 872-3262
Sam Lanham, Pastor
Church School 10:00 A.M.
Worship 11:00 A.M.

OTHERS

Asamblea Apostolica De La Fe En Cristo Jesus
308 S. 8th 806-891-1424
Luis Carlos Contreras

Bread of Life Ministries

1111 South 11th St.
Lenard J. Hernandez, Pastor

Christ The Rock

402 S. Bryan, 806-200-3784
Josephine & Demetrio Gonzales, Pastor

Church of God of the First Born

712 N. Hartford
Glen Garcia, Pastor

Faith of God in Christ

605 N. 12th St.
Ramiro Lumbreras, Pastor

Family Harvest Church

512 North 2nd St.
Joey Rivas, Pastor
Sunday: 10:30 A.M.
Wednesday: 7:00 P.M.

Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses

212 NE 27th Street, 872-8709
Curtis Moore, Elder

Lamesa Christian Fellowship

201 N. 22nd St., 872-6438
Gwen Aldridge, Pastor
Sunday 10:00 a.m., Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

New Hope Worship Center

1106 N. Houston, 432-257-2119
Richard Aguilar, Pastor
Sunday Worship 10:30 A.M.
Thursday Prayer Service 7 P.M.

Nueva Vida En Cristo Centro Cristiano

202 South Ave. N
Nick Cervantes, Pastor

River of Life Fellowship

116 Austin Ave., 872-0661
Mike Barkowsky, Pastor
Services: Sunday 10:30 A.M.
Wednesday 7:00 pm

Templo La Hermasura De Dios

1906 Seminole Road
Geno Salazar, Pastor
Services: Sun. 10:00 a.m.
Wed. 7:30 p.m.

Agape Ministry

1302 Seminole Road
Manuel Salazar, Pastor
Sun. 10:00-12:00 a.m. & 3:00-5:00 p.m.
Wed. 7:00-9:00 p.m.

The Gideon's Lamesa Camp

P.O. Box 325
872-2039

Victory Life

407 N. Canyon
Earnesto Varella, Pastor
Services: Sunday 9:00 A.M., 7:00 P.M.
Teens Wednesday 7:00 P.M.
Bible Study Friday 7:00 P.M.

Mosaic Community Church

706 N 1st St., 806-416-8489
Harris Evans, Pastor
Services: Sunday 10:30

Hospital district adapting to changes in healthcare

Streamlining efforts have meant end to some services here

Medical Arts Hospital and the Dawson County Hospital District are adapting and evolving in order to continue meeting local medical needs amidst an ever-changing national healthcare environment.

Financial challenges brought on partly by changes in federal and state funding have caused district leaders over the past two years to make substantial changes, eliminating some services and entire programs that no longer could pay for themselves.

Home health care, hospice, surgery and obstetrics are among the services that have been discontinued in an effort to streamline the district's operations.

The changes, however, have now helped put the hospital district in a position to continue serving specific medical needs of local residents for years to come, according to district leaders.

Those changes also have been accomplished while the hospital's various departments have consistently received some of the highest ratings possible on reviews and inspections by various healthcare monitoring and licensing organizations.

The district, established in 2005 to separate healthcare from county government, operates several medical facilities in Lamesa.

Medical Arts Hospital is the centerpiece of the district's operations, providing inpatient and outpatient care, emergency medical services, radiology, physical therapy and other services.

The modern hospital facility near the corner of North 22nd Street and Bryan Avenue is just under 10 years old, having opened in May of 2009 after voters approved a \$14-million bond issue to replace the previous hospital which had served the county for more than 50 years at a location a few blocks down the street.

Adjacent to the hospital, Medical Arts Clinic currently houses six licensed healthcare providers who see patients by appointment or through an after-hours walk-in clinic which was created last summer.

Just down the street is the Medical



MODERN HOSPITAL

Operated as part of the Dawson County Hospital District, the current Medical Arts Hospital facility opened in May of 2009, replacing the previous hospital a few blocks away that was over 50 years old.

LPR photo

Arts Specialty Annex where various out-of-town medical specialists see patients one or more days a month. Among the specialty services currently available through the clinic are cardiology, nephrology, orthopedics, pain management, orthodontics, neurology and mental health.

Since 2014 the hospital district also has operated the local ambulance service which previously was under the auspices of the county. That service, with eight full-time and eight part-time employees, is based in a county-owned building at 501 South Main.

The district also provides, by contract, healthcare services for inmates at the Preston E. Smith State Prison Unit just outside Lamesa.

The hospital district encompasses all of Dawson County and is led by a five-member elected board of directors elected for two-year terms on a rotating basis. One of those members is elected at-large by all voters in the hospital district and the other four are elected from single-member voting districts that are the same as the four county precincts in Dawson County.

Regular board meetings are held once a month – with additional called meetings when necessary – in the Community Room at Medical Arts Hospital.

Dawson County Hospital District

Board of Directors

At-large - Kim Bairrington
Precinct 1 - Sharalyn Ferguson
Precinct 2 - Cris Norris
Precinct 3 - Mike Johnson
Precinct 4 - Joe Cope

Medical Arts Hospital

2200 North Bryan Avenue
872-2183

Chief Executive Officer

Letha Stokes
872-5727, Extension 2016

Executive Assistant

Sara Del Busto
872-5727, Extension 2010

Outpatient Registration Mgr.

Anacani Garcia
872-5727, Extension 3016

Director of Nursing

Diane Sherrill
872-5727, Extension 2015

Chief Operating Officer

Jo Beth Smith
872-5727, Extension 2011

Human Resources Director

Traci Brown
872-5727

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Lobby**

**8:30am - 4:00pm
9:00am - 4:00pm**

Healthcare providers

Hospital

Medical Arts Hospital
2200 North Bryan Avenue
872-2183
www.medicalartshospital.org

Medical Providers

Medical Arts Health Clinic
2202 North Bryan Avenue
872-7494

Mark Key, M.D.
Family Practice

Michael Sprys, D.O.
Family Practice

Laura Weatherman, PA-C, MPAS
Family Practice

Robin Byrne, FNP-BC
Family Practice

Devin Stark, FNP-C
Family Practice

Eileen M. Sprys, M.D.
Family Practice, Womens' Health

Medical Arts Hospital

Anthony Gipson, M.D.
Full-time E.R. Physician & Hospitalist

Isabel Molina Family Medicine

2007 N. 16th St.
806-870-1890
Isabel Molina, MD
Family Practice

Lamesa Primary Healthcare

1502 North Avenue K
872-3069

Petros Chapanos, MD
Family Practice

Angelita Herrera, FNP
Family Practice

Lynn County Hospital District Family Wellness Clinic - O'Donnell

505 5th St., O'Donnell
806-428-3211

Griengsak Chowpaknam, MD
Family Practice

Cynde Schneider, FNP-C
Family Practice

Visiting

Medical Specialists

Medical Arts Specialty Annex
1016 N. 17th Street
872-4179

Cardiology

Dr. Juan Kurdi
Dr. Kyler Barkley

Nephrology

Dr. Maybin Simfukwe

Orthodontics

Dr. Ed Wentz

Orthopedics

Dr. Atul Joshi
Dr. Orlando Garza

Pain Management

Dr. Shiraz Yazdani

Urology

Dr. Kanwaljit Mahal

Home Health Services

Calvert Home Health Care

1607 N. Bryan Ave.
872-0540

Caprock Home Health Services

225 N. Austin Ave.
806-300-0626

Ambulance Service

Medical Arts Hospital EMS

Dial 9-1-1 for emergencies
501 S. Main Ave., 872-3464

Physical Therapy

Lamesa Physical Therapy & Sports Rehab

Josh Freitag, DPT, PT
1009 N. 7th St
806-752-7499

Medical Arts Hospital

Physical Therapy

2200 N. Bryan Ave.
872-5727 ext. 2002

Chiropractors

Sulphur Draw Chiropractic

Maureen L. Sevedge, D.C.
611 N. Austin Ave., 872-6534

Davis Chiropractic

John Davis, D.C.
709 N. 14th St., 806-771-4790

Helton Chiropractic

Dr. Abel Ramos
401 N. 1st St., 872-2222

Dentists

J. Craig Cowan, DDS
706 South 1st Street, 872-7664

South Plains Dental Clinic

1005 North 16th Street, 872-6310
Dr. Bruce Schrader DDS

Lamesa Dental

311 North Dallas Ave.
806-870-5555
Preet Sandhu DDS
Azhar Ahmed, DDS
Kanchan Sawlani, DDS

Dialysis

Fresenius Kidney Care

1600 N. Bryan Ave
872-9239

Optometrists

Robert K. Orr, OD
1601 North Bryan Avenue - 872-3667

Efrem Alambar, OD
1502 North Avenue K
872-3069

Licensed Massage Therapists

Lavish

124 Austin Ave., 432-853-9852
Aimee Hill

Massage Therapy and Electrolysis by Connie

207 North Main Ave., 201-0315

Massage Therapy by Irma Acevedo
809 South 2nd St., 201-0067

Mental Health Services

West Texas Centers for MHMR
Dawson County Mental Health Clinic
211 North Main St., 872-3790

Pharmacies

CVS/Pharmacy

2304 Lubbock Hwy., 872-8810

Jones-McCall Pharmacy

1605 North Bryan Ave., 872-5453

Veterinarians

Brock Veterinary Clinic

1204 South Dallas Ave., 872-3183
Bo Brock, DVM
Dustin McElwee, DVM
Kacey Tweeten-King, DVM
Michelle Bessire, DVM

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Various services available for Lamesa senior citizens

Dawson County Senior Citizens Center

The Dawson County Senior Citizens Center is a nonprofit organization that provides services and meals to people in the community ages 60 and older.

The center supplies congregate meals at their building at noon on Monday through Friday. The organization provides meals for homebound citizens, but they must fill out an application to qualify for deliveries.

The center asks for a donation of \$2.50 per meal for those ages 60 and above. Anyone under 60 may also eat at the center, but they are asked to pay \$7, the full price of the meal.

The center also provides local transportation to places the seniors need to go, like the grocery store.

The organization's building is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The center provides activities like playing dominoes or watching TV. The organization hosts bingo on Wednesday and Friday.

The Senior Citizens Center features an exercise room and a thrift room.

Tammy Vidal, director of the center, said it is good for seniors to get out of the house and see people. She noted the center is cool in the summer and warm in the winter, which can be a big benefit for some senior citizens.

Northridge Retirement Center

Operated by a local non-profit organization, Northridge Retirement Center is a three-story facility that provides low-income housing for people ages 62 and older or people with disabilities.

The residents at the retirement center receive meals on wheels Monday through Friday, and utilize a service coordinator to help with their social security and other needs.

Laundry facilities and monthly dinners are among the other features Northridge offers.

Lamesa Seniors Community

The Lamesa Seniors Community provides low income housing for seniors ages 62 or older,



SENIOR SERVICE

Vernon (right) and Aleene Flenniken were among the seniors enjoying lunch at the Dawson County Senior Citizens Center one day last fall.

LPR photo

or handicapped and disabled persons regardless of age.

The facility features 24 one-bedroom units for those who meet the current TDHCA income limit.

The community offers smoke-free,

one-story apartments that include individual front entrance and patios. Their residences feature central heat and air, washer/dryer connections, and individual storage units.

The facility allows residents to house up to 2 pets as long as they do not exceed a total of 40 pounds.

A community room is available for the residents and some units are designed for handicap accessibility.

Danny Beck, the executive director, said the facility was established in 1994 and has updated its amenities regularly.

BeeHive Homes of Lamesa

BeeHive Homes of Lamesa provides a residential setting that allow patients to make their individual space their home, administrator Kaci Porterfield said.

The facility works along with the residents' home health and hospice of choice to provide 24-hour care and assists with their everyday needs.

Two BeeHive Homes are located adjacent to each other on N.E. 17th Street in Lamesa.

Focused Care of Lamesa

Focused Care of Lamesa is a short-term rehab, long-term care, and nursing home facility.

Focused Care Administrator Melissa Giangrosso said the facility has provided care to the community for decades.

If someone is injured or has a major surgery, they can come to Focused Care for rehab and physical therapy.

One of the facility's main services is helping people transition back into their homes. Focused Care's 24-hour nursing staff also cares for those who can no longer take care of themselves at home.

Giangrosso said Focused Care is focused on the health and well being of the community.

WTO helps individuals with needs

West Texas Opportunities' (WTO) mission statement is "to ease the limitations of poverty by investing in families to improve their quality of life."

The non-profit organization provides several resources for the community, including a head start program, public transportation, career counseling, and weatherization programs.

According to the organization is a nonprofit community agency that serves those who need its services and want to

improve their quality of life.

"We're trying to improve the quality of lives in Lamesa," said Teresa Popnoe, WTO human resources director. "If they qualify for our programs, we want to educate them and get them to self sufficiency."

WTO has access to a community service block grant that funds many of the organization's programs. All of WTO's services except for transportation are provided to the public based on eligibility.

If an individual qualifies for Medicaid, WTO will provide transportation to take the person to their doctor's appointments in the area. Those without Medicaid may utilize the transportation service for a fee.

The organization also provides career counseling. If someone moves to the area looking for work, for example, WTO could help the individual take classes and obtain a Commercial Driver's License.

Community services director Elda Barrera said WTO provides job counseling, referrals, and help with short term classes. The organization can help those who take classes by supplementing them with money for necessities like gas.

Barrera said the goal of the weatherization program is to lower energy consumption and utility costs for homeowners. It is not a renovation program. The most WTO can do for homes is to add insulation to the attic or walls, Barrera said. The organization conducts energy audits on the homes of potential candidates for the program to determine the home's needs.

West Texas Opportunities
603 North 4th Street
872-8354
www.gowto.org

9-1-1 brings emergency help

Working together with a central 911 dispatch system, a wide array of emergency services – city, county and state agencies – are available in Lamesa and Dawson County.

The City of Lamesa oversees the Lamesa Police Department and Lamesa Fire Rescue. Dawson County oversees the Dawson County Sheriff Office and contracts with the city for fire services in rural areas of the county.

Texas Department of Public Safety has an office in Lamesa that provides driver license services and houses local troopers with the State Highway Patrol.

The Preston E. Smith State Prison Unit just east of Lamesa has correctional officers, horses and tracking dogs available, if needed, in emergency situations.

Ambulance services are provided by Medical Arts Hospital EMS. The ambulance service is governed by the Dawson County Hospital District.

Lamesa Police Department

The Lamesa Police Department is located in the below-ground level of City Hall, 601 South 1st Street, and may be accessed on the east side of the building.

The primary responsibility of that department is to address all law enforcement issues inside the city limits.

Headed up by Chief of Police Dale E. Alwan Sr., the department is authorized to employ a total of 16 sworn officers (the chief, one detective lieutenant, one detective sergeant, one patrol lieutenant, four patrol sergeants, and eight patrolmen).

The department also has an animal control officer, a records clerk, four full-time and two part-time communication (911) operators.

Four school resource officers are employed and paid by the Lamesa ISD, but

Emergency Dial 9-1-1

**Lamesa
Police Department**
City Hall
601 South 1st Street
872-2121

Lamesa Fire Rescue
Central Station
307 North 1st Street
872-4352
North Station
1711 North Bryan Avenue
872-4351

**Dawson County
Sheriff Office**
Dawson County
Law Enforcement Center
401 South 2nd Street
872-7560

**Texas Department
of Public Safety**
Highway Patrol
608 North Main Avenue
872-9494

**Medical Arts
Hospital EMS**
501 South Main Avenue
872-3464 Non Emergencies

those officers are licensed under the Lamesa PD and are subject to its policies, as well as those of Lamesa ISD.

Lamesa Fire Rescue
Lamesa Fire Rescue is responsible for providing (fire) suppression, rescue, inspection and investigation services

both inside the city limits of Lamesa and in the unincorporated areas of Dawson County.

Fire Chief Larry Duyck heads up the department, which currently is a combination of seven full-time and four part-time paid firefighters – who are employees of the City of Lamesa – and between 22 and 32 volunteer firefighters.

Eddie Schwartz is assistant fire chief of the department. Steven Archer is volunteer fire chief and Paul Sanchez is assistant volunteer fire chief.

The fire department has two fire stations: Central Fire Station No. 1 at 307 North 1st Street; and North Fire Station No. 2 at 1711 North Bryan Avenue.

Equipment includes a 78-foot ladder truck; a 3,000-gallon tanker; a 1,500-gallon brush truck and two 1,000-gallon brush trucks; a Class A pumper and two reserve Class A pumpers; a mobile command post/equipment trailer; a confined space trailer; an emergency transport vehicle, which is a 26-passenger bus for use during emergencies and/or special events; and two command pickups.

Dawson County Sheriff Office

The Dawson County Sheriff Office is located in the Dawson County Law Enforcement Center building, 401 South 2nd Street, in Lamesa. That building also houses the county jail.

Primary responsibilities of the Sheriff Office are to address all law enforcement issues in unincorporated rural parts of Dawson County.

Sheriff Matt Hogg heads up that office with eight full-time deputies, including a chief deputy, a captain and a K9 deputy. The sheriff office also has an administrative assistant and one reserve deputy.

A total of 11 full-time and one part-time jailers take care of inmates in

the county jail. That number includes the jail administrator and assistant administrator.

Department of Public Safety

The Department of Public Safety Highway Patrol office in Lamesa is located at 608 North Main Avenue in Lamesa.

Highway Patrol troopers enforce traffic laws on Texas highways and perform a variety of other duties, including the investigation of most rural traffic accidents.

Sergeant Jason Anzaldua is supervisor of the Highway Patrol duty station in Lamesa, as well as the duty stations in Seminole and Andrews. Those troopers also cover Borden County.

When fully staffed, Anzaldua oversees 11 troopers: four in Lamesa; three in Seminole; and, four in Andrews.

In addition to the troopers stationed in Lamesa, that office also has a License and Weight trooper, a secretary and a customer service representative for the driver license office.

A License and Weight trooper and customer service representative for the driver license office also are in Seminole and Andrews, along with a secretary in Seminole.

Medical Arts Hospital EMS

The Medical Arts Hospital EMS service operates four ambulances with a staff of eight full-time employees and a roster of part-time and on-call personnel.

Joey Parks, EMT-P, is director of the EMS service, which is housed in an office and garage facility owned by Dawson County at 501 South Main Avenue in Lamesa.

The EMS service responds to emergency calls within the city and county, as well as provides transfer services for patients when needed.

Isabel Molina Family Medicine



1007 N 16th St.
Lamesa, TX 79331
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and 1:00-5:00
Office: 806.870.1890



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CHRIS ROSE
Cell: 806-548-4886

Dawson County

Dawson County Courthouse
400 block South 1st Street
Lamesa, Texas

County Judge
Foy O'Brien
Courthouse
872-7544

County Commissioners
Precinct 1 - Rick Minjarez
Precinct 2 - Nicky Goode
Precinct 3 - Tony Hernandez
Precinct 4 - Russell Cox

County Attorney
Steven B. Payson
Courthouse
872-3310

County Clerk
Clare Christy
Courthouse
872-3778

County Treasurer
Terri Stahl
Courthouse
872-7474

Justice of the Peace
Larry Duyck
Courthouse
872-3744

County Auditor
Rhonda Martin
Courthouse
872-5631

Constable
Kent Parchman

County Tax Assessor-Collector
Sylvia Ortiz
John Saleh Courthouse Annex
502 North 1st Street
872-7181

Sheriff
Matt Hogg
Law Enforcement Center
401 S. 2nd St.
872-7560

District Judge
Reed A. Filley
Courthouse
872-3740

District Attorney
Philip Mack Furlow
Courthouse Annex
609 North 1st Street
872-2259

District Clerk
Tobie McCormick
Courthouse
872-7373

Numerous elected officials guide county government

Road maintenance under unified system

For just over seven years Dawson County has been operating a unified road maintenance system, which was a major change from the previous precinct-based system.

That switch was made in October of 2011 and took rural road maintenance responsibility out of the direct supervision of the elected county commissioner in each of the four county precincts.

Under the unified system, the responsibility of maintaining and repairing all county roads was consolidated under the direction of one county road supervisor – hired by the Dawson County Commissioners Court – for the entire county.

The four separate precinct budgets were combined into one budget for road and bridge purposes with all of the county's equipment moved to one central location.

Doug Isaacs initially was appointed to a two-year term as the county's first-ever county road supervisor. With his contract considered for renewal every two years by the Commissioners Court, Isaacs served in that position until his unexpected death at the end of April in 2018.

Stanley Gass, a native of O'Donnell, then was appointed as county road supervisor in May of 2018.

Prior to that appointment, Gass had a total of 20 years of road maintenance work with Borden County and had worked 10 years in oilfield service.

The office of the county road supervisor is located in the Precinct 2 building located along the Lubbock Highway. All of the county's employees, machinery, equipment and supplies for the maintenance of roads has been consolidated at that one location, as well, instead of being spread out over the four precincts.

County Judge Foy O'Brien and the county commissioners all have said they believe the unified system is saving the county money, in spite of some initial expenses involved with the purchase of new equipment, etc.

"We've got better equipment now and we're getting more use out of the machines we have," Judge O'Brien said.

One example of how the unified system has been a benefit to the county came about not long after the system had been put into place.

The county was able to take advantage of close to \$1 million in state and federal funds to repair several unpaved county



COUNTY COURTHOUSE

LPR photo

A large mural depicting scenes from Dawson County's history is located above the east entryway to the county courthouse in downtown Lamesa. Other murals depicting different aspects of the county are located above the other courthouse entrances.

roads, which had been damaged by torrential rainfall and flooding conditions around the first of July of 2010.

Since the damage to those roads was a result of storms spawned by Hurricane Alex, that money came largely through a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

County road crews, utilizing a lot of the new equipment that had been purchased by the county, worked together to do the actual repair work in addition to their usual routine work.

"There would have been absolutely no way we could have done these FEMA projects if we didn't have the unified road system," Judge O'Brien said at the time.

While most of the county offices are located at Dawson County Courthouse in downtown Lamesa, the county also has various other facilities here.

The county tax assessor/collector's office is located in the John Saleh Courthouse Annex across the street

from the courthouse at the northwest corner of North 1st Street and Austin Avenue. The district attorney and probation offices are in the Courthouse Annex located a couple of blocks west of the courthouse at 609 North 1st Street.

Other facilities owned by the county include the Dawson County Sheriff Office and Jail, Mental Health and Mental Rehabilitation office, the LeeRoy Colgan Building (county fair barn), local offices of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Dawson County Community Building (more widely known as the Women's Building), the Howard College and Central Appraisal District building, the building currently being used as headquarters for the Medical Arts Hospital EMS, and several former maintenance barns.

Dawson County and the City of Lamesa have joint supervision over Lamesa Municipal Airport and have cooperative agreements on firefighting and some law enforcement operations.

County established in 1905

Present-day Dawson County officially was established on March 20, 1905, but the beginnings of the county can be traced back for over 140 years.

Local residents, who voted in 1905 to create their own county government, chose Lamesa as the county seat over the neighboring community of Chicago.

But what actually might be considered the settlement of Dawson County began in 1876 when Michigan lumberman George N. Fletcher began purchasing land in what is now the central part of the county.

A year later Fletcher joined with W.C. Bishop, a resident of Chicago, Ill., as partners in the Liberty Cattle Company that established headquarters north of present-day Lamesa.

By 1893, a post office was operating in the ranch house and was given the name Chicago.

Over the next few years the county became the center of a booming ranching industry,

with four large ranches covering most of the county and extending into surrounding areas.

In 1901 the state legislature passed what was commonly called the Four-Section Act, allowing individuals to file a claim on four sections of land, effectively opening the area for settlement and breaking up many of the large ranches.

Frank Conner was one of the cowboys who took advantage of the Four Sections Act. He acquired land in almost the exact center of the county and worked with J.J. Lindsey and his son, M.C. Lindsey, to plat a townsite that eventually would become Lamesa.

With settlement came the need for local government.

The original Dawson County was created by the state legislature in 1858 and was located between present-day Uvalde and Del Rio in southwest Texas.

It was named in honor of

Captain Nicholas Mosby Dawson, a hero of the Texas revolution who was killed in the Dawson Massacre in Bexar County on Sept. 18, 1842.

An act of the legislature in 1876 relocated the county to its present location. The nearest organized county government at that time was at San Angelo. When Big Spring became a trade center and Howard County was organized in 1882, Dawson County was attached to it for all legal matters.

In 1905, 150 residents of the area petitioned to create a county government with the election of officials and the selection of a county seat.

When the election was held in March of that year, Lamesa edged out Chicago by five votes to become the county seat.

Putting aside the bitterness created by the election, residents of both communities soon joined forces and moved many of the buildings from Chicago to Lamesa almost

overnight. Chicago essentially ceased to exist and now is noted only by a historical marker along North 22nd Street in Lamesa.

At the first meeting of the Dawson County Commissioners Court, the county was divided into six school districts and a tax rate was set that included a levy of 10 cents per \$100 of property value for road improvements.

The first courthouse, a two-story wood frame building, was built in 1906 at a cost of \$2,849. It served as a multi-purpose facility, with meetings, church services and other activities held on the second floor.

In 1915 the county approved construction of a new courthouse of brick and stone. Completed in 1917, the courthouse served the county in its original configuration until a four-story annex was added to the south side in 1952 to house a jail and additional office.

Dawson County

Population
12,813
(2017 estimate)

Square Miles
900.31

Race
Hispanic - 57.4%
White - 35.3%
Black - 6.2%
American Indian
or Alaska Native - 1.2%
Asian - 1.1%

Gender
Female - 45.5%
Male - 54.5%

Education
High school grads - 72.6%
Bachelors or higher - 12.7%

Households
4,339

Median Household Income
\$43,201

Persons Living in Poverty
21.7%

**Median Value of
Owner-Occupied Housing**
\$66,400

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

County steadily improving cemetery

In the just over two years that the expanded Dawson County Cemetery has been under the ownership and direction of the county, a number of improvements already have been made and more are planned.

Following a court order in January of 2017, the former Lamesa Memorial Park became part of the Dawson County Cemetery under the control of the county.

Almost doubling in size, the county-owned cemetery now has two adjoining sections.

The old section – the westernmost portion – is the original county-owned cemetery. The new section

is the former Lamesa Memorial Park, which previously was a privately owned, for-profit cemetery.

The 2017 change in ownership quickly brought about a number of improvements to the cemetery.

Terri Stahl was hired as a full-time administrator with an office at the cemetery. Stahl now also serves as County Treasurer but remains administrator of the cemetery.

The county added several additional

employees to help with the upkeep of the cemetery and additional maintenance equipment was purchased.

Three Fields of Honor now are available for military veterans, Stahl said.

One Field of Honor already was in place in the newer part of the cemetery, Stahl said, but a new Field of Honor has been added near the office building and a Field of Honor has been added in the older portion of the cemetery.

Plans are in place to erect new flag poles at the cemetery and establish a Memorial Wall for veterans. Stahl said the Memorial Wall will be for all veterans of Dawson County – even those who are not buried in the local cemetery.

Other improvements made at the cemetery include street signs and name signs for the different sections of the cemetery.

The existing cemetery office building has been repaired and renovated.

A room in the building has been designated as a “comfort room” for grieving families who want a quiet place to sit and remember their loved ones.



SECTION SIGN

Section and street signs have been erected throughout the Dawson County Cemetery, which now encompasses the former Lamesa Memorial Park.

LPR photo

That room has comfortable seating and a window that looks out over the cemetery, as well as a TV that displays a continuous slide show of colorful nature scenes and soothing music.

Fresh cut flowers may be placed on graves throughout the year but all floral items, fresh and artificial, will be removed when they become faded and unsightly.

The cemetery rules also say that “all decorations, religious items and addition to any graves must be approved by the administrator” and “no trees, shrubs or plants of any kind will be planted in the cemetery except by the caretaker in areas designated by the Commissioners Court.”

Visiting hours at the cemetery are 7 a.m. until 10 p.m. daily.

City of Lamesa operates with council, city manager format

Since beginning operation under a council-city manager form of government right at 74 years ago, the City of Lamesa only has had eight city managers.

Current City Manager Shawna D. Burkhart, who was hired in 2015, also has the distinction of being Lamesa's first female city manager.

Lamesa only has had five city managers in the last 70 years.

With a governing body that consists of a mayor and six council members, the Lamesa City Council is responsible for establishing policy, setting service fees and tax rates, passing local ordinances, and developing an overall vision for the community.

The mayor and council members all are elected officials. The mayor is elected at-large by all registered voters in the city limits, while each of the council members is elected only by the

voters who live within a designated single-member district to serve as their representative.

All of the elected officials – mayor and council members – must be residents of the city, but the council members are not required to actually live in the district they are elected to represent.

The city manager, who is hired by the City Council, is responsible for implementing the policies and ordinances approved by the City Council, as well as overseeing the day-to-day operations of the city. The city manager is accountable to the council as a whole and not to any one person.

Organized in 1903, the City of Lamesa actually was not incorporated until almost 15 years later in 1917.

In 1925, a City Hall building and water and sewer system all were built just east of the current Dal Paso Museum in the 300 block of South 1st Street. The brick

streets, which still are in place today, were laid around the downtown square that same year.

A new City Hall was dedicated in 1963 at 310 South Main Avenue and the old city hall building was remodeled to house both the police and fire departments.

Thirty years later – in 1993 – the former Lamesa Federal/Bluebonnet Savings and Loan Building, which had been purchased by the city, was converted into the current City Hall at 601 South 1st Street. That building now houses the administrative offices of the city on the ground level floor, as well as the police department in the below-ground portion of the building.

Currently the fire department has two locations: the Central Fire Station located at 305 North 1st Street; and the North Fire Station located at 1711 North Bryan Avenue.

Lamesa

Population

9,422

(Census in 2010)

9,211

(Estimate in 2017)

Square Miles

4.98

Race

Hispanic - 59.3%

White - 37.5%

Black - 1.8%

American Indian
or Alaska Native - 1.6%

Asian - 1.2%

Gender

Female - 51.3%

Male - 48.7%

Education

High school grads - 74.9%

Bachelors or higher - 14.6%

Households

3,679

Median Household Income

\$41,487

Per Capita Income

\$25,093

Persons Living in Poverty

19.1%

**Median Value of
Owner-Occupied Housing**
\$66,300

Source: U.S. Census Bureau



CITY SCENE

A rainbow provides a backdrop for one of the city's water towers and flags flying above the Central Fire Station.

LPR photo

City of Lamesa

Mayor - Josh Stevens

City Council

District 1 - Brant Stewart

District 2 - Marie A. Briseno

District 3 - Rick Moreno

District 4 - Jason Moreno

District 5 - Bobby G. Gonzales

District 6 - Doug Morris

Administrative Offices

City Hall, 601 South 1st Street

872-2124

City Manager

Shawna D. Burkhart

872-4321

Director of Finance

Wayne Chapman

872-4324

City Secretary

Betty Conde

872-4322

Personnel Director

Irma Ramirez

872-4326

Purchasing Agent/HUD Director

Sandy Trevino

872-4333

Director of Utilities

Dionicio Garza Jr.

872-4327

Wastewater Plant Supervisor

Manuel Vasquez

872-4339

Water Utilities Supervisor

Ernest Ogeda

872-4347

Public Works Director

Robert Ramirez

872-4320

Street Superintendent

Gilbert Ramos

Landfill Supervisor

Joe Rodriguez

Fleet Maintenance Supervisor

William Fulcher

872-4344

Parks Superintendent

Robert Ramirez

872-4342

Golf Course Superintendent

Victor Dimas

Building Inspector/ Code Enforcement Officer

Michael Lopez

872-4329

Municipal Judge

Leticia Dimas

872-4343

City Attorneys

Fulbright and Casselberry Law Firm

872-2103

Chief of Police

Dale E. Alwan Sr.

872-2121

Fire Services Manager

Larry Duyck

872-4352

State elected officials



Representative Tom Craddick
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78768
Austin office: (512) 463-0500
Midland office: (432) 682-3000
<https://house.texas.gov/members/member-page/?district=82>



Senator Charles Perry
P.O. Box 12068 Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711
Austin office: (512) 463-0128
Lubbock office: (806) 783-9934
<https://senate.texas.gov/member.php?d=28>



Lt. Governor Dan Patrick
Box 12068
Austin, Texas 78711
(512) 463-0001
<https://www.lt.gov.state.tx.us/>



Governor Greg Abbott
Box 12428
Austin, Texas 79711
(512) 463-2000
<https://gov.texas.gov>

Federal elected officials

Because of delays caused by screening of all mail sent to federal officials, most recommend that written communication be sent by email using a link provided on their official website.



Representative Mike Conaway
2469 Rayburn House Office Bldg
Washington, D.C. 20515
Washington office: (202) 225-3605
Midland office: (432) 687-2390
<https://conaway.house.gov/>



Senator Ted Cruz
404 Russell Senate Office Bldg,
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-5922
<https://www.cruz.senate.gov>



Senator John Cornyn
517 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-2934
<https://www.cornyn.senate.gov>



Vice President Mike Pence
Office of the Vice President
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20510-4304
(202) 456-1111



President Donald Trump
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500
(202) 456-1414
<https://www.whitehouse.gov>

Mesa UWCD protects underground water

The mission of the Mesa Underground Water Conservation District (Mesa UWCD) is to preserve and protect the groundwater beneath Dawson County.

In an effort to prevent the waste of water from the Ogallala Aquifer, according to its mission statement, "The district will implement water conservation and management strategies to prevent the extreme decline of water levels for the benefit of all water right owners, the economy, our citizens and the environment..."

Authorized by the state legislature in 1989, the district was created the following year by the voters of Dawson County. The district's boundaries are the same as the county's.

The Mesa UWCD regularly monitors groundwater levels, rainfall amounts and the amount of water used for growing various crops.

Permits are required for all new water wells, regardless of whether they are for irrigation, domestic, livestock, industrial or other purposes, according to General Manager Jacob Hernandez.

During 2018 the Mesa UWCD issued permits for 158 new wells, Hernandez said.

Up until a few years ago the vast majority of permits issued by the district were for wells to be used for irrigation purposes. Recently, however, numerous water wells are being drilled in Dawson County to serve the



oil industry, either for drilling, fracking or other purposes.

The district conducts free water quality tests for residents of Dawson County. That basic test determines such things as total dissolved solids,

chloride levels and salinity.

Mesa UWCD is working to digitize many of its records to make them more readily available to the public through its website and other means.

The district cooperates with other groundwater districts in the region to create goals for maintaining desired volumes of water in the aquifers.

The Mesa UWCD is a member of the Texas

Alliance of Groundwater Districts and monitors proposed legislative and regulatory activity that could impact groundwater districts and groundwater ownership rights.

Mesa Underground Water Conservation District

212 N. Avenue G
Lamesa, TX 79331-0497
(806) 872-9205
www.mesauwcd.org

Board of Directors

Matt Farmer, president
Brad Cude, vice president
Blaine Middleton
Brent Staggs
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General Manager

Jacob Hernandez

Administrative Manager

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Ackerly is small town on county line

The community of Ackerly has about the same population as the number of students enrolled there in the Sands school system, according to Mayor Scott Ragle. According to the 2017 census estimates, Ackerly's population is 227.

Ragle said community, church, and school are at the core of Ackerly. Ragle also works as a teacher, fire chief, and emergency medical technician (EMT).

Ackerly is located about halfway between Lamesa and Big Spring, with the north part of the town in Dawson County and the southern part in Martin County.

The town boasts a school, several businesses, a volunteer fire department, EMTs, a post office, and more, Ragle said.

Ackerly's businesses include Ol' Joe's Cafe, Farmer's Co-op Gin, Perry Producing, Perry Firearms, Country Time Firearms, Dirt Road Diva Beauty Salon, Deep Well

Oil Services, Knox Oil Field Supply, Coleman Cattle Company, Kennemer's Welding Inc, and West Texas Ordinance.

The town's churches are Ackerly Church of Christ, Ackerly First Baptist Church, and First United Methodist Church.

Ackerly has a good water system, Ragle said, and the town's volunteer fire department utilizes fire trucks and hydrants to fight fires in the area.

The town's city council hosts events in town, including a car show and a Fourth of July celebration. Ragle said the city purchases fireworks for the Fourth of July and serves free food. After the city's show, citizens may fire off their own fireworks under the direction of the fire department.

Ragle said he moved to Ackerly 22 years ago. Once people visit the community, Ragle said they understand why he stayed.

Ackerly
Population: 227
P.O. Box 37
401 Avenue C
Ackerly, TX 79713
432-353-4868

Mayor
Scott Ragle
sragle@esc17.net

Aldermen
Joe Dean Hall,
Kornelius Enns
Ralph Gomez
David Sanderson
Jim Kays
Chris Spivey

City Secretary
Nelda Salvidar

Water Supervisor
Peter Enns

Fire Chief
Scott Ragle
sragle@esc17.net



CAR SHOW IN ACKERLY

A refurbished Sinclair gas station in Ackerly makes a nice back drop for a car show that has been held annually in that community.

LPR photo

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**South Plains
Abstract Co.**

408 N. 1st Street,
Lamesa, TX 79331
806.872.3023

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- Real Estate Title Services
- Title Companies
- Abstractors

O'Donnell is tight-knit community

O'Donnell Mayor Mark Roye described the town as a "down to earth" and "tight-knit" small community. He said the town is unique because everyone is willing to support each other in times of need.

Roye said everyone in town knows each other and people wave to their neighbors on the street. The people of O'Donnell are hardworking, he said, and everyone is just trying to make a living.

Roye described O'Donnell as "one big neighborhood" that is a major stop for travellers thanks to the expansion of highways in the area. He said the city wants to grow, but the town's small size is what makes it unique.

In recent years, an Allsup's Convenience Store has opened in town. Roye said he is often on the phone with businesses who are interested in working in the town.

O'Donnell recently received a Texas Community Development Block grant that will allow the town to upgrade and modify their waste water treatment plant, Roye said.

The town is also "in the running" for

grants for their fire department from the Texas A&M Forestry Service, Roye said.

In the past few years, Roye said, improvements have been made to O'Donnell school campus, including a new gym as well as new science and business labs that can be used as weather shelters.

O'Donnell
Population: 915

Mayor
Mark Roye

Mayor Pro Tem
Kim Parker

City Council
Kim Parker
Bruce Vaughn
Kyle Pyron
Jesse Perez
Joseph Luera

City Secretary
Esther Smith

Municipal Judge
Ed "Junior" Follis

Chief of Police
Christopher Resendez

Cotton gins in the area have also received upgrades recently, Roye said. He said the gins are always improving and serving farmers in the community.

"Great tourist spots" in O'Donnell are the town's museum and park. He said the museum is one of the "top notch" museums in the area.

The park features a bust of the late Dan Blocker, who played Hoss Cartwright in the "Bonanza" television show. Blocker is among O'Donnell's most famous citizens.

O'Donnell ISD is the biggest employer in O'Donnell. Roye said the school "shines" because

its small classes have a good student to teacher ratio. He also said the school has good staff.



TEN COMMANDMENTS

The Ten Commandments are displayed in O'Donnell across the street from the school campus.

LPR photo

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People help make Welch unique

Welch is described as a small community whose citizens take care of each other.

Nicky Goode, Dawson County Commissioner of Precinct 3, said Welch's people are what make the community unique.

"Everybody sticks together and everyone is there to help one another," Goode said.

Goode said agriculture, community churches, and the oil business are important to Welch, and that everyone works together.

Area farmer and gin owner Glen Phipps described Welch as a quiet community that is a great place to raise a family and that has a great school system.

"I grew up there. It's a great place to live," said Phipps, who operates Welch Gin.

Churches in the area include First Baptist Church, Welch Church of Christ, and Temple Ebenezer.

Welch has its own post office and is home to the Dawson Independent School District.

Among the businesses in Welch

are Key Energy Services, Welch Gin, Tinsley Gin, Southern Roots Hair Salon, and Susan's Cafe, Phipps said.

Phipps said Welch has a good water supply, but is "battling" the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) about the town's water.

Welch
Population: 212

The community has a "very good" volunteer fire department that utilizes high quality equipment, Phipps said. He said the fire department has good facilities and that it is "handy" to have it in the area.

The county sheriff's office and state troopers do "a wonderful job" in the community, Phipps said. He said officers and troopers drive around the community to "check in on us" and make their presence known so their citizens know they are not far away.

Welch is 17 miles from Lamesa and 18 miles to Brownfield, Phipps said, so it can take less time to drive to the grocery store than in bigger cities.



WELCH SKYLINE
Bearing both the name of the community and the Dawson Dragons school logo, the Welch water tower stands near the Welch Gin. *LPR photo*

Grace Lutheran Church

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Divine Service at 9:00 A.M.

Bible Study & Sunday School at 10:15 A.M.

Alan Korinek, Pastor

Lamesa ISD educates about 1,900 students

Lamesa ISD has a culturally diverse student population of approximately 1900 students at 5 campuses: Lamesa High School, Lamesa Middle School, North Elementary, South Elementary and Lamesa Success Academy.

For just over 3 years, Lamesa ISD Superintendent Jim Knight has been coordinating a team of educators at the school.

Knight said the Lamesa ISD's primary goal is "to enrich the lives of our students" by producing "lifelong learners who are responsible, compassionate and active citizens in our communities."

Knight highlighted the elementary schools' "robust" Balanced Literacy program, "intense" RTI (Response to Intervention) program, and "state of the art" dyslexia intervention program.

The Balanced Literacy program is tailored to each student's reading level. Teachers at Lamesa ISD work with students in small groups on their prospective reading level.

RTI provides additional support to students who are behind grade level. In addition, the dyslexia intervention curriculum utilizes the Scottish Rights program called "Take Flight."

"Our district provides every level of support a student needs to be successful in reading," Knight said.

Lamesa Middle School just received a large Transformation Grant that will help start a new program called STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math).

"This grant will provide interactive STEAM resources for our students and will provide more hands on learning. It will also assist with providing additional technology and training for our teachers in the classroom," Knight said.

In May 2018, Lamesa ISD passed a \$30.4 million dollar bond that will help advance academics, school security, technology, athletics as well as help renovate classrooms in the district.

Plans are being finalized for the school's new career and technology center. Subjects that will be taught at the center include law enforcement, cosmetology, culinary arts, welding, construction trades, phlebotomy and certified nurses assistant training.

A band hall is also being added to the new facility to provide additional space for the award winning TOR band. Last year, the band was awarded the UIL Sweepstakes distinction.



HALFTIME SHOW

Shown performing during halftime of a Lamesa Golden Tornado football game, the Lamesa High School Band won numerous honors last fall, including the prestigious Sweepstakes distinction.

LPR photo

"We will also be renovating all of our athletic facilities and building a new spectator gymnasium at the high school," Knight said.

Lamesa High School has sponsored a senior signing day for the fourth time earlier in February.

Knight said the "special day" is not just for athletes, but for all seniors who plan to further their education at a training or technical school, or a college or a university.

"This year we had 88% of our students sign a letter of intent to attend one of these institutions," Knight said.

Lamesa ISD has various athletic opportunities which include football, basketball, track, baseball, softball, cross country, golf, powerlifting, volleyball and tennis.

Lamesa High School was the top performing academic High School in the district and was one of the top 5 achieving larger class school High Schools in region 17, Knight said.

The High School has sent students to state this past year in BPA, Skills USA and Ag judging contests.

"LISD produces... well-rounded students who participate in both academic and co-curricular activities," Knight said.

LISD also has initiated a group of students called Superintendent Ambassadors who represent the entire student body. The ambassadors meet monthly with the superintendent to discuss various topics of interest.

"These students assist as student representative at various LISD functions. They are an important part of the decision making network in the district. We value their leadership and input to make our district great," Knight said.

Lamesa Success Academy provides a unique alternative learning environment for students in grades 7-12 who may not fit the fold of the traditional educational environment, Knight said. Approximately 32 students graduated from the Success Academy in 2018.

"Our Academy has been one of the top-rated alternative schools in the state. We have a high graduation rate as well as high performing scores at this campus," Knight said.

The LISD school district is blessed with an excellent school board and tremendous staff, students, community and leadership, Knight said.

The school has "passionate educators," Knight said, who love kids and want each kid "to reach their maximum potential."

Lamesa ISD

School Board

Kelli Merritt - President
Rebecca Gonzales - V. Pres.
Beverly Brewer - Secretary
Sonya Raney
Albert Martinez
Don Bethel
Ernest Ogeda

Administration

212 N. Austin Avenue
Lamesa, TX 79331
872-5461

Superintendent

Jim Knight
jknight@lamesaisd.esc17.net

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources

Chris Riggins
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Chief Financial Officer

Liz Poage
lpoage@lamesaisd.esc17.net

Technology Director

Keith Emfinger
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High School Principal

Jerry Jerabek
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High School Asst. Principal

Douglas Morris
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Middle School Principal

Serapio Arguijo
sarguijo@lamesaisd.esc17.net

Assistant Principal of Instruction

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North Elementary Principal

Jennifer Stewart
jstewart@lamesaisd.esc17.net

North Elementary Assistant Principal

Richard Soliz
rsoliz@lamesaisd.esc17.net

South Elementary Principal

Shelley Mann
smann@lamesaisd.esc17.net

South Elementary Assistant Principal

Justin Lindsey
jlindsey@lamesaisd.esc17.net

Lamesa Success Academy Principal

David Ritchey
dritchey@lamesaisd.esc17.net

Small classes are a plus at Dawson

The Dawson Independent School District is a small district located between Lamesa and Brownfield in the community of Welch.

Athletic director and discipline coordinator Jon Patrick said the school has a great teacher-to-student ratio that benefits students.

Because of the small size of the school's classes, Patrick said, educators can pay more attention to their students' individual needs than in bigger schools.

Patrick also praised Dawson's teaching staff. He described the teachers as "experienced" and said several teachers have been at the school for many years.

Students sometimes return to the

school and visit their past teachers, Patrick said, which shows their respect and love for their former educators.

Dawson ISD

Box 180
Welch, TX 79377
489-7568 or 489-7461
www.dawson.esc17.net

Superintendent/Principal

Jeff Fleenor
jffleenor@esc17.net

School Board

Kalith Brown, president
Marlin Mahan, vice president
Ben Phipps, secretary
Peter Marten
Andrew Phipps
Cesareo Melendez
Kanyon Brown

Dawson has a "small town feel," Patrick said, and school activities are at the center of life in the small community of Welch.

Other aspects of the school Patrick mentioned is its athletic program, online educational offerings, and strong University Interscholastic League (UIL) academic program. The Dawson Dragons compete in Class 1A UIL activities.

Patrick said the school allows students to pursue courses of study that will be useful in their future careers as adults.



HOME OF THE DRAGONS

LPR photo

A lighted sign in front of the Dawson school building in Welch keeps everyone informed about activities at the school, which is the heart of the small community in northwestern Dawson County.

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Klondike earns academic notice

Sitting on a slight hill amid cotton fields about 11 miles south of Lamesa, the Klondike school system in recent years has been receiving widespread recognition for academic excellence.

Offering kindergarten through 12th grade on a single campus, Klondike received an overall numerical grade of 97 out of 100 in the most recent accountability rating from the Texas Education Agency.

Klondike also received all seven available distinctions in areas ranging from academic achievement to student progress and postsecondary readiness.

During 2018 the school was ranked as the 78th best school in the United States by the National Council for Home Safety and Security, which collected data from more than 9,500 school districts on math

and reading test scores, dropout rates, school funding and area poverty rates.

Klondike also was named an Honor Roll School for 2017-2018 by the Educational Results Partnership and the Institute for Productivity in Education.

The school also is widely recognized for its FFA program, annually winning state honors in both Leadership Development Events and Career Development Events. In recent years it also has had teams win national championships in dairy products evaluation and in homesite evaluation.

Superintendent Steve McLaren said the school benefits from its small size and

high teacher-to-student ratio which allows personalized academic attention.

The school has a relatively small enrollment of about 258 students.

Klondike ISD

2911 CR H
Lamesa, TX 79331
806-462-7334
or 806-462-7332

www.klondike.esc17.net

Superintendent

Steve McLaren
steve.mclaren@klondikeisd.net

Principal

Danielle Therwhanger
danielle.therwhanger@klondikeisd.net

School Board

Kenny Ferguson, president
Quinton Kearney - v.p.
Kelley O'Brien - secretary
Steven Archer
Mike Barkowsky
Ricky Barkowsky



FFA CELEBRATION

Members of the Klondike FFA Dairy Products team celebrate after one of their contests as they captured top national honors last fall.

Photo courtesy of Mackenzie Allison

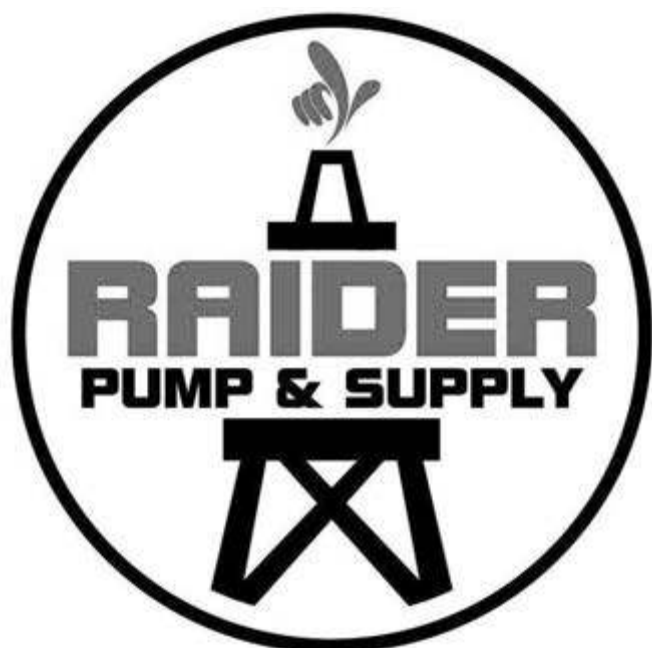
About 60 percent of those students are transfers from Lamesa.

Although small in enrollment, the Klondike school district sprawls across more than 550 square miles of land in southwestern Dawson County and northern Martin County.

The school campus, located on

County Road H about a mile north of FM 828, has undergone extensive renovation and expansion during the past 10 years.

Klondike is a Class 1A school for UIL competition and participates in academics, football, basketball, volleyball, track, cross country and golf.



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LPR photo

NEW BUILDING

Extensive renovation and new construction completed a couple of years ago has given the O'Donnell school a new and modern look.

O'Donnell ISD teaches respect

Superintendent at O'Donnell ISD Dr. Cathy Palmer said the school is dedicated to offering the best academic program it can. She said O'Donnell ISD wants to teach students empathy for others and respect for their country.

About 310 students are enrolled at O'Donnell ISD. The school offers several athletic programs, including football, baseball, cross country, basketball, tennis and golf.

The school also provides academic UIL programs to interested students. Palmer said that the school's UIL debate students consistently qualify to compete at state and that the elementary students have been champions in UIL competitions for the past four years.

O'Donnell is not just about academics and athletics, Palmer said. The school wants to encourage students to be successful in any field. Palmer said O'Donnell tries to design programs based on what

students are interested in and what will help them succeed in their future careers.

Those enrolled at O'Donnell may participate in the school's electives and extracurricular programs, which include: Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), robotics, culinary arts, Future Farmers of America, and more. Other areas that Palmer said the school succeeds in include FFA and the track team.

O'Donnell ISD
<http://odonnell.esc17.net>
 Box 487, 501 5th Street
 O'Donnell, TX. 79351
 806-428-3241

Superintendent
 Dr. Cathy Palmer
cpalmer@esc17.net

Secondary Principal
 Cody White
cwhite@esc17.net

Elementary Principal
 Sharla Edwards
sharlaedwards@esc17.net

Board Members
 Mandy Stidham, president
 Billy Edwards, vice president
 Randy Cook, secretary
 Monty Hancock
 Jacob Lowe
 Landon Mires
 Melissa Pedroza

Palmer said the school pays for students to take dual credit college classes. She said the school wants to focus on ACT and SAT programs and provide opportunities to help students be successful if they attend college or want to learn a trade.

In the future, Palmer said O'Donnell wants to expand its "Grow Your Own program" and culinary arts programs.

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Cynde Schneider FNP-C

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to book an appointment
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Sands school is family oriented

Sands Consolidated ISD in Ackerly is a school that features remarkably dedicated teachers and a “family oriented” atmosphere, according to Superintendent Wayne Henderson.

The average Texas teacher stays at a school for 6 years, Henderson said, but

Sand’s teachers work in the district for 14-15 years.

The school has 248 kids attending from Pre-K to twelfth grade. Henderson said the school tries to stay within the 240-250 range for their student body.

In high school, Henderson said the school does not have more than 18 students in any class. He said the small class sizes help the students and teachers stay successful.

Henderson said the elementary in particular is growing because of people in the oil industry moving into the area. This year, the Sands split 1st grade into two different

classes because the school has about 27 students in the same class.

Sands passed a bond 5 years ago which has allowed the school to upgrade their facilities, including their gym, parking lot, fences, roof, and buses.

Henderson said the campus is old, so the school will continue to build and upgrade its facilities when it can. He said the school is focused on repairing parts of the campus rather than tearing them down.

Sand’s school board is “outstanding,” Henderson said, and do what’s best for the kids. The superintendent said it is “huge” for the school to have support from its board.

The school is “successful in everything we do,” Henderson said, including academics and extracurricular

activities.

Henderson highlighted Sands’s A accountability rating, saying that he is proud of the teachers for the achievement and that the students make the teachers proud.

Sands has earned all 7 distinctions over the past two years.

Henderson said he is proud of the parents, teachers, and students for the achievement.

Henderson described the school as “a close-knit family,” where the teachers care about the kids and the teachers stay with Sands because the community supports the school. He said everyone at the school has the students’ suc-

cess in mind.

“I’m fortunate enough to work at a school where the community supports the school,” Henderson said.

Sands CISD
101 Mustang Drive
Ackerly, TX 79713
432-353-4888
www.sands.esc17.net

Superintendent
Wayne Henderson
whenderson@esc17.net


Principal
Lenny Morrow
lmorrow@esc17.net

School Board
Tommy Staggs - president
Jody Howard - vice president
Robin Barraza - secretary
Wes Higgins
Matt Snell
Michael Wigington
Cole Walker



COLLEGE SIGNING


Sands senior Alexis Gonzalez was joined by her family last month as she signed to play softball at Sul Ross State University



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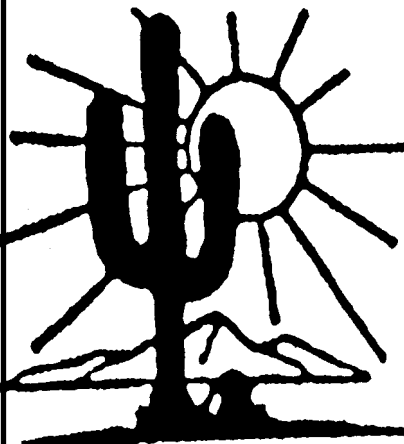
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Howard College has campus here

The Lamesa campus of Howard College offers students an affordable opportunity to obtain an associate's degree or work toward a higher degree right here in Lamesa.

A branch of Big Spring-based Howard College, the Lamesa campus has about 175-200 students enrolled for the Spring 2018 semester, according to campus Director Monica Castro.

About half of those are students at either Lamesa High School or Klondike High School

who are taking dual-credit classes through Howard College.

While many of those dual-credit students graduate from high school with 20 or more hours of college credit, a few who also have taken summer or evening classes at the Lamesa campus have been able to earn an associate's degree by the time they get out of high school.

Castro said students may obtain all

of their "core" college classes at the Lamesa campus, which offers 42 hours of credit in those basic subjects.

"They can get an associate degree here or a good start toward a bachelor's degree," Castro said. "It (the local college) allows students to stay here, keep their jobs, and get a couple of years of college under their belts."

The college offers developmental math and English classes, as well as tutoring in math, for those who may need a little help to get ready

for college work.

A Certified Nurse Aide (CNA) class is available, with lectures held in Lamesa and clinicals in Big Spring. Accounting and personal finance classes also are available.

The college building here, owned by Dawson County, recently has received upgrades to make it more attractive and accommodating to students.

Lamesa Campus of Howard College
1810 Lubbock Highway
806-872-2223

Campus Director
Monica Castro

CWJC offers various community services

While the primary goal of Christian Women's Job Corps of Lamesa is to provide training that will help women ages 18 years and older obtain their GED, it also offers some services for the community.

An ESL (English as a Second Language) class is open to anyone who wants to attend the night courses over an eight- to 10-week period.

On the second Tuesday of every month, KIDS (Knowledge In Divorce Situations) is offered for anyone to attend.

A Bible study on Thursday morning often is attended not only by CWJC participants but other people from the community as well.

CWJC also offers a jobs program to help people learn the proper ways to apply for a job, prepare for an interview and how to dress and be responsible once a job offer has been made.

"We basically teach how to get and

keep a job, as well as when to know it's time to change jobs," Karen Presley, executive director of CWJC, said.

CWJC's training programs for women are aimed at helping them obtain their GED, as well as provide some instruction in basic study courses to equip them for life and employment.

Those courses are offered free of charge and all necessary school supplies are provided by CWJC at no charge.

Currently, Presley said, CWJC also pays for

the GED test for its students.

Students with pre-school-age children can take advantage of free on-site childcare, if needed, while they are attending classes.

The purpose of the CWJC ministries is to provide a Christian context where women can get the educational help they might need in a safe environment. Women receive training in basic life skills and job readiness.

Christian Women's Job Corps
1013 North 2nd Street
872-5627

Executive Director
Karen Presley

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First Church of Nazarene

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Lee Lennon, Pastor

Head Start program educates children

The Head Start center in Lamesa provides education for children between the ages of six months and three years. The organization focuses on social and emotional learning.

Head Start director Brooke Adcock said the program is income based. In other words, children who are in low income families are prioritized to be accepted into the program.

Kids who are slightly above Head Start's guidelines for income may be accepted if there are openings in their classes, Adcock said, but kids who are in lower income families are accepted first.

Head Start is funded to accept 85 three year old children into its main program and 72 kids between the ages of 6 months and 3 years old. The program also has two home based teachers that serve eight families with pregnant moms or newborns.

Adcock said Head Start focuses on the child's health and wellbe-

ing. The organization makes sure kids are up to date on their medical exams and shots.

The program also teaches classes for parents and meets with them often. Adcock said Head Start teaches parents that they are their child's first educator.

Head Start's programs are age appropriate Adcock said. She said Head Start serves kids with disabilities and gets them the resources they need.

According to the Head Start website, the program is funded by the Department of Health and Human Services/ Administration for Children and Families. West Texas Opportunities has operated a Head Start center in Lamesa since 1966.

Those who are interested in signing up for Head Start's programs may visit their office at Northeast 3rd Street Corner and North Iowa Ave, Lamesa. For more information, call their office at (806) 872-6713.

Head Start
505 N.E. 3rd Street
872-6713

Lamesa Center Director
April Morris



HEAD START PROGRAM

Students who are enrolled in Head Start routinely participate in parents' programs at the campus to demonstrate what they have learned.

LPR photo

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Lodging and dining

Lamesa eating establishments

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| <p>Acevedos Mexican Food 312 S Dallas 872-5715</p> | <p>Follow the Smoke BBQ & Catering Barbecue, etc. 311 S. 2nd St. 872-6460</p> | <p>Lost Texan Barbecue 608 N Dallas 872-9234</p> | <p>Rocky's Burgers Hamburgers, etc. 605 S. Dallas Ave. 872-7968</p> | <p>Swift Stop Deli foods 1100 N. 4th 872-3082</p> | <p>Tita's Kitchen Mexican food 901 N. 4th 806-556-5957</p> |
| <p>Bush's Chicken Fried chicken, etc 602 N. Dallas Ave. 870-4445</p> | <p>Jalisco's Mexican food 903 S Dallas 872-2946</p> | <p>McDonald's Hamburgers, etc. 505 N Dallas 872-6541</p> | <p>Sissy's Dive Burgers, etc. 1510 Lubbock Hwy. 870-7867</p> | <p>Taco Villa Mexican food 206 N 4th 872-3321</p> | <p>Fatbacks Smokehouse John Weatherman 806-759-9278</p> |
| <p>Claiborne's Deli Deli foods 710 N. 4th Street 872-7011</p> | <p>K-Bob's Steaks, misc. 2200 Lubbock Hwy 872-6531</p> | <p>Morning Star Donuts Donuts, etc. 412 N 4th 872-4607</p> | <p>Sonic Hamburgers, etc. 401 N 4th 872-5943</p> | <p>Taqueria El Valle Mexican food 1504 Seminole Hwy. 806-332-8289</p> | <p>G&G Roughneck Catering 806-299-7130</p> |
| <p>Daddio's Burrito Express Burritos, tacos, catering 202 S. 2nd St. 870-1313</p> | <p>Lamesa Donuts Donuts, etc. 1904 Lubbock Hwy. 872-0002</p> | <p>O'Hana's Japanese Steakhouse Japanese food 501 N. Dallas Ave. 872-9400</p> | <p>Stripes No 88 Hamburgers, etc. 1912 N. Dallas Ave. 872-8521</p> | <p>Texas Cajun Seafood, Cajun, Mexican 305 N. 4th St. 806-870-0017</p> | <p>Gorditos Smokehouse BBQ N. 4th & Ave. I</p> |
| <p>Dairy Queen Hamburgers, etc. 512 N 4th 872-8155</p> | <p>La Mesa Restaurant Mexican food 412 N Ave. L 872-8061</p> | <p>Pedroza's Mexican food 1501 N Dallas 872-2884</p> | <p>Stripes No. 2289 Deli Foods 411 N. Lynn Ave. 872-0110</p> | <p>Texas Finest Miscellaneous 1703 Lubbock Hwy 872-2031</p> | <p>Tamale Hombres Tamales N. 5th and Lynn Ave. 806-200-3872</p> |
| | | <p>Pizza Hut/Taco Bell Pizza, Mexican food. 305 N 4th 872-8309</p> | <p>Subway Sandwiches 201 N. 4th St. 872-5003</p> | <p>Yes Way Deli Foods 1111 Seminole Rd. 872-8629</p> | <p>The Grub Hub Catering 1508 Lubbock Hwy. 872-8655</p> |

Lamesa Motels

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>Best Western Lamesa Inn & Suites 506 N. Dallas Ave. 56 rooms, pool, meetings 872-3888</p> | <p>Shiloh Inn 1707 Lubbock Hwy 50 units, pool 872-6721</p> |
| <p>Budget Host Inn 901 S. Dallas Ave. 30 rooms 872-2118</p> | <p>Southern Inn & Suites 1617 N. Hwy. 87 40 rooms, pool 872-7911</p> |
| <p>Lamesa Motel 1210 Seminole Rd. 10 units 872-5112</p> | <p>Westerner Motel 915 N. Dallas Ave. 28 units 872-2115</p> |

RV Parking

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>Forrest Park RV Park 8 spaces, South 9th St. & Bryan Ave. Call Lamesa City Hall, 872-2124</p> | <p>2T RV 50 spaces, North Highway 87 432-940-0344</p> |
| <p>87/180 RV Park 10 spaces, South 6th St. & Dallas Ave. 806-239-5921 or 332-8386</p> | <p>The Pines 12+ spaces, 6 miles SW of Lamesa, just off of FM 2052 806-762-7766</p> |
| <p>La Vadera RV Park 66 spaces, 1800 blk Seminole Hwy 806-239-5921 or 332-8386</p> | |

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We are proud to be part of the Dawson County community!

Company donates funds to help buy rescue equipment

U.S. Silica helps Lamesa Fire Rescue stock specialized emergency trailer

U.S. Silica has donated \$7,315 to Lamesa Fire Rescue for the purchase of specialty equipment to outfit a confined space entry and high-angle rescue trailer. The equipment is necessary for a firefighter to safely enter a confined space and perform a rescue in the event of an emergency.

U.S. Silica also has hosted firefighter drills and training sessions at its Lamesa fire sand mine and plant. U.S. Silica is thankful to the courageous first responders who are willing to risk everything to save lives in the event of an emergency," said U.S. Silica Lamesa Plant Manager Steve Witt. "This donation is about making everyone



Photo courtesy U.S. Silica

This donation is about making everyone in our community safer...

Steve Witt
Lamesa plant manager

in our community safer, from those of us who live and work in Dawson County to the firefighters who brave life-threatening conditions to save others."

Confined space rescues require special equipment and training, as first responders must navigate dark, tight, and often confined areas. See EQUIPMENT, Page A3

RESCUE EQUIPMENT
A donation from U.S. Silica helped purchase the various rescue equipment secured inside the Confined Space Entry and High Angle Rescue trailer in use by Lamesa Fire Rescue.



U.S. Silica photo

BACKPACKS DONATED
Displaying some of the backpacks donated by U.S. Silica for the Food 4 Kids Lamesa Backpack Program at South Elementary School are (from left) Chad Hawkins, Director of Digital Curriculum and Instructional Technology at South Elementary,

Shelley Mann, Principal at South Elementary; Chelsea Barron, Lamesa Plant Administrator, U.S. Silica; and Justin Lindsey, Assistant Principal at South Elementary. U.S. Silica also donated backpacks for the program at North Elementary School.

U.S. Silica gives to Boys, Girls Club

U.S. Silica has donated \$5,000 to the Lamesa Boys and Girls Club, which provides a safe place for local children to make friends, learn new things and grow as individuals and as members of the community.

The Lamesa club reportedly has been experiencing rapid growth over the last couple of months, and the donation is funding everything from in-club activities to field trips to meals over the summer.

"The people at the Boys and Girls Club work hard every day to provide a safe place for children of all ages, whether that is after school or all day during the summer months," said U.S. Silica Lamesa Plant Manager Steve Witt. "Thanks to them, children can spend their time enjoying fun and enriching activities and making life-long friendships."

"We are proud to support their efforts to help Lamesa youth reach their fullest potential." The Lamesa Boys and

community. In addition to sports, games and art, the children are enjoying trips to the library and planning community service projects.

"Our club offers programs for all age groups that encourage a love of learning and nurture a spirit of community. It is only with the support of partners like U.S. Silica that we can continue to provide a safe and nurturing place for children in our community," said Tammy Wyatt, executive director of the Lamesa Boys and Girls Club. "In addition to our younger club members, we now have teenagers who attend regularly, which is a welcome change. As new families are moving into the Lamesa area we want them to know about the Boys and Girls Club and all that we have to offer."

Lamesa Boys and Girls Club President Scott Leonard said the gift was the result of proactive action by U.S. Silica.

"When U.S. Silica first arrived in Lamesa that school



SUPPORTING BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB
Mike Lawson, Vice President of Investor Relations and Tammy Wyatt, Executive Director of the Lamesa Boys and Girls Club.



DONATION OF TWO TVs
Chelsea Barron, Lamesa Plant Administrator for U.S. Silica, and Tammy Wyatt, Executive Director of the Lamesa Boys and Girls Club, are shown with one of two 50-inch, flat-screen TVs donated by U.S. Silica to the Boys and Girls Club.



U.S. Silica photo

HELPING FILL BACKPACKS
U.S. Silica employee Ashley Grayson is shown helping with the sorting of food on a recent packing night for the Food 4 Kids Lamesa Backpack Program.

U.S. Silica helps fight local hunger

Gives \$10,710 and backpacks to Food 4 Kids Lamesa Backpack Program

U.S. Silica has donated \$10,710 to Food 4 Kids Lamesa Backpack Program to help provide wholesome snacks and other nutritious foods for students at risk of going hungry over the weekends throughout the 2018-2019 school year.

The donation by U.S. Silica will be used for 88 South Elementary School students from pre-K through third grade.

"The Backpack Program bridges the gap between school days for children who receive free or reduced-price meals at school, but might not have enough to eat at home over the weekend. The company also donated 100 backpacks to children in the program at both North and South Elementary Schools.

"The Backpack Program is a wonderful effort that helps students succeed by enabling them to focus on learning, and not on worrying where their next meal is coming from," said U.S. Silica Lamesa Plant Manager Steve Witt. "We love this community

... We want to make sure every child in our community has the nutrition they need to do their best in and out of the classroom. This simply would not be possible without the generosity of supporters like U.S. Silica.

Sonya Raney
Vice President of Parent, Teacher, Student Organization

and we are proud to partner with Food 4 Kids Lamesa, which is committed to making sure no child goes hungry in our hometown."

"Food 4 Kids Lamesa is working to end weekend hunger for chil-

dren by providing a backpack filled with kid-friendly nutritional food each Friday of the school year," said Sonya Raney, vice president of the Lamesa High School Parent, Teacher, Student Organization, which administers the program.

"We want to make sure every child in our community has the nutrition they need to do their best both in and out of the classroom. This simply would not be possible without the generosity of supporters like U.S. Silica."

U.S. Silica's donation will feed students at Lamesa's South Elementary for a full school year of 36 weeks, supplying them with a variety of good foods, including chicken, fruit bars, and macaroni and cheese.

More than 84 percent of the students in Lamesa ISD qualify for free or reduced-cost meals, with participants in this program recommended for inclusion by counselors and teachers. See DONATION, Page 2



DONATION FOR EQUIPMENT
Lamesa Fire Chief Larry DeWitt (left) is pictured with Lamesa Fire Plant Administrator Chelsea Barron standing beside the Confined Space Entry-High Angle Rescue trailer, which contains equipment sent U.S. Silica helped purchase with a donation from the company.

Photo courtesy U.S. Silica



HELP ON PACKING NIGHT
U.S. Silica Lamesa Plant employees recently participated in packing night for the Food 4 Kids Lamesa Backpack Program.



U.S. SILICA DONATES CANNED FOOD
U.S. Silica collected the third highest number of cans of food during the Jingle Mingle Fund raiser held earlier this month for the Feed One Food Bank. Employees at the frac sand mine and plant, which is located northwest of Lamesa, filled a pickup bed with canned food.

Photo courtesy U.S. Silica



SAND MINING, PROCESSING OPERATION
Construction work at the U.S. Silica sand mining and processing facility located northwest of Lamesa, Okla., is well advanced. U.S. Silica Lamesa Plant Administrator Chelsea Barron (left) is pictured with U.S. Silica Lamesa Plant Manager Steve Witt (right) standing in front of the facility. Construction is about 40 percent complete and more than half of the job openings have been filled, but additional employees will be needed. Lawson recommended the facility will begin producing high-quality, fine-grain sand for use in oil-well hydraulic fracturing operations by late May or early June.

Photo courtesy U.S. Silica

Construction progressing

U.S. Silica to start producing sand by late May, early June

By Harold Hollmark
Lamesa Press-Reporter
With construction at the site about all but complete and more than half of the job openings already filled, U.S. Silica expects to begin producing sand by late May or early June. The sand mining and processing operation is located about 10 miles northwest of Lamesa, just north of County Road 11 about two miles west of the intersection of O.M. Highway 829 and 1064.

"We're still looking to fill some skilled positions, but probably our biggest current need is millwrights to work on machinery."

Michael Lawson
U.S. Silica spokesman

He added that about all of those jobs are to be filled in the next few weeks. He said U.S. Silica already has secured contracts for 70th percent of the sand mine's capacity. Lawson said, but that capacity probably will not be reached

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