



Our Hometown

2023



Guide to Lamesa & Dawson County



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 LeeRoy Colgan Fair Barn about the second weekend 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.



Annual Pancake Supper

For 69 years, the Lamesa Kiwanis Club sponsored the pancake supper. After not being held in 2020 due to COVID, the supper has been hosted the past two years by the Lamesa Service Club, which was created in 2021 after the local Kiwanis club disbanded and re-organized to put its full focus on serving the local community. More than 700 people normally show up during a span of several hours 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 has included live musical entertainment the past few years. 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.

Movieland Dinner & Theater

For more than 20 years the Friends of Movieland organization has held a dinner and special movie showing as part of its annual membership drive to raise funds to help keep the local non-profit Movieland Theater in operation.

April

Springtime Shine Car Show

Hosted by the local Nuestro Car Club, the Springtime Shine Car Show is normally held on the first weekend of April. Featuring everything from antiques and classics to low-riders



and motorcycles, the 2022 show attracted more than 150 vehicles and a crowd estimated at well over 1,000 people. It has been held on the downtown Lamesa square the past few years and now includes a cruise, food vendors, live music and various special events for the entire family. The event raises funds for scholarships and the Lamesa High School Band.

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 normally 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. Hosted by the City of Lamesa with support from the Lamesa Area Chamber of Commerce, the celebration normally includes an array of 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

Graduation time

May is normally dominated by end-of-school activities in Lamesa and the surrounding area, with an array of school banquets, awards ceremonies and senior activities leading up to graduation ceremonies for seniors in Lamesa High School and the surrounding schools. In addition to the Lamesa school system, the Klondike, Dawson, Sands and O'Donnell school districts all include territory and students in Dawson County.



JUNE

Blackshear Reunion/Juneteenth

On odd-numbered years a reunion is held for former students, teachers and others associated with the Black-shear school in Lamesa. The Blackshear schools served local African-American students until from 1925 to 1966. The reunion normally involves a get-together, games, a parade, church service and other activities. It has normally been held on the weekend closest to Juneteenth, which memorializes the June 19, 1865, announcement in Texas that slavery had been banned and all slaves were set free. A local Juneteenth celebration – involving games, food and other activities – is usually held in years between the Blackshear reunions.

offer variety of activities

July

Independence Day Celebration

For many years the Lamesa Area Chamber of Commerce has hosted an all-day event in Forrest Park, capped off by a fireworks display that night, to celebrate Independence Day. However, in 2022 the event was reformatted to feature only a few evening activities, then cancelled altogether except for a parade and 5K run/walk.

MS Bike: Cactus and Crude Ride

Lamesa hosts an overnight stopover with meals for this two-day, 150-mile bicycle ride from Midland to Lubbock to raise money for multiple sclerosis research and services. The 2022 event included about 150 riders, plus numerous support personnel, and raised about \$400,000.



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. In the past it has been dubbed the “richest rodeo” because it has given the biggest cash prize in the area. In addition to the traditional rodeo events, activities include a parade, nightly calf scramble and activities for youngsters, crowning of a rodeo queen, and the finals of the association’s team roping, calf roping and junior barrels competition. A dance is usually held after the rodeo on Friday and Saturday nights.



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 Forrest Park. Funds are used to assist with the annual Dawson County Junior Livestock Show and Scholarship Fund.

Back-to-School Giveaway

For more than 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

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. Although the event was cancelled during COVID and has not yet resumed, organizers are still hoping to get the tradition going again. The celebration usually is held the weekend closest to Sept. 16 and 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 vari-

ous 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.



Thanksgiving Meal

Since 2011, numerous donors and volunteers have worked together to provide a free meal on Thanksgiving day to those in need. This past year a total of about 350-375 meals were served either in the high school cafeteria or delivered to residents at various locations around the community.

December

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. A number of related events assist in that effort, including a toy and coat drive hosted by the Nuestro Car Club.

Follis Boys Basketball Tournament

Named for a legendary Lamesa basketball coach who passed away several years ago, the O.W. Follis Basketball Tournament is sponsored by the Lamesa Area Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with the Lamesa school district. This past year the tournament featured a total of 29 teams, split into boys and girls divisions, playing 71 games over a three-day period.



Christmas activities

Lamesa annually hosts an array of Christmas activities which vary somewhat from year to year. Many of those are sponsored by the Lamesa Area Chamber of Commerce and have included a lighted Christmas parade, Christmas decorating contests, Miss Merry Christmas pageant, open houses at local businesses, and other events. Other organizations, including the county library and the local Dal Paso Museum, also normally host special Christmas activities.



Chicken Fried Steak Festival

Longtime legend serves as basis for Lamesa's biggest annual event

Since its debut in 2011, Lamesa's annual Chicken Fried Steak Festival has become almost legendary.

Attracting several thousand people each spring – often including individuals from several European countries who have made the event part of their U.S. vacation schedules – the festival is Lamesa's largest annual event.

It has received widespread attention and has even been recognized by a national publication as one of the top festivals in the United States.

The festival was cancelled in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic, but made a return the following year and is on the schedule again this year.

Always held the last weekend of April at Forrest Park and the surrounding area, the event is hosted by the City of Lamesa and features an array of food, fun and much more.

Naturally for a festival with such a name, the event annually includes a chicken fried steak cookoff with several hundred dollars in prize money being offered. Several booths in the park normally serve fried steak dinners, and last year the Lamesa Area Chamber of Commerce scored a hit by offering chicken-fried-steak-on-a-stick. The festival even includes a pageant to select a Mr. and Miss Chicken Fried Steak.

More than 100 vendors, from across Texas and New Mexico provide booths offering an array of food, various arts and crafts, clothing, games, information and other items.

Events included in last year's festival included a volleyball tournament, kickball tournament, 4K run, children's story time, pet costume contest, petting zoo, parade, team roping, car and motorcycle show, worship service, and tumbling and dance demonstrations.

Live music is featured at various times, with local bands supplemented by special guests performers usually brought in on Friday and Saturday evenings.

A hot air balloon

rally was included as part of the festival for a number of years but always faced challenges from the spring winds in this part of West Texas and is no longer on the schedule.

The festival debuted in 2011 to help celebrate the legend that Lamesa is the birthplace of the chicken fried steak.

As the story goes, the dish was 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, the cook battered and fried a steak as he would have cooked a piece of chicken, creating a dish that is now considered a "comfort food" across 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* newspaper.

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.



ENTERTAINMENT

A huge crowd gathered in Forrest Park on the final evening of the 2022 Chicken Fried Steak Festival for a performance by Michael Salgado, who was nominated for a Grammy Award in 2012 and has received two Latin Grammy Awards.

LPR photo

Embracing the tale and capitalizing on the recognition it has brought to Lamesa, local leaders created the Chicken Fried Steak Festival and even

convinced the state legislature to officially designate Lamesa as the "Legendary Home of the Chicken Fried Steak."



STEAK ON A STICK

Chicken fried steak served on a stick by the Lamesa Area Chamber of Commerce proved to be one of the popular food booths at the 2022 festival.

LPR photo

Sharon Youngblood

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COMMUNITY SUPPORT

An annual membership drive, during which donors are treated to a movie and meal, helps provide the funds to keep the non-profit Movieland Theater operating.

LPR photo

Movieland operates as non-profit theater

When Lamesa's Movieland Theater was first organized a unique, non-profit movie theater, some of the organizers questioned whether their brainchild would even last a year.

Thanks to amazing support from the community – as film and food customers, financial donors and volunteer workers – the theater is now in its 23rd year of operation.

"We continue to be amazed and so grateful for all of the support we receive," said Mike Roy, who has served as the theater's general manager since helping organize and get it established.

The theater shows mostly first-run movie releases on two separate screens six days a week.

"We try to get them as soon as possible," Roy said of the movies, noting that super-hero and scary movies seem to be the favorites here.

Movieland can seat 169 people in Theater 1 and another 100 in Theater 2, which was added several years after the theater building was purchased.

Staffed largely by volunteers, Movieland charges only \$7 for adults and \$6 for children age 12 and under, with youngsters age 2 and under admitted for free.

Movieland also is popular for the low-priced concession foods that exceed what is offered at most theaters. In addition to popcorn, sodas, and candy, the local theater offers hot dogs and other specialty food items.

Some local residents actually go to the theater just for the food, purchasing take-out without going to a show.

Roy said the low ticket and concession prices are what help make the theater a hit, not only for Lamesa residents but for visitors from surrounding communities as well.

"We're still relatively cheap," he said. "Out-of-towners are usually shocked by our prices. It's a big difference going to a show here compared to one in Lub-

bock or somewhere else."

The theater is open Tuesday through Sunday of each week.

In addition to regular showings, the theater also hosts parties, groups and schools for special showings.

Each year Movieland holds a membership drive as way of raising funds to improve the facility and keep everything up and running.

The theater also has benefitted tremendously by generous grants from the local Weaver Foundation which have been used for improvements to ensure everyone has an enjoyable experience when they come to the theater.

Although much of the money raised from this year's membership drive in late February will go to help with regular operations, which are just now recovering from the effects of the COVID pandemic, Roy is hoping some of it can be used to replace and upgrade aging and outdated equipment and furnishings.

Live theater thrives on Lamesa stage

For more than 40 years the Lamesa Community Players have been entertaining audiences from Lamesa and the surrounding area with live theatrical productions featuring an amazing array of local talent.

The non-profit organization, run entirely by local volunteers, normally stages 3-4 productions – ranging from musicals to comedies and dramas – every year.

The slate for 2023 begins with the presentation of "Southern Fried Funeral" starting in late April, followed by a skit camp and performance of "Alice in Wonderland" in June. "Cocktails with Mimi" is scheduled to take the stage in September, and "A Dickens Christmas Carol" is planned during the Christmas season.

The cast, crew, and directors for every show consist of local individuals – ranging from young children to great-grandparents in their 80s – who simply have a love for live, local theater.

One of the longest-running theater organizations in West Texas, the Lamesa Community Players was organized in 1981 through the efforts of various local residents who came together for a common cause.

Just a few months after their first meeting, they presented an original melodrama, "Skulduggery on the Square," written by local residents and featuring almost 100 local people either on stage or performing various roles to make the production happen.

The following year they purchased a former retail building just off the downtown square, at 214 N. Austin Ave., and converted it into a

theater, where more than 125 productions have now taken the stage.

They later obtained another building just around the corner, on N. 1st St., which serves as their own costume shop which includes donated props that can be pulled back out and used as needed for new shows.

Ticket sales from performances and money raised through the organization's annual membership drive help keep the theater doors open. Proceeds also are used to cover royalty fees for each of the productions. In addition to providing financial support

for the theater, memberships allow patrons to make theater reservations for productions a few days before tickets go on sale to the general public.

The organization also has been assisted over the years with several generous grants from the local Weaver Foundation for remodeling and improvements both inside and outside the theater building.

Lamesa Community Players

214 N. Austin Ave.
806-872-2705

lamesacommunityplayers.com



LOCAL TALENT

The Lamesa Community Players organization taps into an array of talent from school teachers, business leaders, retirees, young children and others to produce 3-4 live productions on stage every year.

Library offers more than books

There's much more to the Dawson County Public Library than just books.

But the county library certainly has plenty of books just waiting to be checked out and read. They come in more than just the traditional format however.

"We have numerous books, audio books and DVDs for all different ages. We also have a large selection of digital books and audio books through Overdrive that can be accessed on different devices," said head librarian Angie Martinez.

Currently the library has 32,228 materials which can be checked out. That includes 2,187 audio books, 1,654 DVDs and 305 Blue Ray movies.

A total of 45,239 items were checked out during the 2022 calendar year. By checking those items out from the library rather than buying them, people saved almost \$342,000, Martinez said.

The library has information and educational databases accessible at no cost to all library members.

"We've recently added 21 STEAM learning kits that have books and hands-on activities for children and teens available to check out. We also

have a great reference section and genealogy section full of books great for research," Martinez said.

"We offer computer classes which run four weeks – one class in the spring and one in the fall each year."

The library also offers free notary services.

"We also have free WIFI available in-house or outside of the library," Martinez said.

Dawson County Library

511 N. 3rd St.
806-872-6502
dclib@ploud.net

Head Librarian
Angie Martinez

The library has microfilm machines, and offers services like laminating, faxing, and copying in both black-and-white and color. A meeting room is available for non-profit organizations.

"We now also have I pads and laptops available for in-house check out that

can be used for things such as virtual interviews and even visualized doctor's appointments," Martinez said.

The Library has weekly programs for children.

"We have Storytime for children ages two to four on Wednesday at 10:30 a.m., as well as Toddler Time for children infant to 24 months on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.," Martinez said.

"Our biggest program of the year is our Summer Reading Program, a pro-



STORY TIME

A story time, during which library personnel read books to young children, is just one of the many programs offered by the Dawson County Library.

gram for all ages from infants to adults.

They also host a variety of educational and entertaining programs through the summer.

The library will be sponsoring its second annual Free Prom Dress Boutique March 13-17.

"All of these dresses are donated, and these dresses are still beautiful," Martinez said.

All they ask of somebody who gets one of the dresses is to bring it back for someone else to enjoy in the future.

The library is funded by Dawson County and also gets support from a group called Friends of the Library.

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

In addition to Martinez, the library's staff includes Dalia Rodriguez, Missi Culp, Tabrina Tijerina, Dora Perales, Christi Purcell, Kyley Cumbie, Isaiah Flores, Christianna Pacheco and Juan Renteria.

Museum provides look at county's past

A trip down memory lane is available just off the downtown square in Lamesa at the Dal Paso Museum.

"Our main goal is to help recapture the early years of this county and city," said Judith Holladay a museum board member.

The museum has been in its current location for over 35 years. The building once housed the Dal Paso Hotel.

More than 20 museum rooms are located upstairs, featuring various aspects of life in Dawson County.

There's a medical room with items and information pertaining to the early years of medicine here.

A large sports room details Lamesa and area school sports history through photographs and items such as shoes, letter jackets, megaphones and more. Exhibits include the Lamesa Lobos professional baseball team and the polo

and cowboy polo teams which used to be based here.

A textiles room consists of a vast assortment of textile-related items filling the cases. There are also antique sewing machines and spinning wheels.

A cotton ginning room is dedicated to the county's history involving the cotton and ginning industries.

The school room depicts a classroom of days gone by, along with various historical items. The legal room boasts items from a Dawson County courtroom and honors many who were well known as local lawyers and judges.

The city history room consists of artifacts and photographs depicting early Lamesa history.

A banking room includes machines, furniture and other items from early banking history. An industrial room contains items from the railroad, car

dealerships and other local industries.

An archaeology room contains specimens from the early history of Dawson County other areas, mostly collected by local enthusiasts.

The ranching room displays the Dawson County ranching heritage and more. An architectural room is a tribute to local architectural history.

A mercantile room has many items, cabinets and pieces from businesses of the past.

The kitchen room consists of items and furniture depicting how an early kitchen here might have looked. A nearby dining room is furnished from the 1920s era.

A bedroom features antique furniture and other items donated by Dawson County citizens. The parlor room consists of antique furniture, items and musical instruments displayed as they would have been in a 1920s sitting room.

The Dal Paso Hotel room and bathroom depicts how a room might have looked in the hotel's heyday.

The veteran's room provides a substantial display of local military history.

The religious room is made up of historical items from local churches. The doll room features one local family's large and beautiful doll collection.

The museum currently doesn't open on a regular schedule, but individuals and groups may make arrangements for tours by contacting any board member.

With a large downstairs lobby and reception area, the facility is available for family gathering and other events. The rental rate is \$150 for 1-5 hours and \$300 for more than five hours. Both rates require a \$100 security deposit. For rental information contact Judith Holladay at 806-577-7488 or Theresa Estes at 806-201-1000.

Current board members are Esther Miers, DeLois Burkett, Theresa Estes, Judith Holladay, Judy Beam, Donna White, Jane Stone, Sara Dodson, Connie Nance, Vicki Whitman and Donna Teague.

Dal Paso Museum

300 block N. 3rd St.

For information call
Judith Holladay, 806-577-7488
Theresa Estes, 806-201-1000

Boys & Girls Club serves local youth

It's her love for kids which brought Claudia Morales to her present position as the executive director of the Lamesa Boys & Girls Club, a position she's had since this past September.

"It seems like I've been dealing with kids forever," Morales said.

It didn't take her long to realize it was a job for her when she got a call from then-board president Josh Peterson.

"My motto has always been God, family and work. To me, this new job is another one of those God things," Morales said. "He brought me to where I am today."

One of Morales' first objectives as the club's leader is to build trust from the community.

The club currently has 70 members between kindergarten through 12 grade. Located at 400 N. 7th St., the facility is open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

"Most of our kids come in every day after school," Morales said.

There's a club membership due of \$25 per month as well as a one-time annual fee of \$25 per year.

"I want this place to be a safe haven for our kids. For a lot of them this is the first place they go when they get out of school. There's no bullying here," Morales said.

The Boys & Girls Club Board of Directors includes President Alexis Peterson, Vice President Darin Epley, Secretary Melissa Casarez and Treasurer Kyra Reyes. Other board members are Josh Peterson, Marissa Zorola, Josh Stevens, Joe Rivas, Cris Norris, Sully Norris, Norma Ortega Thomas, Rick Casillas, Joe Hines and Abigail Ramford.

"We've got some great people on that board and together they do a phenomenal job," Morales said.

"A big part of today's culture is just fitting in somewhere," Morales said. "Our big deal here is letting our kids be who they are and accomplish whatever they want."

While the youngsters enjoy a range of physical activities like basketball, volleyball, kickball and cornhole toss, they're also provided the opportunity to do their homework.

"We've even got different computer programs available for the kids," Morales said.

The club has classes every Wednesday evening designed to help its youngsters cope with today's world.

"We do our best to open things up to



CROWD OF KIDS

The Lamesa Boys and Girls Club currently has about 70 members who enjoy a wide array of activities and programs in a safe, supervised atmosphere.

LPR photo

where our kids can talk about whatever's on their hearts. We're hoping that through these classes we can help our kids better understand what's going on in our world today," Morales said. "We talk a lot with our kids about being warriors, and through all of the different adversities it's important to keep God first."

Morales said the club plans on hosting a kickball tournament during Lamesa's Chicken Fred Steak Festival.

They're also organizing a new flag football league starting in late March for girls kindergarten through sixth grade.

The club also is planning on hosting a wrestling event April 15. Dawson High School graduate Michael Morrison is the director of South Plains Championship Wrestling which sanctions these events.

Morales is proud of the staff which she's assembled since taking over her new position.

"We've got an amazing staff which helps us keep this ship floating," Morales said.

That staff includes Alissandra Guel, Robert Martinez, J.J. Dela Fuentes, Jaz Lopez and Iris Lucio. Guel is the unit director.

**Lamesa
Boys & Girls Club**
400 N. 7th St.
806-872-8062

Executive Director
Claudia Morales

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Sports leagues welcome local youngsters

Many local youngsters often dream about someday playing ball for the Golden Tornados or at one of the small area schools. Thanks to local youth leagues they don't have to wait until they get into junior high to begin their sports endeavors.

Youth basketball

The local youth basketball league is for boys and girls from pre-kindergarten to the sixth grade. This past season the league ran from from January to the middle of February with games being played at various gyms in the Lamesa school system.

Trey Barrera has headed the league the past couple of seasons.

"This league can make a huge impact in developing players for high school and even beyond," Golden Tornado head girls basketball coach Trenton Jones said. "The quicker that we can get basketballs into our kids' hands the more it's going to help them in the long run."

Fast pitch girls softball

Last summer this league had 150 young ladies, and new Lamesa Girls Fastpitch President Joey Barron anticipates there could be even more this season. The league is for girls between the ages of four and 14.

"We want to make this league fun for our girls and give them something to do in the summer months but it also helps get our girls ready to play high school ball," Barron said.

The girls play their games at the Bill Weaver Youth Sports Complex in four ages divisions: Tee Ball for ages 4-5, Pixies for ages 6-8, Minors for ages 8-10, and Majors for those ages 11-14. Games are played on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

This year's officers are secretary Pamela Meraz, treasurer Linda Benitez, and Augustine and Melissa Casarez are in charge of the concession stand. League vice-presidents are Jason Bergara for Tee Ball, Sylvia Benitez Pixies, Ashley Casarez for Minors and Sam

Casarez Majors.

The league will be having its opening ceremony April 22.

Youth volleyball

Makings its debut here last fall was the Lamesa Girls Volleyball League for girls in the third through sixth grades.

"Hopefully this helps our junior high program. Before now, a lot of those young girls haven't even touched a volleyball before," said Mayda Dimas, who along with Phillip Morales helped organize the league. Also playing big roles in getting the league started were Mona Ferguson and Kechia Mason.

The league had 77 girls in its inaugural season.

Last year the girls played eight matches before a league tournament at the end of the season.

Summer league baseball

Youngsters from ages 4 to 15 have the opportunity to play youth baseball here. The Cal Ripken League is for players ages 4-12. The Babe Ruth League is for ages 13-15.

Hector Carrejo is entering his second year as president for both leagues.

"What I like the most about our league is watching these kids improve from year to year. We've seen kids who couldn't hardly hit or catch at the beginning of a season go to batting, catching and throwing a baseball at the end of that season," Carrejo said.

Cal Ripken is active in April and May, playing three nights a week at the Bill Weaver Youth Sport Complex. The Babe Ruth League starts after high school baseball season is over, with its games being played at Joe Spikes Field.

Lamesa has hosted both the Cal Ripken and Babe Ruth district tournaments at times.

Cal Ripken League Vice-Presidents are Ryan Campos in Tee Ball for ages 4-5, Ruben Gonzales in the Rookie league for ages 6-7, Humberto Avila in the Minors for ages 8-9, Robert Uresti in the Majors for ages 10-12.

Among the Cal Ripken board are district commissioner Rick Wallace and head umpire Rey Soliz.

"This is a learning league. Our main objective is to help teach these kids as much as we can now so they will be ready to play in high school," Carrejo said.

Lamesa has own lake for fishing, recreation

There aren't that many small communities that can boast a lake where visitors can do a little fishing or bird watching without having to leave town.

The Lamesa Boys and Girls Club Lake is named after one of its neighbors, as it is situated right behind the Lamesa Boys and Girls Club building at 400 N. 7th Street.

The man-made lake has a small playground for the youngsters, a picnic area for lunches and public restrooms. A pavilion overlooking the lake is the perfect spot for viewing the water or feeding the ducks.

It's not the only spot for the ducks, however. The moment you leave your vehicle, they'll be waddling out onto the lake's shoreline hoping for a hand-out.

The lake is where locals go for a little bit of fishing. The preferred baits are corn kernels and small slices of Spam. Sometimes they keep the fish they catch; sometimes they let them go.

Each winter the lake is stocked with



TROUT ARRIVE

Lamesa's Boys and Girls Club lake is stocked twice each winter with rainbow trout from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

LPR photo

rainbow trout through a cooperative venture of the local Wilton Foundation, the City of Lamesa, and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

The lake also is home to catfish, carp and bass.

Fishing is fine. But swimming or hunting the ducks and other birds is off-limits.

Many of the wild waterfowl are migratory. They come here from colder regions to take advantage of the area's warmer winter temperatures. Other ducks and geese call the lake home throughout the year.


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Organizations

Contact information listed is as of March 2023 and may change during the year. Any organizations not included in this listing are asked to contact the Lamesa Press-Reporter at 806-872-2177 to be included in the next community guide.

Beta Sigma Phi Chapter of Lambda Phi

Leslie Hawkins, Treasurer
806-201-1155

Meets the first Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at different restaurant locations

Christian Women's Job Corp

Karen Presley, Director
806-872-5627

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

Dawson County Farm Bureau

Val Stephens, President
806-872-8333

Meets the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 a.m. in the Farm Bureau building, 1602 Lubbock Hwy.

Dal Paso Museum Board

Judith Holladay
806-577-7488

Meets quarterly at the Dal Paso Museum, 310 S. 1st St.

Dawson County United Fund

Alyssa Alcalá
806-872-5426

Board meets quarterly at the office of Newberry, Leonard, Horton and Bairrington Certified Public Accountants at 611 N 2nd St.

Dawson County 4-H

806-872-3444
Contact the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension office in Lamesa for information

Friends of the Dawson County Library

Connie Blackstock
Board meets quarterly at the Dawson County Library.

Friends of Movieland

Mike Roy
806-872-2750
Board meets quarterly at Movieland, 604 N. Austin Avenue

Golden Tornado Booster Club

806-872-8335
Meets three to four times during the school year

Lamesa Service Club

Crist Norris, President
806-872-5446
Meets every Tuesday at 12 noon at the First Methodist Church, 409 N. 3rd St.

Knights of Columbus

Juan Ramirez, Grand Knight
806-332-6096
Meets at 7 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month at Guadalupe of our Lady Guadalupe, 401 N. Hartford Ave.

Lamesa Adoptable Pets

Julie Miller
806-872-5033

Lamesa Boys & Girls Club

Claudia Morales
Executive Director
806-872-8062
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

Ashley Tidwell, President
806-872-2181
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

Hector Carrejo, President
806-332-1008

Lamesa Community Players

Playhouse phone - 806-872-2705
Board meets at 5:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at the Playhouse, 214 N. Austin Ave.

Lamesa Cotton Growers

Kirk Tidwell, President
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 Second Baptist Church, 1705 N Bryan Ave.

Lamesa Rodeo Association

Cody King
806-781-1818
Meets annually in January, then as needed before the annual rodeo

Milam Lodge #11

Terry Stogner
806-759-9566
Meets the second Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the lodge hall, North 2nd St. and Main Ave.

Nuestro Car Club

Jaime Galindo, President
806-200-4406
Meets occasionally at 511 N 4th

Rotary Club

Meets at 12 noon each Wednesday in the Presidents Room of the Lamesa Chamber of Commerce

Sunshine Garden Club

Letha Brown
806-759-5194
Meets at 12 p.m. the second Friday of each month at the Northridge Retirement Center activity center, 100 N.E. 27th Street

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Churches

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Bethel Temple 2nd Latin American Assembly of God
North 13th & Ave. L, 806-872-9953
Jesse Salazar, Pastor

Faith Temple Foursquare Fellowship
1400 South 8th St., 806-201-0922
Jerry Walton, Pastor
Wednesday 7 PM
Sunday 10:30 AM

Life Changers Church AG
701 Skyline Dr., 806-702-0112
Sundays 10 a.m., Wednesday 7 p.m.
Lead Pastor: Manny Castro Jr.
Streaming live or on location

Templo Ebenezer
Pastors Joe & Irene Martinez
Welch, TX

Temple Elim Spanish Assembly of God
610 South Ave. F
Able Hernandez, Interim-Pastor

BAPTIST

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

Crestview Baptist Church
Keith Clower, Pastor
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

First Baptist Church - Gail
Randy Hardman, Pastor

Friendship Baptist Church
501 CR 24 • PO BOX 126
462-7403 • 806-201-0595
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
Sunday worship 10 a.m. & 5 p.m.
Sunday School 9 a.m.

St. John Baptist Church
108 SE 10th, 806-283-0068
stjohnlamesa@gmail.com
Reverend Jermaine Cleaveland
Sunday 10:00 A.M.

CATHOLIC

St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church
908 South 2nd St., 872-7100
Father Chacko Thadathil, 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 8:30 A.M.
Bible Study & Sunday School at 9:45

METHODIST

First Methodist Church
409 N 3rd St. 872-5409
Kendall Meek, Pastor
Morning Worship 10:00 AM
Ladies Lunch @ MAC Wednesday's 12 NOON

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

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
Josie Cantu, Pastor

House of Prayer Pentecostal Church
504 South 1st St.
Lee Iglesias, Pastor

PRESBYTERIAN

First Presbyterian Church
1305 North Ave. G, 872-3262
Church School 10:00 A.M.
Worship 11:00 A.M.
John SoRelle, Supply Pastor

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, 806-332-4674
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.
Healing Room 1st Thursday of the Month 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
401 South 1st St, 872-0661
Mike Barkowsky, Pastor
Services: Sunday 10:30 A.M.

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

Day Spring Church of Lamesa
1008 North 7th St
Danny Welch, Pastor

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.

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 five full-time veterinarians and a number of other support personnel.

The newest veterinarian at the clinic

is another Dr. Brock. Dr. Abbie Brock, Dr. Bo Brock's daughter, is a 2010 graduate of Klondike High School who has returned home to join the practice after completing all of her training.

Dr. Bo Brock and Dr. Michelle Bessire are among only about 90 veterinarians in the U.S. with an equine diplomate certification from the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners.

Dr. Dustin McElwee is a specialist in equine reproduction.

Brock Veterinary Clinic also hosts dozens of veterinary students from across the nation each year who come to the clinic to perform externships.

Dr. Bo 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
806-872-3183

Veterinarians
Dr. Bo Brock
Dr. Dustin McElwee
Dr. Michelle Bessire
Dr. Tita Clark
Dr. Abbie Brock

Newspaper, radio keeps locals informed

The *Lamesa Press-Reporter* and KPET radio station have provided news and information to the residents of Lamesa and the surrounding area for many years.

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.

The *Press-Reporter* building also houses South Plains Printing, which prints not only the local newspaper but 13 other newspapers which serve communities

across the area on a weekly or semi-weekly basis.

KPET radio station, located just south of Lamesa, has been providing news, music and other programming to local listeners at 690 AM since 1947. It also airs on 105.1 FM. Programming also may be picked up online through the station's website at kpetradio.com.

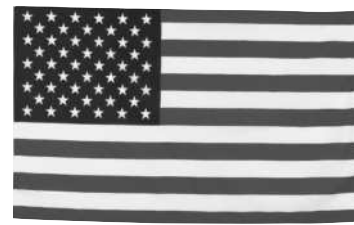
Offering Classic Country music, the station provides local, state and national news and weather information at various times throughout the day, including a mid-day farm report.

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 they are wanting to buy sell or give away. Another program each morning allows residents to call in and offer congratulations to those celebrating birthdays or anniversaries.

Lamesa Press-Reporter
523 N. 1st Street
806-872-2177
www.pressreporter.com

KPET Radio Station
2210 County Road L
806-872-6511
www.kpetradio.com



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HALLOWEEN FUN

Trunk or Treat, a Halloween event which brings hundreds of children and their parents to the downtown square for treats and fun, is one of the various events hosted by the Lamesa Area Chamber of Commerce.

Chamber of Commerce boosts local businesses

Nestled in a little downtown corner are the offices of three important organizations benefiting and promoting the local economy.

The Lamesa Area Chamber of Commerce shares office space at 123 Main Avenue with both the Lamesa Economic Development Corporation and Lamesa Economic Alliance Project. Their main tasks are not only promoting local businesses and their owners, but also enticing new business and industry to town.

Ashley Tidwell serves as the Chamber's president.

The local Chamber is over 100 years old. It officially began on July 2, 1919 with its first goals aiming at improving agriculture production, installing roadway signs to advertise Lamesa, and to ensure the constant availability

of water.

Today, the Chamber has over 200 members who reap such benefits as having their businesses posted on the Chamber's www.lamesachamber.org website and Facebook page.

Lamesa Area Chamber of Commerce

123 Main Ave.
Lamesa, TX 79331
806-872-2181
lamesachamber.org

President
Ashley Tidwell

Not all Chamber members are local. The local office also has members in Lubbock, Big Spring and other nearby communities doing business in Lamesa.

Chamber members and volunteers take up the annual tasks of organizing the Chamber banquet in the spring, the Christmas parade, Fourth of July celebrations, a Trunk-or-Treat Halloween event on the downtown Square and the big O.W. Follis Basketball Tournament that brings athletes from across the state to compete here every December.

The Chamber office is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Sales taxes fund economic work

Helping create new jobs here is, in a nutshell, the focus of Lamesa's economic development efforts.

That's according to Mona Ferguson, who took over late last October as the executive director of the city's two tax-funded economic development entities.

The Lamesa Economic Development Corporation and the Lamesa Economic Alliance Project work almost as one entity, pulling together for the improvement of Lamesa and the area.

Their efforts include working to improve and assist the businesses that already are here and to bring in additional business that provide new jobs and opportunities for local residents.

Two of the recent success in that latter category are the opening last year of the Burke's Outlet clothing store here and the Toot'n Totum Travel Center that currently is under construction on the northern edge of Lamesa.

They also have actively assisted in bringing a One Guy From Italy restaurant to the downtown area, with groundbreaking on that building expected in the near future.

"We're really excited to see a restaurant coming to the downtown area," Ferguson said, noting that downtown revitalization is one of the organizations' major goals.

As part of that effort, the economic development entities provided matching funds for a grant being used to install new sidewalks along several streets in the immediate downtown area.

A major part of the organizations' efforts to help businesses already operating here has been through facade improvement grants. Those grants can cover up to half of the costs of projects that improve the exterior appearance of a business.

"We have some really great programs to help our existing businesses," Ferguson said. "We've handed out five or six applications for facade improvement grants in just the past month and a half."

The LEDC, created in 1994, and LEAP, approved by voters in 2012, both are funded with local sales tax

revenue. Each receives tax receipts amounting to one-quarter of one percent of local taxable sales.

Under state guidelines, LEDC operates as a Type A economic development entity. As such, it can help fund a variety of projects that create jobs, including manufacturing, site purchases, buildings and equipment, and many other things.

"They're all projects that create jobs," Ferguson said.

LEAP is a Type B economic development entity, which expands the local economic development efforts to include projects that can improve or support business development.

Those projects can include things such as demolition, street and water projects, maintenance and clean-up efforts, etc.

LEAP annually provides the City of Lamesa \$40,000 per year to help fund demolition of dilapidated residential and commercial buildings.

"In order for us to draw in Type A projects, we have to make our community visibly appealing, and that is where some of the Type B projects come in," Ferguson said.

With an eye on the future, Lamesa economic development has established a fund that will be used to create a new industrial park here, as the one established several decades ago is now almost completely occupied. An industrial park, with land and utilities readily available, eases the process for businesses to get established.

LEDC is overseen by a five-member board of directors. Those same five individuals, along with two additional members, serve as the directors of LEAP. All board members are appointed by the Lamesa City Council, which also has oversight and final approval of all actions by the boards.

Since most of the members serve on both boards, they hold joint meetings on a monthly basis.

Working closely with the Lamesa Area Chamber of Commerce for the benefit of businesses and the overall community, the LEDC/LEAP office is located inside the Chamber office on the downtown square.



LPR photo

CHRISTMAS PARADE

The Grinch was one of the many entries this past December in the Christmas parade hosted by the Lamesa Area Chamber of Commerce.

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COMMERCE**

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123 Main Ave.
www.lamesachamber.org

Cotton dominates local agriculture

Although it certainly did not look like it in 2022, cotton has long been considered “king” in Dawson County, not only among agriculture production but in the economy as well.

Last year was an unusual one, however. Drought – less than 3.5 inches of rainfall in a 12-month span – and severe heat wiped out not only most of the cotton crop but just about all other types of crops in Dawson County.

While farmers here planted almost 370,000 acres of cotton – mainly in order to satisfy crop insurance requirements – fewer than 47,000 acres actually were harvested.

Normally, however, late fall and early winter are among the busiest times of the year in Dawson County as farmers

are busy harvesting not only hundreds of acres of cotton but also peanuts, grain sorghum and other crops.

During the 10-year period from 2012 through 2021 – the latest year for which official records are available from the USDA – Dawson County produced an average of 221,340 bales of cotton per year.

With most of Dawson County’s cotton produced on “dryland” farms – meaning they have no irrigation – cotton production here depends largely on the vagaries of the weather.

But circle-pivot irrigation systems – drawing water from the southern tip of the giant Ogallala Aquifer to supplement the rainfall – are creating more and more irrigated farming operations.

While those circle systems have a hard time producing enough water to sustain a crop without rainfall, in a normal year they can double and even triple the cotton production seen on dryland acreage.

With a bale of cotton averaging about 480 pounds, that’s almost enough cotton each year to make more than 48 million pairs of jeans or 272,000 men’s T-shirts.

But while cotton is certainly king, Dawson County supports a sometimes



LPR photo

STRIPPING COTTON

Most of Dawson County’s normally-abundant cotton crop was wiped out by drought and intense heat during 2022 but a few irrigated fields, such as this one being harvested just outside Lamesa, were still able to produce a crop.

surprising array of other agriculture products as well.

Other crops normally include peanuts, wheat, grain sorghum, sunflowers, alfalfa, black-eyed peas, millet, sesame, and even watermelon.

Dawson County also is home to several vineyards producing multiple varieties of grapes for the growing Texas wine industry.

Ranching remains a big part of the agriculture mix as well, with cattle grazing rangeland along the eastern edge the county and in fields and pastures scattered across the area. Sheep and goats are part of the mix here, and several pig-breeding operations cater mainly to the livestock show industry.

That extensive production agriculture requires the support of a network of agri-businesses ranging from cotton gins and implement dealers to fertilizer companies, feed stores and crop insurance firms.

Several manufacturing companies here create agriculture products, ranging from specialized farming implements to fans supplied to cotton gins across the U.S. and internationally.

Numerous other businesses, such as

fuel dealers, tire companies and banks, depend on farmers and ranchers for a significant portion of their business.

Agriculture also brings millions of federal dollars into the county in

the form of support payments, Conservation Reserve Program contracts, and other programs.

Lamesa is home to one of only 10 USDA cotton classing offices scattered across the nation. Thanks to the efforts and support of the Lamesa Cotton Growers organization, the Lamesa classing office was the first in the world to grade cotton entirely with high-volume instruments.

The USDA also has Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service offices in Lamesa.

The Lamesa Cotton Growers organization also cooperates with the Texas AgriLife Extension Service and several other agencies in the operation of a large research farm just north of Lamesa.

Dawson County Cotton Production

(past 10 years for which official figures are available)

Year	Bales	Harvested Acres
2021	335,400	289,000
2020	82,000	55,200
2019	160,300	185,400
2018	149,000	92,400
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

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Oil activity helps fuel local economy

While cotton has long been “king” in Dawson County, there’s no question the oil and gas industry is one of the most powerful engines in the local economy.

The industry’s impact can be seen in multiple ways, including:

- Royalty revenue to mineral rights owners;

- Property tax payments to support schools and other local entities;

- Direct jobs ranging from pumpers to oilfield construction crews and rig-moving contractors;

- The sale of water for drilling purposes;

- Trucking of everything from crude oil to wastewater and fracking sand;

- Production of sand used for fracking oil wells; and
- Underground disposal of saltwater as a by-product of oil production.

The list could go on and on.

County-wide taxing entities – Dawson County, the Dawson County Hospital District,

and the Mesa Underground Water Conservation District – along with area school districts get a large part of their property tax revenue from the oil industry.

A recently-released report by the Texas Oil and Gas Association state oil and gas represents 13.7 percent of the total tax base in Dawson County.

In the Klondike and Sands school districts, which have both seen extensive oil drilling and production activity in recent years, the impact is even greater. The recent report shows oil and gas represents over 93 percent of the tax base in the Klondike school district, and almost 88 percent in the Sands district.

Crude oil production in Dawson County totaled just over 3.5 million barrels in 2022, according to data from the Texas Railroad Commission.

That is up from 3.3 million barrels in 2020 and about 3.43 million barrels

in 2021.

Online data from the Railroad Commission shows Reliance Energy currently is by far the largest producer of oil in Dawson County, having pumped 843,777 barrels here during 2022.

Other top producers here in 2022 were: OXY USA WTP, 345,767 barrels; Pinon Operating, 271,500; Diamond-back E&P, 203,237; CGS Operating, 150,257; Fasken Oil & Ranch, 127,347; Jo Mill Oil Co., 126,124; EOG Resources, 118,470; Burlison Petroleum, 105,138; and Southwest Royalties,

94,458 barrels.

Current data from the Texas Railroad Commission shows 1,125 producing wells in Dawson County. That represents a continued downward trend from 1,158 in early 2021, 1,284 in 2019 and 1,369 in 2017.

Although new oil drilling activity here remains well below a peak in 2011 when the Railroad Commission issued 115 permits for new drilling ventures

in Dawson County, exploration activity has picked up a bit during the past couple of years.

A total of 37 new wells were drilled here last year, and 40 in 2021. By comparison, the Railroad Commission issued drilling permits for 20 new wells in 2020, 16 in 2019 and 21 in 2018.

Another six permits for new wells here have been issued during the first eight weeks of 2023.

A shift continues to be seen from traditional vertical drilling operations to horizontal drilling where a well bore can go down until it hits a certain formation and then turn and run horizontally in that formation for two miles or more.

In 2018 there were only two horizontal wells among the 21 new drilling operations receiving permits from the Railroad Commission. This past year, 29 of the 37 new well permits were for horizontal drilling operations.

Dawson County Oil & Gas Production

(past 10 years)

Year	Oil (barrels)	Casinghead Gas (MCF)
2022	3,524,730	1,653,924
2021	3,433,911	1,560,542
2020	3,300,386	1,499,241
2019	3,317,917	1,327,168
2018	3,635,544	1,562,834
2017	3,582,369	1,760,114
2016	3,474,362	1,788,750
2015	3,757,246	1,993,538
2014	4,136,722	2,269,182
2013	4,165,470	2,206,846

Source: Railroad Commission of Texas



U.S. SILICA PLANT

U.S. Silica is shipping out hundreds of truckloads daily from the large sand mine it opened northwest of Lamesa in 2018.

LPR photo

Mines produce sand for oilfield fracking

If you’ve been around Lamesa long, you’ve probably noticed plenty of sand boxes. They seem to be everywhere!

No, we’re not talking about the type of sand boxes where little children like to play in parks or backyards.

“Sand Box” containers on special trailers are among the trucking methods used to transport sand from one of two mining operations here to various sites across a big part of the Permian Basin.

The high-quality sand is used in hydraulic fracturing operations used to increase production in oil wells.

The two local sand mines are located 10-12 miles northwest of Lamesa.

U.S. Silica opened the first mine here in 2018, with the processing plant located about two miles west of the intersection of FM Highways 829 and 1064.

Before the facility could even reach full production, however, U.S. Silica already had begun expanding the planned operation by about 50 percent, going from an initial plan to produce four-million tons per year up to six-million tons.

In early 2022 Alpine Silica, which

also has several other sand mining operations in the Permian Basin, began construction of a facility about two miles to the northwest of the U.S. Silica operation.

That mine reportedly came online earlier this year.

Both are surface mining operations, with most usable sand located near the surface.

After the sand is scooped up, it is washed to separate any impurities from the sand. The sand is then sorted and dried – since it is wet from washing – before being sorted again and placed in large silo-like tanks for storage.

That’s when the sand-hauling trucks take over. The sand mines operate around the clock, so that means sand trucks can constantly be seen on local highways, driving through Lamesa, and often parked at various Lamesa businesses.

A U.S. Silica official reported several years ago that when the company’s facility here was operating at full capacity more than 500 truckloads of sand could be expected to leave the site every day.



ALPINE SILICA

Alpine Silica recently opened a sand mining and processing facility a few miles northwest of the U.S. Silica operation. Both mines provide sand for oilfield fracking work.

LPR photo

Wind, solar energy being generated here

Not all of the energy produced in Dawson County comes from the oil pumped from deep beneath the surface.

Wind and solar energy also is captured here to provide electrical power to Texas consumers.

One wind energy facility and two separate, but combined, solar energy facilities in Dawson County are producing up to 350 megawatts of electricity.

Wind energy

Mesquite Creek Wind, LLC 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.

Solar energy

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 between Lamesa and Los Ybanez. The second phase was constructed east of that area.

Locals and visitors use Lamesa airport

Not every small town community can boast about having its own airport.

But Lamesa can.

The Lamesa Municipal Airport has runways, parking, fueling stations and lounge areas for those either on the go or staying long enough to attend a business meeting.

“We get a lot of cross country and a lot of people traveling, stopping for fuel at our airport – especially if they are going east to west,” said John Farris, airport manager.

The airport, home to thirty-eight aircraft, is located two miles northeast of town.

It is jointly owned by the City of Lamesa and Dawson County. Both governmental entities appoint board members to oversee the airport’s management.

The airport features two asphalt run-

ways. Running east and west, runway 7/25 was recently reconstructed with new asphalt. The runway is 4,006 feet long and 60 feet wide. Runway 16/34, running north and south, is 5,002 feet long and 75 feet wide.

For pilots just stopping by to refuel, the airport has a self service station with Phillips 66 brand gas. The station is open 24 hours a day. Pilots with Phillips 66 cards can take advantage of the two-percent discounts on fuel purchases.

Inside the air conditioned terminal building is a flight planning room, a conference table, a lounge, couch, snooze room, restrooms and refreshments.

There’s also an automated weather observation system, aircraft parking (ramp or tiedown) and courtesy transportation.

For more information about the airport, log onto www.airnav.com/airport/KLUV.



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State prison named for Lamesa grad who served as governor

As one of the largest employers in town, the local prison officials conduct training academies and searches for correctional officers and staff members four times a year to work at the Preston E. Smith Unit.

Located on 563 acres about three miles east of Lamesa on FM 827, the prison is a state medium/minimum security facility for men.

The prison is named after Lamesa High School graduate Preston Smith who went on to serve as the state's 40th governor from 1969 until 1973.

The unit, owned and operated by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ), opened its doors in October 1992.

It has a total of 252 employees made up of 150 security staff members, 67 non-security employees and 11 education workers. There are also 24 medical employees, according to the TDCJ's www.tdcj.texas.gov/unit_directory.

The facility has the capacity to house about 2,200 inmates convicted of felony crimes.

Bryan Williams is the facility's senior warden. Cody Parker and Michael

Miller are the assistant wardens.

The unit offers inmates work in agricultural operations and in the manufacture of mattresses that are distributed to other prisons throughout the state.

While incarcerated, inmates have access to medical, dental and mental health services, along with telemedicine and assisted disability services.

They can also take advantage of educational programs aimed toward improving literacy, or learning careers in electrical and piping trades, carpentry, cabinetmaking; plumbing or horticulture.

They can also obtain their General Education Development

(GED) or enroll in English as a Second Language courses.

There are volunteer initiatives focused on substance abuse, life skills, arts and crafts; mentoring, support groups; and religious and faith-based studies and activities.

Visitors can see their incarcerated loved ones three days a week from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. every Friday; and from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. each Saturday and Sunday.

Texas Department of Criminal Justice

- Smith Unit -

1313 CR 19
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Senior Warden

Bryan Williams

Assistant Wardens

Cody Parker

Michael Miller

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County government headed by elected, appointed officials

The county courthouse may be viewed as the place people go for jury duty or to pay highway speeding tickets, but it's also where you go to register land purchases or obtain a marriage license.

Dawson County's courthouse is the hub of Lamesa's downtown area.

County government operations are headed by an elected county judge and four county commissioners. Various other county officers are elected and head specific areas of the county's operations.

Most of the county offices are located inside the courthouse. Others are located in the John Saleh Courthouse Annex at 502 N. 1st Street, the Courthouse Annex at 609 N. 1st St., and the new election office at 116 Austin Ave.

The county has a total 125 employees.

Since the county's creation a century ago, commissioners court members have been meeting to take care of county business. The elected officials are responsible for setting county policies, ensuring that county roadways and cemeteries are maintained, setting the annual budget and tax rate; and overseeing the government's functions.

The Commissioners Court meets in the county courtroom on the top floor of the courthouse every other Tuesday at 4 p.m.

Many people may not know it, but Lamesa came pretty close to losing out on its designation as the county seat.

It seems there was an issue with postal services that went directly to Chicago, an older community just north of Lamesa. The population of Chicago wanted to keep mail delivered

there, but Lamesa residents wanted the mail dropped off in their community.

Chicago, named after a wealthy lumberman's hometown of Chicago, Ill., was established in the 1880s – a few years before Lamesa officially came into being.

Lamesans took their cause about mail delivery to the federal government. Lamesa got its way and mail stopped in town before heading to Chicago.

After Dawson County separated from Howard County, Lamesa won out as the county seat in 1905 by an election decided by only a five-vote margin.

Settlers in Chicago had no choice but to pack up and head to Lamesa. A roadside plaque just off N. 22nd St. is the only tangible item pointing to where Chicago once stood.

County named for Texas patriot killed during fighting with Mexico

If you want to learn about Dawson County's history, all you have to do is follow the numbers.

What would become known as Dawson County was once the summer home of the Comanches and Kiowas. It wasn't until May 21, 1827 that Dr. John Cameron obtained a deed for a portion of the future county from the Mexican government. Cameron attempted to have 100 families move into the area, but there are no records of any attempt to implement the deed, according to the Texas State Historical Association website.

It would be several more decades before Dawson County came into its own as railroad survey parties and cattle ranchers began moving into the area in the 1870s and 1880s.

The county, named after Nicholas Mosby Dawson, who fought in the Battle of San Jacinto in 1836 before being killed – along with 35 other men – in a skirmish with Mexican forces on Sept. 17, 1842, was officially formed on Aug. 21, 1876. It was attached to Howard County for judicial purposes. The county didn't separate from it until almost three decades later.

The county can trace its official formation as an independent governing entity to April 4, 1905 when the first county commissioners court convened



HISTORY MURAL *LPR photo*

Murals depicting the county's history are painted above each of the three main entrances to the courthouse.

in a privately-owned building, according to "Dawson County History: The Tableland," published in 1981 by the Dawson County Historical Commission.

One of the county commissioners' first concerns was the construction of a courthouse. A little over a month

after their first meeting, commissioners ordered an election on a bond to pay for the structure. The bond passed with all 40 voters in favor of the plan.

At a cost of \$2,849, the county got its first courthouse, a white two-story wood frame structure, in the spring of 1906. A well was later dug to provide water to the building. Another \$5 a month was set aside in the sheriff's budget to pay for the maintenance of a windmill.

The courthouse not only provided space for district and county courts, but the second floor was open for meetings, Sunday church services and an annual Teachers' Institute attracted educators from Dawson and surrounding counties.

According to the online U.S. Census, there were 37 people residing in Dawson County in 1900. A decade later, the population had grown to 2,320. The number of ranches and farms also increased from four to 330.

As the county continued to grow, county leaders decided they needed a bigger courthouse. This time they wanted a stone and brick building. The building was completed on April 13, 1917. The former wood frame courthouse was sold for \$900, relocated to another spot by its new owner, and later dismantled to provide lumber for other structures.

Dawson County

www.co.dawson.tx.us
(offices at courthouse unless noted)

County Judge
Foy O'Brien
806-329-3313

Precinct 1 Commissioner
Mark Shofner

Precinct 2 Commissioner
Ryan Webb

Precinct 3 Commissioner
Nicky Goode

Precinct 4 Commissioner
Russell Cox

County Attorney
Steven B. Payson
Courthouse
806-329-3308

County Clerk
Clare Christy
806-329-3311

County Treasurer
Terri Stahl
806-329-3327

County Tax Assessor/Collector
Cheryl Miller

John Saleh Courthouse Annex
502 N. 1st Street
806-872-7181

County Auditor
Lucy Valero
806-329-3031

Constable
Tommy Flores
Law Enforcement Center
401 S. 2nd Street
806-872-7560

Election Administrator
Ashley Rodriguez
116 Austin Ave.
806-329-3323

Justice of the Peace
Larry Duyck
806-329-3324

Sheriff
Matt Hogg
Law Enforcement Center
401 S. 2nd Street
806-872-7560

District Judge
Reed A. Filley
806-872-3740

District Attorney
Philip Mack Furlow
Courthouse Annex
609 N. 1st Street
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District Clerk
Adreana Gonzalez
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City of Lamesa provides array of services for local residents

Lamesa’s City Hall is the headquarters for city government operations. It is where Lamesa residents go for such things as getting water turned on or off, applying for building permits or obtaining information about housing.

The building, located at 601 S. First Street, was once a savings and loan facility before being converted into a new City Hall.

Based on the Home Rule form of government, Lamesa’s city government is comprised of an elected mayor along with six city council members representing single member districts. They each serve three-year

terms.

Council members typically meet once a month, beginning at 5:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month. Those meetings increase in number when the council calls for special meetings or are conducting summer budget talks.

The city manager, hired by the council, is the city’s top administrator who works with staff to ensure everything runs smoothly. The city manager also drafts up potential budgets each summer for the next year’s fiscal finances, and updates council members on any possible projects or plans.

City staff are involved in various aspects of the city’s operations. Broken up into departments, city workers manage the city’s water, personnel, wastewater, garbage services, permits, parklands, city roadways, the municipal golf course and the landfill.

Residents wanting to pay their water bills can either go inside to the water department, use the drive-up window on the west side of the building, or pay their monthly bills by mail.

Municipal Court sessions are conducted in City Hall for those facing Class C Misdemeanor citations. Cases

filed in that court include traffic and parking, alcohol and city ordinance violations.

The city actually got its start in 1903, but it had to wait another 15 years before becoming incorporated.

The present City Hall building is not the first to be designated as a city hall. Seven years after the city’s incorporation, municipal offices were located in the 300 block of S. First Street.

City staff relocated to a new and larger location at S. 2nd Street and Main Ave. in 1963. After three decades there, City Hall moved to its current location.

City of Lamesa Administrative Offices City Hall, 601 South 1st Street 806-872-2124

City Manager
Joe Hines
806-872-4321

Landfill Supervisor
Robert Morales
806-872-4331

Director of Finance
Wayne Chapman
806-872-4324

Parks Superintendent
Robert Ramirez
806-872-4331

City Secretary
Betty Conde
806-872-4322

Golf Course Superintendent
Victor Dimas
806-872-8100

Personnel Director
Irma Ramirez
806-872-4326

**Building Inspector/
Code Enforcement Officer**
Brian Beck
806-872-4329

Purchasing Agent/HUD Director
Sandy Trevino
806-872-4333

Municipal Judge
Leticia Dimas
806-872-4343

**Director of Utilities
Water Utilities Supervisor**
Ernest Ogeda
806-872-4327

City Attorneys
Fulbright and Casselberry Law Firm
806-872-2103

Wastewater Plant Supervisor
Manuel Vasquez
806-872-4339

Chief of Police
Josh Peterson
806-872-2121

Public Works Director
Robert Ramirez
806-872-4331

Fire Services Manager
Larry Duyck
806-872-4352

Street Superintendent
Gilbert Ramos
806-872-4331

Animal Control
Lisha Land
806-872-2121

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Ackerly straddles county line

North part located in Dawson County, southern part in Howard County

By the time the small town of Ackerly came into being, it already had at least one building.

The little town now sports several oil businesses, a diner, a city hall, a beauty parlor, a school, two churches and a volunteer fire department.

The town, established in 1924, got its name and possible financial backing from Paul Ackerly, a cotton gin owner in Georgia and a sailboating enthusiast who disappeared while in a small boat off the coast of Florida in December 1935, according to the "Dawson County History: The Tableland."

It's an unconfirmed rumor, according to the history book, that Paul Ackerly may have fronted Raymond Lyons with the funds to buy up the town's lots and sell them with the hopes the new owners would convert the properties into cotton fields. To better entice others to the April 9, 1924 auction, a Model T Ford was raffled off to those who purchased land lots. The parcels of land sold for as little as \$25 per acre.

Another interesting fact about Ackerly is a local farmer discovered the "Ackerly meteorite" in 1995 while plowing his cotton field.

The small town, encompassing 200 acres, lies within two counties: Dawson and Martin. Ackerly's northern part is located on the Dawson County side while the southern section is in Martin County.

Ackerly has a population of 265 people, according to the online 2020 U.S. Census. Over a decade ago, the population was 220.

It had a population of 500 in 1948, along with four gins and 30 businesses. The population declined to 317 in 1980 and 243 in 1990, according to the Texas State Historical Association website.

Ackerly, centered on local agriculture, wasn't incorporated until 1959.

City government is represented by a mayor and six aldermen.

The town is centered around church and school. The Sands Consolidated Independent School District is probably the town's largest employer. The district is the home of the Sands Mustangs.

Ackerly's volunteer fire department has over a dozen volunteers, in-town emergency medical technicians and several fire trucks.



SANDS MUSTANGS

Like in most small towns, much of the activity in Ackerly centers around the local school. The success of the Sands Mustangs in activities from athletics and academics to FFA and one-act play gives Ackerly residents a lot of pride.

South Plains Printing

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Lamesa Press-Reporter

Seminole Sentinel

Snyder News

Brownfield News

Andrews County News

Abernathy Advocate

Broden Star

Crosby County News

Greenwood Ranger

Idalou Beacon

Lynn County News

Martin County Messenger

O'Donnell Index-Press

The Slatonite

Banner of Love

Snyder High School

Seminole High School

O'Donnell is small town with services normally found in larger communities

The City of O'Donnell is similar to many small towns, with its own newspaper, a park, volunteer fire department, post office, medical clinic and municipal government.

The town may have lost numbers in its population, but has seen additional growth in businesses.

O'Donnell once boasted 831 residents. The most recent census shows a population of 704.

"It's a wonderful place to raise kids," said Mayor Kim Parker. "We have a fantastic school."

The town, established in 1910 and named after railroad promoter Tom O'Donnell, is the hometown of the late Dan Blocker, who played Hoss Cart-

wright in the television series "Bonanza."

Blocker was born in DeKalb, but moved to O'Donnell shortly after his birth.

Visitors can stop by to see the Dan Blocker memorial statue at the Heritage Plaza or see memorabilia from Blocker's career at the O'Donnell Museum.

O'Donnell has a Quanah Parker Trail historical marker.

Another notable native is former San Antonio Mayor Phil Hardberger, who grew up in O'Donnell. His parents, Homer Reeves Hardberger and the former Bess Scott, are buried in O'Donnell.

The city, incorporated 13 years after its founding, lies in both Lynn and Dawson counties. The O'Donnell Independent School District has an enrollment of less than 300 students.

City Hall, located at 615 8th Street, is staffed by six people.

"That's the police chief, city secretary, clerical assistant, utility manager and two maintenance," Parker said.

The city's businesses include O'Donnell Oil & Butane, State National Bank, Halfmann Heat & Air, Moore-Raines Insurance, The Back Door Gifts to Go, and a large Allsup's Convenience Store on Highway 87. Two cotton gins, Woolum Gin and the WesTex Co-Op, also reside in the city.

Among the new businesses in town are West Tex Insurance; B 3 Cravins food stand; The Eagle Store, serving breakfast and lunch right across from the high school; and Wild Rayne Co. Hair Studio.

Combest Family Funeral Homes also has a facility in O'Donnell.

O'Donnell's newspaper, *O'Donnell*

Index-Press, is published once a week.

The Lynn County Hospital District operates a clinic in O'Donnell at 709 4th Street.

Each year, community members host a Cotton Festival in either September or October in conjunction with the high school homecoming events.

"It's basically vendor booths. They usually try to get DJs in," Parker said. "It's an all-day event. Then we have a parade."

Also on the city's calendar is the annual three-day rodeo starting on the first Thursday following the Fourth of July celebrations. The rodeo runs until that Saturday.

"That's a big deal. Saturday morning is when they have the parade," Parker said.

Just a few years ago, the community started a Christmas lighting tradition. Santa Claus arrives in a horse-drawn carriage. There are train rides for the little ones, music, and the distribution of stockings.



FAVORITE SON *LPR photo*
A bronze bust and marker honoring in memory of Dan Blocker, who grew up in O'Donnell before gaining fame as "Hoss" on the former television series "Bonanza" was erected a number of years ago in an O'Donnell park.



LOCAL HISTORY

A large arrow designating O'Donnell as being on the state-designated Quanah Parker Trail is located just across from the local museum

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Welch revolves around ag, oil, school

Welch is a community that relies on agriculture and the oil industry.

Besides the Dawson Independent School District (DISD), the town has a post office, two community churches and a volunteer fire department. Businesses in or around town are Key Energy Service, Welch Gin, Tinsley Gin and Susan's Cafe.

"Nearly everything around here is cotton or peanuts; mostly cotton," said Kalith Brown about the agriculture in

the area.

Brown, a graduate of Dawson High School, currently serves as the DISD board president.

"It's a small-town community. A lot of pride in our school," said Brown. "Over the years, we've lost a lot of people. It's just a close-knit community of people."

The school district contains a high school, gym, administrative offices and a primary school, all in the same build-

ing.

With a population of a little over 200 people, the school district is still recuperating from a drop in enrollment and an economic downfall when oil production, along with the tax revenue it generated, began to decline.

"Ninety percent of our tax base was oil wells. They're not producing any more," Brown said. "We had over \$300-million in tax base not that many years ago. Right now we're sitting at \$75 million."

"Our school went through some tough financial times. We've rebounded from that."

Back when he was a high school student in the 1970s, there were 250-260 students enrolled in Dawson ISD classes.

The district now has about 150

students – about 30 students less than it had when the district was hit by the economic downturn.

"Our student population still needs to grow. We went through a tough time when we lost a lot of tax base. We lost a lot of students because of the uncertainty," Brown said. "We're back on solid ground financially. We just still need to grow in our student population"



LPR photo

LOCAL BUSINESS


Located next door to the post office, Susan's Cafe is one of the few businesses in Welch. Others are Key Energy Services, Welch Gin and the nearby Tinsley Gin.



LPR photo

POST OFFICE

Although a small community with a declining population, Welch has been able to keep its post office serving the residents of the residents of the area.



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GT PRIDE

A worker walks across newly laid floor at the Lamesa High School gym. The new gym is part of upgrades to Lamesa ISD campuses. Along with a new look, Lamesa had a change in

leadership. David Ritchey has been promoted to the superintendent position.

LPR photo

New leadership and campus upgrades, improve Lamesa ISD

Lamesa Independent School District (LISD) has a new look and a new leader.

The district recently completed several years of construction on new facilities. They include the new Career and Technology Building, new band hall, new gymnasium, and renovations at the football stadium.

But the most recent change has been the school board's selection of a new superintendent. The school has board hired high school principal David Ritchey to take up the helm. Ritchey has served in various capacities at every Lamesa school campus.

The district boasts five campuses: one high school, a middle school, two elementary schools and the Lamesa Success Academy (LSA).

A little over 1,500 students attend classes here. Over 300 teachers and staff members are employed by the school district.

South Elementary School is where youngsters begin their education. The school houses pre-kindergarten through second graders.

"I love South," Ritchey said. "Of all the jobs I've had, that was the best. You're going to get a thousand hugs a day. It makes coming to work pretty fun."

North Elementary School has classes for third through fifth grades.

"North is the transition school because those teachers are facing challenges in making it fun, but it also has to be academically challenging," Ritchey said.

"There's always fun. We keep the fun. You can still make learning fun."

Both elementary schools obtained new playground equipment as part of the recent upgrades.

It's at the middle school level that witnesses the biggest changes in kids. The local middle school, containing grades sixth through eighth, is where students go from having just one teacher to attending seven or eight different classes each day.

"Middle school is where kids really start figuring out where they are as an individual; not just as a student," Ritchey said.

"To me, it's really where you start to see the students where their individuality stands out. There are times where you can be goofy. There are times when you have to be serious. Middle school is where they start learning those traits."

It's the high school that has seen the most physical changes in recent years. There's a new gym and upgrades to the Tors Stadium.

But one of the biggest changes is academics. Besides learning about history and English, students have the opportunity to pick up skills they can use to financially support themselves after earning their diplomas.

The new Career and Technology Education building, part of the improvements funded through a \$30.4-million bond passed by voters in 2018, provides facilities where students can become certified in nursing assistance, welding, culinary arts, cosmetology, wood-working and law enforcement.

"You can walk out of here prepared to make more money than any educator," Ritchey said about the high school's certification programs.

The LSA is aimed at catching those students who may fall through the cracks by no fault of their own. It assists students, who are usually the main breadwinners of their families, to strive to complete their educations. So far this year, Ritchey said, seven students have earned their diplomas through the LSA program.

LISD is headed by a board of seven elected school trustees, who meet monthly in the district's central office, located at 212 N Houston Street. Rebecca Gonzales is the board president.

Lamesa ISD

Administration

212 N. Austin Avenue, 872-5461

Superintendent

David Ritchey

Director of Special Education

Stacy Stewart

Director of Curriculum/Instruction

Jamie Bahlman

District Crisis & Behavior Coordinator

Lisa Puckett

Chief Financial Officer

Dr. Greg Nelson

Technology Director

Timothy Drew

Lamesa High School

600 N 14th Street, 872-8385

Interim Principal

Jerry Birdsong

Assistant Principal

Eric Coronado

Miranda Rodriguez-Reyes

Athletic Director

Gregg Moreland

Lamesa Middle School

1100 S 1st Street, 872-8301

Principal

Melanie Jasper-Gonzales

Assistant Principal

Lori Hood

Curriculum Instruction Coordinator

Ana Li Rocha

North Elementary

601 N 14th, 872-5428

Principal

Maranda Watson

Assistant Principal

Hannah Clements

Curriculum Instruction Coordinator

Bayli Wright

South Elementary

710 Skyline Dr., 872-5401

Principal

Joey Hannaway

Assistant Principal

Jessica Moreno

Curriculum Instruction Coordinator

Karrie Cook

Lamesa Success Academy

102 Bryan Ave., 872-5410

Interim Principal

Jerry Birdsong

Transportation

1108 S Lynn, 872-5434

Director

Sammy Sanchez

Bond will fund construction of entirely new Sands school campus

Although their strong programs in academics and extracurricular activities will continue as usual, big changes are in store for the Sands Consolidated School District in Ackerly.

Thanks to an \$85-million bond approved by the district's voters this past November, preparations are underway to construct an entirely new school facility for students from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade.

Replacing the current campus which dates back to the 1920 and has been added onto and renovated over the years, the new campus will be located just south of the current football field.

In fact, that football field and the school's relatively new gymnasium will be among the few things not replaced with the new building project.

The new building will include academic and administrative facilities, a new auditorium and new gym, and Career and Technology Education facilities.

School officials hope construction can begin as soon as this coming summer.

Sands Superintendent Wayne Henderson emphasizes the new facilities, however, won't change the excellent learning opportunities the school provides to its students.

Sands' faculty averages 17 years of experience per faculty member.

"That's a pretty good number especially in a small school," Henderson said.

Although Henderson said they don't currently have any new programs,



THEATER TROUPE

With a cast and crew of 23 students, Sands High School placed sixth at state last year in University Interscholastic League Class 1A one-act play competition with their production of "Fire in the Hole." Sands has advanced to the state contest several times in recent years.

they've added a few new wrinkles to established programs like Career Technical Education under the leadership of Brian Reed.

Sands CISD
101 Mustang Drive
P.O. Box 218
Ackerly, TX 79713
(432) 353-4888
sands.esc17.net

Superintendent
Wayne Henderson

Principal
Lenny Morrow

"Doctor Reed's done a great job starting up new ag programs and ag mechanics," Henderson said. "It seems like he's got kids going to competition all of the time."

Henderson also praises the work of drama teacher Tana Howard, who's also a counselor at Ackerly.

"Tana's got our drama kids going to state almost every year," Henderson

said.

Billy Grumbles, a coach at the school, also works with the school's barbecue cooking teams which have

regularly qualified for state competition in recent years.

"Some of our kids have found their

niche there, too," Henderson said.

Sands' girls basketball team, under the direction of Coach Ben Connell, is a regular in the playoffs and captured the state championship in 2022. The Mustang girls also won back-to-back state track team championships in 2021 and 2022.

As the Mustangs' head cross country coach, Dustin Wall continues taking runners to state in that sport on a consistent basis.

Strong community support has helped keep the Mustangs on top. Sands hosts a dinner and theater each year which includes a silent auction as a fund raiser.

"We normally have 140 to 150 attend that dinner, but it sounds like we've already got 195 signed up for it this year," Henderson said.

Sands currently has 243 students enrolled from pre-K through 12th grade.

LAMESA PRIMARY CARE CLINIC

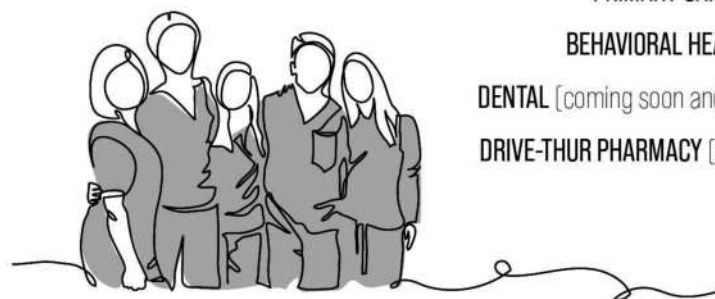
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Office: 806.870.1890



Klondike proud of 'Blue Ribbon' status

Klondike, a rural school district headquartered in the southern part of Dawson County, is widely known for excellence in academics and agriculture.

Athletics also has begun putting the school on the map in recent years.

In 2021 the school received its second recognition as a national Blue Ribbon School, having also received that award in 2015.

That puts the school in some very elite company, as longtime superintendent Steve McLaren noted that Klondike was the only school district in Texas nominated for the award in 2021. The other 25 schools from Texas nominated that year were individual campuses – many of them specialized campuses focusing on high-achieving students.

Klondike also has consistently received the highest recognition possible in the Texas Education Agency's system for rating the academic achievement of schools across the state.

Klondike's FFA program is well known for consistently producing winners at both the state and national levels in leadership and career development competition.

Klondike has won three of the past four national titles in FFA Milk Quality and Products competition, and repeatedly has won national recognition in Land Judging competition.

Their success has also helped Klondike FFA members earn thousands of dollars in scholarships every year.

This past fall the Klondike Cougars'



NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

Klondike FFA members (from left) Fallon Warren, Bella Stevens, Raeleigh Bellows and Neihmaya Howard captured the national championship last fall in FFA Milk Quality and Products competition. Klondike has won three out of the past four national titles in that event

KISD photo

volleyball team advanced all the way to the Class 1A state tournament. The Cougars also have seen strong good success in football, basketball, track and even golf.

Klondike ISD

2911 CR H
Lamesa, TX 79331
806-462-7332
klondike.esc17.net

Superintendent

Steve McLaren

Principal

Danielle Therwhanger

As a result of the closing and consolidation of several other school districts over the years, the Klondike school district sprawls for miles across the southwestern part of Dawson County and well into Martin County.

Enrollment usually ranges around 260 students from kindergarten through 12th grade. Like in many of the smaller schools across this area, many of Klondike's students are transfers from Lamesa or other neighboring school

districts.

The campus is located on a small hill in the midst of cotton fields and bustling oilfield activity a few miles east of the small community of Patricia.

Oilfield activity provides the school

with most of its property tax revenue. Klondike is considered a property-wealthy district by the state, meaning it has to send a good portion of its tax revenue to the state to be shared with poorer school districts.

That strong tax base also has helped Klondike make regular improvements to both academic and athletic facilities in recent years.

An \$8 million bond approved by the school's voters in 2020 funded the latest improvements, which included construction of two new classrooms, a complete renovation of the cafeteria, replacement of air conditioning units, and construction of a new field house, concession/restroom building, and other amenities at the football field.

McLaren, however, has regular emphasized that the school's true wealth lies with its teachers, students and the strong support it receives from the scattered Klondike "community."

"We've got a really great staff, great kids, and a community out here that really supports Klondike and the kids in everything we do," McLaren said.

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Small size, community support helps Dawson ISD offer family atmosphere

A family-type atmosphere that extends not only throughout the school but encompasses the community as well is one of the Dawson school system's major assets.

That's according to Gary Jones, who is in his second year as superintendent for the Dawson school district based in Welch.

"With small class sizes we have a small student-teacher ratio," Jones said. "That makes for a more personal learning environment and allows us to have very limited disciplinary issues among our students."

Indeed, with 16 teachers serving about 140 students from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade, Dawson's overall student-teacher ratio is less than 9-1.

After hitting a rough time which saw its total enrollment drop below 100 about 4-5 years ago, Dawson has steadily been bringing back and/or growing some of the programs that practically disappeared at one time.

Those include University Interscholastic League academic competition, vocational agriculture, and Dawson Dragons athletic teams on the football field and basketball court.

The school currently is in the midst of replacing the running track around the football field, with that project due to be completed in time for Dawson to host the district track meet in early April.

While there are only three students in the current senior class, Jones said the school looks to have a great future with a couple of the elementary grades currently having between 15 and 20 students. Most grades have about 10-12 students in them.

As with many of the small schools in this region, a majority of the students attending the Dawson school are transfers from other neighboring school districts who are attracted by the personal, small-school atmosphere.

While most of the Dawson school district is located in the northwestern corner of Dawson County, the school also extends north into portions of both Terry and Lynn counties.

While once considered a property-wealthy district based on taxable values, Jones said a gradual decline in new oil activity in the area around Welch has dropped the school out of that classification. That change means the school no longer has to send any of its local property tax revenue to the state to be shared with other districts.

The school is a major point of pride for the small community of Welch, located on Hwy. 137 between Lamesa and Brownfield.

"We have great community support here," Jones said. "That's a major part of the family atmosphere that we enjoy here with our school."

Dawson ISD

P.O. Box 180
Welch, TX 79377
806-489-7461
dawsonisd.net

Superintendent

Gary Jones

Principal

Jesse Galdean



CRAFTY

Dawson ISD students participate in a class activity.

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Bill Rose
Cell: 806-332-6140
Chris Rose
Cell: 806-548-4886

O'Donnell ISD offers array of programs

O'Donnell Independent School District may be small – with 21 students in the current senior class – but it offers many programs and opportunities offered at larger school districts.

The district has one elementary school, and a combined junior high and high school.

Besides learning English, math and science, O'Donnell students can expand their horizons through the P-TECH program. That program offers students classes in business management, accounting and finance, health care therapeutic, animal science, and teaching and training.

“Any student that’s enrolled in P-TECH, we pay for all their college, dual credits,” said OISD Superintendent Dr. Cathy Palmer.

There are 297 students enrolled

in O'Donnell schools. The district employs 64 staff members, including 27 teachers.

Competing in black and gold as the O'Donnell Eagles, students participate in athletic programs such as football, baseball, cross country, basketball, tennis and golf. The district recently added softball to the program.

Students also participate in University Interscholastic League (UIL) academic programs and have advanced to state competition.

Besides academics and sports, students enjoy extracurricular programs including Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, robotics, One-Act Play, the barbecue team and FFA.

Students also can obtain certifications in the culinary arts, floral design, MicroSoft software, welding and entrepreneurship.

O'Donnell ISD

P.O. Box 487
501 5th Street
O'Donnell, TX 79351
806-428-3241
odonnell.esc17.net

Superintendent
Dr. Cathy Palmer

Secondary Principal
Cody White

Elementary Principal
Sharla Edwards



PREPARING BARBECUE

O'Donnell High School's barbecue cooking teams not only compete in contests throughout the West Texas area but also have regularly qualified to compete at the state level as well.

Lynn County Hospital District



Christopher Leach, MD



Cindy Ford, FNP



Cynde Schneider FNP-C

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LCHD's O'Donnell Clinic*

*Seeing patients at the
Borden County Clinic*



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Howard College has local campus

For more than 50 years, college classes have been available in Lamesa through a satellite campus of Howard College Big Spring.

The local campus offers a convenient way for students to either obtain an associate degree or a certificate right here in Lamesa where they can then enter the workforce or transfer to a university to continue their studies.

That is particularly attractive to students who may have difficulty with the high costs of major universities, and for others who need to stay at home due to jobs or family situations.

About 150-200 students each semester take classes offered through the local campus. Many of them are high school students at Lamesa and Klondike high schools, who take dual-credit courses, earning both high school and college credit at the same time.

Many of those students taking dual-credit courses graduate from

high school with 20 or more hours of college credit. Students who takes dual credit courses and also takes additional classes in summer, evening, and/or online at the college have been able to earn an associate degree by the time they graduate from high school.

Beginning with the Fall 2023 semester, Howard College will be shifting to a course schedule comprised mostly of 8-week classes. This means students will take fewer courses covering an 8-week term rather than

more courses covering a traditional 16-week term.

Students can take their required courses for a degree at the local campus, including the typical English, history, math, and government classes, as well as courses ranging from criminal justice to anatomy and physiology.

For those students who need a little help getting started with college level courses, the local campus offers developmental classes in English and math.

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

Campus Director
Monica Castro

Head Start launches children's education

The Early Head Start and Head Start programs, managed by West Texas Opportunities (WTO) is where pre-schoolers can get their first experience with numbers, shapes and colors, and the ABCs.

Early Head Start is geared for infants between the ages of six weeks and 36 months. When they reach age three, they are transferred to the Head Start program which will prepare them for the reality of pre-kindergarten in the Lamesa school system when they turn four.

"It's to prepare children and families for transition out of poverty and to put education first," said Brooke Adcock, Head Start and Early Head Start director.

Early Head Start is a year-round program with a calendar beginning Aug. 1 and ending July 31.

The Head Start program follows the Lamesa school system calendar. The programs run from 8 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.

Monday through Friday.

There's only enough room for 72 Early Head Start youngsters and up to 85 Head Start pre-schoolers.

Both programs are housed in a former Lamesa elementary building at 911 N.E. Third Street.

While at "school," youngsters are fed breakfast, lunch and snacks. They're even provided with Pull-Ups, diapers and formula.

The little ones are taught life skills and participate in play time to build and improve their cognitive skills.

Head Start is a federally funded program based upon income and other factors. Acceptance into the program is ranked on a point system. Children who are in a low-income home are prioritized to be accepted in the program. Factors included in the point system, along with income, are single-parent homes, family trauma, and foster care.

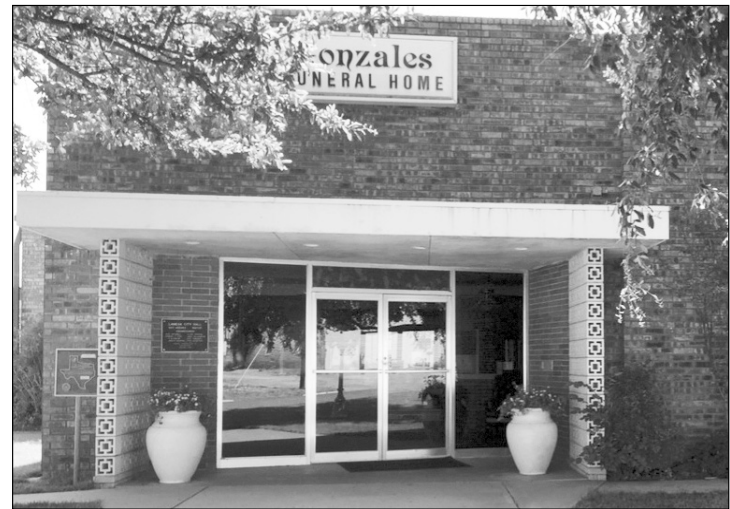
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Campus Director
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Lamesa Church of Christ

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806-872-8369**

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.



HEALTHCARE HEADQUARTERS
 Medical Arts Hospital is the centerpiece of the Dawson County Hospital District, which also operates a clinic staffed with physicians, an annex where various medical specialists see patients, and the local ambulance service. *LPR photo*

Quality healthcare is district's priority

Established in 2005 to separate healthcare from county government, the Dawson County Hospital District operates several medical facilities in Lamesa.

The current hospital, located at 2200 N. Bryan Ave., opened in 2009 after voters approved a \$14 million bond issue to replace a facility that took care of patients for five decades.

Adjacent to the hospital is the Medical Arts Health Clinic, both located near the corner of N. 22nd Street and Bryan Avenue. Just down the street is the Medical Arts Specialty Annex at 1016 N. 17th Street.

"Providing quality healthcare is our top priority," said Chief Executive Officer Freddy Olivarez, Jr.

The local hospital offers inpatient and outpatient care, emergency medical services, radiology, laboratory services and physical therapy.

It has a Level 4 Trauma designated emergency room, Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), CAT scan, ultrasound and nuclear medicine.

Currently there are five physicians working at the hospital and clinic. Four are full-time and one is part-time.

Emergency Medical Services' four ambulances provide transportation

either to the local hospital or other larger out-of-town medical facilities.

Patients do not have to be Dawson County residents to get medical help.

Medical Arts Clinic, adjacent to the hospital, houses medical providers who see patients by appointment or

through a walk-up after-hours clinic. The regular clinics hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. An extended clinic is open from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m. weekdays.

The clinic provides family medicine services along with pre-and post natal care for expectant mothers.

The Medical Arts Specialty Annex offers a location for out-of-town physicians to see patients one or more days each month. The visiting doctors offer specialty services like cardiology, nephrology, orthopedics, pain

management, orthodontics, urology and gastroenterology.

The district's board members are elected to two-year terms. David Sanderson currently is the board president.

Medical Arts Health Clinic's phone number is 806-872-7494. The specialty annex can be reached by calling 806-872-4179.

Dawson County Hospital District

Medical Arts Hospital

2200 North Bryan Avenue
 806-872-2183

Chief Executive Officer

Freddy Olivarez
 806-872-5727, Extension 2018

Chief Operating Officer

Jo Beth Smith
 806-872-5727, Extension 2011

Chief Financial Officer

Colby Reeves
 806-872-5727, Extension 2017

Director of Nurses

Diane Sherrill
 806-872-5727, Extension 3150

Human Resources Director

Traci Brown
 806-872-5727



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- Jamie Prieto, FNP-C
- Krystal Avalos, FNP

For More Information:
MedicalArtsHospital.org
 (806) 872-5727 | 2200 N Bryan Ave Lamesa, TX 79331

Healthcare providers

Hospital

Medical Arts Hospital
2200 North Bryan Avenue
806-872-2183
www.medicalartshospital.org

Medical Providers

Medical Arts Health Clinic
2202 North Bryan Avenue
806-872-7494

Mark Key, M.D.
Family Practice

Michael Sprys, D.O.
Family Practice

Laura Weatherman, PA-C, MPAS
Family Practice

Brenda Mahon-Deri, MD
Family Practice

Jamie Prieto, RN, MSN, FNP-C
Family Practice

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

Krystal Avalos, FNC-C
Family Practice

Medical Arts Hospital

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

Isabel Molina Family Medicine

1007 N. 16th St.
806-870-1890
Isabel Molina, MD
Family Practice

Lamesa Primary Healthcare

1502 North Avenue K
806-872-3069

Petros Chapanos, MD
Family Practice

Amy Elliot, Nurse Practitioner
Sandy Reeves, Nurse Practitioner

Lynn County Hospital District Family Wellness Clinic - O'Donnell

709 4th St., O'Donnell
806-428-3211

Christopher Leach, MD
Family Practice

Cindy Ford, FNP-BC
Family Practice

Lynn County Hospital District Borden County Clinic

240 Coyote Dr.,
Gail, TX
806-759-4439

Cynde Schneider, FNP-C

Versatile Wellness

1307 Lubbock Hwy
806-200-5019

Cynde Schneider, FNP-C
Nurse Practitioner

Visiting Medical Specialists

Medical Arts Specialty Annex

1016 N. 17th Street
806-872-4179

Cardiology

Dr. Juan Kurdi
Dr. Kyler Barkley

Gastroenterology
Dr. Sameer Islam

Dr. Vanessa Costilla
Dr. Ariwan Rakvit

Nephrology

Dr. Maybin Simfukwe
Orthodontics

Wentz Orthodontics
Orthopedics

Dr. Atul Joshi

Pain Management

Dr. Shiraz Yazdani
Urology

Dr. Kanwaljit Mahal

Home Health Services

Angels Care Home Health

1009 N 7th
806-200-0515

Calvert Home Health Care

1607 N. Bryan Ave.
806-872-0540

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.,
806-872-3464

Physical Therapy

Lamesa Physical Therapy & Sports Rehab

Josh Freitag, DPT, PT
Tyler Sikes, PT, DPT
Kristen Snellgrove, PT, DPT
221 N Main Ave.
806-200-5030

Medical Arts Hospital Physical Therapy

2200 N. Bryan Ave.
806-872-5727 ext. 3600

Chiropractors

Sulphur Draw Chiropractic

Maureen L. Sevedge, D.C.
611 N. Austin Ave.,
806-872-6534

Helton Chiropractic

Dr. Abel Ramos
411 S. 1st St
806-872-2222

Dentists

J. Craig Cowan, DDS

706 South 1st Street
806-872-7664

Lamesa Dental

311 North Dallas Ave.
806-870-5555
Preet Sandhu DDS

Dialysis

Fresenius Kidney Care

1600 N. Bryan Ave
806-872-9239

Optometrists

Robert K. Orr, OD

1601 North Bryan Avenue
806-872-3667

Lamesa Primary Clinic

1502 North Avenue K
806-872-3069

Licensed Massage Therapists

Lavish

432-853-9852
Aimee Hill

Massage Therapy and Electrolysis by Connie

207 North Main Ave., 806-201-0315

Mental Health Services

West Texas Centers for MHMR

Dawson County Mental Health Clinic
211 North Main St.

Lamesa Primary Healthcare

Lance Tolbert, LPC
1502 N Ave K, 806-872-3069

Pharmacies

CVS/Pharmacy

2304 Lubbock Hwy., 806-872-8810

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Lamesa Police Department

The Lamesa Police Department, located in the basement of city hall at 601 S. 1st Street, is made up of numerous departments.

The department's officers are responsible for patrolling the streets, enforcing state laws and city ordinances, investigating crimes and even responding to calls about loose and stray animals.

Josh Peterson has been the chief of police since 2020.

The department is made up of full-time peace officers, a handful of reserve officers, communications officers and a few civilian staff members.

The Criminal Investigations Division works on criminal cases. Officers in the Street Crimes Division work on drug cases and gang investigations.

Officers in the Patrol Division patrol the streets, enforce traffic laws, investigate vehicular crashes and assist with other investigations throughout town.

The police department provides four School Resource Officers (SRO) to serve on the school district's four campuses.

SROs provide security services for the district. Their main job is to ensure schools remain safe, and to investigate any unlawful incidents which may occur on school campus.

Staff members working in the department's Communications Division answer all 9-1-1 calls to the dispatch center. They relay the information to the correct emergency service.

After normal working hours for the city's other departments, the commu-

nications staff also handles calls from residents reporting leaky water pipes to roadway issues.

Officers will conduct welfare checks on residents whose concerned friends or relatives haven't been able to get a hold of them.

Officers also do regular house checks, at no cost to the residents, for people who are away for vacation or other purposes. To get the service, residents must fill out a form either at the police department or online at

www.ci.lamesa.tx.us/forms.

The department's office phone number for non-emergencies is 806-872-2121.

Dial 9-1-1 for all emergencies

Lamesa Police Department

City Hall
601 South 1st Street
806-872-2121

Dawson County Sheriff Office

Dawson County
Law Enforcement Center
401 South 2nd Street
806-872-7560

Texas Department of Public Safety

Highway Patrol
608 North Main Avenue
806-872-8675

Lamesa Fire Rescue

Central Station

307 North 1st Street
806-872-4352

North Station

1711 North Bryan Avenue
806-872-4351

Medical Arts Hospital EMS

501 South Main Avenue
806-872-3464
Non Emergencies

The county jail, which houses offenders arrested by any of the local law enforcement agencies, has a jail administrator, an assistant administrator and nine jailers. The jail can accommodate up to 48 prisoners. When the jail population exceeds that number, prisoners are housed in other county jails in the region which have contracted with Dawson County.



LPR photo

TEAMWORK

Local first-responders – including law enforcement officers, firefighters and emergency medical personnel – often work side-by-side to provide assistance during emergencies.

Texas Department of Public Safety

The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) office, located at 608 N. Main Avenue in Lamesa, is where drivers can get a driver's license, or renew their licenses. It's also where highway patrol officers are stationed.

DPS troopers patrol and enforce traffic laws on state highways. They also investigate vehicle accidents that occur on state and rural roadways.

The local office is the headquarters for officers working a four-county area that includes Dawson, Gaines, Andrews and Borden counties.

The local office also has a License and Weight trooper, a secretary and a customer service representative.

Lamesa Fire Rescue

As a combined entity made up of full-time and volunteer firefighters, Lamesa Fire Rescue firefighters responds to fires; and conducts rescues, inspections and investigation services.

The department is made up of members of the Lamesa Fire Department (LFD) and the Lamesa Volunteer Fire Department.

"We work together, and they have their own chief and assistant chief and we blend together," said LFD Chief Larry Duyck. "As a whole, we're considered the Lamesa Fire Rescue."

The department has two fire stations. Central Fire Station No. 1, located at 307 N. 1st Street, contains the administrative offices. The building, established in 1994, houses a ladder truck, pumper truck, a 3,000-gallon tanker, a 1,500-gallon brush truck, two 1,000-gallon brush trucks, and a com-

mand trailer.

North Fire Station No. 2, located at 1711 N. Bryan Avenue, has two engine trucks, a heavy rescue trailer, and an emergency transportation vehicle which seats 22 people.

The station has a room where firefighters hold their meetings.

Currently there are seven paid full-time firefighters, along with seven part-time firefighters who step in when full-time staff members are not available. The volunteer fire department has about 20 members.

Levi Roberts is the fire marshal. Jason Wiley is the captain of the fire department. Edward Schwartz is assistant chief and training officer.

The volunteer fire department's chief is Steven Archer. Assistant chief is Paul Sanchez. Jerry Cagle is captain for Company 1, and Brian Beck serves as captain for Company 2.

Volunteer fire departments also are located in Ackerly, O'Donnell and Welch and work in cooperation with Lamesa Fire Rescue.

Medical Arts Hospital EMS

There are four Emergency Medical Services (EMS) ambulances that transport patients to Lamesa's Medical Arts Hospital and to other medical facilities when needed.

Local EMS personnel respond to medical emergencies throughout the Dawson County, and go into neighboring counties when requested.

EMS also transfers patients from Medical Arts Hospital to out-of-town medical facilities.

The EMS facility is housed in a building owned by Dawson County at 501 S. Main Ave. in Lamesa.

Services available for senior citizens

Lamesa has several facilities dedicated specifically toward serving the needs of senior citizens.

Dawson County Senior Citizens Center

609 N Austin Ave
806-872-3324.

Whether it's a game of dominoes, a visit among military buddies or a hot meal that the elderly don't have to prepare themselves, the Dawson County Senior Citizens Center has it all.

There's the common television area and a room set aside for exercising. There's even a thrift room – aka garage sale – where seniors can purchase clothing, dishes or anything donated from the public. The thrift room is open from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Senior citizens can come in when the center opens at 7 a.m. Monday through Friday for coffee, served throughout the day, and possibly donuts. The center closes at 4 p.m. each weekday.

"There's always something to go with the coffee," said the center's director, Tammy Vidal.

Workers cook noon lunches each weekday. There's a suggested \$3 donation for each meal, but payment isn't required.

Between 115 and 119 meals are delivered to homebound residents through the Meals on Wheels program, while another 60 to 100 seniors enjoy their lunches at the center.

"It depends upon the day and what we're serving," said Vidal about how many diners she can expect on any given day. "It's typically 200 meals a day."

The center also offers a transportation service to those needing a ride to and from the center.

"If they don't have a ride to come here, I'll come pick them up," Vidal said.

"We ask for a 50-cent donation per ride, but it's not required."

The center offers another service: the Senior Commodity Food Box. Seniors must apply and qualify for free cheese, milk, vegetables, tuna, pasta and other foods under the Texas Department of Agriculture guidelines.

Northridge Retirement Center

100 NE 27th Street
806-872-9255

Northridge Retirement Center, an independent living facility, offers a safe haven for those wanting to keep their independence, but who need to downsize from maintaining a home and a lawn.

The 50-unit facility is open to anyone 62 years old or older. The residential center is also open to those under the age of 62 with disabilities.

The center offers laundry facilities, a licensed beautician, a library, covered parking and mail boxes. Residents just need to bring their own furniture. The area is kept safe with 24/7 camera surveillance.

Two gathering rooms are available for residents and their families.

Rates for renting the unfurnished apartments is based upon income. Water is included in the rent and electricity is paid in the front office, so no connection fee is necessary.

"We really go towards extremely low or low-income individuals or couples," said Director Marissa Sorola.

An individual qualifies to rent a unit if they have an annual income of \$23,850 – or \$1,987.50 per month. A couple qualifies if their annual income is \$27,250, or \$2,270.83 per month.

The facility does not include any nursing or medical services.

"They are able to have a provider if needed. Their provider can live with them," Sorola said.

The business office is open from 8 a.m.

until 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Beehive Homes of Lamesa

101 N 27th Street
806-872-2073

Beehive Homes of Lamesa is an assisted living facility that offers senior citizens private rooms along with access to personal and professional care.

Beehive Homes offers assisted living, hospice and physical therapy

Established here in 2007, Beehive Homes has two buildings which feature a total of 30 private residential rooms with bathrooms, home-cooked meals, daily housekeeping and 24 hour staffing, including certified memory care practitioners and extended care nurses.

The facility provides laundry, cooking and the housecleaning.

There are daily activities geared toward residents. There's a beauty salon and exercise programs.

Office hours are from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number is (806) 452-5883.

Lamesa Seniors Community

122 NE 27th Street
806-872-3087

Lamesa Seniors Community is a housing facility for those who are 62 or older; or are handicapped or disabled regardless of age.

Basic rent is \$563 per month. Rental assistance may be available. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) vouchers are accepted.

Residents must meet income requirements. To qualify, an individual's annual income can be no more than \$29,940. A couple qualifies if their income is no more than \$34,200 per year.

The 24 one-bedroom apartments are equipped with central heat and air, washer/dryer connections and storage units. The facility also include cable and satellite readiness, handicap rails, re-

frigerators, stoves, on-site maintenance, a community room with a kitchen and guest parking.

"The managers do keep it well maintained and it's a good place to work. I have a good set of residents," said on-site manager Danny Beck.

Lamesa Seniors Community takes care of any landscaping and maintenance of the facilities.

Each unit has an outside front entrance. Residents receive Meals on Wheels delivered to their homes, and TRAX transportation services.

The facility is pet friendly. Residents will have to pay a \$150 pet deposit. There are no breed restrictions, and therapy pets are welcome.

Residents are responsible for any healthcare or physical therapy they require.

Office hours are from 7 a.m. until noon, Monday through Wednesday.

Focused Care of Lamesa

1201 N. 15 Street
806-872-2141

Focused Care of Lamesa is a 70-bed care facility for residents who need assistance with their medical needs, along with help in doing everyday activities such as dressing, eating or using the bathroom, said Jessica Boyce, regional director of business development.

Nursing staff are on-call to care for those who can no longer take care of themselves at home. Residents are provided with meal preparation, medication management, and a 24-hour call system.

Residents needing post-surgery care can stay for short-term rehabilitation or for long-term care. Patients can also obtain IVs, antibiotic therapy, diabetes management and wound care. There's also physical, occupational and speech therapy.

Office hours are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

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DRESS SELECTION

A wide range of clothing items – even including wedding dresses – are among the array of used items offered for sale at bargain prices at the Thrift Store, located at 911 N. 1st St.

LPR photo

Thrift Store offers used items for bargain prices

Whether it's baby clothes, household items or antiques, the Christian Women's Job Corp.'s (CWJC) Thrift Store probably has it on its shelves and racks.

The Thrift Store is where residents donate their unwanted possessions for resale to shoppers wanting them.

People can either go inside to drop off their donations or leave them near the front door after hours.

"We oftentimes have sewing (items) like patterns, materials," said Karen Presley, CWJC executive director "When that comes in, it goes out really fast.

"We have coats, blankets, books, just about everything."

High school students and new brides can even find prom and wedding dresses there.

When the Christmas season is just around the corner, the staff puts out donated trees, stockings and holiday figurines and decorations.

The store's clothing racks are filled

with pants, shirts, sweaters and even winter coats for men, women and children. Shoppers can find children's toys, shoes of all sizes and picture frames. Sometimes the store has donated furniture on sale, but when it comes in, it sells fast.

There are some items the store can't accept, however. It can't sell used mat-

tresses. Oftentimes, when a child's car seat is donated, staff have to do some research to ensure its age and that it's safe before putting a price tag on it.

"We have to follow the resale guide as to what we can sell," Presley said.

The CWJC's store is also there to help out people who lost their homes to either fire or flooding. It provides clothing, household items – anything someone needs to start from scratch as they rebuild or relocate.

"If they come, we will help them," Presley said.

The Thrift Store is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

Thrift Store

911 North 1st Street
806-872-5627

WTO provides array of services from local office

Finding it difficult to pay the bills? Need transportation or child care?

For many struggling families facing hard times West Texas Opportunities (WTO) is a saving grace.

WTO isn't just here to meet the needs of the present, but it also helps with the future. It is an organization that can lead youngsters toward beginning their education and their parents into getting additional education.

It's even there at Christmas time when it assists with the collection and distribution of new toys and clothing for needy local children.

Those accepting financial assistance from WTO must first apply for it. That also includes applying for help fulfilling Christmas wish lists each December.

They can do the application by either calling (806) 872-8354 or going to the organization's website at gowto.org.

The local WTO office is located at 603 North 4th Street.

Lamesa's WTO office opened its doors in 1966 – two years after the organization was created by enactment of the Economic Opportunity Act in 1964. There also are WTO offices in Odessa, Midland, Snyder and Sweetwater.

WTO offers Head Start and Early Head Start programs for infants and toddlers.

WTO not only helps with paying past due utility bills, rent or prescription drugs, it also provides transportation

for the disabled, elderly, children or those without a car in the family.

All travelers have to do, besides calling 1-800-245-9028 a day in advance to schedule in-town and out-of-town trips, is pay a small fee. The program, funded by the Texas Department of Transportation, uses TRAX vans to transport Medicaid recipients, the elderly and the disabled for grocery shopping or to medical appointments.

The service is available to everyone, not just those with mobility issues or the elderly or very young.

The cost for a one-way trip of up to five miles is only \$1; and \$3.75 for six to 19 miles. The cost is 50

cents for up to five miles for travelers 65 and older; or \$11.25 to travel 51 to 75 miles.

Children ages 12 and under must be accompanied by a someone over the age of 18. There is no income guideline for this service.

Another service provided by WTO can save homeowners money in utilities. The agency provides a Weatherization Assistance Program that will see the installation of material to cut down on energy costs.

The program pays for the installation of insulation, weather-stripping, door and window repairs, and caulking in attics and walls that conserve energy while lowering heating and cooling costs. Labor for the installation is provided by subcontractors.

West Texas Opportunities

603 North 4th Street
806-872-8354
www.gowto.org



Cemeteries have varied history

A Native American princess, numerous military veterans, a family devastated by disease while traveling through the county and a grieving widower seeking to reunite with his late wife after 43-years of separation have all found final resting places in Dawson County cemeteries.

The oldest of the county's cemeteries is the Pioneer Cemetery, but the largest and most utilized is the Dawson County Cemetery. Both are located at Lamesa, while other small cemeteries can be found scattered throughout the county.

Dawson County Cemetery

The Dawson County Cemetery is located on 65 acres – though only 10 currently are utilized for burials – at 1010 County Road 12 south of Lamesa just off Hwy. 137.

It's estimated that more than 11,000 people are buried or interred there.

The cemetery, operated by the county, includes a section for military veterans who returned home after fighting during the First and Second World Wars, the Korean Conflict and in Vietnam.

County Treasurer Terri Stahl works as the administrator overseeing over a dozen cemeteries. She also helps families tracing their family histories through the location of their predecessors' grave stones.

There are no residential requirements for anyone planning to be buried in the county cemetery. The cost per plot is \$300 to be buried on the cemetery's west side. The cost is \$500 for burial on the east side since vaults made of concrete or other materials are required in order to fit in with the other graves in that area.

Stahl can be contacted about grave locations for those looking into their family histories or to purchase a plot by calling (806) 329-3327 or emailing her at tstahl@co.dawson.tx.us.

Pioneer Cemetery

Pioneer Cemetery is Lamesa's first cemetery, though it wasn't in operation for very long.

About 24 people are buried there, though there are only 13 headstones that survive into the 21st Century.

Located at the corner of N.E. 1st St. and Elgin Ave. in Lamesa, the ceme-



DAWSON COUNTY CEMETERY

Signs now mark the various sections of the Dawson County Cemetery, located just south of Lamesa.

LPR photo

tery received its first resident in 1904. It closed three years later.

New resident Virginia Endora Pate, who was only 40 and healthy, foretold her own future. She mentioned the need for a burial site while at a friend's "Sewing Bee." Her friends, along with a landowner, agreed. With land donated by Frank Conner and his family, the cemetery was established.

Pate died Nov. 10, 1904 and was the first resident to be buried there.

William Rosea Kelly (Oct. 5, 1865-June 24, 1949) was the last person to be buried there. He asked to be buried next to his first wife, Katie, who died in 1906.

The cemetery is surrounded by a three-foot high stone wall, and features a front entrance gate with a concrete sidewalk leading to a historical marker. The State of Texas designated the site as a Historical Shrine in 1964.

Plain View Cemetery

The location of the final resting place of a Native American princess can be found at the Plain View Cemetery.

The site lies 18 miles northeast of Lamesa off FM 1210 near the Borden County boundary line.

PaNaTa "Netty" Alford Gregory (April 29, 1837- August 29, 1912) is said to be the granddaughter of Shawnee Chief Tecumseh, and the great-granddaughter of another, Chief Pucksin-

wah.

The cemetery is located off a dirt road. There is no fence or gate, though an iron structure bears the cemetery's name.

Netty's grave is easy to spot. Her grave has a granite headstone, along with a wooden cross, a plaque and picture listing her biography.

Risher Family Cemetery

Something unexpected happened for this cemetery to come into being.

It seems two families, the Rishers and Andersons, were traveling west when members began passing away around the same time period.

What they left behind on the outskirts of Ackerly, near a cotton field just off County Road 33, are a few gravestones hidden by years of sand and wind.

It's estimated the spot contains the remains of seven or eight family members.

But even today's residents don't know if the story is true.

What has been uncovered was the grave of a two-day-old infant girl who died May 15, 1907. The unnamed baby's headstone lists her parents' names as JW and LJ Anderson.

Nearby is the headstone of 15-year-old TJ Risher, who died two days after the infant.

There's a gate with a metal arch with the family name of Risher painted in black.

Grace Lutheran Cemetery

This cemetery, also known as Sparenberg Cemetery, is almost a century old. One of the earliest graves is from 1927, while the youngest graves are less than a decade old.

The cemetery contains the remains of several families whose surnames remain common in the area.

Midway Cemetery

The Midway Cemetery is a small one that is easy to miss, without any real visual designations. Many of the headstones, dating back to 1926, are wind worn or hidden under years of wind-blown sand.

The cemetery is located about a mile east of the Midway community along a dirt road.

O'Donnell Cemetery

The City of O'Donnell is situated on the Dawson-Lynn county line, but the cemetery is on the Dawson County side, just south of O'Donnell on U.S. 87.

The cemetery has a paved entrance way with its name etched in metal letters. Paved walkways lead to the gravesites.

The graves date back to 1923. The cemetery remains in use today.

Fairview Cemetery

The Fairview Cemetery contains 26 headstones, though there may be more since graves may have disappeared under the sand.

The site can be found just west of Hwy. 137 on the south side of FM 1066.

There are no fences or gates. Two metal posts once led visitors to the entrance. The earliest graves date back to 1929 with the last two burials apparently taking place in 1969.

Hancock Cemetery

Hancock Cemetery, located at FM 178 and County Road 14 seven miles northeast of Lamesa, is where a couple of dozen residents are laid to rest.

Although generally well maintained, there are there are no entrance ways or gates leading into the cemetery.

The earliest residents were buried there from the 1920s. The most recent burial happened this past year.

Group works to save local animals

Since its founding in April 2020, Lamesa Adoptable Pets (LAP) rescued three German shepherd puppies found abandoned and starving in a local park. It's taken in dogs residing at the local kill shelter, wandering oil-fields or relinquished to the organization either due to a domestic situation or after their owners have died.

"Our main goal is keeping strays off the street, getting dogs altered so we can lower the population, and finding them good homes," said LAP co-founder Julie Miller.

Miller, an adult probation officer, decided to do something about finding abandoned and homeless pets forever homes among new families.

"Dogs were being killed and there was no rescue in our area that was helping," Miller said. "There wasn't anybody to pull the dogs from the shelter before they were euthanized."

In 2020, LAP took in 200 dogs. In both 2021 and 2022, it rescued 400 dogs. Seventy dogs have been rescued during the first two months of 2023.

"We've grown since we started. We're not only pulling (dogs) from the Lamesa shelter, we're pulling from



FLYING 'HOME'

Lamesa Adopted Pets organizers poses with one of the dogs transported via plane to a new destination and home. LAP has rescued and taken in hundreds of local strays and abandoned puppies and adult dogs since its creation in April 2020.

other area shelters as well," Miller said.

Dogs residing in kill facilities in Lubbock, Brownfield and Tahoka have been taken in by LAP volunteers.

Once they fall into LAP's hands, puppies and adult dogs are taken in by 10 foster homes. Then the search

for their permanent homes begins. Sometimes their new homes are in other states. And sometimes getting them there means dogs arrive at their next destinations by van or even by private plane.

"Some are (adopted) if a foster wants to keep them, or we send them up north to different rescues and

they go to foster homes and they are adopted up there," Miller said.

The organization is funded through donations. People can donate either at the Lamesa National Bank, through Paypal or through memorials among the families and friends of a departed animal lover. Donations can be sent in care of LAP to 502 S. Houston Ave.; Lamesa, Texas 79331.

"Everything is donated as well as vaccinations," Miller said. "We're not paid. It's just our hobby, if you call it that. It's our love for animals. Our hearts break for them."

LAP also helps pet owners keep their dogs. Senior citizens and those on fixed incomes can get some financial help from LAP with the costs associated with having a pet.

"We will pay for that with that donated money," Miller said. "If we know somebody, like an elderly person who loves their dogs, but they don't have the means to pay for an alter or the vaccines, we'll pay for their vetting."

For additional information, contact Miller at 806-201-1347.



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Biggie G's Barbecue 708 S Lynn Ave 806-870-0055	Jalisco's Mexican food 903 S Dallas 806-872-2946	Morning Star Donuts Donuts, etc. 412 N 4th 806-872-4607	Sonic Hamburgers, etc. 401 N 4th 806-872-5943	Texas Cajun Seafood, Cajun, Mexican 305 N. 4th St. 806-870-0017	
Big Papa's Texas Cafe American/Mexican 303 N Dallas 806-870-0045	La Diferencia Snack and Grill Mexican food 1504 Seminole Hwy. 806-332-8289	O'Hana's Japanese Steakhouse Japanese food 501 N. Dallas Ave. 806-872-9400	Stripes No 88 Hamburgers, etc. 1912 N. Dallas Ave. 806-872-8521	Texas Smokehouse Tacos Mexican/American 412 S Lynn 806-332-1373	
Bush's Chicken Fried chicken, etc 602 N. Dallas Ave. 806-870-4445	Lamesa Donuts Donuts, etc. 1904 Lubbock Hwy. 806-872-0002	Pedroza's Mexican food 1501 N Dallas 806-872-2884	Stripes No. 2289 Deli Foods 411 N. Lynn Ave. 806-872-0110	Tita's Kitchen Mexican food 901 N. 4th 806-556-5957	
Claiborne's Deli Deli foods 710 N. 4th Street 806-872-7011	La Mesa Restaurant Mexican food 412 N Ave. L 806-872-8061	Pizza Hut/Taco Bell Pizza, Mexican food. 305 N 4th 806-872-8309	Subway Sandwiches 201 N. 4th St. 806-872-5003	Yes Way Deli Foods 1111 Seminole Rd. 806-872-8629	
Daddio's Burrito Express Burritos, tacos, catering 202 S. 2nd St. 806-870-1313	Lost Texan Cafe Barbecue 608 N Dallas 806-872-9234	Rocky's Burgers Hamburgers, etc. 605 S. Dallas Ave. 806-872-7968	Swift Stop Deli foods 1100 N. 4th 806-872-3082	Yummies 106 NE 2nd 806-872-4121	

Lamesa Motels

Best Western Lamesa Inn & Suites 506 N. Dallas Ave. 56 rooms, pool, meetings 806-872-3888	Shiloh Inn 1707 Lubbock Hwy 50 units, pool 806-872-6721
Budget Host Inn 901 S. Dallas Ave. 30 rooms 806-872-2118	Southern Inn & Suites 1617 N. Hwy. 87 40 rooms, pool 806-872-7911
Lamesa Motel 1210 Seminole Rd. 10 units 806-872-5112	Westerner Motel 915 N. Dallas Ave. 28 units 806-872-2115

RV Parking

Forrest Park RV Park 8 spaces, South 9th St. & Bryan Ave. Call Lamesa City Hall, 872-2124	2T RV 50 spaces, North Highway 87 432-940-0344
87/180 RV Park 10 spaces, South 6th St. & Dallas Ave. 806-239-5921 or 332-8386	A & W RV Resort 20 spaces, 2009 County Road L 806-543-2205
La Vedera RV Park 66 spaces, 1800 blk Seminole Hwy 806-239-5921 or 332-8386	

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<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>



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(512) 463-0001
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Governor Greg Abbott
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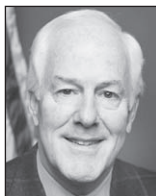
Because of delays caused by screening of all mail sent to federal officials, most recommend that written communication be sent by email using a link provided on their official website.



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Lubbock office: (806) 763-1611
<https://arrington.house.gov/>



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Washington, D.C. 20510
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