



2025 Golden Tornado Jubilee Special Edition

Friday, June 27, 2025

Section
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Lamesa Press-Reporter

Planning the 2025 Jubilee

Organizers spent over a year getting ready

It takes a lot to bring a class reunion to life. In fact, it took a horde of Lamesa High School (LHS) alumni mainly living here over a year to plan and organize the three day event.

The planning for the 2025 Lamesa Golden Tornado Jubilee all started in late 2023. Class of 1959 alumni Carter Schildknecht became the chairman of the Jubilee Committee. She brought experience with her since she served as the general chairman for the 1995 Jubilee.

The Jubilee Committee, made up of local alumni, organized to spread out the work load. Those six members took on the task of getting the word out to fellow alumni through social media, setting up registration, organizing plans for a July 5 beer garden and live music on the square; and printing programs listing all the activities scheduled for the July 4-6 Jubilee.

"Everybody on that committee I selected because I thought they would be excellent for that position," Schildknecht said.

The Jubilee is expected to bring out as many as 3,000 alumni who attended LHS from the 1940s up to the present day.

The committee shared the task by

appointing other former LHS students for the job of contacting their former schoolmates. Those volunteers, called class representatives, were in charge of reaching out to their old classmates about the Jubilee, and planning meals and activities for their particular class.

Decade coordinators, each representing 10 years of LHS alumni, were responsible for getting class representatives for each LHS graduating class, along with communicating with the Jubilee Committee about class representatives' plans.

Some planners served double duty as committee members, decade coordinators and class representatives. There are no representatives for the classes of 1930-1939, 1950-1951, 1953, 1982-1983, 1989-1991, 1994, 1996-1997, 2001-2005, 2007-2009 or 2012-2025.

Committee members, class representatives, decade coordinators and alumni held meetings every other month since February 2024. They reviewed financial reports and shared updates about Jubilee plans.

The committee finalized plans for the Jubilee at their last meeting June 2.



ORGANIZERS

Jubilee Committee members (left to right) Amy Furlow Thornhill, Carter Schildknecht and Lisa Stephens Telchik have been serving on the committee planning the 2025 Jubilee since last

year. Committee members not pictured are Vieta Cornett Zeeck, Tana Sandlin Howard and Mona McKnight Ferguson.

LPR photo

2025 Jubilee Schedule of Events

Friday, July 4

10 a.m. - 6 p.m. - Registration in the LHS cafeteria

10 a.m. - Fourth of July Parade through downtown

All day - Vendors, games and food at Forrest Park

After the parade - Classic cars displayed at the high school

7 p.m. - Lamesa Community Players' (LCP) "Boeing Boeing" performance at the LCP Theatre

9:30 p.m. - Fireworks display at the rodeo grounds

Saturday, July 5

9 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Registration in the Lamesa High School cafeteria

10 a.m. - noon - Class meetings at LHS

1:30 p.m. - 3 p.m. - Tours in the Dal Paso Museum

2 p.m. - "Boeing Boeing" performance at the LCP Theatre

3 p.m. - 5 p.m. - Literary Lamesa in the Dal Paso Museum.

6 p.m. - Live music, food and a beer garden on the Square.

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. - Psychic ReVision

8:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. - Common Ground

Sunday, July 6

Morning church services at local churches

Jubilee registration visitors' first stop

When Lamesa High School alumni show up for the Jubilee July 4-5, one of the first things they'll do is register.

They'll register inside the Lamesa High School (LHS) cafeteria from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m., July 4 and from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m., July 5.

Planners are anticipating as many as 3,000 to 4,000 alumni to attend the Jubilee, said Lisa Stephens Telchik, a 1987 graduate and Jubilee Committee member in charge of registration.

The registration fee is \$20 per alumni. There's no charge if former students bring their spouses or family members.

A total of 103 alumni pre-registered as of June 18. Alumni can register before the Jubilee through the 2025 Lamesa Golden Tornado Jubilee Facebook page.

Once registered, alumni will get name tags and programs

detailing their graduating class' activities.

A display board will list alumni as they register.

Alumni will be meeting in high school classrooms and other facilities for get-togethers with their former classmates. Spaces have already been designated for their class gatherings.

For those who attended LHS from 1930 to 1949, they're meeting in Room 113. For 1950-1959, their meeting place is Room 117. It's the Student Center loft for 1960-1969 alumni, and the Student Center for those who attended LHS between 1970 and 1979. For alumni from 1980-1989, they'll be meeting in Tornado Alley. The auxiliary gym is the meeting place for 1990-1999 former LHS students. More recent graduates from 2000-2025 will be meeting in the main gym.

Jubilee tumblers, t-shirts on sale

When Lamesa High School (LHS) alumni step into the school cafeteria to register, they can buy keepsakes to remind them of their attendance to the 2025 Lamesa Golden Tornado Jubilee.

They can go with an official tumbler that they can use for the July 5 garden party on the square or a t-shirt specifically created by a fellow alumnus, or both.

Registration for the Jubilee is being conducted in the school cafeteria from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m., July 4 and from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m., July 5.

The 716 tumblers are \$5 each. They'll be available at registration July 4-5, and July 5 when the reunion transfers at 6 p.m. on the downtown square. A beer garden will be set up. Since cans and glasses aren't allowed, alumni have a choice of the tumbler or a plain cup.

Another souvenir offered during the Jubilee are the 2025 official t-shirts.



Lamesa native Renee McCurley designed and created the vinyl designs on the black t-shirt. The shirts feature the school's tornado mascot, along with the phrase "2025 Jubilee/ Once a Tornado, Always a Tornado" all in gold. There's her stamp of her business, God's Flavor, and a cross either on the sleeve cuff or on the shirt's bottom.

"I think I'm going to do wonderful selling the Jubilee shirts, but I think I'm going to do better doing GT shirts, and pushing God's Kingdom. That's my whole point of doing shirts period," McCurley said.

McCurley, a 1980 LHS graduate, and her sister, 1983 LHS graduate Shanna McCurley, will be stationed in the high school's Student Center July 4-5 selling 120 t-shirts to their fellow returning alumni.

The shirts are \$25 in sizes ranging from small to 2X; \$30 for 3X and 4X; \$35 for 5X; and \$40 for 6X and 7X. There's an additional \$5 cost if the buyer wants their name or graduation year stamped on the back.

All proceeds from the sale of tumblers; and \$2 from the sale of each t-shirt go towards this year's Jubilee expenses, start-up money for the 2030 Jubilee and funds for the Lamesa Golden Tornado Jubilee Scholarship for a future LHS graduate.

Jubilee funds annual scholarships

Every spring just before Lamesa High School (LHS) seniors graduate, the organizers of the Golden Tornado Jubilee bequeaths a scholarship to an upcoming LHS graduate.

The Permian Basin Area Foundation manages the scholarship funds, but it's the Lamesa Golden Jubilee Tornado organizers who keep the scholarship fund going.

The Lamesa Golden Tornado Jubilee Scholarship Fund has been around since 2000 when organizers of the mass high school reunion set aside funds benefiting the year's new LHS seniors planning to continue their education after high school.

"At the present time, the Jubilee Scholarship Fund

has over \$30,000 in it," said Carter Schildknecht, Jubilee chairperson and 1959 graduate. "Since it was formed, \$22,250 has been given in scholarships to LHS grads."

The fund has been built up through the years with each generation of Jubilee organizers setting aside money to put back into the account.



Shakira Harbour

Each alumni can register for the Jubilee for a \$20 fee. There's no charge if they're bringing their spouses or family members.

"Some of the registration fees pay for the expenses of the Jubilee and are also used

to add to the scholarship fund," Schildknecht said. The names of scholarship recipients are usually announced during the school district's Academic Awards

ceremony held about a week before graduation.

This year's \$2,000 scholarship went to Shakira Harbour.

She plans to attend Tyler Junior College to pursue an associate's degree in biology before transferring to the University of Texas in Tyler or another university to finish her bachelor's degree in biology.

Alumni and other donors can help keep the annual Jubilee Scholarship a tradition through donations. A QR code has been established just for the task.



Where are they now? Bios from Jubilee 2025

Tommie June Hunt (Mayes)

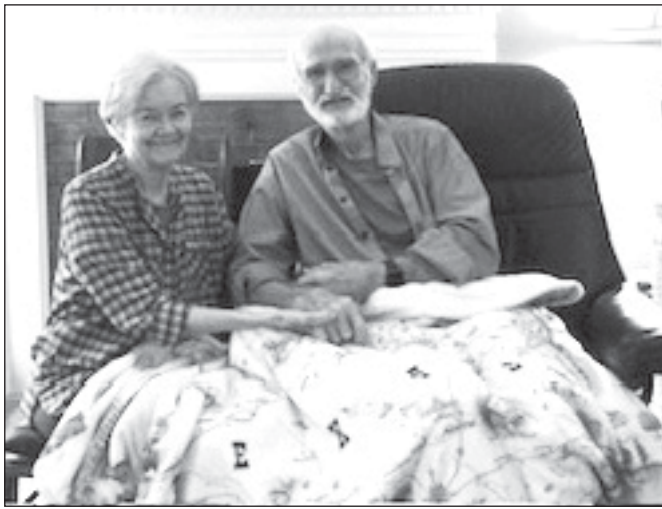


Tommie June Hunt (Mayes) grew up and graduated from Lamesa High in 1944. Her date of birth is 10-24-28.

Tommie is 1 of 5 children of Coley Hunt and Beulah Hunt: Robbie Jean Hunt, Tommie June Hunt, Donna Hunt, Mary Hunt and Bob Hunt.

Tommie is so sorry she cannot make the Jubilee.

Bud and Sunny Hale



Hello from Massachusetts! Thank you for your hard work, and we are sorry that distance prevents us from attending the Jubilee.

Bud and I, plus our three children, moved to Cape Cod in 1976. We now have been blessed with six grandchildren and one great-grandson, and all our family are based in Massachusetts.

Bud—a transplanted cotton farmer—has grown greenhouse orchids, operated a landscaping business, and in

recent years enjoyed working with people with special needs. He faithfully reads the Lamesa Press Reporter, and we pray for rain in Dawson County.

I have worked as a medical secretary, and we both are now happily retired.

Our email address is sunha5@Verizon.net.

Greetings to all our classmates from Sunny Barrow Hale, class of 1956

Bud Hale, class of 1954

Weldon and Vicki Harp Lackey



Vicki Harp Lackey, Class of 1965, is a Retired Office Manager and resides in League City, Texas.

Weldon Lackey, Class of 1966, is a Retired Quality Systems Coordinator, and resides in League City, Texas.

Billie Ann Beard Williams

Billie Ann Beard Williams graduated from LHS 80 years ago, in 1945.

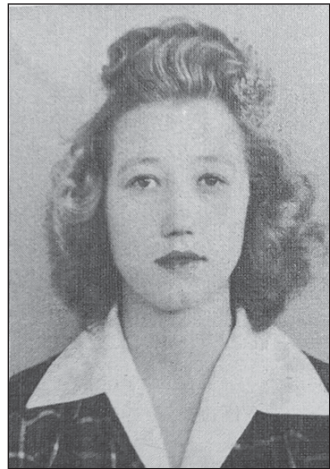
She responded to the 2025 Jubilee appeal with a handwritten letter!

She and her husband raised their two daughters in Abilene. She relocated to College Station about ten years ago and is enjoying her time in assisted living there, near one of her daughters, where she participates in a Bible study group, among other things.

At the golden age of 97, Billie says that she has had a good life, with many good friends.

To quote her, she says, “So many of those old friends have passed away, so long ago, that they may think I went the other way! Ha!”

Billie Ann has overcome many things including hospitalizations and continues to battle cancer with a posi-



itive outlook on life, making time to pray for the needs of others as she is made aware of them.

She regrets that she is unable to attend Jubilee 2025 but sends her regards. The photo pictured here is Billie Ann’s senior picture, taken from the 1945 LHS El Tornado yearbook.

Maurice Archer

Maurice Archer, Class of 57, is retired and enjoys traveling.



Jackie White

Jackie White, Class of 1972, is a resident of Lubbock.

Jackie recently retired after 43 years in beverage industry.



Bob Buckel

Bob Buckel, graduated with the class of 1974, then Lubbock Christian in 1977. He has lived in Azle, TX (just northwest of Fort Worth) since 1987.

Bob left the newspaper business in 2015 after almost 40 years and retired in 2024 from Tri-County Electric Cooperative. Bob is still writing. He and his wife, Krisan, four children, four grands.



Margaret Smith Price

Margaret Smith Price graduated 79 years ago with the LHS class of 1946. At age 96, she resides in Austin with her daughter Jorjanna. She was married to LHS graduate R.L. Price Jr, and was a teacher in the Fort Worth and Houston areas for 27 years. A travel buff, she likes to say, “I took my first plane trip at age 40, and never looked back, traveling to 30 countries!” Margaret sends her greeting to Jubilee 2025, but will not be able to attend.



C.L. Mike Schmidt

C.L. Mike Schmidt, class of 1958, is a retired Attorney. He splits his time between Scottsdale AZ and Santa Fe, NM



Rex Davis



Rex Davis, Class of 1976, has resided in San Angelo, TX since 1988.

Rex married Karen Davis on April 29, 1989. They have been married for 36 years. They have one son, Toby

Davis, and two granddaughters, Dree and Brooke Davis. Rex is the owner of REX Pest Control since September 1997.

He is an avid large mouth bass fisherman.

Patty Blanton Middleton

I am Patty Blanton Middleton, Class of 1949. I have recently moved back to Lubbock, after living in Flower Mound for 6 years.

My daughter, Rebecca Brooks, lives in Stevenville. I also have 4 granddaughters, 1 great granddaughter and 4 great grandsons.

My husband, Marshall went to Heaven in November of 2015 and my daughter, Lynn,



joined him in May of 2024.

Carter Tinsley Schildknecht

After graduating from LHS in 1959, I obtained my Associates degree from Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri. I came back to Texas Tech and graduated with my Bachelors degree in 1963. The next step was marrying Ellis Schildknecht, the cutest boy in the University of Missouri, whom I had met while at Stephens.

Ellis and I started married life on a family ranch outside of Capitan, New Mexico. Both of our children were born while we lived there. In 1969 we moved to Lamesa.

For 20 years, I owned and operated Lad & Lassie School, an early childhood education center, while our children Shannon and Michael were growing up. Both are graduates of LHS and the University of Texas at Austin, which meant it was time for me to pursue an old dream that I had before I met Ellis.

In 1989 I entered Texas Tech Law School and celebrated my 50th birthday studying for finals my second year in law school.

After graduating from law school, I went to work in the law firm with Ray Renner and R. B. Snell, which later became Renner, Snell & Schildknecht. In 2001, after nine years of practicing law, I was appointed by Governor Rick Perry to be the District



Judge of the 106th Judicial District of Texas.

I served in that capacity for 17 years and 4 months until I was forced to retire at the end of 2018 because of the mandatory retirement age for Texas State Judges. To keep active, I have become the “concerned citizen rabble rouser” in Lamesa, attending board and council meetings, keeping an eye on them from the front row. We are fortunate to have three granddaughters, Tinsley, Reagan, and Channing Corbett, and one grandson, Thomas Schildknecht.

Ellis and I enjoy spending time on our property outside of Fredericksburg where we have a small herd of Texas Longhorns, a goat, and four donkeys. Of course, each of these animals is named after a country western singer.

Life is good! Take time to enjoy, because it’s funny how time slips away.

Royce L. Meyers



Royce L. Meyers, Class of 1955, extends his greeting to his classmates for Jubilee 2025. He regrets not being able to make the 13 hour drive to attend and is happy

to say he still works, seeing patients, 70 years after graduating from Lamesa High School. He is pictured with his wife, Clarissa Meyers.

Cari Robin Pearson Hart

My full name is Cari Robin Pearson Hart, but I have always gone by Robin.

I graduated in 1979. I currently live in Argyle, TX.

I retired from education and now I work for my son’s insurance agency, Hart Allstate.

I’m not sure if I’ll be able to attend the Jubilee, but I will sure try!



Welcome home Tors!

Where are they now? Bios from Jubilee 2025

Judy King Holder



I am Judy King Holder, class of 79. I am married to Mike Holder.

We have 2 children, 8 grandchildren, and 7 great grandchildren. Mike is kitchen manager at One Guy in Lamesa. (Go have a great

meal there lol)

I spend every minute I can following my grands and great grands, doing whatever sport they are playing at that time.

You might see me helping out at my son's restaurant.

Anna Marie Ryan (Jimenez)



Anna Marie Ryan (Jimenez), born and raised in Lamesa, graduated with the Class of 1993.

Anna participated in all sports and cheerleading while in high school.

She attended Texas Christian University (TCU) from 1993-1997 and graduated with a BS in Social Work.

She started her career in Law Enforcement in July 1997 with the Arlington Police Department in Arlington, TX. Anna then made the switch to federal law enforcement in July 2008, accepting a Special Agent position with the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS). She has moved all over the

country, including overseas, throughout her career. Anna is currently assigned at our HQ in Quantico, VA.

Paulino Plaza Jr. (P.j.)



Paulino Plaza Jr. (P.j.) is from the Class of 2006. He now lives in Bakersfield, California and works in L.A. P.J. is a father and is married.

He enjoys going to National parks and professional sports. Proud Golden Tornado!

Breeley Singleton



Breeley Singleton graduated with the Class of 2018.

I graduated from Texas Tech and I am currently in Forth Worth area teaching 6th grade science and social studies! I am also an author and have published 2 children's books!

Debbie McElroy Robertson



Debbie McElroy Robertson, Class of 1979, lives in Lubbock, TX.

Debbie has been married to Kevin Robertson for 40 years

What am I up to?

I am Office Manager for Texas Star Co-op Gin. When I'm not at work, I play with my grandkids, Harlan (7yrs) and Everleigh (6yrs) as much as possible!!!

Carlos Lucio



Carlos Lucio, Class of 96, lives in Louisville Kentucky with his wife Edna Michelle Villalobos Lucio, also from Lamesa, with their 8 year old Erin Charli Jae. He is a General Foreman for Messer Construction and has spent 15 years as a sports broadcaster for University of Louisville. Go Tors!!!

Amy Wrona Heaton



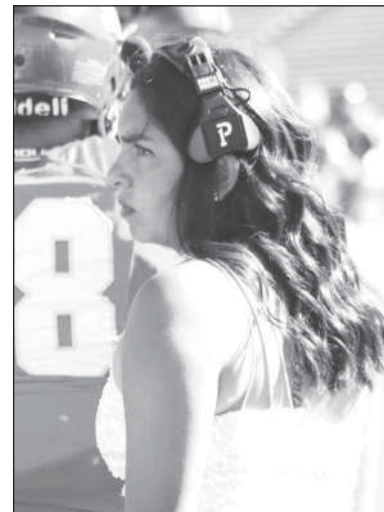
My name is Amy Wrona Heaton, a 2000 graduate of LHS. I have been married to my husband, Wayne Heaton, for 22 years. We have two sons, Timothy Wayne (13) and Samuel Cade (9).

Our family serves as missionaries for the Church Missions Network, planting churches and assisting in the operation of Pastor Train-

ing Schools in nine different countries (Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Mozambique, and the Congo), working closely with the respective Baptist Conventions.

We currently live in Nairobi, Kenya, after living the past four years in Lilongwe, Malawi. Wish we could be there to join in all the fun!

Klarissa Ortiz



Klarissa Ortiz, Graduated in 2019. I went to Sul Ross State University, coached outside linebackers and was the defense signal caller. I then moved to Director of On-Campus Recruiter. I also cheered there and then became the cheer coach as well. I recently graduated with my masters, December 2024. I am now working for the Lamesa Middle School.

Maria Aguayo Hatchett

I am semi retired. Work part time at Lamesa Bearing. I absolutely love spending time with my grand kids. My hobby is fishing, my goal is to catch a Sharelunker one day.



Jayne Hilburn-Mendoza

I'm Jayne Hilburn-Mendoza, Franchise Broker/ Owner of two NextHome NTX Luxe Living offices in Cedar Hill and Carrollton, and founder of the Jayne Mendoza Real Estate Group.

I am proud to be from Lamesa and have attended Lamesa High School, graduating in 1982.

I've called the Dallas Metroplex home for over 35 years (since 1986) and have spent more than 28 years in the real estate industry. With a background as a former mortgage broker, I bring deep expertise in every part of the buying and selling process—from lending to title to closing.

I'm a fun-loving, slightly quirky mom with a blended family, a son who's now a mortgage broker, two stepsons, and a stepdaughter, along with eight amazing grandchildren. I love to travel, dance, and laugh—but nothing compares to my passion for helping families build wealth through homeownership. I'm especially driven to help single moms



because I've been one, and I know firsthand how life-changing homeownership can be.

I'm proud to have served as President of the Southwest Dallas County Women's Council of Realtors, earned my PMN designation, and continue to support my community as a major investor in TREPAC. For me, real estate isn't just about houses—it's about people, dreams, and creating lasting change for families.

Karlissa Leatherwood McMurray

Karlissa Leatherwood McMurray. I graduated in 1986. I live in Lamesa and I'm currently the supervisor at the Texas Health and Human Services. I have 4 children and 1 step child as well as 1 grandson.



Lamesa Golden Tornadoes

2025 Lamesa Golden Tornado Jubilee



Bring your LHS memories to share with old friends.



Ed Tinsley III

Ed Tinsley III graduated from LHS in 1970 and headed to Austin to enjoy fraternity life and get a degree from the University of Texas. Always a burnt orange Texas Longhorn, Ed came back west to get his law degree from Texas Tech Law School. After graduation from law school, he joined a law firm and practiced law for the next few years. In 1976 Ed and Meredith George from Midland married and had a wonderful life together during which they had two children, Ede and Edward IV, and four grandchildren. Ed got into the restaurant business with a franchise from Schlotzsky's that covered New Mexico and the southern part of Colorado. In the early 1990's he bought the parent company of the K-BOB'S Steakhouses and made a point to spend every Mother's Day in one of the restaurants. Ed was active in the National Restaurant Association and was proud when he was inducted as its president. In 2008 Ed ran for Congress but was defeated when the Democrats swept New Mexico. A few years ago, Ed turned over the reins of K-BOB'S to his son and son-in-law so he could spend more time on his beloved Flying W Diamond ranch outside of Capitan, New Mexico. Ed left us way too soon on November 1, 2022, but he will be remembered as a proud Tornado at the 2025 Lamesa Golden Tornado Jubilee.

Welcome to the 2025 Jubilee!

Committee welcome

Welcome to all Lamesa alumni who have come to the Lamesa Golden Tornado Jubilee 2025!

The Jubilee was born when Margaret Alsobrook Hardwick (LHS 1950) returned to the 1963 Homecoming and found that there was nothing planned for ex-students to do except attend the football game. Responding to this concern, Ray Renner, R. B Snell, Bob Crawley, and J. D. Dyer, from the LHS graduating classes of the 1930's and 1940's, got together with Margaret and decided to form a full school reunion for anyone who had ever attended Lamesa schools. They named it the Lamesa Golden Tornado Jubilee and decided to hold it every five years on the years divisible by five. They chose to hold it on the first weekend in July so the high school facilities could be used while school was not in session.

The first Jubilee was held in 1965 with Bob Crawley (LHS 1939) serving as Chairman. Subsequent Jubilees have been held every five years with Lamesa High School grads stepping up to take on the critical job of planning and serving as Chairmen. The only cancellation was in 2020 when the Jubilee was not held because of COVID.

Because of the respect that I have for those men who started the Golden



Carter Tinsley Schildknecht

are a part of each of us - days that live on only in stories and faded photos. The Jubilee opens a floodgate of memories, restoring and renewing our love of youth, home, and friendships that span the years.

When the Jubilee is over, a bucket load of emotions is gently packed away until we're together the next time.

Each time becomes even more special! The only cloud is missing those who could not be with us.

To celebrate Lamesa High School and those who have gone before us, an enduring Lamesa Golden Tornado Jubilee Scholarship has been set up with funds built up from the past Jubilees and careful investing. Each year a Lamesa High School graduating senior benefits from this scholarship fund to help with the expenses of higher education. Your being here helps add to this Lamesa Golden Tornado Jubilee Scholarship fund to ensure its continuation.

Thank you for being a part of the Lamesa Golden Tornado Jubilee 2025. We hope that being here is meaningful to you and that you enjoy catching up with the people who have touched our past. How blessed we are!

Traditions, memories, our heritage - so intermingled and a part of our past, present, and future. Alumni have a great time remembering things their classmates did and didn't do. Memories are not always totally factual, but influences of memories

by Carter Tinsley Schildknecht

See the new LISD

It brings me great joy to welcome home so many of our Lamesa ISD graduates for this summer's Lamesa Jubilee! After a long hiatus due to COVID-19, this beloved tradition—celebrated every five years—is finally back, and we could not be more excited to host you once again.

So many familiar faces are returning to our community, and we want you to know how much we've missed you. Lamesa ISD has changed quite a bit since your time here, and I hope you'll take time during the Jubilee to walk through our facilities and see the tremendous progress we've made. Whether you graduated a few years ago or a few decades ago, you're in for a surprise.

Since I moved to Lamesa in 2012 as the Head Football Coach, I've had the honor of watching our district grow and transform. Thanks to the leadership and vision of the Lamesa ISD Board of Trustees, we've made significant investments in our schools—building new facilities and updating existing ones to provide better learning environments for our students.

The crown jewel of



David Ritchey

these improvements is the brand-new Career and Technology Education (CTE) wing at Lamesa High School. This facility is designed to provide students with hands-on training and real-world skills, preparing them for success in both college and careers. We're especially proud of this space and hope you'll take advantage of the student-led tours during the Jubilee to see the incredible opportunities available to today's Golden Tornadoes.

Also new to LHS are state-of-the-art gymnasiums and renovated athletic facilities, including the stunning Kurt Pierce Athletic Facility and our updated football stadium. While the buildings may

look new, the heart and soul of Golden Tornado pride still echo through the halls and fields.

You'll find that many Jubilee activities will be hosted at the high school, and we encourage you to explore the campus. Walk through your old hallways, visit your former classrooms, and see firsthand how far we've come. From the elementary campuses to the high school, improvements have touched nearly every corner of our district.

I'd like to recognize Carter and her team for their tireless work in organizing what promises to be an unforgettable few days. We are proud to open our doors and celebrate alongside all of you who once called these halls home.


To all of our returning alumni: welcome back. You've been missed. Lamesa ISD is proud of its past and excited about its future—and that future is even brighter because of the legacy you helped build.

Enjoy the Jubilee and, as always, Go Tors!

David Ritchey
Lamesa ISD Superintendent


TWO LAMESA TRADITIONS

Lamesa Golden Tornadoes and



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Alumni to keep the party going with music

Psychic ReVision, Common Ground playing Saturday

As has often been the case in the past, an evening of musical entertainment again will be one of the highlights of the 2025 Golden Tornado Jubilee.

Scheduled for Saturday evening on the downtown square, this year's entertainment will feature one band that has been a Lamesa fixture for years and another that has never previously performed together – or even practiced together in person, for that matter.

Psychic ReVision will perform from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and will be followed on stage by Common Ground from 8:30 until 10:30 or later.



Common Ground (above) performs during the 2025 Annual Chamber Meeting. Right: Three members of Psychic ReVision get together to practice for their Jubilee performance.

Psychic Revision

Psychic ReVision will feature five Lamesa High School graduates of the late 1960s and early 1970s, along with one of the member's nephews, performing Rock and Roll music from that era.

The band includes LHS grads Charles Crawley (Class of 1973) on acoustic guitar; Dan Hanson (1972) on keyboards; Jay Carpenter (1969) on lead guitar; Robert Crawley (1969) on drums; and Terry Kinard (1969) singing.

Beau Crawley, Charles' nephew, will be playing flute and harmonica.

With Hanson as the exception, the other four LHS exes performed in local bands while in high school. Hanson, however, went on to become a college band director, and all five have kept music a part of their lives in one way or another.

The band's name is an updated version of Phycic Vision, a band in which Kinard, Carpenter and Robert Crawley performed while in high school.

"I played in another band in high school," Charles Crawley said. "One of the bands I enjoyed while growing up was my cousin's band, Psychic Vision."

The idea of getting together to perform at the Jubilee stemmed from Charles Crawley and Hanson performing together three years ago for a reunion of the Class of '72.

They initially recruited Kinard and Robert Crawley to be part of the group for the Jubilee, later adding

Carpenter and Beau Crawley.

But currently scattered across the state and nation, getting together to practice posed a big problem. Kinard lives in Lubbock, Hanson is at Amarillo, Robert Crawley is the mayor of Denison, Carpenter lives in Austin, Charles Crawley is in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and Beau Crawley lives in Brooklyn, N.Y.

They solved the distance problem through a software program called JamKazam.

While other group-meeting software programs like Zoom have a lag time and don't handle musical notes, JamKazam is different.

"This software allows you to play more-or-less at the same time," Charles Crawley said. "It's not perfect but it lets you hear all the notes."

Through the software, Charles Crawley and Hanson have been rehearsing together since November. The entire group started practicing together over the internet in March.

"It's pretty cool," Hanson said of the long-distance practice sessions. "It is a miracle being able to that over the internet."

Three of the members – Hanson, Kinard and Robert Crawley – got together

for an in-person practice session in mid-June in Amarillo. Three rehearsal sessions are scheduled here just before the Jubilee to allow all six to play together in one location for the first time.

"We're pretty much a cover band. We're going to be playing '60s and '70s music," Charles Crawley said.

A sampling of their songs include Peggy Sue, Born to Be Wild, the Letter, My Girl, Wild Thing, Dirty Water, and Hang On Snoopy.

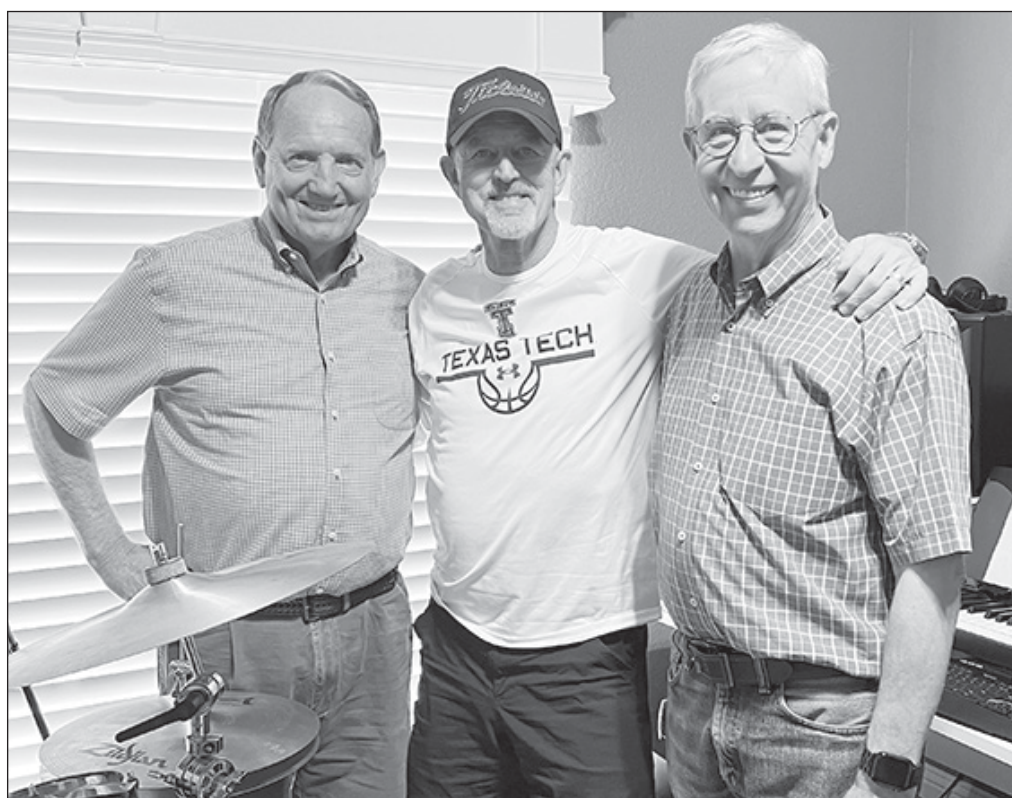
"We're going to finish with When You Smile," said Hanson. That is a nod to the Slumtown Symfunny, a popular Lamesa band from decades ago which included the fathers of both Robert and Charles Crawley.

"We're hoping people will sing with us, we're hoping people will dance, and we hope people will just stay around and listen," Charles Crawley said.

Common Ground

In contrast to Phycic Re-Vision, Common Ground is a group of Dawson County residents who have been performing together for years.

Although others have come and gone through the



years, the group currently includes LHS graduates Stacy Fletcher (Class of 1987) on lead guitar, and Brandy Hutchings (1990) on drums.

They are joined by two Dawson High School graduates: Mark Gary (1981) on acoustic guitar, and Scott Miers (1985) on bass guitar.

All four also provide vocals on various different songs.

Russell Cox, a 1989 Lamesa graduate, is an integral part of the group as their sound technician.

Fletcher, Hutchings and Gary have been playing together since the mid-1990s. Miers joined the group in the early 2000s.

One of the Common Ground's past members was Leon Richter, a highly-talented local musician who played keyboard with the group for many years. Sadly, he passed away in September of 2023.

"We're really missing Leon Richter," Miers said. The group gets together every Thursday for several hours of practice.

Miers said they normally perform 4-5 times a year, mostly for private parties. They also are regular performers at various local community events, including the Lamesa Area Chamber of Commerce's annual banquet earlier this year. Common Ground also has

performed at two area venues which regularly attract widely-known performers: Cooks Garage in Lubbock and The Coyote Store in Gail.

They opened for Country music star Clay Walker when he performed at the Lamesa High School football stadium during the 2005 Golden Tornado Jubilee.

Miers said Common Ground is a cover band and is donating their time to perform at the upcoming Jubilee.

"We're just going to play a mix of music: Country, Texas Country, Southern Rock, and Blues," Miers said.




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What's changed in the last decade?

With it being 10 years since the most recent Golden Tornado Jubilee, folks returning to Lamesa for the first time since 2015 certainly will notice some significant changes in their former hometown.

Lamesa's actual skyline has seen some changes, new businesses have opened and old ones have closed, and some municipal improvements have been made. But there's at least one change in the fabric of Lamesa itself that will be both missed and mourned by Jubilee returnees who spent their most of their early years here.

Many of those returning for past Jubilees have been intent on reliving a bit of their yesteryears by paying a visit to the Sky-Vue drive-in theater to watch a movie under the stars and dine on a unique and memorable dish called the Chihuahua. Sadly, that won't be possible this time around.

What might be called the soul of the Sky-Vue, it's concession stand, was heavily damaged by a fire that swept through the building just a few months after the 2015 Jubilee.

Owner Sam Kirkland had arrived at the building that Friday morning, as usual, to begin making preparations to serve food and a movie that evening to patrons from throughout the region. He turned on the grill to allow it to begin heating up, then went into a nearby room to cut up some cabbage, one of the ingredients in the signature Chihuahua. When he turned around, the grill area was ablaze. After a futile attempt to quell the flames, Kirkland escaped out the front door and then stood watching in the damp, frigid north wind as firefighters worked to contain the blaze.

While the basic structure was saved, the unique interior memorabilia – of the theater and the community – was lost in the flames. "That's what's killing me – we lost all that stuff," Kirkland said at the time.

"There was a story that was behind everything that was on the walls."

While Kirkland initially had hopes of reopening the historic drive-in, that never happened. After almost seven decades of operation, the theater just could not rise from the ashes of the fire.

With the grounds sitting empty, the property was eventually obtained through imminent domain by a utility company for a future project.

The screen and other equipment were removed just last year and placed in storage. One of the property's owners, Nancy Noret Moore, went before the Lamesa City Council seeking to rebuild the facility on municipal land and have it operated as a non-profit theater. The council, however, took no action on the request.

But for those still having a craving for the hometown

favorite Chihuahua, that opportunity is still available.

Lamesa's Movieland Theater, in its 25th year of operation as a unique indoor non-profit theater, offers a similar dish they call the Mac Special.

"It's pretty much the same thing (as the Chihuahua)," theater manager Mike Roy said. "It's not authentic, but it's pretty close. We sell them like hotcakes."

Much like the Sky-Vue, Movieland also is known for the food it serves from its snack bar not only to movie patrons but to customers dropping by for a take-out meal.

"The kitchen is pretty well what keeps us open in slow times," Roy said.

"People will call or just come by and get Mac Specials, hot dogs, nachos and other things. Now we even have milk shakes."

With two screens showing separate movies each evening, the theater is located at 604 N. Austin Ave.

Massive water tank

If you stand in front of the high school and look west down N. 14th St. you will undoubtedly notice a major change to the Lamesa skyline.

That is the city's massive new water storage tank – not tower – located a couple of blocks west of Bryan Ave.

Capable of holding 14 million gallons of water, the tank rises 72 feet above the base which is five feet below ground level. The tank is some 270 feet wide – basically the distance on a football field from the goal line on one end to the 10-yard-line at the opposite end.

The tank is designed to hold enough water to keep the entire city supplied for about a week to 10 days at normal usage – or 40-60 days with water restrictions in place – in the event the city's normal water supplies are disrupted.

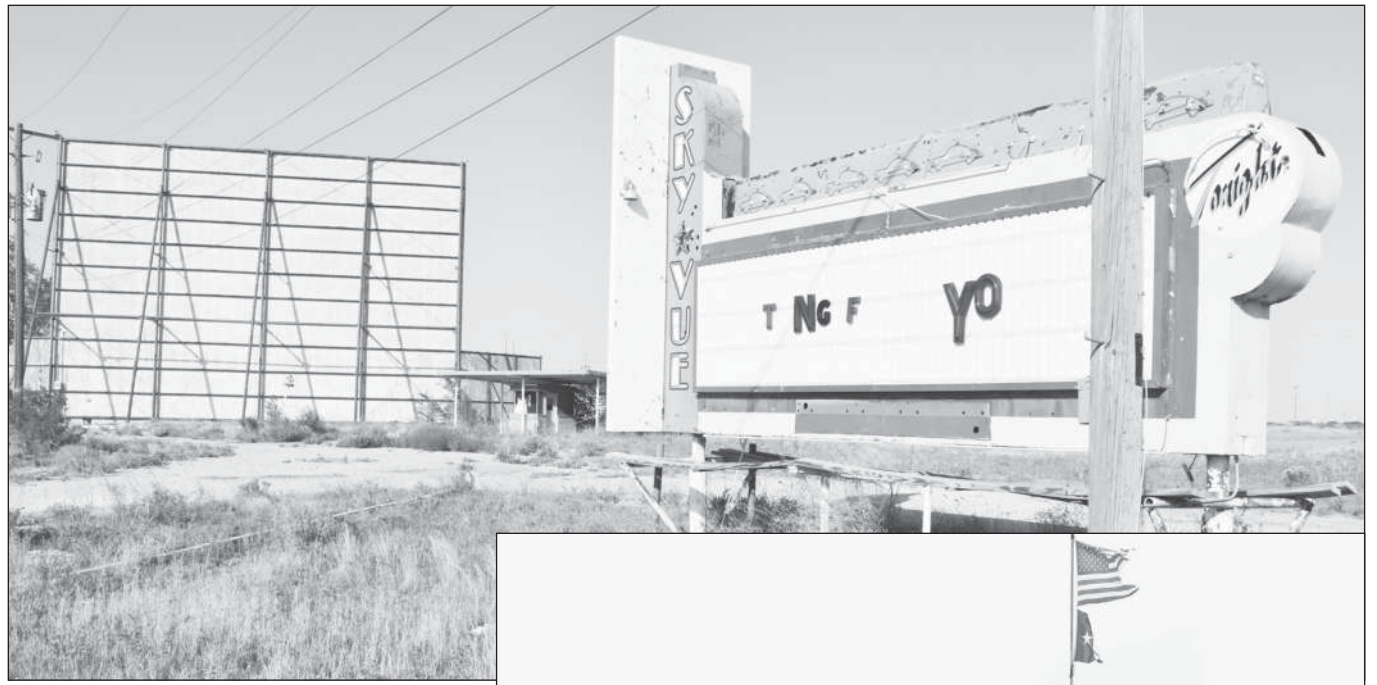
With Lamesa receiving most of its water from Lake Meredith and a large well field in the Amarillo area, both operated by the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority, that supply has been disrupted several times in recent years due to problems with the pipeline south of Tahoka.

The city obtained federal grant and loan funds to build the giant tank and make improvements to its own well field a few miles north of town, including a new pipeline connecting that source to the city. Construction on the tank began in early 2022 under the on-site supervision of 1981 Lamesa High School graduate J.T. Puckett with Lubbock's Parkhill engineering firm.

It wasn't put into full operation until December of this past year.

Other city facilities

Drive by the local lake behind the Lamesa Boys and Girls Club and you will notice a nice open-air pavilion



Above: The Sky-Vue stands deserted after a fire burned through the stack bar. Right: A construction worker walks across the top of the new water storage tank located west of Bryan Ave.



overlooking the north side of the lake, where a youth baseball park previously was located.

Construction of the pavilion, with nearby restroom facilities, was completed in 2018. Funding for the pavilion came mostly from a grant by the local William M. Weaver Foundation, with additional funds provided by The Wilton Foundation and the Kiwanis Club of Lamesa.

A nice new softball field was constructed in 2016 at the site of the former softball fields in Forrest Park. The park also features new restroom facilities just across the street from the softball field.

While there have been major improvements to the park, drought conditions the past few years have taken a toll on many of the large Chinese Elm trees that once graced the parks. Although new trees have been planted, they are sometimes overshadowed by the remnants of the elm trees.

New and old

Also making an impact on the city's skyline, and the availability of local housing, is the new Westwind of Lamesa apartment complex located just off N. 7th St. a couple of blocks east of Lynn Ave.

Construction on the 80-unit, multi-building facility began in March of 2019 and was completed by the middle of the following year.

A transformation also has taken place along N 7th St. between Dallas and Lynn Aves. On the north side of 7th St. is the new Pizza Hut restaurant operated in the same building as a Taco Bell eatery.

Just across the to the south is a second Lamesa office for Edward Jones investments. The other

Edward Jones location a few blocks west of the downtown square has moved into newly-renovated offices next door to the previous location.

Travelers heading north and south through Lamesa on Hwy. 87 got some new fuel and refreshment options with the construction of two large new facilities a few years ago.

Toot'n Totum opened a large travel center, including a Wendy's eatery and Mitch's Texas Style BBQ, near the north edge of town. Soon afterwards, Allsups opened a large new convenience store covering an entire block of property just north of the local McDonald's restaurant.

West of Allsups is a new Domino's Pizza location. Just down the street, Texas Cajun restaurant is now in the former Pizza Hut location, and O'Hana's occupies the building that once was a KFC location. T-Mobile also now has a store at that intersection, with other cellular phone companies also having sales facilities in Lamesa.

The former Eiland Lumber building at N. 3rd St. and Dallas Ave. was demolished and replaced with a Tea2Go TeaN'ergy business operated by Jordan and Casey Addison. The couple also opened Mesa Coffee earlier this year in an extensively-remodeled former service station at 501 N. 4th St.

Across the street, the former Margie's Flowers and Nursery location changed hands and became the new location for Stock and Petal Florist and Nursery, owned and operated by Sara Davis.

The Pioneer Square Shopping Center on the Lubbock Hwy. has seen major changes since the previous Jubilee. Walmart, which

anchored the center of the shopping center since the early 1980s, pulled out in October 2016. Tractor Supply now fills most of that location. Beall's also closed its doors, was replaced by a discount clothing store, and later became a different branch of Beall's.

Lamesa's downtown area has also seen some significant changes in the past few years, the most recent being the opening of the One Guy From Italy restaurant on the west side of the square. Next door, the county purchased a former retail location and has converted it into a county-wide election office. Renovation work is now nearing completion on the south side of the square to create a new facility for the county's adult and juvenile probation offices.

K-Bob's Steakhouse on the Lubbock Hwy. has been closed since being extensively damaged by fire in November 2020. However, City Inspector Brian Beck recently said the restaurant could be re-opening within a matter of weeks – possibly even in time for the Jubilee.

Highway improvements

Visitors coming to Lamesa from Midland will see in a major change in the Highway 349 approach to the city.

An overpass now takes Hwy. 349 over Hwy. 137 and directly to an intersection with U.S. Hwy. 87 at an intersection controlled by a traffic light. Known as the Southern Cross, the new route includes a bridge over Sulphur Springs Draw.

Initial plans called for the new roadway to eventually cross the current Hwy. 87 and link up with a proposed highway reliever route around the east side of the city. However, those plans have been in limbo for a

number of years. Significant improvements also were made in recent years to Hwy. 180 from the western edge of Lamesa to Hwy. 87. Reconstruction of Hwy. 137 (Bryan Ave.) in the south part of the city also was included in that project.

West of town, a separate project created alternating passing lanes for traffic on Hwy. 180 between Lamesa and Seminole.

Sand and sun

If you see trucks in and around Lamesa with a trailer carrying a large metal box labeled "Sand Box," they and many other styles of trucks are connected to a large sand mining operation located about 10 miles northwest of Lamesa. U.S. Silica opened a massive mining and processing operation in 2018 after purchasing some 3,500 acres of sand dunes in that area, with facilities to load up to 12 tractor-trailer rigs at one time. Then in 2022, Alpine Silica opened a smaller sand mining operation a couple of miles to the northwest.

The sand is being mined and processed to be used in oil well fracking operations across the northeast portion of the Permian Basin. A traffic count about two years ago reportedly showed some 1800-2000 trucks per day traveling around-the-clock on FM 829 south of the mines. Other trucks head from the mines east to Hwy. 137 and then south through Lamesa.

At the southeast edge of Lamesa, wrapping around both the west and south sides of the state prison, are rows and rows of solar energy panels mining the sun's energy and converting it into electricity to be delivered across the state.

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DAYS PAST Exhibits in the Dal Paso Museum display mementos from Lamesa High School Golden Tors' past. The baseball uniforms and old photographs can be found in the museum's school athletic room. LPR photo

Literary Lamesa: teller of tales

A story about a cowboy living in a dugout in the mid-20th century, a grandmother's poem and pieces of Lamesa's past are all part of Literary Lamesa.

It's also part of the 2025 Lamesa Golden Tornado Jubilee celebrations.

The literary gathering and telling of stories, poems and songs takes place at the Dal Paso Museum from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m., July 5.

About a dozen Lamesa authors and descendants of poets and song writers from here are displaying their creative works in five minute intervals.

Co-organizer and alumnus Susan Jones Ashworth is going to do a remembrance of one of Lamesa's colorful characters. His name was William Clayton Smith (1925- 1960), but he went by the name of "Sucker Rod."

He was a well-known cowboy and ranch hand who rode horseback everywhere in town. He was also well known for having lived in a dug-out.

Other published writers, songwriters and the descendants and a friend of poets will share a grandmother's poem and a late friend's poetry. There will be a newspaper publisher's son who is now a

published author at the event, along with a late songwriter's CD collection of songs, and excerpts from "The Trail of Years in Dawson County" about the town's history.

Two 1967 LHS graduates, Kathy Crawley and Susan Jones Ashworth, organized the Literary Lamesa.

Ashworth is expected to present a remembrance of cowboy "Sucker Rod" Smith for the literary gathering. Crawley is the author of the 2023 book, "Walking on Fire" and one of the authors presenting a book to the gathering.

There's no room for more presentations, but just in case, those not on the program with creative songs, poems or stories are asked to bring them along. There just might be some time to share them.

There might even be time for a question and answer session.

Books by Bob Buckel, Travis Burkett, Crawley, and children's author Kendra Norris will be available to purchase. Copies of "The Trail of Years in Dawson County" and the Dal Paso Museum cookbook will also be sold to benefit the Dal Paso Museum. Light refreshments will be served.

Literary Lamesa Schedule

- | | |
|--|---|
| Bob Buckel, author "The Winning Streak" | Susan Jones Ashworth, A Remembrance of Sucker Rod Smith |
| Travis Burkett, author "An American Band" | Nancy Noret Moore, essayist. Someone will read in her place since she is recuperating from knee surgery |
| Kathy Crawley, author "Walking on Fire" | Mack Lindsey, Grandson, of M.C. Lindsey "Trail of Years in Dawson County," will read excerpt |
| Tom Connor, author of soon to be published memoir "From Cottonfields to Courtrooms," excerpt read by Charles Crawley | Grandchildren of Mrs. W.K. "Kee" Crawley, will read her poetry |
| Connie Williams, poet | Denny Jenkins, deceased songwriter, CD to be played |
| Kat Copeland, poet; Gary Essary will read her poems | |

Museum displays LHS' past

Lamesa High School (LHS) alumni attending the 2025 Lamesa Golden Tornado Jubilee July 4-6 can take a walk down memory lane by visiting the Dal Paso Museum.

The museum's upper story rooms feature exhibits of the city's history. Each room is designated to specific subjects: agriculture, business, medicine, religious life, law, engineering, archeology and other subjects. There's even a room strictly for the display of a large collection of dolls.

Visit the museum's mezzanine. That's where museum board members are displaying the artifacts from Jubilees' history.

One of the museum's newest item is a painting by Jan Herring. The paint-

ing, entitled "Senior Wall," depicts how the wall looked in 1966 when graduating LHS seniors continued the annual tradition by painting their names on the red brick walls of a former lumberyard building.

There will be a collection of the art books Herring authored, along with LHS yearbooks from the 1950's and 1960's.

The museum's upstairs exhibits will be open from 1:30 p.m. until 3 p.m., July 5 just to accommodate visiting alumni. After 3 p.m., alumni can go downstairs to enjoy Literary Lamesa until 5 p.m. Singers, poets and storytellers have each been allocated five minutes to share their stories about Lamesa.

For those with mobility issues, there's an electric

chair lift to transport them upstairs to the exhibitions. Several wheelchairs are available upstairs to assist alumni in comfortably visiting the exhibits after reaching the top floor.

Among the museum's 22 upstairs rooms are two rooms alumni would be most interested in. There's a classroom from bygone days with wooden student desks, workbooks and dictionaries published in 1891 and 1900, and a PTA scrapbook from the 1939-1940 school year. It's there that the museum usually keeps its vast collection of LHS yearbooks from the 1940s on up.

On the wall are two diplomas. One is the museum's oldest diploma issued to Myrtis Eu-Dora Hill on April 19, 1910 from the then

called Lamesa Public School High School Department. Another diploma, this time under LHS' name, was issued to Pauline Carnes on May 19, 1913.

On another wall are the photographs of the 1923 high school and grammar school students.

There's another room focusing on LHS' sporting days. Inside the room, called the Sports and Athletics Room, there's a 1920 banner, a powder puff football from 1959 and two large megaphones. There are photographs of one of the high school's early basketball teams, and old LHS newspapers from the 1940s when the high school had a school newspaper.



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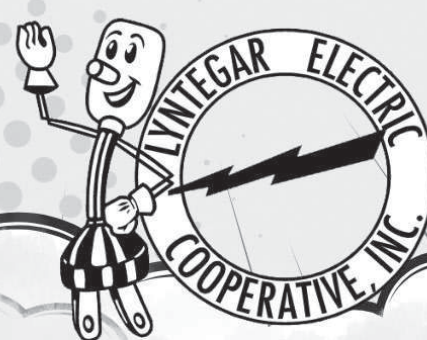


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LPR photo

SETTING THE STAGE
Lamesa Community Players' (LCP) Noemi Mojica, Mary Benton and Zach Mojica rehearse a scene from "Boeing Boeing," a comedy taking the LCP stage just in time for the Jubilee. Show times are at 7 p.m., July 3-4 and July 10-11; and 2 p.m., July 5 and July 13.

Theaters open for Jubilee

While you're in town for the 12th Jubilee, come and enjoy a night on the town with entertainment from two local theaters.

The Lamesa Community Players (LCP), comprised of local amateur actors, are putting on their second production of the year.

LCP's play is "Boeing Boeing" by Marc Camoletti.

The production takes the stage at the LCP Theatre, located at 214 N. Austin, during Jubilee celebrations. Show times start at 7 p.m., July 3-4 and at 2 p.m., July 5. If you're still in town, the play returns to the stage at 7 p.m., July 10-11 and at 2 p.m., July 13.

The comedy centers around a confirmed bachelor, played by Zach Mojica as Bernard, living in Paris in the 1960's and his attempts of keeping three fiancées from knowing about each other.

Everything is going well for Bernard until a long lost friend, Corban Kellum as Robert, walks back into his life.

"I actually picked it before it was Jubilee," said co-director Jennifer Kellum. "We were going to do it for the spring show, but thought it's perfect for Jubilee. It's the 1960s and it's a farce."

LCP veteran, Mary Benton, is Berthe, Bernard's housekeeper who assists him in keeping track of his love life.

The three girlfriends, Gloria, Gabriella and Gretchen, are played by Noemi Mojica, Amelia Dunbar and Angie Martinez, respectively.

Jennifer Kellum and Tyler Roberts are the directors. Robert Burke provides the sound and Joe Martinez is in charge of lights. Lillian Roberts is the stage

manager.

Tickets can be purchased either at the LCP Theatre at 214 N Austin Ave. or online at www.lamesacommunityplayers.com. Tickets are \$16 at the door or \$16.50 if purchased online.

The Lamesa Movieland Theatre at 604 N Austin Ave. features first run films. It will be open during the Fourth of July holiday.

The theater is showing "Jurassic World: Rebirth" and "F1." The movie theater shows films at around 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. during week days and 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday.

The theater is closed on Mondays.

Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$7 for children 12 and under. The price is \$6 for matinee showings. Youngsters ages two and under get in free.

Food trucks keep Jubilee fed

As owner of Fatbacks Smokehouse, John Weatherman is going to have his hands full feeding Lamesa High School (LHS) alumni.

He's among them, graduating from LHS in 1985, but he'll only get bits and pieces of hooking up with his fellow Class of 1985 graduates. He and employee, Mary Bell Castillo, will be handling a surplus of work for July 4-5.

His barbecue business is one of the local food trucks stationed during the Jubilee's celebration on the downtown square starting at 6 p.m., July 5. The job on the square isn't the only business coming from the Jubilee. His business also does catering.

"I'm booked up for the Jubilee," Weatherman said. "Everybody's been calling me. I had to turn down quite a few. There's only so much I can handle."

Weatherman is booked in catering meals July 4 for a private group of LHS alumni at the A&W Event Center. He'll be handling a luncheon for 20-30 alumni at a private home July 5.

His business handles residential parties and weddings. It's his first time serving barbecue during the Jubilee.

"I didn't catch that last time. I was already booked. This is going to be my first one," Weatherman said.

The last Jubilee was held in July 2015. The Jubilee, scheduled every five years since 1965, was canceled in

2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Those alumni on the square will feast on Fatbacks Smokehouse's top sellers: brisket quesadillas and tacos; pulled pork and brisket sandwiches; and smash burgers.

Another food truck planning to station on the downtown square July 5 is Ama Y Ampas. The business will be offering customers the types of food they can easily carry around.

"It's finger food where people can walk around and talk: hot dogs, nachos, cheeseburgers, homemade lemonade, homemade banana nut bread," said owner Sandra Perez.

Perez, who attended LHS, and her husband, Gary, a 1988 LHS graduate, have owned the food trailer since November. Perez has been making and selling homebaked goods for six years.

So far with their food trailer, they've fed customers attending a veteran's memorial service and the CottonFest in O'Donnell.

Their food trailer will be parked on the side of the courthouse a little early before the Jubilee celebration. There's a Farmer's Market, hosted by Lamesa Legacy Co-op members, is scheduled from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m., July 5. It ends right around the time the Jubilee's beer garden begins in a vacant lot north of the chamber office.

The Jubilee will be the Perez' third event and first Jubilee.

"I'm nervous and hopefully I'm prepared because there's going to be a lot of people going," Perez said.

The party on the downtown square begins 6 p.m., July 5.

"Please come out and get some good food and listen to some good music. Hang out with your friends," said Mona Ferguson, a 2011 LHS graduate, class representative and a member of the Jubilee Committee in charge of the Jubilee celebrations on the square.


Two bands will provide the live music.

Psychic ReVision takes the stage from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Common Ground performs at 8:30 p.m.

Alumni are not allowed to bring bottles or cans onto the square's courthouse grounds. They can only drink from cups. They can purchase the official 2025 Jubilee cups for \$5 either during registration or at the beer garden.

They are not allowed to bring or leave with alcoholic beverages while on the square.

Many alumni are considering installing their own canopies to provide additional shade. They should bring their own lawn chairs since there's no seating, except for a few benches on the courthouse sidewalk.



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CATCHING UP

A group of Lamesa graduates gathers in a visiting circle during the 2015 Golden Tornado Jubilee.

LPR photo

Past jubilee re-cap

1975 - J.D. Dyer Jr.
The late J.D. Dyer Jr. chaired the 1975 Jubilee where 4,060 alumni registered on Friday to open the event. LHS exes came from Alaska, New York, California and other states to catch up on "old times."

It was reported in the July 6, 1975 issue of the local newspaper that 7,610 alumni, their spouses and former teachers were counted taking part in the various events.

The Lamesa Cable Station filmed much of the musical concerts throughout the 1975 Jubilee. A 30-minute delay of the Extravaganza was played the first night of Jubilee.

A five-hour program produced by John Sparks was played on two different nights later in the week for those that missed the concerts or for those who wanted a second look at the shows.

1980 - Wayne Smith and Bob Crawley

Wayne Smith shared chairman duties with the late Bob Crawley in 1980. Smith was still teaching in the Lamesa Independent School District at the time, so he utilized his ties to the school to organize several events.

"There was a great spirit of cooperation between the Jubilee committee and the school officials. I was the sponsor of the high school student council and got them to help with the Jubilee, and they really got into it," Smith said.

The LHS band held a concert on the lawn of the school for the alumni. An outdoor art exhibit on the school grounds also was a big draw for the exes.

"Richard (Crawley) gathered art from local artists and alumni. We were so worried that a sand storm might blow through and ruin everything, but we made it through without any bad weather," Smith said.

He added that the 1980 Jubilee also put some emphasis on the importance of the school.

"We stressed the impact of the people who taught us while we were students at Lamesa."

Smith also talked about the "wealth of talent" available for the Jubilee Extravaganza of the past.

"When you have a concert pianist like Richard (Crawley), and those performers that he played with and recruited," Smith said, "we had some great entertainment."

Smith still believes that the registration and "mix and mingle" held on the first day of each Jubilee is very important.

1985 - Bob Brown

"We tried to build off the years before and have a bigger Jubilee each time," said 1985 Jubilee Chairman Bob Brown, who was assisted by Ross Barron.

"We had a lot of good people on the committee and as class representatives. I tried to surround

myself with people who worked hard."

Brown remembers the 1985 Jubilee as a lot of fun and very relaxed.

"We were a little concerned about accidents because the football field was torn up. But no one even tried to go out there. It was a good Jubilee.

1990 - Jim & Jeanie Norris

Jim and Jeanie Norris teamed up to chair the 1990 Jubilee and for the first time in the Jubilee history, alumni names were typed into the computer.

"I worked on that for a good year, year-and-a-half," Mrs. Norris said. "It took a long, long time. But it made it so much easier in the long run and for future Jubilees."

Delaney Vineyard held tours and an alumni party on their property, which was a first for the Jubilee.

"It was open to all. We had different times set up for tours. We really enjoyed that," said Mrs. Norris.

Ronna Reeves was the headline entertainer for the 1990 Jubilee.

1995 - Carter Schildknecht

Retired District Judge Carter Schildknecht was a lawyer working at Renner-Snell Law Firm in 1995 when Bob Brown and Jim Norris entered her office and asked to speak with her.

"Back then, and maybe it's the same way currently, the former Jubilee chairs (chairmen) would select the next chairperson for the upcoming Jubilee," Schildknecht said. "I was taken aback and honored at their request. I didn't consider not taking it."

Schildknecht had never even served on a Jubilee committee or as a class representative, but she had hosted class reunion meals and parties in her home.

Her first order of business was surrounding herself with committee members and decade chairpersons whom she could trust to work toward a common goal of making the 1995 Jubilee successful.

"I believe that anytime you take a job that you have to have help - surround yourself with the best people you can find and let them do their job," Schildknecht said.

She said she was given certain instructions from past Jubilee chairs that were expected from her.

"When I took the chairman job, I was told, 'There is money in an account saved from past Jubilees. You are to make sure when you finish your Jubilee that you are to add to that account for the next Jubilee,'" Schildknecht said. "I took that extremely seriously."

Schildknecht was the first female Jubilee chair. She also replaced the Jubilee Extravaganza with several solo or group performances.

"I brought in Don Walser, who was really at his prime during that time.

And Ronna Reeves performed, as well."

2000-Greg & Marian Hughes

The husband and wife team of Greg and Marian Hughes brought in the new millennium with their version of Jubilee 2000.

"We were all about the importance of registering and getting people to register. It takes a lot of cash to run the Jubilee," Greg recalls.

"We had Charlie Hatchett and Don Walser. As a matter of fact, that was Don's last Jubilee. It was a good concert. We had some really good entertainment."

Hughes also credited Lamesa ISD with "bending over backwards" to help.

"They opened their facilities to us, they made us feel welcomed, they helped with some last-minute things. Really, we couldn't have been as successful without the assistance of the Lamesa administration."

2005 - Lisa Telchik

Lisa Telchik chaired the Jubilee in 2005. Telchik was very aware that with the City of Lamesa township and Lamesa ISD each celebrating their centennials and the Jubilee all in one year, she had her job cut out for her.

"I tried to combine the school's 100th ... the town's 100th. It was a big undertaking. We attempted to make the Guinness Book of Records, which we didn't. We brought in a big-name performer, Clay Walker, but didn't have a sellout crowd," said Telchik.

Telchik had a large committee helping her, which she credited with keeping her sane.

"I had a real good group. That's the only way we survived. That's the only way to accomplish it (Jubilee), is having a great committee."

Telchik spearheaded the formation of an alumni database that had been collected by local residents and was organized by a company specializing in mass communication.

"I was able to send out mass e-mailings to get the word out. I think that made a huge difference. I was keeping people updated every few days towards July," Telchik said.

2010 - Shelley Angeley

As several of the previous chairmen also noted, Shelley Angeley, chairman of the 2010 Jubilee, is quick to credit the overall success of that reunion to her co-workers.

"The key to a successful Jubilee is have a solid committee," Angeley said. "Tana Sandlin Howard, Melissa Hatchett Clark and Michael Barboza were fantastic."

"I had a great committee, so it made my job a lot easier."

Angeley and her committee utilized social media contacts and e-mail addresses for making con-

tact with the majority of alumni for 2010.

"Michael ran the website to keep everyone updated on class events," Angeley said. "Tana gathered the decade representative and then the decade representative found the class reps."

"Melissa was my treasurer and, we are proud to say, we started with \$1,800 in the bank and had over \$20,000 when it was all said and done."

The Jubilee is a lot of hard work, Angeley said, so the focus in 2010 for herself and her committee was to keep the tradition going and try to make things simple.

"We brought in alumni bands for entertainment," Angeley said, "and local restaurants to cater the meals."

2015 - Eric Williams

Eric Williams served as chairman for the 2015 Jubilee.

Although the committee had only nine months to plan, the event was packed full of activities.

The committee was made up of Williams, Lillian Faulkner Lynch and Freddy Vargas, Class of 2000; Judy Tyra Beam, 1964; Connie Nance, 1971; and John Levacy, 1962.

Texas Rain kicked off the Jubilee Friday evening. Saturday, a catered meal was served, and a live auction was held.

Highway 87 closed out the 2015 Jubilee after the meal.

COVID halts 2020 Jubilee

Like so many other things in 2020, the lack of a Golden Tornado Jubilee five years ago can be blamed on one thing.

COVID-19.

An every-five-year reunion of all Lamesa High School teachers and students, the Jubilee is a highly-anticipated event that draws several thousand people from not only the Lamesa but across the nation and the world.

The 2020 Jubilee was scheduled, as usual, for the first weekend in July.

But it was no match for COVID, which had arrived in the U.S. in January of that year and first struck Lamesa in late March.

Just three weeks later, with the first case of the virus here resulting in a death and the number of confirmed cases growing, Jubilee organizers made the decision to postpone the 2020 Jubilee to the following year.

At the time of the decision, schools were no longer holding in-person classes, an array of health precautions had been implemented, and just about all public gatherings were being cancelled. Restaurants were not allowed to offer dining inside their facilities, and most local churches were turning to various options for holding services remotely or outdoors.

Jubilee organizers announced the postponement via a Facebook posting on April 21.

"As much as we are all anticipating that opportunity to regain the freedoms of socializing, for everyone's health and well-being this was the smartest decision to make," Jubilee planning chairman Eric Williams said in the Facebook announcement.

He said the organizers had considered moving the event to coordinate with Lamesa High School homecoming activities during the week of homecoming during the fall of 2020.

"As much as we would like to test one Jubilee on this (homecoming) weekend, this would be the perfect opportunity," Williams wrote. "However, due to the unfortunate national crisis in that of COVID-19, we do not feel that the schools or all of our alumni will be ready to host or socialize within such a crowd of this type, that soon."

In July, when the Jubilee normally would have been held, Dawson County was seeing a sudden jump in COVID activity, with nine active cases being reported by health officials and the total case count reaching 54.

By the time LHS held its homecoming activities in late September, COVID was really taking a toll.

With an average of 10 new cases being reported every day, there were more than 100 active cases here on homecoming week. While local health authorities were reporting four local residents had died from the virus, state officials put the death toll here at nine.

When 2021 rolled around with COVID still on the rampage, it was beginning to look like the rescheduled date for the event also could be in doubt.

Sure enough, the first weekend in March the announcement was made that plans for a 2021 Jubilee were being cancelled.

"As much as we want to do it, the consensus is we're going to hold off. We're going to push it back to 2025 at this point" Williams told the Press-Reporter at the time.

He cited continuing concerns and uncertainty among the Jubilee organizers regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Pushing it back until 2025, yeah, that stinks, but it allows everyone to maintain their safety," Williams said.

He noted there were still restrictions at that time on indoor gatherings here and across Texas.

"We don't want to jeopardize anyone's health over a reunion."

Although COVID vaccinations were getting ramped up here, there were 10 active cases reported in Dawson County that week, and total cases over the past year had grown to 1,710.

Most significantly - and tragically - COVID was continuing to claim lives here and across the country. Officials with the South Plains Public Health District were showing the Dawson County death toll at 34, while state officials reported double that number of local fatalities.

News of the 2021 cancellation, however, prompted 1995 Jubilee chairperson Carter Schildknecht to start plans for what she called a mini-Jubilee that summer.

Schildknecht, a 1959 LHS graduate, said she and others from that era feared too many of their former classmates might not still be around to gather for the 2025 Jubilee.

The mini-Jubilee indeed drew a good number of graduates from the classes of 1955 through 1961 for visiting and other activities the first weekend of July.

Schildknecht is now serving again as the chairperson for this year's celebration.

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LPR photo

Photos are spread across the table at the 2021 Mini Jubilee.

2021: Year of the Mini Jubilee

It was a small affair back in July 2021. Only a handful of Lamesa High School's (LHS) graduating classes attended it.

That's because a small number of locals put together a mini Jubilee open only to students who attended seven graduating classes of LHS between 1955 and 1961.

It was the COVID-19 pandemic that canceled the 2020 Jubilee, and reduced the following year's reunion.

It was a group of older alumni, worried their for-

mer classmates might not be around for this year's Jubilee, who organized and put together a smaller version of the LHS reunion.

The smaller Jubilee brought out about 100 graduates, now in their 80s, and their family members.

They kept it as a more quiet affair. The gatherings, held over the Independence Day holidays, were conducted in various churches, homes and in the high school cafeteria.

The Class of 1959 even had a birthday cake since many celebrated turning 80

four years ago.

Former students came from Colorado, Florida, Tennessee, California, Oklahoma and Indiana to attend the mini-Jubilee. One from England wanted to go, but the country was locked down due to the pandemic.

The mini version didn't come with the community's usual Fourth of July activities. A late June storm and floods curtailed the festivities and the annual fireworks show.



After a long school day, Linda Ridpath and John Harding pause briefly at the Dairy Mart to drink a refreshing coke.

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Homecoming bonfire burns early

The entire week of Homecoming 1969 was marked by intense excitement and enthusiasm. Early in the week before the woodpile was finished, vandals burned the bonfire wood. Not to be deprived of their homecoming bonfire, members of the junior and senior classes retaliated by rebuilding the pile to an enormous size. To insure that THIS pile would not be destroyed, junior and seniors spent all Wednesday night in cars around the wood while city policemen patrolled the area. At the Thursday night pep rally, the biggest bonfire in the history of LHS boosted Tornado spirit to an all-time high. Then on Friday night, Gene Norris was crowned Homecoming Queen as the mighty Tornadoes topped off the week by defeating their arch rival Levelland, 20-6

*From the Tornado
LHS 1969 yearbook*



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Reed & Rebekah Filley
Elwood & Reva Freeman
Dale & Jamie Hansard
Angie Martinez
Kendall & Amy Meek
Richard & Leslie Montz

Bryan & Kortni Nowlin
Freddy Olivares
Ronnie & Joye Payton
Kaci & Jay Porterfield
Carter & Ellis Schildknecht
Jennifer Smith
Connie Smith
John Sorelle
Josh & Kisa Stevens
Brant Stewart
Ashley & Wyatt Tidwell
Robin & Ken Wiley
Sue & Jimmy Winford
Vicki & Richard Winford



Sue Foster Winford
Class of 1967



Sue Wilborn Bennett
Class of 1971



Bryan Nowlin
Class of 2003



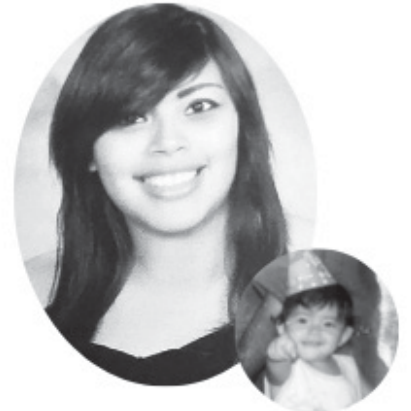
Diana Ruiz
Class of 1995



Lenor Reyes Vela
Class of 1983



Norma Acosta
Class of 2003



Annabell Lesoya
Class of 2013

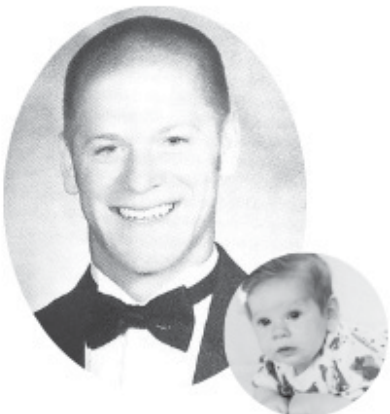
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Golden Tornadoes



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As you reconnect and reminisce, know that our mission remains strong—to provide a top-quality education for the youth of Lamesa, TX, and to instill the value of giving effort today for success tomorrow.

Here's to a joyful reunion and a proud celebration of our Golden Tornado legacy!





2025 Golden Tornado Jubilee Special Edition

Section
C

Friday, June 27, 2025

Lamesa Press-Reporter

Lamesa High School's new look

If the 2015 Golden Tornado Jubilee was the last time many Lamesa High School exes returned to their hometown, they likely will be surprised by how much their alma mater has changed.

Construction of a new cafeteria/student center was well underway at that time, but that might be considered just the tip of the iceberg for what came later at the northwest corner of the high school.

Thanks to a \$30.4-million bond issue approved by almost a 2-1 margin of voters in 2018, a modern Career and Technology Education (CTE) facility, new gymnasium and upgraded football stadium (see separate story about athletic facilities) now give the school a completely new look.

"I would say 90 percent of the people who are coming back (for the Jubilee) will not recognize what they're looking at," Lamesa school Superintendent David Ritchey said recently.

The new CTE facility is a visible representation of a change in the focus of education both here and across the state.

Putting career and technology education on basically the same level as traditional college-focused academics aims at preparing students for whatever route they plan to take in life after graduating from high school.

"High school education does not look the same as it did 10 years ago; it doesn't look the same as five years ago," Ritchey said.

"We are trying to get our kids to walk off the stage at graduation equipped for life – whatever life they choose."

The focus on CTE here is part of a new direction in education across the entire state.

"It's honestly just as big a part of your school accountability rating as the STAAR," Ritchey said, referring to the State of Texas Assessment of Academic

Readiness test.

With the new student center/cafeteria and adjacent classrooms completed in 2016, a groundbreaking ceremony in August of 2019 marked the start of construction on the CTE facility.

Students began moving into the building in January of 2021.

The facility provides accommodations for students to obtain practical instruction – and, in many cases, actual certification – in a wide array of career fields.

Those include areas such as agriculture, welding, architecture and construction, design and multimedia arts, digital communications, cosmetology, education, health sciences, culinary arts, law enforcement, arts and humanities, and engineering.

"We try to grow it with the needs of the region, the city, and the kids," Ritchey said of the opportunities offered to students.

He regularly sees things around Lamesa that have been created by students in the welding and construction programs.

When two students expressed an interest in obtaining certification as barbers, the cosmetology program was adapted to offer that training.

Law enforcement classes now include instruction in 911 emergency dispatching. "Our 911 dispatch program works directly with the Lamesa Police Department. They (students) get actual on-the-job training," Ritchey said.

Through such programs, he said, students are able to immediately begin having a positive impact on the community as soon as they graduate from high school.

A new educational effort combining academic and technology will be making its debut at the high school this fall.

Through a multi-pronged process, 25 eighth-grade students at Lamesa Middle



Above: The front of LHS building looks more modern after an upgrade. Right: The CTE annex houses culinary, cosmetology, band and wood working courses.



School this past year were selected to participate in the new Pathways in Technology and Early High School (P-TECH) program being initiated at the high school.

That program aims to allow students to obtain both a college associate's degree and certification in a career field by the time they graduate from high school.

As part of that effort, the school district is working to hire or train current teachers to be certified as college-level instructors.

The school's new facilities and new programs, Ritchey believes, are a reflection of the community's support for its young people and the

school district.

"I just think everybody has gone above and beyond over the past 10 years to make the school what it is – for all the right reasons," he said.

The new school facilities are just part of that effort.

"I'm proud of our kids. I believe the kids in Lamesa – kids everywhere – deserve the best of the best," said Ritchey, who is known for providing a positive atmosphere and making personal connections with students and staff across the district.

"We can provide all of the facilities, but the kids and community also have to be involved," he said.

He said the improvements in the school's athletic facilities, from new gymnasium and the upgrades at Tornado Field to the softball and baseball accommodations at Spikes Field, have begun attracting teams from throughout the region to schedule playoff games and other competitions here.

Those events not only bring notice to the community but also benefit restaurants, convenience stores, motels and other businesses.

While a majority of the bond revenue approved by voters in 2018 has been used to fund improvements at the high school, all of the school's campuses have seen

upgrades and benefits from the bonds and other financing efforts.

A new main entrance on the east side of South Elementary was constructed, and security upgrades installed and implemented at all school facilities.

The school district also moved its maintenance and transportation facilities from the aging site of the former Blackshear school on S. Lynn Ave. to a large renovated building and facilities on N.E. 14th St. which for many years had been the home of Automated Controls.

CTE offering something new to younger graduates

For returning former Lamesa High School (LHS) students coming home for the Jubilee, walking through the hallways of their old school is probably going to seem a little familiar mixed in with some unfamiliar.

Though the Jubilee has been held every five years since 1965, it's been a decade since the mass reunion took place. The last one was in 2015. The 2020 Jubilee had to be canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Those former students coming back for the July 4-6 homecoming could be in for a shock.

Depending upon how long they've been gone or how far they've had to travel, the alma mater they left behind has changed a lot.

One of the major changes is the high school's Career and Technology Education (CTE) programs and building.

Classes are held in the CTE building, a new facility built from a \$30.4 million bond passed by voters in 2018 for it and other construction and renovation projects throughout the school district.

It will make any alumni with several decades behind them since their LHS graduation jealous. Back in their day, students were limited in what elective courses they could take. It was usually home economics or typing for the girls; and mechanics or woodworking for the boys. They got a grade, but a certificate was unheard of back in



the day.

For several years, LHS' students can take courses that could prepare them early for the workforce. It could also come in handy if they need a job while attending college. They earn their certifications in their fields while also working on their high school diplomas

And it isn't just run of the mill courses. They can study phlebotomy or the art of medically drawing blood samples from a patient. They can do cosmetology, learn the culinary arts, welding or even study to become Certified Nursing Assistant, a field that's greatly in demand.

It wasn't until the CTE building was constructed a few years ago that additional

certification courses were added onto the program.

There was always a law enforcement certification program, but now students can learn about 9-1-1 dispatching. They can also learn graphic design, education, architecture and construction; agriculture and animal science; engineering and scientific research and the multimedia arts.

After construction was wrapped up to the new CTE building at LHS, tours were offered to the public.



'25 makes up school's largest class of grads

Like everything else, time changes everything. Neither the city nor Lamesa High School (LHS) is going to look the same for alumni returning back to their roots for the July 4-6 Jubilee, a mass school reunion expected to draw over 1,000 alumni back to Lamesa.

Alumni can now add an additional 139 seniors to the list of former students attending future Jubilees.

That number of graduating LHS students probably doesn't sound like a huge jump in enrollment. But more than a century ago, Lamesa's high school only had one graduate in 1910. Ten years later there were about 11 high school seniors.

The Class of 2025 is the largest tally of seniors LHS has produced in several years. The graduating Class of 2024 contained 116 students. There were 108 seniors graduating in 2023. One hundred LHS seniors graduated in May 2022. An estimated 115 graduated from LHS in 2021.

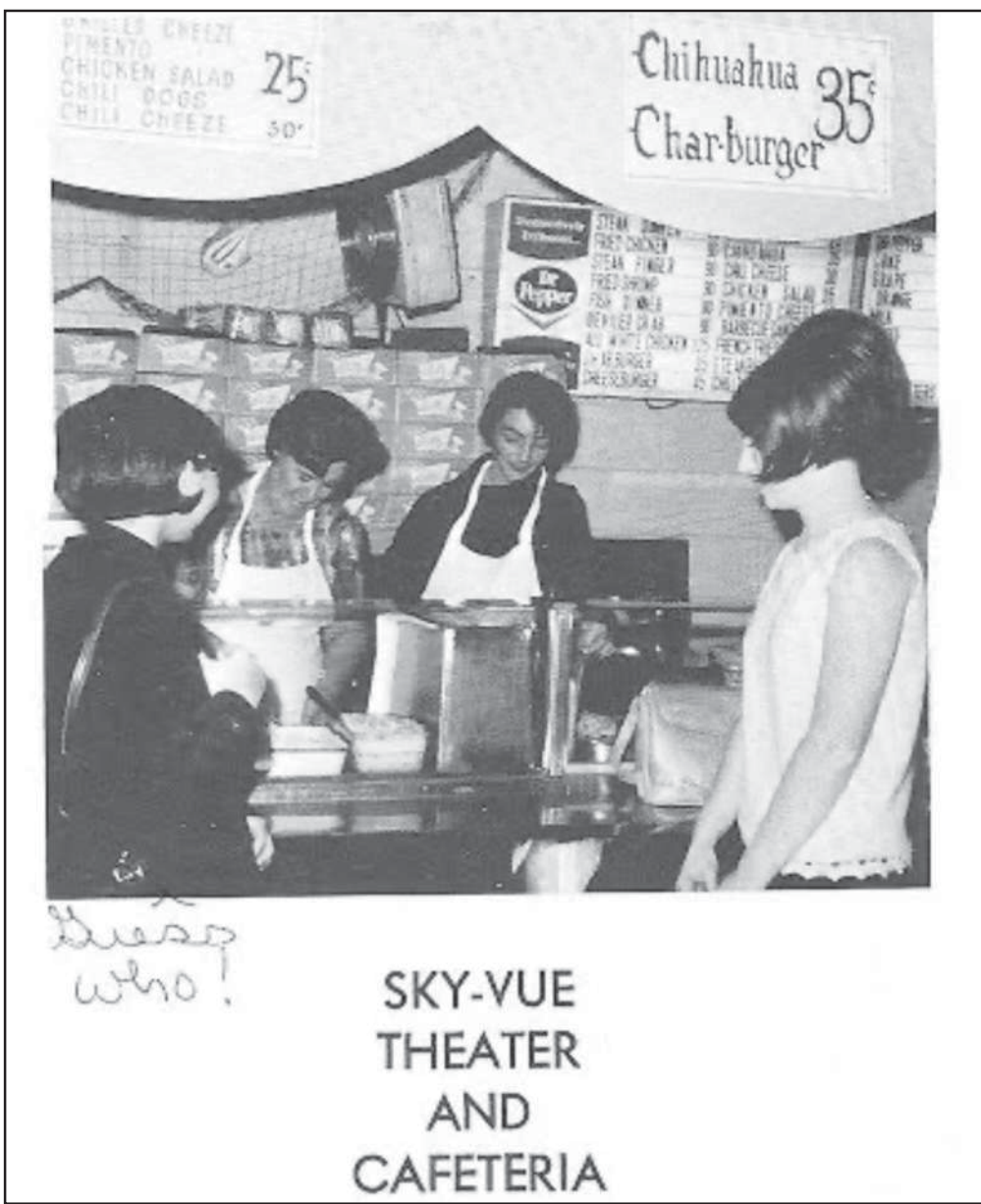
There was a time decades ago when the numbers of high school seniors dwindled to as low as 80. It's now been a steady 100 annually for at least the past five years.

LHS may be returning back to its former days of smaller graduating classes. There were only 90 11th graders enrolled at LHS when the 2024-2025 school year ended in late May.

The 2024-2025 academic year ended with a total of over 1,470 students district-wide. More than 400 of them were attending LHS.

That sounds like a lot, but before the COVID-19 pandemic, the school district had over 1,500 total students enrolled in its four campuses.

Like any school district, enrollment numbers fluctuates throughout the year as families move or students transfer to other schools.



Who's who!

SKY-VUE
THEATER
AND
CAFETERIA

Graffiti decorates media room walls

Graffiti decorates the walls in temporary fashion, written on paper, to be replaced with the first person who can be more clever...causing those who visit the media center to pause and read while picking up their mimeographed work.

Martha Pearce, the director, came about the time most of the Seniors arrived and has been here ever since. Some have worked as aides...they're the one who are mostly responsible for the graffiti.

Others have carried work for teachers, or gone to pick it up and have observed the clever goofs.

But not all graffiti is done by students, and not all if it springs from a clever saying, or some student's blunder.

There's the baby boom chard listing a number of teachers expecting a blest addition to their family this year.

There are the caricatures of media aides with revealing names underneath. And with the radio on, the job is more at ease.

When someone makes a mistake that turns out funny, it is placed upon the wall as a reminder of what can happen if one's not careful.

Although clowning around isn't unusual, a visit from taxpayers and parents is normal too. And with all that nonsense, the teachers are very tolerant.

The media worker doesn't have to put his gained talent to waste, for he can use it in the future in a business office.

From "The Tornado" LHS 1977 Yearbook




'41-'42 Cheerleaders
Jo Ann Phinizy, June Winner,
Mary Frances Barnard, Billie Sue White
and Billie Grace Webb



New Cheerleaders - Front row: Norma Ortiz, Cindy Brown and Velvet Slover. Top Row: Cari Griffin, Vicki Brown and JoAnn De La Garza. These students were elected as carsity cheerleaders. From the Tornado Observer 1977




Pictured above are Pam Norris, Class of '84, Mitzi Middleton, Kecia Dyer, Melissa Norris, and Leslie Gibson. Photo submitted by Kecia Dyer Brown



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Davis earns first Lamesa Diploma in 1910

Attending classes in Lamesa's first little wooden schoolhouse wasn't quite like going to school in today's modern, carpeted, air conditioned and centrally heated structures equipped with all the latest learning tools.

In fact, the small two-story, two-room shack that served as Lamesa's first school building had to have a little help just to stay upright, recalls Lamesa's first high school graduate and the only student to receive a diploma while the initial building was in use.

Dora Hill Davis, who graduated from the fledgling school in 1910, the last year that first building was used, was originally interviewed by the Lamesa Press Reporter in 1985.

"That was a terrible time," recalled Davis.

"That building had props against it on the east side because it was really windy and they were afraid it would blow over."

Describing that initial school-house as "a shoe box kind of deal," Mrs. Davis said. "That old house would shake, you know, when the wind blew."

But the tough times she experienced in those early years of Dawson County have apparently served Mrs. Davis well, as she went on from Lamesa High School to serve 30 years as the county clerk of Wichita County in Wichita Falls, actually putting in a total of 55 years in that office before retiring in December of 1979.

"It was really a pioneer experience," she recalls now of those school years. But she adds, "Everybody ought to have an experience like that."

Dawson County had just been organized, with 612 people living here, when the young girl that was to start a long list of Lamesa graduates moved to Lamesa with her family. They came from Mississippi prospecting for land, and purchased a plot near the Five Mile community at a cost of \$6 per acre. They stocked that land with cattle, for as Mrs. Davis remembers, "There wasn't much farming then."

However, her father did

attend meetings being held in Lamesa to determine what type crops might grow in the freshly-broken rangeland. Cotton and peanuts were among those being discussed.

That first school was a two-story wooden structure on what was then the west side of town. Grades 1-5 were taught in the lower level, and students in sixth grade on up were in the upper room which was reached only by a set of stairs on the outside of the building.

It was heated in the wintertime by coal in pot-bellied stoves; one in the upper room and another downstairs. Students would run across some open land - there wasn't really a street then, Mrs. Davis says - to a gin and a few houses to get water in a bucket at recess.

"We all drank from the same bucket and didn't worry about it."

Instruction was mainly in the basic three-Rs: reading, 'riting and 'rithmetic - but students could also run a short ways across the country to take piano instruction in a private home.

"Every Friday evening we had society," Davis says "Society was where we would each show off how much we could do. Everybody really did their best then."

Davis was one of about 10 students in the upper room. There were actually two people in her class, she says, but for some reason the other girl dropped out during the last year "and that left me. I am the first graduate."

Several years ago, Mrs. Davis presented to the Dawson County Historical Commission her diploma and the dress and shoes she wore at graduation. Those items are now on display in the Dawson County Museum.

The railroad coming to town in August of 1910 - only a few months after Davis graduated was one of the highlights of early

Dawson County history. Davis remembers the event well, for she was on that first train that rolled into town on the tracks laid right beside their home.



"We knew it was going to be a big event, so three of us girls went up the road, it may have been to Tahoka, and we rode the train back into town. I tell you that was a big deal," recalled Davis.

Those early years were a time, she says, when, "Everybody loved everybody and helped everybody."

After graduating from school at the age of 16, Davis went to work for J.S. "Sam" McWhorter in the county tax assessor's office, where she had previously done summer work for the good wage of \$90 per summer.

She moved to Memphis Texas, and worked in the post office for three years before attending business college in Wichita Falls. It was after completing her business courses that she began working in the county clerk's office there, working her way up until becoming the county clerk in 1949.

As an active member of the community, Davis served on many boards and committees in Wichita Falls.

She was involved with civic music and was a member of the Salvation Army Advisory Board.

She was also active with the YWCA United Fund and was on the Red Cross board of Directors.

Davis Belonged to many clubs, including Knife and Fork and the Women's Forum.

She was also the program

chairman for the Altrusa Girl's Camp each summer.

Davis possessed a citation issued to her for service on the U.S.O. board of directors and with the U.S.O.

She was also a member of the Business and Professionals Women's Club, where she served

10 years on the board of directors, and was the president of the Texas Federation of the club.

Davis was an active member of the Eastern Star. She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Wichita Falls where she taught Sunday school, W.M.S. and was in the choir for 32 years.

Davis died in 1986 at a Wichita Falls hospital at the age of 92.



LPR photo

Dora Hill Davis was the first to earn a diploma from Lamesa. She was presented her diploma in 1910. Her dress and shoes are on display at the Dal Paso Museum



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2025

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Dawson County Judge

Matt Hogg
Dawson County Sheriff

Terri Stahl
Dawson County Treasurer

Larry Duyck
Justice of the Peace

Clare Christy
Dawson County Clerk

Russell Cox
Commissioner Precinct 4

WELCOME HOME TORS!

Class of 1930-31

Carnival queen candidates are senior Marguerite Boldin, junior Inez Paulk, sophomore Nadine McMahan, and freshman Dolores Bradford.

Carl Wiggins is senior class president.

Class of 1931-32

Lamesa's debaters are declared county champions. The undefeated debaters are Angus Wages, Guinn Tipton, Katherine Kirk and Louise Gill. Dan W. Ogletree is the coach.

Guinn Tipton represents Lamesa in the home town speaking at the West Texas Chamber of Commerce convention in Sweetwater.

Class of 1932-33

A thousand fans are expected to watch the Golden Tornadoes play the Snyder Tigers.

Probable starters for Lamesa are Audrey Boswell, left end; A. Nooncaster, left tackle; R. Jordan, left guard; F. Conklin, center; J.A. Addison, right guard; Audrey Boswell, right tackle; Joe Harrell, right end; Carl Cox, quarterback; S. Wilkes, right halfback, J. McKinnon, left halfback, G. Babel, fullback. Audrey Nooncaster and student manager J.R. Earnest.

Irma Lynn Coleman is the valedictorian of the graduating class. Nelson Williams has the highest grade average among the boys and is the salutatorian.

Class of 1933-34

Season tickets for all home football games are \$1.50, compared to the regular price of \$2.30.

The Golden Tornadoes host the Hobbs, N.M., Oilers in football. Proceeds are to help ex-Tornado halfback Jimmie McKennon, who is critical condition at the Baptist Hospital in Waco after losing a leg in an accident when he attempted to board a train.

Class of 1934-35

Among 1,610 teams in Texas, Lamesa places second in the state in basketball for the second straight year. Center Joe Harrell is named all-state.

Lamesa's Home Economics team of Alyne McClintock, Billy Ruth King and Hazel Westmoreland places third in clothing at the state contest in Corpus Christi.

Class of 1935-36

Dude Gaines and "Whimpy" Cozzins are the only returning players on the line for the football team.

Ussery Meek and Neyoma Maclin win the high school spelling contest in University Interscholastic League competition.

Class of 1936-37

Chelcy Bowles of the

Golden Tornado Queens basketball team is declared the best individual player in a basketball tourney in Big Spring.

Richard Crawley is the valedictorian of the graduating classes, with Harold Williams as salutatorian.

Class of 1937-38

Wright Grant Boyd and Betty Hart place first and second in high school junior declamation at the district contest.

Shelby Howell is the valedictorian and Travis Moore is the salutatorian.

Class of 1938-39

The concrete and steel stadium at McCollum Field is complete, rising 22 feet in the air at the back, with a seating capacity of 2,500 adults.

Bob Crawley is the highest ranking student in the graduating class of 90-100 students. Other top graduates are Bernice Rhodes, Lillian Cameron and M.L. Hailey.

Class of 1939-40

The junior class presents "You're Only Young Once," a three-act farce-comedy, in the high school auditorium.

Frances Barrow is the valedictorian and Betty Guy Simpson is the salutatorian of the graduating class of 95 students.

Class of 1940-41

Wright Grant Boyd is senior class president.

Donnalita Love is the valedictorian and Katherine Norman is the salutatorian.

Class of 1941-42

With classes starting Sept. 1, the Dawson County Courier notes, "This is a few days earlier than usual but crops seem to be late enough to not warrant further delay."

With 99 boys and girls graduating, Mary Lu Murray gives the valedictory address titled "American Ideals." The salutatory address by Frances McCollum is titled "Our Task Tomorrow."

Class of 1942-43

Lamesa and other schools in the county serve as the location for all passenger car owners to register their vehicles for gasoline ration books.

Students don't report to classes Feb. 25 and 26 because all teachers will be serving as registrars, clerks and aides in issuing war rationing book No. 2 in the school gymnasium.

Mary Ellen Tarter is valedictorian and June Winner is salutatorian.

Class of 1943-44

Earnest Hawkins wins the mile run in the Class AA area meet.

Yvonne Middleton places fourth in shorthand at the regional Interscholastic League meet in Canyon.

Kenneth Williams and Ann McGuire sweep the competition in junior boys and girls declamation.

Class of 1944-45

Superintendent V.Z. Rogers reports there have been no changes in the faculty in the past two weeks but that 25 percent of the faculty in Lamesa schools has changed between opening day in September 1944 and mid-January 1945.

Fourteen LHS students receive certificates for completing the Red Cross Home Nursing course taught by Mrs. Robert Wade and Mrs. Jap Randle.

Class of 1945-46

A 24-foot wave-type slide is installed on the elementary school grounds.

Mr. and Mrs. O.W. Follis join the faculty at Lamesa High School in January.

Class of 1946-47

A concert by the 65-piece school band features solos by Jimmie Keith, cornetist, and Jane Rowan and Linda McPhaul, pianists.

Senior Onita Esmond is selected to represent Lamesa as high school queen when girls from 17 Texas cities fly to Houston as guests of Pioneer Air Lines to participate in christening two new Pioneer planes.

Class of 1947-48

The Lamesa school district purchases 20 acres of land in the north part of Lamesa for a school building site at some future date.

June Wright and Hal Barron are elected Best All-Around students.

Class of 1948-49

New uniforms are received for the LHS band and are worn for the first time at the Lamesa-Abilene football game.

Art Bizzell and Marion Holton are chosen Cutest Couple.

Class of 1949-50

David Hughes shows the grand champion in the dairy cattle division and Wayland Bell has the best pen of five lambs.

Melvin Duke, senior saxophone player, is the featured soloist in the Lamesa High School annual spring concert.

Class of 1950-51

Abe Holder is the principal of LHS. Jimmy Howell is the student body president. Phyllis Martin is the head cheerleader.

The senior class favorites are Jo Ann Ray and Totsy White. Jack Prather is the



Lamesa automobile dealers donated the use of cars for driver education at Lamesa High School. Submitted by Judith Holladay

senior class president.

Class of 1951-52

Jimmy Rose is the editor-in-chief for the school paper called, "The Tornado Times".

Nancy Wilson is homecoming queen. Phyllis Emory is football queen and Winifred Burleson is basketball queen.

Class of 1953-54

Johnny Jones and Nelva Ferguson are selected Mr. and Miss Tornado.

Lawrence Hill is an all-state guard in football and Johnny Jones is an all-district honorable mention at quarterback.

Class of 1954-55

Homecoming is held on Thanksgiving Day, and the Tors face the Snyder Tigers. Connie Nolen is the homecoming queen. Princesses are Cindy Houston, Klata Woodul and Sue Atterbury.

Anessa Pritchett is the president of the Lamesa chapter of the Future Homemakers of America, also known as FHA.

Class of 1955-56

The PTA, organized in 1952, it's one of the biggest supporters and a huge part of the success of Lamesa High School.

Dwayne Powell and Cheryl Echols are Mr. and Miss Tornado.

Class of 1956-57

The senior class selects Kenneth Hubbard and Lucille Agee as the favorite male and female students. Mr. Tornado is the student council president, John Middleton. Linda Hamilton is chosen Miss Tornado.

Class of 1958-59

C.W. Tarter is the district

superintendent.

Mr. and Miss Tornado are Larry Marshall and Tahita Niemeyer. Niemeyer is also crowned homecoming queen.

Class of 1959-60

Senior class officers include the Stafford twins, Lee as president and Bob as vice president, Joy Lawler as secretary, Charlotte Lee as treasurer, and Guy Edmonson and Gail Brown as social chairmen.

Mr. and Miss Tornado is awarded to Howard Westmoreland and Kay Edwards.

Class of 1960-61

Senior class officers are Jerry Addison as President, Harvey Everheart as Vice President, and Linda Norris as Secretary.

Lynetta Griffin is the head cheerleader. Other cheerleaders are Betty Pat Nix, Jan Marshall, Karen Applegate and Shari Addison.

Class of 1961-62

Gene Westmoreland is Mr. Tornado, and Jan Marshall is Miss Tornado.

The Drama Club produces two plays this year, "Inflanta" and "Lawyer Lincoln."

Class of 1962-63

The senior class MVP award goes to Carol Ann Leavelle and Rex Nolan.

Mr. and Miss Tornado title goes to Woodie Scott and Mary Florence Anderson. Coach O.W. Follis has some height on his squad this year, as eight out of 10 of his varsity players are over 6 feet tall.

Class of 1963-64

Derry Trice is the Latin Club president.

Members of the Tornado Queens volleyball team are Alberta Demerson, Margaret Morris, Judy Tyra, Sandra Williams, Mary Manriquez, Carole Davis, Shirley Griffin and Karen Therwhanger.

Mr. and Miss Tornado is awarded to Jay White and Ann Tuttle.

Class of 1964-65

The GAA, or the Girls Athletic Association, offers more sports to the female athletes at LHS, such as bowling during the winter months, tennis, and track.

Mr. and Miss Tornado this year is awarded to Jim Anderson and Lou Ann Bell.

Class of 1965-66

Mr. Tornado is awarded to Johnny Gipson. He is very involved in his school's activities as president of the senior class, captain of the football team, and president of the booster club.


Miss Tornado is Marilyn Crawley. She also is the homecoming queen and the head cheerleader.

The Sky-Vue Drive-in theater is the place to be on the weekends for high school students. The famous Sky-Vue chihuahua and char-burger are only 35 cents each.

Class of 1966-67

Joe Aldridge is the senior class president. Other officers are Steve Allen, vice president; Alta Addison, secretary; and Troy Derrington and Cathy Stephens, social chairmen.

Jimmy Bartlett and Linda Bratcher are top singers at LHS. They are the regional Choral winners.



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*You've brought the spirit, we've got
the celebration—let's make Jubilee
2025 one for the history books!*

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IRMA RAMIREZ, CLASS OF 1982

JAYDEN RAY, CLASS OF 2025

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Sunday morning July 6
to close out the
Lamesa Golden Tornado Jubilee 2025**

10:00 Fellowship
11:00 Worship Service

Class of 1967-68

The Lamesa Booster Club presents Tornado hoop coach O.W. Follis with an inscribed silver tray and game ball on his 500th career win here, a 75-72 district-opening victory over Lubbock Dunbar.

Jim Bob Dyer has the most outstanding exhibit in the local science fair.

Class of 1968-69

Mr. and Miss Tornado are Robert Crawley and Linda Noret.

The athletes organize a club for Christian athletes called The Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Class of 1969-70

Jim Harp and Sandra Snyder are Mr. and Miss Tornado.

A new homecoming tradition is formed when the students spell out LHS and set it on fire. They are calling it, "LHS in Flames." It will take place at the annual bonfire held the night before homecoming day.

Class of 1970-71

A new vocational building is under construction at the high school.

Senior class officers are Robert Hardberger as president, Jerry Purkable as vice president, Pam Hartsell as secretary, Connie King as treasurer, and Nancy Barron and Steve Nix as social chairmen.

Class of 1971-72

A new building, called the Vocational School, is added to LHS. It offers a variety of new classes such as cosmetology, auto mechanics, office education, industrial sewing, and cooperative vocational academic education.

Star Roberson is chosen Miss Tornado and Kirby Marshall is Mr. Tornado.

Class of 1972-73

Wayne Hogg is Mr. Tornado and also is selected second team all-state in football.

Miss Tornado is Melissa Hardberger. She also is a varsity cheerleader and managed to earn all-district honors in volleyball.

LHS choral members Lette Trice, Brant Waldrop, and Janan Purkable make all-state in choir. Ann Hollis, a member of the GTB, is second chair clarinet in the All State Band.

Class of 1973-74

Senior class favorites are Gary Hanson and Helen Foster.

Ronnie Davis and Linda Edwards are chosen King and Queen of the Heritage Club.

Class of 1974-75

The Junior-Senior Prom theme is "The Way We Were." Students' childhood mementos are being used for decoration.

Teresa Owens and Brian Meeks are crowned Mr. and Miss Tornado.

Class of 1975-76

The LHS Debate team reached the Semi-Finals at Hereford.

Susan Smiley is valedictorian and Renner is salutatorian.

Class of 1976-77

Mike Bizzell and Pam McCormick are the senior class

favorites. Bizzell also serves as the senior class president.

Mark Hansard and Sandra De La Garza are chosen Mr. and Miss Tornado.

Class of 1977-78

Cheerleaders are JoAnn DeLaGarza, Cari Griffin, Cindi Brown, Vickie Brown, Velvet Slover and Cristella Gonzales.

Student Council officers are Tony Barron, president; George Dominguez, vice president; Rita Casillas, secretary; Marian Mays, treasurer; and JoAnn DeLaGarza, head cheerleader.

Class of 1978-79

Lamesa's One-Act Play, "The Game," wins the district championship.

Mr. and Miss Tornado are Chris Mitchell and Armando Morales.

Class of 1979-80

"The car, for LHS students, is not only a status symbol but an obsession," states the Tornado yearbook, noting that more than one-third of LHS students drive cars to school.

Paul Ramon is president of the Spanish Club.

Pepe Lucio is chosen Mr. Tornado and Marsha Daffern is Miss Tornado.

Class of 1980-81

Utah York and Judy McCormick are the senior class favorites.

Four cosmetology students advance to state.

The LHS Spanish Club plans a trip to Mexico.

Class of 1981-82

The high school is now offering a photography class.

Video games have the student body going crazy. It's the new craze.

The students take a poll of their favorite TV shows and M.A.S.H. is the number one pick. Following close behind is The Fall Guy.

Class of 1982-83

Senior class favorites are Mark Cohorn and Cindy Vera.

Cindy Vera is also crowned the homecoming queen.

Jill Froman is the senior class valedictorian and Melissa Morris is the salutatorian.

Class of 1983-84

The Drum Majors for the Golden Tornado Band are Tommy D Smith and Danny Mojica.

Kelley Pierce is Who's Who in cosmetology.

Angela Hawkins is honored as all state in volleyball.

The Junior-Senior Prom theme is "A Night To Remember."

Class of 1984-85

Mr. and Miss Tornado are Johnny Gonzales and Briget Allison.

The varsity boys basketball team makes it to the play-offs and end their season in the state championship game.

The Junior-Senior Prom theme is "A Fantasy Cruise."

Many of the decorations include items to turn the cafeteria into a luxury cruise ship off the coast of Jamaica.

Class of 1985-86

Texas celebrates its Sesquicentennial, and The Tornado yearbook opens with a focus



Built 1908 at a cost of \$10,000. Burned 1920.

Early evolution of Lamesa High School

On a quiet morning in November, the old bell of the big white school building rang for the last time at 8:30 a.m. Only a few moments later, a fire was raging through and through that old institution of learning, and quickly it crumpled to the ground to make way for a new and better building.

Volunteers were called to build temporary quarters for the school to go on, and the whole town responded in helping to build the "barracks" where we finished the term. In the meantime, a contract was made and work started on the new building which is now the grammar school building.

The next year, we entered the new brick building and were happy and contented in our new home. But very soon the building was crowded to overflowing by incoming students from other towns, whose parents saw an outlook in Lamesa and her educational system.

Through the cooperation of the school board and the various clubs of the town, the Home Economics Cottage

was built to make more room in the brick building. But even this newly made space was soon filled and plans were under way for a new, distinctly High School building.

On a morning in June, 1924, the West Texas gin burned down, which was on a lot adjacent to the school grounds. The lots were immediately bought and the street closed, thus adding a block to the school grounds. On this space, the new Lamesa High School building was soon rising swiftly to cast and influence over the town, as great as her shadow.

On the second day of March, the work was finished and we moved into our new working house. Lamesa High School can now shine with the best that West Texas boasts. With a faculty of consecrated energy, a student body of proved spirit, and a school plant of untold efficiency and worth, old LHS can go forward like a shot from the gun of a town spirit that does things.

From "The Diamond Bar" LHS 1925 yearbook.

on history.

Keith Bryant is the senior class president, Christy Brown is vice president and Jennifer Smith is secretary-treasurer.

Sharla Stokes is crowned homecoming queen.

Class of 1986-87

Overalls and silver jewelry are part of this year's fashions for LHS students.

The Tornado yearbook is dedicated to "An unforgettable LHS senior," Benny Guajardo: "A front row Tornado fan and an honor graduate, Benny Guajardo distinguished himself throughout his 12 years in Lamesa schools despite the inconvenience of a birth defect. While holding a pen between his toes, he still displayed penmanship equal to the best of his class."

Class of 1987-88

"We Could Never Forget" is the message of the Tornado yearbook.

A bull escapes a pen near the Lubbock Highway, leaves a trail of destruction along North 14th Street, and chases joggers around Tornado Stadium before eventually being shot and killed by its owner.

Mr. and Miss Tornado are Jim Horton, who also serves as student council president, and Maricela Lara, also chosen homecoming queen.

Lamesa Alumni,



Enjoy Every Moment!

Lamesa High School Exes, the wait is over! The Tornado spirit is stronger than ever, and we are thrilled to welcome you back to where it all began.

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Meet at the square, hang out at Wall Street

From the very beginning of Lamesa, traditions have been formed by the local youth.

Lamesa's teenagers began circling the square before cars were even a thing. There was a wagon yard for people to park their teams, that included hitching posts and water troughs for the resting horses.

Things changed some as years went by and cars became more popular, but downtown clung to its popularity when it came to Lamesa teens.

There was an unspoken rule about the boys being on the inside and girls on the outside as they circled the square.

They would drive real slow and talk to each other as they passed.

If someone caught your eye, you could meet them at Wall Street, one block south of the square.

As time went on, circling the square became less about meeting people, and more to show off cars and stereos.

But the square was as busy as ever. With the increased mobility of modern times, teens from surrounding areas, such as Klondike, O'Donnell, Ackerly, Welch and even Brownfield and Seminole would make the trip to Lamesa to cruise the square.

Circling the square changed over the years, to different locations in town. Sonic was the place to be. Instead of meeting up on Wall Street, teens would meet at the empty parking lot across from Gebo's and the car wash across from Sonic.

Wall Street

In 1924 two lumber yards looked out at each other across South Second Street: Higginbotham-Bartlett on one side and Cicero Smith on the other.

Due to a fire that destroyed both yards, the decision was made to build brick or stucco walls down the street to prevent another fire from crossing the



Photo submitted by Judith Holladay

street and causing double damage.

This is where the "Wall Street" story begins.

Though no one is sure

when the first layer of paint started to appear, LHS seniors have been painting the Wall for many years, possibly as far back as 1939.

Seniors use the wall to leave their mark, saying they were here. The artwork stays on the brick wall for a year, until the next

batch of graduating seniors paints their own names over the years past.

Class of 1988-89

Russell Cox and Debi Perez are the senior class favorites.

Robert Newberry is the valedictorian and Edward Sorola is the salutatorian for the Class of '89.

The FFA land judging team of Darrick Cohorn, Cody Dotson, T.J. Carpenter and Tim Hogg place first in state competition.

Class of 1989-90

The Junior-Senior Prom theme is "What Dreams are Made Of." Prom King is Jason Jones and Prom Queen is Traci Vogler.

Mr and Miss Tornado are Yogi Vera and Silvia Alvarado.

Wayne Roberts is the head coach of the boys basketball team which finishes the season as the Class 3A state runnersup.

LHS holds its first annual talent show.

Class of 1990-91

Administration includes Roy Mayfield as the principal of LHS and Neal Chastain as the Superintendent for LISD.

Stacie Wilkie and Bert Butler are the senior class favorites. Wilkie is also crowned homecoming queen.

Mr. and Miss Tornado are Bert Butler and Corrina Flores.

A new school 400-meter relay record is set by Corey Kelly, Keene Hunter, Tony Brown, and Brenden Linstner with a time of 42.40 seconds.

The senior class valedictorian is Jenny Hale and the salutatorian is Amy Wristen.

Class of 1991-92

Cheerleaders are Keisha Butler, Bryant Seeley, Tina Trevino, Stephanie Smith, Jennifer Goolsby, Amy Easterwood, Tobi White,

Cheetra Jenkins and Anna Jimenez. Jason Moreno and Bella Estrada are chosen Mr. and Miss Tornado.

FHA officers are Rachel Cortez, Abigail Martinez, Lauri Alonzo, Irene Lopez, Terrie Parraz, Veronica Rodriguez and Mary Sauseda.

Class of 1992-93

Selected both as senior class favorites and Mr. and Miss Tornado are Chad Butler and Anna Jimenez. Jimenez also is chosen homecoming queen.

Senior class officers include Keisha Butler as president, Aron Warren as vice president, and Tina Trevino as secretary and treasurer.

Earning All-Region band honors are Mark Morales, Rey Solis, Isaac Rodriguez, Elvira Delgado, Luann Mojica, Misty Lee and Tiffany Manuel.

Senior Corey Kelley wins the bronze medal in the Class 4A state triple jump at 45-2 1/2. During the season he set individual school records in the triple jump, long jump and high jump and ran a leg on the school-record 400-meter relay team.

Class of 1993-94

Cole Adams is Mr. Tornado and the male senior class favorite.

Laura Gonzales is Miss Tornado, homecoming queen and the senior class female favorite.

The Junior-Senior Prom theme is "Paradise City." Emily Everheart is the 1994 class valedictorian and Julie Boyd is the salutatorian.

Class of 1994-95

Darrell Dantzler is the senior class valedictorian and Andy Beck is the salutatorian.

The Lamesa FFA wins state in Range and Pasture Plant Identification with the team of Brent Schmidt,

Andy Beck, Ronnie Everts and Braun Cartwright.

Lamesa SMILE committee receives a plaque at the Texas Association of Student Councils state convention. SMILE stands for Substances Mar Important Life Experiences.

Members of the committee are Sonya Rodriguez, Alexandra Rodriguez, Jamie Park, Megan Cobb, Somer Webb, Veronica Rodriguez and Tana Sandlin.

Class of 1995-96

Ken McCraw is the LISD superintendent and Randy Moczygema is the high school principal.

Kristi Gonzales is the drum major of the Golden Tornado band.

The Junior-Senior Prom theme is "Looking for Love."

Melissa Rodriguez is chosen Homecoming Queen and Miss Tornado. Mr. Tornado is Max Kelly.

Class of 1996-97

Donna Cortez is homecoming queen.

The girls varsity volleyball team is the district champion.

Senior class favorites are Dawna Hogg and Cole Brown.

Mr. and Miss Tornado are Jared Watson and Donna Cortez.

The boys golf team of Andy Hawkins, Kyle Welcher, Joey Sauseda, Jeremy Jones and Cody Landers advances to state. They are coached by Ronny Aldridge.

Jamie Garcia is named the Most Valuable Player of the Golden Tornado baseball team.

Class of 1997-98

The Theater Club's production is "Grease."

Andy Ellis is the district MVP and signs a basketball scholarship with Texas Tech University. Chris Roberts is the dis-

trict Defensive MVP.

The varsity volleyball team is the regional quarter-finalist. Their season record is 20 wins and 9 losses.

The senior class votes "Titanic" as their favorite movie of the year. At that time, Titanic is the most expensive motion picture in history, with a total cost of \$200 million.

Mr. and Miss Tornado for this year are Jamie Garcia and Kori Page. Page is also the homecoming queen.

Class of 1998-99

Ricky Mitchell is the high school principal.

The varsity boys football team makes the playoffs for the first time since 1973.

Hope Jimenez, a fresh-

man, places 20th at the state cross country meet.

The Golden Tornado Band receives a 1st division rating at the Region 1 marching contest.

The girls track team wins the district championship for the first time in school history.

Class of 99- 2000

Keith Bryant is the LHS principal.

Suleika Acosta is the homecoming queen. Megan Wilkerson is the head cheerleader.

The Drama Club produces "Lead Me a Tenor."

This year's Mr. Tornado and Miss Tornado are Freddy Vargas and Suleika Acosta.

This school year marks the very first time in LHS

history that all four teams (football, volleyball, and boys and girls basketball) advance to the playoffs in the same year.

Katie Paske is valedictorian and Amanda Corley is salutatorian of the graduating class.

Class of 2000-01

Mr. Tornado and Miss Tornado are Matthew Wade and Amber Lambright.

The Lamesa FFA Radio Team placed 1st at district, 1st at area, and 2nd at state. Members of the Radio team are Haley Moore, Ashley Johnson, Serena Reves, Amanda Spity, and Lyndsey Stewart.

Koby Page and Brittney Roberts are named Best All Around Athletes.

Welcome Exes to Jubilee 2025!

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Lamesa High School Exes, the wait is over!

The Tornado spirit is stronger than ever, and we are thrilled to welcome you back to where it all began.

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Class of 2001-02

Senior class favorites are Isaac Martinez and Heidi Martinez.

Senior class officers include Jerry Guajardo as president, Joe Martinez as vice president, and Heidi Martinez as secretary and treasurer.

Heidi Martinez is crowned Homecoming queen and Miss Tornado. Mr. Tornado is Marcus Bunton.

Competing in automotive technology at the state Vocational Industrial Clubs of America contest are Ricardo Cardona, Chris Esparza, Kolby Meares and Mike Galbraith.

Class of 2002-03

Senior class officers include Frenchie Garcia as president, Jacob Reyes as vice president, and Tamara Stanhope as secretary and treasurer.

Mr. and Miss Tornado are Myles Mojica and Iliana Castro.

Class of 2003-04

Ken McCraw is the superintendent and Jennifer Smith is high school principal.

Senior class favorites are Ashley Hunter and Coleman Maxwell. The Drama club performed "Cinderella" as their annual play.

Miss and Mr. Tornado are Coleman Maxwell and Ashley Hunter.

Class of 2004-05

Scott Davis is the school's principal.

Elizabeth Olvera is crowned the homecoming queen and also is selected as this year's Miss Tornado.

Mr. Tornado goes to Joseph Hill.

The junior-senior prom theme is "Le Minuit A Paris," so their decorations have to be very elegant.

Terrance Roberts is valedictorian and Slade Seal is salutatorian.

Class of 2005-06

Joe Nicks is the high school principal.

Brenay Colman is the senior class president. Ramie Stewart is crowned homecoming queen.

Mr. and Miss Tornado goes to P.J. Plaza and Maria Valenzuela.

Class of 2006-07

The girls varsity volleyball team advances to the playoffs and ends the season as the regional quarter-finalist.

Isaac Guzman and Katy Pierce are Mr. and Miss Tornado. Katy is also the female all-around athlete for LHS.

The male all around athlete goes to Braxton Maxwell.

Graduating as valedictorian of the Class of '07 is Page Prather. Jessica Ambriz is salutatorian.

Class of 2007-08

Joe Nicks is the school's principal.

Coach Tippy Bowning and her sister Coach Patty Browning get their 800th volleyball career win. Isaac Diaz and Roxana DeSantos are chosen Mr. and Miss Tornado.

Journalism students receiving awards in the Interscholastic League Press Conference clip contest are Sarah Rodriguez, Erika Cardoza and Chelsea Sanchez.

Class of 2008-09

Senior class officers are Rachel Lancaster as the president, Richi Laurens as the vice president, and Erin Green as the secretary and treasurer.

The homecoming queen is Beronica Castro. Isaiah Torres is the president of the French Club.

Class of 2009-10

Tasharra Hawkins is the homecoming queen.

Mr. and Miss Tornado goes to Demetri McCurley and Leslie Ann Prather.

Jerri Manuel set a new school record for the 100 meter dash with a time of 12.08 seconds.

The LHS Choral has three singers who have the honors of being a part

of the all-state choir. Those members are Tracy Smith, Andrew Zapata, and Leia Gearhart.

Leslie Ann Prather is the class valedictorian and Travis Burkett is the salutatorian.

Class of 2010-11

Senior class officers include Sam Laurens as the president, Kristian Guajardo as the vice president, and Kelsey Gonzales as the secretary.

Samantha Casarez is the Homecoming queen.

Mr. and Miss Tornado go to Aaron Reeves and Haley Medlin. Medlin also is named the best all around female athlete.

Kale Ferguson is the best all around male athlete. The valedictorian is Haley Medlin and the salutatorian is Amy Furlow.

Class of 2011-12

The varsity basketball boys, under coach Gregg Moreland, are bi-district champions.

Adrian Cordova is the president of the Lamesa chapter of Business Professionals of America.

Aeryk Cox is the Lamesa FFA chapter president, Mr. and Miss Tornado are James Iglesias and Samantha Torres.

Sarah Patterson places fourth in Career Investigation at the state FCCLA convention.

Kate Rodriguez is the valedictorian and Johnna Prather is the salutatorian.

Class of 2012-13

Lamesa High School graduate John Ramos returns to the campus as high school principal.

Kristen Hernandez is the homecoming queen. Hernandez is also the prom queen, the varsity cheerleading captain, and Miss Tornado.

Mr. Tornado is Ryan Garza.

Alexi "Lexi" Hernandez is the valedictorian of the graduating class and Kristen Hernandez is the salutatorian.

Class of 2013-14

Both the girls and the boys basketball teams reach the playoffs.

Senior class officers include Sydney Robles as the president, Salone Norris as the vice president, Malachi Salazar as the secretary and treasurer, and Chelsea Rebber as the historian.

Analisa Lopez is the homecoming queen. Lopez is also the prom queen and Miss Tornado.

Mr. Tornado goes to Kendrick Hunter.

Class of 2014-15

Lexy Rodriguez is crowned homecoming queen and Rudy Alvarado is the homecoming king.

Lamesa's Golden Tornado Band presents "The Wizard of Oz" as its marching show.

Golf coach Ronny Aldridge announces he is retiring after 38 years as head of that program.

Emma Cowan is the valedictorian and Starmie Bennett is the salutatorian of the graduating class.

Class of 2015-16

Mr. and Miss Tornado are Amanda Garza and Brandon Lozano.

LHS holds a College Sign-up day. Over 90% of 2016 graduates were accepted to a college or university by February.

Jade Rodriguez is valedictorian and Olivia Enriquez is salutatorian.

Class of 2016-17

The Community Problem Solvers project qualifies for international competition. Members of that team were Breely Singleton, Micha Bankston, Jasmine Caudillo, Joseph Lugo and Yari Lopez.

Cameron Emfinger is the Class of 2017 valedictorian. Campbell Cowan is salutatorian.

Darius Jackson and Adriana Contreras were voted Mr. and Miss Tornado.

Class of 2017-18

Business Professionals



The Class of 2010 celebrates after graduation. Submitted by Risa Coleman

of America members build a RaptorXHand, Knick Finger and Pheonix Hand on a 3D printer.

Jaleel Edwards is voted Mr. Tornado and Shelby Garza is Miss Tornado.

Bryan Quinteros is State powerlifting runner-up with a career high lift of 885.

Class of 2018-19

The Golden Tornado Band finished fourth at the State Marching Band competition.

A female basketball division is added to the annual O.W. Follis tournament.

Ariel Hernandez and Clayton Culp were voted Mr. and Miss Tornado.

Class of 2019-20

Due to COVID-19, the school year moves online after Spring Break.

Carmen Clement is Valedictorian and Taylor Mann is salutatorian.

Tornadoes earning all-district are Cam Diaz, Derek Guajardo, Jonathan Davis, J'Lynn Jackson, Jaylie Hood, Emma Garcia, Ryan Aguilar, Madeline Poage, Amaya Vasquez and Laila Vasquez.

Class of 2020-21

Isaac Reyes and Shaina Bhakta were named Mr. and Miss Tornado.

Head football coach Joseph Hood is named Coach of the Year.

Class of 2021-22

Lamesa thespians

host a dinner theater. Attendants were served a roasted chicken dinner catered by FCCLA. Afterward, a production of Chemical Imbalance: A Jeckyll and Hyde Play.

Cadyn Woodberry is the 2022 Valedictorian. Zoey Trevino was named salutatorian.

Class of 2022-23

LHS One Act Play performs Bedtime Stories and Dracula.

Lamesa Softball is Regional Finalists.

Mr. and Miss Tornado are Justin Vasquez and Chloe Crittendon.

Class of 2023-24

Estaban Acosta and Liz Segovia were voted prom King and Queen and Mr. & Miss Tornado

Jaiden Barrera is valedictorian and Sagen Oaks is named salutatorian.

Class of 2024-25

Lamesa football makes history, earning the District Championship, first since 2001.

The Rolling Smokes BBQ team wins state for brisket. Members of the team are Nicholas "Nick" Gutierrez, Rush Barkowski, Aria Rivas and Hope Rivas.

Vivian Phan and Brade Barton are valedictorian and salutatorian.

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Auto Mechanics memories submitted by Rex Davis, Class of 1976



Break dancing at Lamesa High School

Breaking is more than a dance for those athletically skilled contortionists. It involved a wardrobe, an image and a vocabulary unique to those limber individuals. For example, they may be talking about popping, locking and breaking. If one is "wack" he is not good...sorry.

If one is "fresh", he is good. "Live" means just about the same as fresh. The fashion includes "warmups", any pants with flexibility such as parachute pants. Some wear long sleeve shirts, some short sleeves and some with "spikes" alone. A "spike" might be a black leather wrist band with spikes sticking up. Some wear the

spikes to tell you they're a breaker, but they don't show their stuff. Breakers have three types of skates (movements). They can skate forward, sideways and back. Another is called four corners, where you move as if you were inside a square. Back during the summer, breakers hung

out together and looked for challengers. "Now I just dance on my own," one of the local breakers, Rufus Hunter said. "One year we were on a basketball trip to the Brownwood Tournament. I saw it on a TV show and liked the style. That was two or three years ago." *From the tornado LHS 1985 yearbook.*



Photos from the '40s by Buster Herndon - Submitted by Ann Hollis Ward



1965 seniors Lynn Sellers McKinney and Jim Holman. Submitted by Lynn McKinney

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Welcome back, Lamesa High School Alumni!



The Lamesa Press-Reporter has proudly journeyed alongside you through the years. While names may have changed, our commitment to the Lamesa community has remained strong. We're thrilled to see you back—sharing old memories, laughter, and the joy of reconnecting with classmates.

As you reminisce and create new chapters, cherish these moments with the people who've walked this road with you. This weekend is about celebrating the bonds that time can't erase.

Have an unforgettable time and make every moment count!



Dwight Heins
Lamesa
Class of 1980



Heather Allen
Lamesa
Class of 1998



Becky Gonzales
Lamesa
Class of 2004



Mary Davis
Northeast Senior,
McLeansville, NC
Class of 1981



Gabby Vogler
Borene
Class of 2001



Nancy Luna Gonzales
Lamesa
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Lucy Maldonado
Lamesa
Class of 2000



Abel Infante
Brownfield
Class of 2017

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Thanks Lamesa High School Teachers!

Tribute to Lamesa teachers

Each of you teachers - so SPECIAL indeed
 You taught us to write and to count and to read
 Added a part of yourselves to our being
 Yet knew our faults - We thought you weren't seeing!
 Helped us to learn and to love and be strong
 Do you question why memories of you are so fond??
 This verse is for you - with deep gratitude
 Could you give us A+ for good attitude???

By Marjorie Green Coffman - '45

This poem was written for a past Jubilee as a tribute to LHS teachers. Marjorie Green Coffman was her Jubilee Class Representative for many years. -Submitted by Judith Holladay

Photo of two of the most popular teachers at Lamesa High School. Lucille and Dan Ogletree. Dan taught American History. Every time a discussion of teachers who taught at Lamesa comes up with people from the 50's, 60's & 70's, Lucille Ogletree is the first teacher mentioned! She taught English and she was a strict, no nonsense teacher, who everybody admired. Everybody remembers the "oral book reports" we had to give in her class-it was terrifying to most of us! If she caught anyone chewing gum in her class, her favorite saying was-"gum should only be chewed under your bed at home!" I wasn't the best student-I had a "B" average in her class. I always struggled with the "Theme papers" we had to write. I didn't realize how much I had learned from her, and when I went to college, I made A's in English class and A's on my theme papers. My college English teacher told me one day that she needed to talk with me after class. I was terrified! She said "you must have had a great English teacher in high school because all of your theme papers and your other work is 'structured' better than any other students I have." I said yes, and proceeded to tell her about Lucille Ogletree.



Jerry Cotten
 Class of 1967.

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2025 Golden Tornado Jubilee Special Edition

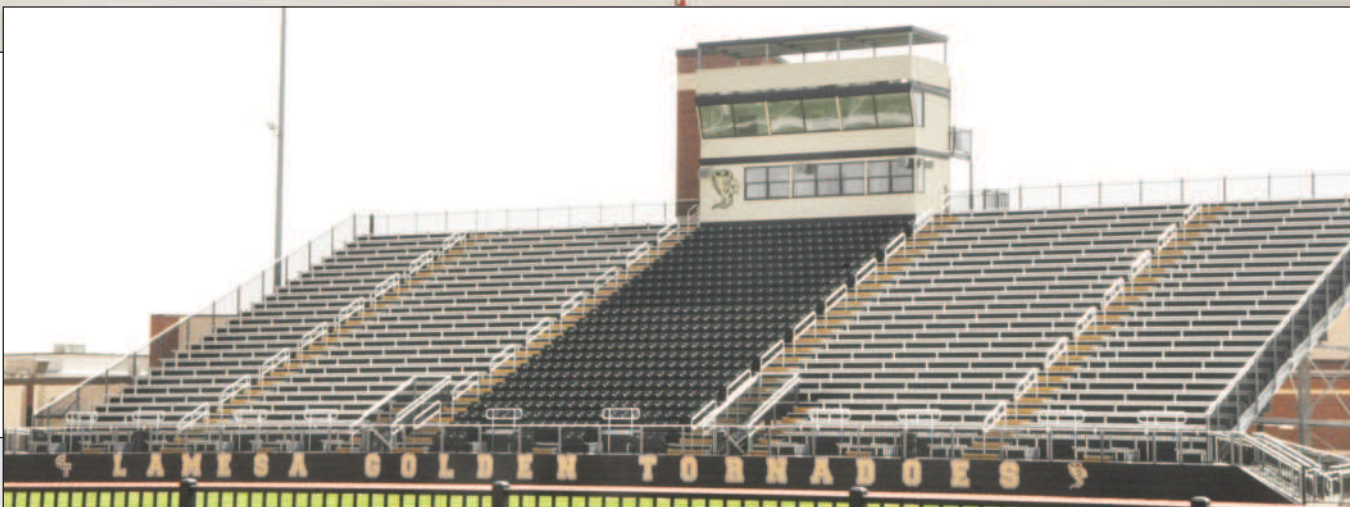
Section
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Friday, June 27, 2025

Lamesa Press-Reporter



The Golden Tornadoes are playing in style after the recent upgrades to the sports facilities. Pictured above is the Kurt Pierce Athletic Facility. To the right, LHS fans can watch Friday night football in comfort of the new stadium sets. Below, tennis matches are held in the new courts to the east of the football field.



Home sweet home for Tor athletics

For all those Lamesa High School exes who haven't been here in 10 years, perhaps one of the biggest changes they'll see at their high school alma mater is to the sports facilities.

"For the people who haven't been here since the last time they had a Jubilee here, then they probably aren't going to recognize them," said Lamesa ISD Superintendent David Ritchey. "If people haven't been around here for a while they're going to recognize right away how this isn't the same school. One hundred percent sure that we've got the best (sports facilities) across the board. We'd put our's up against anybody out there.

"As proud as we are of our new facilities, hopefully our exes will be as well when they come back to town that weekend."

Apparently, the community of Lamesa and Golden Tornado sports fans in general aren't the only ones who think that way.

"The way that we get so much interest in hosting playoff games, tells us something right there. We hosted seven playoff basketball games last year alone," Golden Tornado Athletic Director Efrain Ramos said.

"It seemed like we had softball and baseball playoff games here pretty much every weekend after the regular season ended. We've had some of our area high schools playing tennis in their district tournament. From what we hear that was for the second year in a row.

"We've got top notch sports facilities across the board right here in Lamesa."

Although it wasn't the sole reason behind his move to Lamesa in the spring of 2024, Coach Ramos was quick to admit that it didn't hurt things either.

As a 25-year high school officiating veteran including currently as president of the West Texas Umpiring Chapter, Chris Arredondo ranks his own high school alma mater against the best.

"We work an area which goes as far south as Presidio, to as far north as Lamesa, as far west as Pecos, and east to Westbrook. You'd have to say what they've got there in Lamesa among the best. It's definitely top notch," said

Arredondo, a 2000 Lamesa High School graduate.

Arredondo has put on the Senior Game on the high school diamond the past four years, using Joe Spikes this year. Growing up here, Arredondo once played football and baseball for the Golden Tornadoes.

"Back when we were in high school, everybody played football and baseball on grass and now it's turf," Arredondo said.

While it took a big bond to go through during Jim Knight's term as Superintendent here for all of these nice sports facilities to become reality, Ritchey says that it says something about the people in this community as well.

"That showed how this community wanted its kids to have the best and they do now," he said.

At press time, Ritchey was looking into setting up tours on Saturday of the Jubilee weekend, which will be led by students. Those tours will be broken down into two different shifts the first that day from 10 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. with the second shifts being from 1 to 3 p.m. after a one hour lunch break.

Looking at each of the different sports facilities from the Golden Tornado Stadium, to Joe Spikes Field home of Golden Tornado Baseball and Softball, to the Kurt Pierce Athletic Facility to the new look Golden Tornado tennis court, it makes it hard to point out the nicest, because they're all nice.

After being the son of a high school legendary head football coach Tom Ritchey, David Ritchey will always have a spot in his heart for high school football stadiums and now Lamesa has one of the nicest.

"Having grass fields for all those years, probably the first thing that is going to catch most people's eye is the turf. Turf is where most of that money was spent," Mr. Ritchey said.

Press Box

Their triple deck press box at the stadium will also grab your attention.

"The big GT just outside of that press box gives it a really nice look, too," Mr. Ritchey said. "Anytime we've got a home football

game, that pressbox is so lit up that it lights up a lot of that part of town."

That press box will officially be named in the honor of Lance Bailey who passed away back in February 2019 after devoting most of his life to Lamesa High School and Golden Tornado athletics. This longtime high school teacher was also the voice of many Golden Tornado sporting events including football, volleyball, basketball, baseball and softball games. Bailey also once served as the PA announcer many Friday nights at home high school football games.

As nice as these facilities are Mr. Ritchey admits that this project isn't complete.

"The home bleachers on the home side are nice, but one of the next things we've got to do there is replace those bleachers on the visitors' side," Mr. Ritchey said.

"Right now, without all of the funding coming from the three-year COVID relief program there's not \$800,000 just lying around right now."

Kurt Pierce Athletic Facility

The Golden Tornadoes' old home court was named after Hall of Fame Coach O.W. Follis, who once coached the Lamesa High boys to three state titles in 1960, 67 and 75. Their new home is named for the man who helped build many athletes from the ground floor level on up, longtime junior high boys athletic coordinator Kurt Pierce.

"As big as Kurt was in to football, he reached out to a lot of kids in a lot of different ways. That's why we wanted to name the gym after Kurt," Mr. Ritchey said.

As much as Pierce loved his Dallas Cowboys, he probably loved one team more, the Golden Tornadoes.

"We loved Follis Gym, but it was getting to a point where it was getting dangerous, especially when putting up those old wooden stands," Mr. Ritchey said. "The Kurt Pierce Facility not only is a really nice gym with a nice wooden floor, but it also has an auxiliary gym where people can watch what's going on in both gyms at the very top at the same time. There's also nice dressing rooms for both the home and visiting teams.

There's actually eight gyms there which are really good especially when we have our Follis Tournament every December.

"It's got really nice coaches' offices in there as well as a lot bigger weight room."

Located at the front of the facility, there's a big trophy case which consists of a lot of hardware Golden Tor athletes earned throughout the years. At the back of the gym there's a really nice parking lot where students visit schools to bring and unload their athletes.

Patty & Tippy Browning Court

The main gym floor inside of that Kurt Pierce Athletic Facility will soon be known as Patty & Tippy Browning Court, in honor of Lamesa High School's twins who are now in the Texas Girls Coaches Association.

"The Brownings also touched a lot of young lives in all of those years that they coached here," Mr. Ritchey said.

Tennis courts

Lamesa ISD has immensely updated their high school tennis courts, where not only the Golden Tornadoes have enjoyed serving it up,

more area high schools have hosted their district tournaments here.

These recently repainted courts give this facility a much better look, but it doesn't stop there. Now, Golden Tornado tennis fans have a much better place to watch matches with their newly covered stands. The fences have also been replaced.

"We've even got lights out there now, which we've had people asking for for years," Mr. Ritchey said. "This way, kids have the opportunity to play night and day out there."

Joe Spikes Sports Complex

With all the work done at this complex, school officials have also hit a big home run with the Joe Spikes Sports Complex, home field of Golden Tornado baseball and softball.

While the Golden Tornadoes are fresh off their best season on the diamond in three decades, the Golden Tornadoes seem to be in the state softball playoffs ever since Vanessa Hernandez first started her coaching career here.

Not only are these fields more player friendly, they're

more fan friendly as well, but that should help on the water bill especially in all of this West Texas heat and humidity.

It doesn't take long to see how everything has been turfed out at Spikes.

"We've also got covered bleachers out there, too. People might not realize how nice they are until they've been to some of our playoff games at places like Abilene Christian University or Lubbock Cooper where your people are sitting right out in that heat," Mr. Ritchey said.

Now with the lettering 'Golden Tornadoes' decorating the outfield, and 'Lamesa' located right behind home plate, these complexes are just plain beautiful for fans and passersby alike.

As much as all four of these individuals contributed to this community, Mr. Ritchey believes by tying their names to these new additions will be a great way to always honor them.

"I'm glad to have had personal relationships with all of them we're hoping that this isn't only a way to recognize their contributions in athletics but to so many young people's lives in general," Ritchey said.

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Tornado's Ellis still standing tall

Wayne Roberts was blessed with greyhounds throughout his high school basketball coaching career. He was once asked about coaching the 6-foot-11 Andy Ellis, the former Golden Tors' all-everything big man, who ended up finishing his playing career in the Big 12 at Texas Tech.

"The funny thing about that was I ended up coaching that kind of height twice and it was on the same team with Chris Roberts being the other," Coach Roberts recalled.

Together, Ellis and Roberts once led the Golden Tors to their most recent state tournament appearance in 1998, back when those games were still played at the Frank Erwin Center.

"My freshmen year I was only six feet. That next year, I grew six inches in two months," Ellis recalled. "I just kept on growing. I even grew another inch in college."

All of Ellis's height was natural. His dad, Johnnie, was 6-foot-5 and mother, Linda, 5-foot-9.

Although Ellis' high school hoop career ended in Austin when the Golden Tors fell to Highland Park, he was far from hanging up his sneakers.

Ellis went onto play college ball up the road at Texas Tech for Coach James Dickey's Red Raiders. After making the Big 12 Freshman Team, he averaged 14 points per game his final three seasons for the Red Raiders, leading Tech to the NCAA Tournament in 2002.

"Nowadays, Andy probably would have been drafted, but 27 years ago they were more into those guys who were 6-foot-11 250 pounds instead of 6-foot-11, 200 pounds," Coach Roberts said. "The thing about Andy was he wasn't only tall, but he could shoot."

"Back then, I don't know how many times I was told by other coaches that it wasn't fair having a guy that tall who could still shoot the three."

Andy has an older brother Johnnie who once played college baseball at Lamar University but it didn't take long to see what Andy's game was. Andy and a lot of his classmates once played on a National Little Dribblers' runner-up team. They finished second to only Silsbee back then. "They had a girl our age back then who was taller than any of us," Ellis said.

Looking back, one high school basketball game which Ellis will never forget back in 1998 was against Canyon Randall in the Region I-4A championship at Lubbock Coronado.

"One thing I'll always remember from that game was our crowd. Our people not only took up our half of the gym but also probably over half of their's." Ellis said. "Our crowd was one of the things which always made it so fun to play back at home."

That win over Canyon Randall advanced the Golden Tors to the state tournament where they fell to Houston Waltrip, 76-73, in the state semi-finals. Ellis had a double double in his final high school outing with 25 points and 14 rebounds. Houston Waltrip went onto beat Dallas Highland Park, 67-60, in the state championship that year.

"Our last game was frustrating. We still feel like we had



GUNS UP Former Golden Tor hoop all-starter Andy Ellis pictured with his Angelo State University basketball family which includes ASU head coach Alesha Roberson Ellis. *submitted photo*

the better team. We couldn't make a free throw," Ellis said. The Golden Tors misfired on nine out of their 16 free throws they shot that day.

"I missed three free throws myself and we ended up getting beat by three," Ellis said.

After his high school days here, Ellis decided to continue his playing days into the collegiate ranks at Texas Tech, 60 miles away from home.

"People like Villanova and Georgia also wanted me to come play for them but Texas Tech was always in the hunt. I ended up visiting Texas Tech when it was A&M football weekend up there," Ellis said. "They ended up beating A&M that weekend. They brought the goal posts down after that game."

"In the end, I wanted to be that guy who could help a

program. It was also great how this was going to be close to home."

Playing ball for the Red Raiders provided Ellis with some lasting memories.

As it turned out, Ellis got to play for two of the college game's best; Coaches James Dickey and Bobby Knight.

By averaging 20 wins per season for 29 years, Knight ended up with 902 career coaching wins. Knight won three national championships in 1976, 1981 and 1987.

During his college coaching career, Dickey won over 56 percent of his games in his 14 years as a head college coach and over 57 percent of his games with the Red Raiders.

"There were actually two different sides to Coach Knight, but when he felt like he needed to put on a show he could put on a show," Ellis said of the 'General'.

Knight passed away back on November 1, 2023. Ellis still visits with Dickey even today.

"I loved Coach Dickey. We still talk," Ellis said. "He was another great coach and great leader."

One game which Ellis will long remember was when the Texas Tech Red Raiders opened the Spirit Arena by falling to Knight's Hoosiers, 68-60, on November 19, 1999. Ellis had a huge double double against the Hoosiers that night with 30 points and 10 rebounds in front of a sellout crowd of over 15,000 people.

Another memorable night for Ellis in his Texas Tech career was February 21, 2001. He hit a short jumper with only four seconds left, capping Tech's 65-64 nail biting win over the Cornhuskers.

Although Ellis was considered destined to be NBA on Mock Drafts that year, he was snubbed the day of that Draft.

Ellis ended up playing six different seasons overseas, three for Japan, two in Turkey and one in Italy.

"As much as my agent and I felt like we were going to get drafted, God's got plans. I ended up playing games in 26 different countries all over the world," Ellis said. "I've really got no regrets the way that it all played out."

Even today, basketball remains a big part of Andy's and his wife Alesha lives as well. They're now preparing for their fifth year of heading up the at Angelo State University women's basketball program.

"We've both had a passion for basketball. We do our best to make it a family atmosphere," Andy said. "We do our best to treat our basketball girls like we do the two of our own."

One of the Ellis' current Rambelle players is Sands High School's own Landry Morrow, who helped the Mustangs win their first-ever state hoop crown back in 2022.

"We love those small town kids. Those kids don't only believe in God, but doing things right," Andy said of Morrow. "You can just tell with kids like Landry, that they were raised right."



GREEN WARRIORS

The 1960-1961 eighth grade Green Warriors basketball team went undefeated that season with 20 wins! Members of that team are Pat Wiggins, Reinhard McKinney, Gary

Brown, Steve Hines, Phil Russell, Jim Anderson, Dickey Roberts and Valton Franklin. Managers wer John Young and Bill Crawley. They were coached by Lynn Ranson.

Lynn McKinney photo



DONKEY BASKETBALL

Members of the 78-79 basketball team were top row, left to right, Doug Cockrell, Greg ham, Clay Pierce and Kevin Hale. Bottom row: Danny Gibson, Russ Nelson and Fritz Gleg-horn.

Fritz Gleghorn photo

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KAYE STEVENSON BEATTY - 1970
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James still finds himself coaching after retirement

Anyone who's kept up with Tim James wouldn't be all that surprised to see what he's doing after he's hung up his whistle.

He's still working even after he's been retired for eight years living up near Post.

"We've got 50 acres of farm land and we've planted some haygrazer," James said. "I'm not only farming but I'm also doing some ranching. We've also got some horses and cows."

Although Tim is enjoying his new lifestyle, sports still remains a big part of his life.

"We're trying to keep ourselves involved by running the chains at Post football games. We're still working with four or five girls in the triple jump," James said. "This past year, Dianne and I went to 21 track meets. We even went back to the state meet."

One of James' current pupils in the triple jump, Smyer's Ashlynn Burris, has qualified for state in two out of the past three years.

"One of our great nephews (Farwell's) Ryan McElroy made it state this year (in the discus)," James said. "Dianne helped him get started into that."

As busy as James keeps himself on the ranch, he'll always enjoy talking sports.

When James first came to Lamesa High School, it was back in 1989 as a member of Earl Overton's staff here, which coached the Golden Tors to a 6-3-1 record, their first winning

mark since 1973. That first year as an assistant, James coached the Golden Tors' offensive line and linebackers that fall.

James was also the Golden Tors' head boys track coach. Four years later, James turned that downtrodden program into the District 2-4A champs Lamesa High School's first league track champs since 1962. Winning that first league track crown in over 30 years was plenty exciting.

"We even got the ice bucket treatment that weekend after we had some kids who kept stepping up doing some great things. Carl Wayne Jackson got third in that weekend in the discus, something he didn't do all year," Coach James said. "A couple of other guys who had a good meet for us that weekend were Cole Adams and Corey Kelley who qualified for regionals in five events."

After turning that track program into a champion, school officials were convinced to give him a shot at football here in the fall of 1996.

"A good football season and a good track season go hand in hand with each other. Whatever you're coaching you're always looking for that little extra from your kids," James said. "I didn't care if you were always the fastest, track helped build stronger athletes."

Three years later James had the Golden Tornadoes one game away from playing for it all on the

gridiron. Lamesa got rolled that year by Liberty Eylau, but the following weekend, those Panthers smashed Mathis, 58-6, in the state title game. By reaching the state semifinals that season the '99 Golden Tors managed to do something that only one other team in the history of Lamesa High School football had done.

"There was something like 10 to 11 (NCAA) Division I football signees on that team. One of those guys, Brandon Jones, went onto play pro football for 10 to 11 years," Coach James recalled.

Looking back, James pinpointed the Golden Tors' third round playoff win over Breckenridge at Sweetwater's Mustang Bowl as one of the most pivotal games of that season.

"Anytime you learn how to work, then you'll give yourself a chance. That one that night had to rank right up there as one of our biggest ever," Coach James said.

Lamesa's 1999 state semifinalists were welcomed back to their hometown last fall prior to one of the Golden Tors' 2024 home games.

"That was unbelievable. Coach (Efrain) Ramos and Mr. (David) Ritchey rolled out the red carpet for us that night," Coach James said. "We will always appreciate what they not only did for us, as well as our kids and their families that night. They did us up right."

During that weekend,



COACH TIM JAMES

Coach Tim James holds a commemorative football noting one of Lamesa High School's two state semifinalists football teams.

submitted photo

Coach James also got the chance to meet Coach Ramos. Afterwards, Coach James wasn't in the least bit surprised to hear Ramos coached the 2024 Golden Tors to their first league title since those days.

"Not one bit. Coach Ramos' son, as well as the McCurley kid at receiver, are both really good football players," Coach James said. "I was really impressed with Coach Ramos, too. He's also a good man in addition to being a good football coach."

"It's good to see them putting a big emphasis on seven-on-seven, especially with the way that they like to throw the football around."

Time and time again, Coach James continued saying that this was more than a one man show.

"I'd say a good eight to 10 guys off our coaching staff went on to become successful head coaches," Coach James said.

Two of those notable assistants who found the gold as head coaches were John Wright at Post and Clay

McChristian at Graham. Wright's Antelopes won their first 13 games last season before falling to Stamford, 48-26, in the 14th week of that season. McChristian's Graham Steers went 12-2 with their second loss not coming until December 6 from Brock, 12-2.

"I've always considered myself as one of those Old School guys. Every good program has got to have discipline, but you've still got to hug them and let your kids know that you love them when it's all over," Coach James said.



Kecia Brown photo

FRIDAY NIGHTS

Julie McBride and Kecia Brown (Tornado Mascot) have some fun on the track during a football game in 1982.

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READY TO TEE OFF
Representing LHS in the 1999 Class 3A state golf tournament are (front row, left to right), Kari Price, Coach Becky Addison, Courtney Adams, (back row) Kristin Wilkerson, Kacey Price and Jill Addison.

It didn't rain on '99 Tor golf parade

Rain shortened the first day of the 1999 Class 3A Girls State Golf Tournament, but it didn't rain on the Golden Tornado golf girls' parade that spring.

With all five golfers on the Golden Tors' 1999 state champs finishing among the Top 20, Lamesa's ladies of the greens came home as the 3A state champs, after finishing that two-day 36-hole tournament at 515.

"That first day was a little crazy. It was one of those driving rains and we kept going inside and back out before they finally told everybody to come back tomorrow," Lamesa Coach Ronny Aldridge said. "We had a pretty good team back then. Abilene Wylie had a pretty good team back then too but they couldn't beat us."

Courtney (Adams) Douglas was one of the driving forces behind that year's state champs.

Courtney and Jill Addison finished tied as the sixth best 3A golfers after both finished at 127, earning them all-state recognition.

"We shocked a lot of people back then. Going in, we knew that there would be a lot of very competitive golfers down there, but we knew what we were capable of doing, too," Courtney said. "It also helped having the type of support we got, not only from our families, but a lot of people there in Lamesa."

Lamesa's Kari Price finished as the 12th best girl at state. The Tors' Kacey Price was 16th and Kristin Wilkerson, 18th.

Twenty six years later after the fact, Courtney says being champs never gets old.

"I still love it. We've told a lot of people up here how we were the state champs back in high school, even if people keep looking back at us like we were crazy," Courtney said.

Consistency might have been one of the biggest keys for those 1999 3A state golf champs.

"Our girls probably only hit the ball an average length, but they always hit it real straight. We always hit the ball right down the middle," said Coach Aldridge who coached for 49 years 38 right here in Lamesa.

"As long as you hit straight, you'll always give yourself a chance. It's a lot better to always hit the ball down the middle than hitting it out in the trees

somewhere."

After helping the Golden Tor golf girls win 3A golf in only their sophomore years in high school, Courtney and Kari ended up being college teammates again at Redlands Community College. They helped the Cougars make it to the national junior college championships in their first year as a college program. Redlands got third in the nation that year.

"That was pretty much amazing. Still being on the same team with Kari made it nearly feel like high school all over again," Courtney said.

It was Kari who first got Courtney hooked on golf by getting her to play in a youth golf tournament at Lubbock back when they were seven years old.

"Kari's always been pretty good. That tournament was the first time that I ever played golf," Courtney recalled.

Kari finished up her college golf career by also playing at Southern Nazarene University where she made NAIA All-American.

Courtney's uncle Kenny Adams played on the 1981 Golden Tornadoes' Class 4A state runners-up boys golf team. Other players on that team were Sam Hansard, Jeff Hansard, Wesley Bruce and Rick Woodson. It was Woodson who once made two cuts on the pro golf tour.

"We got second to Paris back then. That was another hard working team," Coach Aldridge said. "State was really tough that year. We actually turned in the best

score that second day down there but we were seven or eight shots out after that first day."

It was also at Redlands where Courtney met husband Larry.

"Larry played on Redlands' baseball team. He was a pitcher," Courtney said.

The Douglasses have three sons, one of which will soon be going to college after just recently graduating from high school at Moore, Okla. Sports remains a big part of the Douglass family today.

Both of the Douglas' youngest sons will be playing in youth baseball world series tournaments this month.

"We're always watching sports. We started today watching the College Baseball World Series and now we're watching golf," Courtney said.

Coach Aldridge spent 38 years of his 49 coaching right here in Lamesa before stepping down.

"Lamesa is special. That's where we raised our family," Coach Aldridge said. "Lamesa has been really, really good to us.

"When we first got here we were only going to stay one year before finding a basketball coaching job somewhere. That first year was so good we decided to go ahead and stay here and now we're still here."

1999 CLASS 3A GIRLS STATE GOLF TOURNAMENT
(Jimmy Clay Golf Course)
Final team standings: 1. Lamesa-515. 2. Abilene Wylie-526. 3. Caldwell-537. 4. Yoakum-544. 5. Columbus-555. 6. Bullard-557. 7. Bridgeport-564. 8. Sealy-571.

Marroquin: dynamite in small packages

When most people think about powerlifting, they normally think of big and chunky.

At 5-foot-3, 122 pounds Lamesa's Jocelyn Marroquin doesn't fit that bill, but that didn't keep her from finishing her schoolgirl career as one of the strongest in the state in her weight class.

"None of this really made any sense to me at first. There's always a bunch of small girls out there lifting all of that weight," Marroquin said of power lifting.

With her strong will and dedication to the weight-room, Marroquin soon developed into one of those girls herself. An average meet for Marroquin was bench pressing 185 pounds, squat lifting 300 pounds and deadlifting 305 pounds.

"Those first couple of meets that I'd go to, I was so amazed, especially with all of those 5-foot-2, 100-pound girls who kept coming up to that platform," Marroquin said.

After being a state alternate for a couple of years, Marroquin finally punched her ticket to state at Corpus Christi where she ended up bringing home a state medal by finishing fourth in her weight class.

"Powerlifting helped me with my identity. I learned a lot about myself with all of those reps," Marroquin said. "I know that I got a lot stronger with all of those reps."

"But, I wasn't just getting stronger physically but also mentally and emotionally."

Marroquin developed a love for this sport and she was even that much more determined to not only get to state but also a bring home a souvenir from her trip to Corpus Christi.

"I was very happy to get a medal, mainly from just knowing how much hard work that I put into it. I was especially excited to medal down there," Marroquin said. "I was glad to show my mom the results from all those early morning workouts and all of that time that we put into that sport."

"As nervous as I was go-



POWER LIFTER
Jocelyn Marroquin didn't let her small stature keep her from lifting high during her high school career.

ing to state that year after being alternate the years before, I was only that much more excited to get where we want to get."

It doesn't take long to see that Marroquin is one busy young lady. In addition to powerlifting, Marroquin also ran cross country and track for the Golden Tornadoes. In track, Marroquin usually ran the 400-meter dash and on the relays. Marroquin was a Golden Tornado cheerleader her final two years in high school. Marroquin also played the drums and percussion in the Golden Tornado Band.

"We normally started training toward the end of October, but a lot of that depends on what they've got going on in football season. We were usually out there in that weight room early in the morning," Marroquin said. "That's where it all starts back up every season."

Marroquin continues her good work ethics as a CNA (Certified Nurses Aide) here at Lamesa's Medical Arts Clinic.

Marroquin sees being a CNA as serving a two-fold purpose.

"I've always been one who could do whatever I can to help people. This is also a good opportunity for me to learn about health and how to help make people healthier," Marroquin said. "I plan on going back to school later."

"I learn something new every day at my job, I'm looking forward to going back to college to help me keep learning about how everything works to where I can keep helping people."

As excited as Medical Arts Clinic is about Marroquin's future in her career they're hoping to stay a part of it as long as they can.

"Jocelyn is very good with her patients. Our patients just love her," MAH clinic director Toni Alexander. "The pod where Jocelyn works is usually the busiest, but that doesn't seem to bother Jocelyn any because she's such a good, hard worker."

Special trains to Slaton

A most memorable event took place every other year during football season when Lamesa played Slaton. The AT&SF (Atchinson, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad) ran a special train to Slaton for the game. Filled to the gills with raucous, rowdy, rabid football fans, pep squad and band members, the train sped along at 40 miles per hour, maybe, toward Slaton for the annual meeting of these football titans.

A long black locomotive snorted and panted its way along the tracks, pulling the rocking swaying railroad coaches. At each road crossing, the locomotive gave out with a plaintive mournful whistle which echoed across the countryside.

The two school's games were among the toughest, most fiercely contested high school games in the state, and it was usually anyone's guess who would win the game. Sometimes the railroad coach cars returned to Lamesa literally rocking with deliriously happy, cheering fans. But, of course, there were times when Slaton High won the game, and the ride back to Lamesa was not pleasant.

Allen D. "Ziggy" Sears Class of '39

Movies and dating in the 1940s

When I was in LHS (in the late 40s), we all went to the Palace or the Drive-In on Friday and Saturday nights. At the Palace, all the kids sat in one section - down the right aisle, close to the front. They showed commercials on the screen and we all sang along with the jingles (very loudly). One jingle I remember: G-R-AP-E-T-T-E GRAPETTE!

And another: Pepsi Cola hits the spot, Twelve full ounces that's a lot. Twice as much for a nickle, too, Pepsi Cola is the dring for you.

A typical date was to go to the movie and then go to Bill's Cafe for cokes or coffee. Then we would "ride around" the square (in any direction you chose), down Wall Street and then down South 1st Street through Pioneer Park, where several cars full of kids might stop, get out, and talk. Our group had so few cars, it was unusual for a couple to date alone. We always double dated and sometimes had six or eight in one car.

Most girls had to be home by 11 o'clock, and then the boys went back to Bill's to eat or talk or whatever boys did.

Jimmie Lee Cotton Roberts Class of '47

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Torres come full circle in Tor volleyball

One might say that Lamesa High School Coach Skye Torres has come full circle in the Golden Tornadoes' volleyball program.

Skye, a 2007 Lamesa High School graduate, helped power Patty and Tippy Browning's Golden Tornadoes to the state playoffs her senior year. Now, she's doing her best to lead the Golden Tornadoes back to that point.

"We've been one match short each of the past two years, and both years it was to Brownfield," Torres said.

"It really is about to drive me insane. If we would have just beaten Crane last year we would have been in too."

Crane only won one match all last season and that was against Lamesa in a four-set match last October which kept the Golden Tors at home from last year's playoffs.

After a good summer in their off-season, and with five back from last year's squad including three starters in Mariella Gonzales, Kali Campos and Sadi Barrioz, Coach Torres hopes this is that year where the Golden Tor volleyballers get that monkey off their back.

Zoey Sifuentes graduat-

ing in May is going to have that effect on this year's volleyball team where she was a standout setter.

"One of the biggest things that we're going to work on this season is our mental toughness. The talent is there," Coach Torres said. "After being just a match away, the past couple of seasons mental toughness is going to be a huge factor for us this season."

Skye and her husband Bert Ybarra have been married for six years. Ybarra is another sports-minded person after once being an all-everything guard for the Sands Mustangs back in high school.

Skye and Bert have two sons, 17-year-old Jayden and five-year-old Dakota.

Looking back, Coach Torres already knows that she's going to miss seeing her high school volleyball coaches, the Brownings, this upcoming season.

Patty passed away this past January.

"They've always been right there for us. Every time we'd look up in the gym they'll be up there in the stands," Coach Torres said.

"They just weren't at volleyball but they'd also be at basketball and track

meets, so it's going to be different."

After once being a regional track qualifier in the triple jump, Skye now assists Coach Rose Mary McCall in that program today.

After once shining bright as a Golden Tornado athlete back in her own high school days, Coach Torres is glad to be back in her hometown.

"After graduating at (Texas) Tech, I started out working in Tech's administration up there. One day I got a call from here wondering if I'd be interested in transitioning to Lamesa," Coach Torres said. "I told them right away that I wouldn't be and now I'm in seventh year here."

Although high school volleyball practice doesn't officially start until Friday, August 1, Coach Torres has already been pleased with what she's been seeing out of her girls this summer.

"We've already had up to 30 girls in open gym and that's a little better than normal. We've also had several of our girls get involved in our summer strength and conditioning," Coach Torres said.

"Hopefully everything is great to where we'll all be ready to go August 1."



VOLLEYBALL LIFE *submitted photo*
Skye Torres was an important part of the Lamesa state volleyball team in 2007. She is now coaching the same sport at LHS.

Memories from the 1940s



Photos taken by Buster Herndon- Submitted by Ann Hollis Ward



LET'S GO TORNADOES!!

Softball star now coaching the game

Golden Tornado baseball assistant Tommy Doederlein recently got an early Fathers Day gift.

Doederlein always enjoys getting phone calls from his two married daughters. Tommy recently got one from his youngest daughter Darrian, he'll long cherish.

"It was exciting. Darrian told me right away that she was the new head softball coach at Monahans. That was great to hear," Tommy recalled. "She's going to be back in the area."

At 114 miles, Monahans is less than a two hour drive from Lamesa.

"What's even more exciting is that my other daughter Shelby and her family live in Kermit, so my two girls are only going to be 17 miles apart from each other," Tommy said.

Darrian is also looking forward to being closer to her family.

"We're really excited about seeing each other's kids. This way we can go hang out with each other and it's only a 20-minute drive," Darrian said.

Darrian is a 2014 Lamesa High School graduate who helped get Lamesa Coach Vanessa Hernandez's program off the ground and running.

The Golden Tor softball ex is a strong believer in good work ethics.

"I've never been one who thought they ought to give first place to all participants. A lot of it should go back to outworking people," Darrian said. "If you're not willing to work for something, then you really don't deserve it."

While making the state softball playoffs has become routine in the Vanessa Hernandez Era, it wasn't back when Darrian first went to high school here. She played on one

of Vanessa's first playoff teams of her coaching career.

"Our mindset back then was we were always the underdogs," Darrian said. "I remember one of the first things that Vanessa did after she got there, was challenge us in everything we did."

It was players like Darrian who helped get things going for Vanessa in her coaching career.

"Back when we were in high school, we made it to the playoffs all four years. Our deepest run back then was regionals," Darrian said.

One of the things that Darrian enjoyed the best when she pitched for the Golden Tors, was that for two of those years her older sister Shelby was her catcher.

Darrian will always cherish her days as a Golden Tornado. Although most of Darrian's fondest memories are softball related, she did help Patty and Tippy Browning get their 900th volleyball career coaching win back on August 24, 2012 at Crane.

"I loved it there. Being a smalltown, everybody knew each other in our graduating class," Darrian said. "It wasn't just about school or sports. We had a really good church family (Grace Lutheran Church) there, too."

Tommy has been a longtime chairman of that congregation even today.

Eleven years after she played here, Darrian's not surprised to see Coach Hernandez continue the winning touch in that program.

"That's just her style. She can take anything over and turn it into something great," Darrian said of her high school coach. "She can take even the least

experienced teams and get them to where they want to go."

Monahans will be Darrian's third head coaching job of her brief career. She started her coaching career at Fort Stockton after playing college softball at Sul Ross University at Alpine. Darrian coached last year at 6A Fulshear. Darrian guided Fort Stockton to two playoff appearances before leading the Chargers this past season to a winning record (18-8), and the second round of the 6A playoffs after beating Katy Taylor 4-2 and 13-10 in bi-district.

Making the move to Monahans, Darrian is leaving one team which made the playoffs last year in favor of another. Last year's Loboes finished at 23-11 after going to fourth round of the playoffs where they fell to Snyder which finished up in the state semifinals.

"It looks like there's a good softball future at Monahans," Darrian said.

Although Monahans has been on the Golden Tornado softball schedule in the past, last year wasn't one of them. But Darrian and Vanessa have coached against each other in the past, back when Doederlein-Roberson started her coaching career at Fort Stockton.

"It was pretty cool coaching against somebody in this game who I've always had a great deal of respect for in this business. One of the reasons why I feel like I've grown so much as a coach is because of her," Darrian said.

Coach Hernandez looks at hiring Darrian as a good move for the Loboes.

After finishing her high school career with the Golden Tors by playing in



CHANGING PLACES
Lamesa High School ex Darrian Roberson is now moving with her family to Monahans where she's now the Loboes' new softball coach

submitted photo

the Greater West Texas Softball All-Star Game, Darrian went on to play college ball at Sul Ross University at Alpine where her older sister Shelby was one of her teammates.

"Sul Ross was fun. I'm glad that I did that," Darrian said of college ball. "I continued learning about the game like pushing yourself."

"I made a lot of good friendships over there to a point now where it's like a sisterhood."

As much as Darrian always thrived in being in that circle back in her high school days, she ended up only seeing limited time there due to problems with her shoulder.

"I played a lot at third base in college. I also ended up playing a lot at center field," Darrian said.

Darrian and husband Zack, who'll also coach starting this fall for the Loboes, have a three-year-old Jordan.



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Steve Garcia: once a Tor always a Tor

Golden Tornado head baseball coach Steve Garcia just turned 42 years old last month.

Garcia has spent most of his life in Lamesa. Steve was born on May 15, 1983 to a father who was a local firefighter, Raymond, and mother, Gloria, a local elementary teacher.

"I've always been right here in Lamesa. Lamesa has been a good place to grow up," Garcia said of his hometown. "We've got lots of friends here. I really don't want to go anywhere else.

"I've never been one who wanted to go to a bigger place where there's always too much going on."

Even with a degree from UTPB, Garcia didn't start coaching right off the bat. He started out as a fourth grade math teacher here where one day he was approached by former Golden Tornado Athletic Director Gregg Moreland.

"Coach Moreland wondered if I'd be interested in coaching as a volunteer assistant in baseball. Back then, my cousin Jacob (Hernandez) was the head baseball coach here," Garcia noted.

After coaching under Hernandez for a couple of years, Garcia coached under Bobby Alvarez for the next four seasons.

"I learned a lot from both of those guys. With Bobby, we went to the playoffs in three out of those four years. That one we didn't was the COVID year," Garcia said.

It wasn't long after Alvarez took the head baseball job at Greenwood that Garcia would be offered the Golden Tors' head job.

"It wasn't long after they offered it to me that I said

yes-sir, we'll take it. I went to the field that night and I'll never forget how excited I was," Garcia said. "We knew that we did the right thing there.

"I remember this questionnaire about taking over a program in your hometown. I realized that most of the pressure I've had I put on myself."

The game of baseball's been in Garcia's blood way before he started coaching. He basically grew up on the diamond. When he wasn't playing baseball every summer, it was softball playing for the Lamesa Rockies where a couple of his teammates were Koby Page, Brock's high school head baseball coach, and Golden Tornado head tennis coach Jose Lucio.

Growing up, Garcia spent most of his time either playing first base or pitching.

"Back then it seemed like everybody wanted to play third (base). Since I wasn't one of the slimmest guys, I knew that I was going to be one of those corner guys," Garcia said. "After I started playing there some, I knew that I was at a natural position for me to play."

Steve met this girl who was a grade above him and he knew that she was the one for him.

"We've been married 22 years. I really didn't know Norma until after I started being a sacker at the grocery store," Garcia recalled. "Bruce (Marmolejo) and I both worked together at Claiborne's and I can remember how Bruce kept telling me that Norma would be my wife someday just from the way that I always wanted to take out her groceries.

"We both realize how I'm



COACH GARCIA
Lamesa head baseball coach Steve Garcia was part of the baseball team when he was in high school. He continues

his career in Lamesa leading the Tors to a successful 2025 year. *submitted photo*

going to be gone a lot in the spring with baseball, but Norma's my biggest fan."

The Garcias have three adult children Igi, Gage and Nadia, all Lamesa High School graduates.

Steve coached both Igi and Gage in high school baseball.

"That's been a neat experience. I've been coaching Igi and Gage since they got old enough to play," Garcia said. "I'm super glad that I coached my own sons. I really couldn't imagine anybody else coaching them."

In addition to their three

children of their own, the Garcias have two granddaughters, one is five and the other will be one next month.

"Grandkids definitely change everything. It's just a different feel," Coach Garcia said. "I'm gran pops.

"They've already got me wrapped around their fingers."

Although Garcia has coached the Golden Tors to the playoffs all four years that he's been their head coach, this past season will be one he'll never forget. Despite a tough start, the

Golden Tors ended up in the third round of the playoffs, finishing with a winning record.

"We started out a little rough. We're in a new seven team district this season," Coach Garcia said. "As bad as this season started out, we did our best to remind our guys that it's not where you start, but finish. Just like baseball is a marathon, not a sprint."

Garcia got one more win this season as the head coach in the big school division of the Senior Games that were played right here

at Joe Spikes Field. Adding to this season's excitement, was the strong support that his Golden Tornadoes got from this community.

"Seeing good support up in our stands means a lot to our guys. Our guys are always into putting on a good show for our people," Coach Garcia said. "We realized that we played our playoff games at pretty far away places this season like Abilene twice and Pecos, but we've always got a pretty good group there."

Stepping to the plate with Jim, Wes Shook

What's in a name?

When it comes to Golden Tornado baseball there's one name and that's SHOOK. Jimmy was the starting first baseman on Lamesa High School's 1967 state runner-up team. Right at 20 years later, his son, Wes Shook, crashed the scene not as much as in high school but after he earned his diploma.

"Baseball was just a big part of our lives. This game's given us a lot of great memories," Wes said. "Baseball's taken us to a lot of great places and helped us meet lots of people.

"The good Lord's taken care of us."

Jimmy echoes his son's sentiments of this sport.

"Good coaches! Good programs! Good teammates," Jimmy said of the game. "From there, everything just worked out for us."

At 5-foot-8 inches tall, Wes' lack of height didn't keep him from standing tall in this game.

"Wes got told a lot that he wasn't as good as the next guy. In the end, Wes showed them," Jimmy proudly said of his son, a hard-hitting third baseman for the Golden Tors.

As proud as Jimmy was of Wes, Wes was just as thankful to his father.

"Growing up, Dad probably threw to me a million times in practice. Dad worked a lot on my swing which really helped me out a lot," Wes said.

"Pop (Jimmy) even made a couple of our spring training games."

Wes was one of two Lamesa High School graduates to get drafted into the big leagues. Following all WJCAC seasons at New Mexico Junior College, where he was considered as one of the best hitters to come out of that storied baseball program, and then an all-SWC campaign at Texas Tech, Wes was drafted by the Texas Rangers in the 1992 MLB Draft.

"It's all about being able to keep that jersey on and a lot of B.P.s (Batting Practices)," Wes said. "It all started coming together for me at Texas Tech. Those couple of years in the minors, I got the chance to see a lot of the country and meet a lot of great people."

While most of Wes' stories came after he graduated from here, one of Jimmy's best memories came when he helped the 1967 Golden Tornadoes go to state. After opening up the state tournament that year by holding off South San Antonio, 2-1, the '67 Golden Tornadoes finished as the state runners-up after falling to El Campo, 3-0, in the state finals.

Jimmy normally played clean up for those '67 Golden Tors hitting fourth in their batting order.

"Everybody was so excited about the way all of us pulled together as a team back then. We played well as a team, but then you've still got to have great pitchers," Jimmy pointed out. "Plus, it always helps having guys like the Tijerinas

(Amador and Carlos) back then."

It was Amador Tijerina who went onto play shortstop for the Texas Longhorns' 1972 Southwest Conference championship team, which finished third in the College World Series that year by topping Ole Miss and Oklahoma.

Sometimes blood really is thicker than water. Wes' son, Kooper, also played four years of college baseball like his dad the last two for Tarleton State in the Western Athletic Conference after starting out his college career at Weatherford Junior College.

Growing up, Wes admits that he heard a lot of stories about dad, Jimmy, at the plate.

"The other day I ran into Glenn Hogg and he couldn't stop talking about how good dad was, but then Glenn was a pretty good ball player himself," Wes said. "Dad even went on to play pro fast pitch softball. You could do a lot of things with that kind of talent.

"I've heard a lot of stories about how far dad could hit a softball. I've heard a lot of people talk about how much noise was fixing to happen any time dad got in that batter box."

Jimmy played 15 years of pro fastpitch softball.

"We played against a lot of good players and good pitchers back then. One time we even played in an all-star game against South Africa," Jimmy recalled. "That really was a good

trip. They treated us like royalty.

"We even got fed steak dinners over there."

Wes has a few stories of his own from the game, including one toward the end of the 1993 spring training at Port Charlotte, Fla.

"Nolan (Ryan) just happened to be there that day. He needed a little work before making his next start," Wes said of Ryan, who struck out 5,714 in his Hall of Fame career. "They picked four of us minor league guys to hit off of him. I just happened to be one of them.

"Tom House, the Rangers' pitching coach, was even there. Not many guys can say that they got a home run off Nolan like I did that day. The autograph on that ball's fading, but pop (Jimmy) has got it in a shadow box."

Home runs were never anything new to Wes, who was already hitting balls out of ballparks on a 1982 Lamesa Little League team which finished its season down at state in Waco.



Wes Shook



Jim Shook

"That was just another one of those great experiences which this game gave me," Wes said.

They were fun to watch as well.

"That shows the importance of starting out young and then keep playing. Off of that team, (Tim) Demerson and Wes (Shook) ended up going to the pros," Jimmy recalled. "(Johnnie) Ellis caught in college at Lamar and (Brian) Mayfield ended up playing college basketball at SMU."

As many friends that Wes met outside of Dawson County, he's still got several right here.

"Back in high school, I enjoyed playing for Coach (Tony) Griego. Lamesa was a great place to grow up at," Wes said. "Growing up, I met a lot of great people there. I've still got a lot of good friends still there."

Now at 75 years old, Jimmy is in his 35th year as an agent here at Texas Farm Bureau.

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Tennis was Estrada's game

Chris Estrada is quick to admit that golf has replaced tennis. Back in his days, this 1991 Lamesa High School graduate had to rank up there as one of that game's best.

In fact, Estrada is considered one of the few Golden Tornadoes to finish their high school tennis careers at state. Doubles takes two. Even today, Chris is quick to admit that having a doubles partner like he did in Alan Davis definitely helps.

"I kept going between singles and doubles as far as what was I going to go. I finally decided that I'd be better playing doubles with Alan. I just thought that would be the best way for me," Estrada noted. "Me and Alan never played much doubles together before that year.

"Back then, Alan always played doubles with his brother Joe Brian."

It didn't take long to see that they did the right things their senior years.

"I always had good groundstrokes, but I wasn't much of a net player. But that was Alan's comfort zone," Estrada said. "Alan was a lot taller than I was and he had a good reach, so he was a lot better than what I was at the net."

And it was. In fact, Chris actually played in two state tennis tournaments back then. Estrada and his Golden Tornado teammates also went to state in team tennis at New Braunfels.

Back then, it was another Lamesa High School graduate Clay Wright who was the Golden Tornadoes' head tennis coach just like it is now with Jose Lucio.

"I really could have played varsity tennis all four years in high school but back then Coach Wright thought all of us freshmen should play on the JV. We played a lot of the same people that they do now, like Brownfield, Levelland and Big Spring," Estrada recalled.

It wasn't too long ago when Estrada and Lucio got the chance to play doubles together in a tournament.

"I hadn't swung a racket it seemed like in 50 years and that might have turned



Chris Estrada

out being a mistake for me. My elbow killed me afterwards, especially from serving," Estrada said. "It just hurt so bad."

Chris didn't only prove himself as a tennis player on the high school level, but on the college scene as well at West Texas A&M. Estrada played number one men's singles and number one men's doubles back in his college days.

One of Estrada's college doubles partners was from France.

"My stereotype of the French changed drastically. He wasn't one of those Pepe Le Pews," Estrada recalled. "This guy was cocky and arrogant."

Before serving it up in college, Estrada won both Lubbock and Houston sectionals back as a 16 as well as a 17-year old.

"I nearly lost my first match that I ever played down there at Houston. The ball was barely clearing the net," Estrada said. "After I finally started hitting the ball harder and deeper in all of that humidity, I came back and won the whole tournament."

Back in their days, Chris wasn't the only person in his family who could swing a racket. Chris' sister Bella Estrada, a 1992 Lamesa High School graduate, was one of the better female tennis players to play for the Golden Tornadoes.

Their older brother Norman wasn't bad either in his days. This all started with their mother Elsa who was pretty tough in this game as well when the

local ladies played on the court located at the Lamesa Country Club.

"Bella played singles all four years in high school. Albert Martinez used to joke about throwing a ball out on the court between Bella and me to see what would happen," Chris recalled. "That might have ended up in a fight between us. I can't ever remember us playing against each other.

"I guess we were all three naturally gifted. If it wasn't in tennis then it was our music."

Growing up, it really wasn't as much tennis as it was football or even baseball.

"Growing up, I was a pretty good football player. Once I won a PPK (Punt, Pass and Kick)," Estrada said. "I was always fast."

"When I was younger I loved playing baseball. I was even a lefty."

After Estrada felt like it was time to put up the racket, he switched to softball. There he ended up playing a lot of ball with friends like Jason Moreno and Michael Lucio.

"For a while it seemed like we were hitting up a tournament somewhere nearly every weekend and I could play a little. After that it was golf," Estrada noted. "Back then, my parents were playing lots of golf. I started playing lots of tournament golf.

"It doesn't hurt now that I live right around the corner from the golf course here."

All three of the Estrada siblings are working in the medical field. Norman is a Lubbock nurse. Bella is a supply manager. Chris is an Occupational therapist in Midland. After still calling Lamesa home, Chris makes the drive to Midland pretty much every day of the week.

"I'm working at one of the biggest re-habs in the country. It's 106 beds," Chris said.

Just like he did when he started playing doubles in his high school tennis career with the Golden Tornadoes, Estrada has had a tendency to make right choices both in sports as well as jobwise.



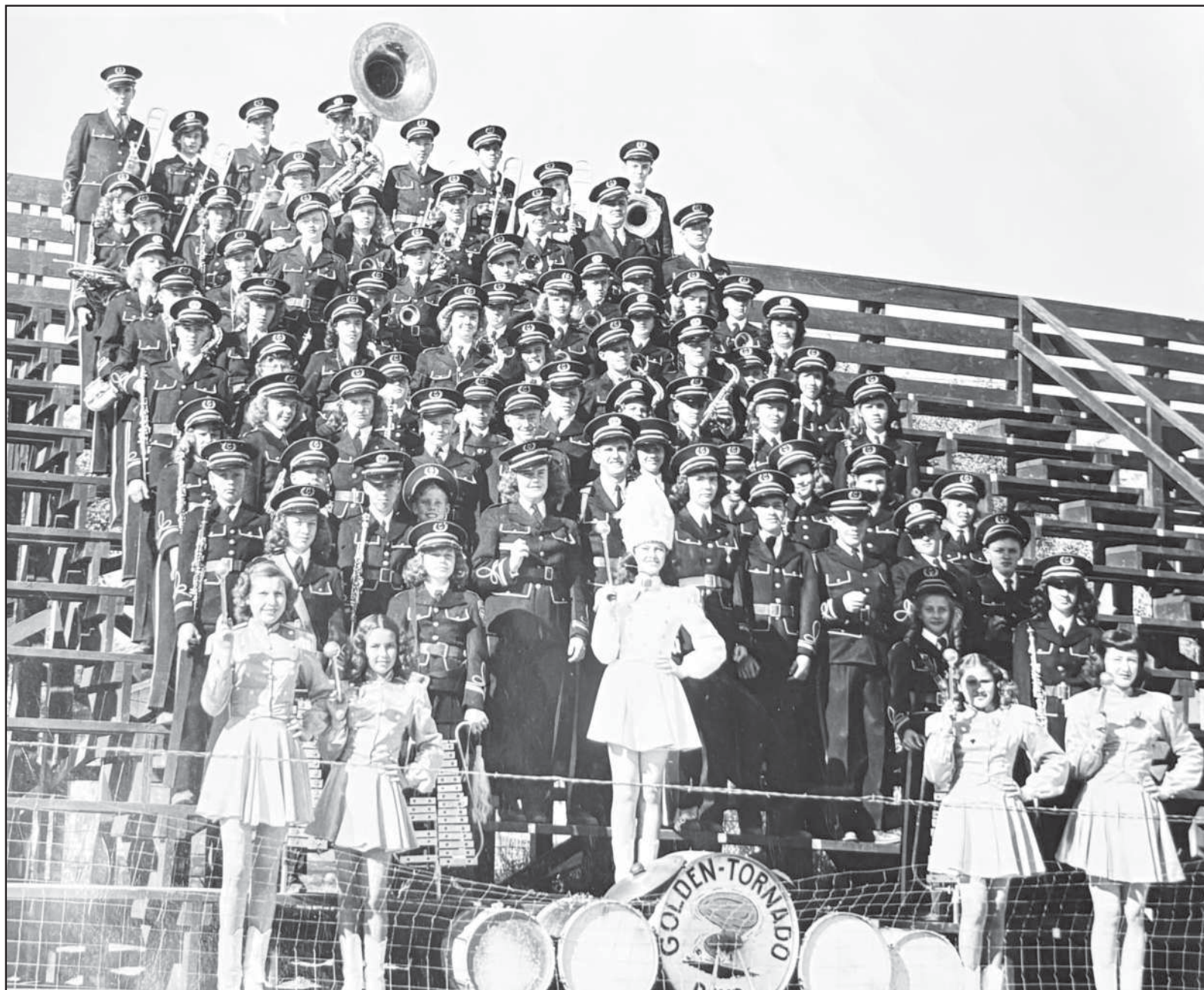
1940s Tennis

Photo taken by Buster Herndon- Submitted by Ann Hollis Ward



Davis, Wiggins (Coach) McCollum, Dodson, Mitchell, Hart, Bryant, McWhorter, Gaultney, Bardin.

1925 Athletics



1940s Golden Tornado Band

Photo taken by Buster Herndon- Submitted by Ann Hollis Ward

Mighty Casey at bat; still seeing Gold today

Lamesa High School ex Casey Sumpter was at this year's Class 2A State Softball Tournament at Red and Charline McCombs Field, home of the new NCAA college softball champion Texas Longhorns back on May 29.

Shiner went in that week, hoping to repeat as the Class 2A Division II state champs but, Sundown denied the Comanches with the Roughnecks coming out on top 9-3 in that final game. It was the Roughneck's first state championship in that sport. By doing so, Sundown's girls finished at 35-6.

Sumpter's nieces Camry Jourden and Emry Jourden were among the Roughnecks' medal winners. As Sundown's leadoff batter, Emry Jourden had one hit, one RBI and scored one run. Batting sixth, Camry had two hits, one RBI and scored one run.

It's no wonder both young ladies made the all-state tournament team.

Watching his nieces get presented their gold state medals, Casey probably couldn't help but remember memories of his own back in 2001 and 2002 when he was a two-time Class 3A State Cross Country Championship winner. Sumpter won state his junior year with a time of 16:19.5 before winning state again his senior year with a time of 16:21.9.

Afterwards, it was hard to tell who was prouder the girls' uncle Casey or their grandparents Frank and Ida Sumpter of Lamesa.

"We were all played out from all of that travelling or celebrating. That was tough to do all of that in a week, but with the girls being only juniors you really never know what might happen next year," Frank Sumpter said.

Although Casey was crowned 3A's fastest in back-to-back years, he was in the mood for celebrating only once after his heroic accompaniment.

"Even if cross country is in the fall of every year, it was still like 90 degrees down in the Austin area, plus all of that humidity down in that area. Right after the race, I was in the EMS tent for at least the next 20 minutes," Sumpter recalled. "I couldn't make it to the podium that year."

"That second year we ran back down there, and it turned out being a lot sweeter."

That same strength, duration and endurance paid off for Sumpter in the form of a silver medal in the 3,200-meter run his senior year at the Class 3A State Track Championships after being clocked at 9:55.

"I was like a second away from winning that race, too," Sumpter said.

Although Casey looked like a natural born runner to many, especially down at Round Rock or in Austin, it didn't start out that way.

"Back in junior high, Coach (Kurt) Pierce had what he called the R.O.Y.'s (Rest of Ya'lls)," Sumpter said. "Dad (Frank) wanted

to know my eighth grade year if I wanted to run a little better. I told dad I was all for it."

Casey Sumpter ended up winning that race his eighth grade year and like they say the rest was history.

After running at state four times in his final two years in high school, Sumpter wasn't done running yet.

Sumpter got a scholarship to run at Arkansas, where the Razorbacks were considered one of the best college track programs for many a years. The Razorbacks lead the pack with 51 national running championships.

"Arkansas is one that is always pretty good in both track as well as in cross country," Sumpter said. "Arkansas is the place where most of your high school All-Americans go run at."

"Back then, there were a couple of Olympic qualifiers from Ireland running out there."

There's an old sports adage which reads 'If you want to the best, you've got to beat the best.'

"I kept giving it every year, but it wasn't enough," Sumpter said.

Like in any sport, Sumpter discovered many of those important life lessons through all of that running.

A big key to being a successful runner was being consistent. Sumpter continues to follow that ethic even today in the race in life.



THREE'S GREAT COMPANY
Lamesa High School's two-time Class 3A state cross country champion runner Casey Sumpter is pictured with nieces Camey and Emry Jourden allstate tournament honorees on Sundwon's Class 2A state championship softball team.

submitted photo

the importance of family.

"After being deployed to Iraq as long as I was, I realize how much my family meant to me and how much I love them," Sumpter said.

At home in Waxahachie, Casey and his wife Mindy, a Special Education teacher, have two children a 10-year-old daughter Gracelon and

an eight-year-old son Noah.

"Our daughter's an athlete. She loves volleyball and I love it too as a sport," Casey said.

"Gracelon is also a two-time national champion in dance."



1925 Baseball



Hastings, Boswell, Coach Stephenson, Gaultney, Key.
Hastings, Latson, Conklin, Simpson.

1925 Basketball

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Life in fast lane with Tors' Woodberry

Lamesa High School has been blessed with an abundance of high quality athletes to come through its halls, but one of the fastest has got to be 1988 LHS graduate Gerry Woodberry.

Whether it was down at the state track meet at Mike A. Myers Stadium in Austin or the National Junior College Championships or NCAA Division I Championships, Woodberry normally finished at the front of the pack.

Why not? With 10.15 speed in the 100 and 20.5 in the 200, it's hard to envision Woodberry finishing second to many, and he didn't outside of once finishing second his junior season in the Class 4A State Track.

An injury riddled senior campaign prevented Woodberry from making a return to state, but his running days were long from being over with.

"When I was in junior high, I was already running an 11.2 in the 100 my eighth grade year," Woodberry said.

Woodberry, once dubbed 'Lightning' by Lamesa Press-Reporter Sports Editor Dwight Heins, started his college track career just up the road at South Plains College at Levelland. There, he made junior college All-American both in the 400-meter dash and 100 his freshman and sophomore years in college.

After SPC, Woodberry continued his running days in the old Southwest Conference by running for the Texas A&M Aggies, where he made NCAA Division All-

American both years in the 400-meter sprint relay and 100 and once in the 200.

"Back then, I also considered running at (Texas) Tech, TCU and Baylor as options. Texas A&M turned out being a great move for me as far as helping me accomplish the goals that I set for myself," Woodberry said.

Although Woodberry has a lot of memories from his college running days, there was one which stood out above the rest.

"We were at the national meet at LSU when we set a new national record time in the 4 X 100-meter relay with a time like 39.3. LSU ended up breaking that time the next day," Woodberry said.

Despite finishing his college track career as an All-American, Woodberry's running days were long from being over.

In fact, Woodberry would have qualified for the 1992 Olympics if it hadn't been for a technicality.

"I ran a good enough time back then to qualify (for the Olympics), but they didn't have the proper equipment," Woodberry said.

Back in 1993, Woodberry ran in the World Championship Trials at Eugene, Oregon where he once ran against Olympic greats like Dennis Mitchell and Mike Marsh.

"It was exciting to be out there against guys like them, but at the end of the day it's still what you can do against that clock. You've

always got to be focused on what you've got to do to accomplish what you want to accomplish," Woodberry said.

And even after Woodberry finished running track, the sport remained a big part of his life. Woodberry was the Golden Tornadoes' head boys track coach for 18 years.

"That was great not only helping kids compete in district but also the regional levels," Woodberry said.

"A lot of that was convincing kids that if they're willing to work hard enough great things can happen for them."

One of the highlights of Woodberry's Golden Tornado coaching career was coaching Lamesa High School's James Rodriguez in the 110-meter high hurdles to the state track meet in Austin in 2019.

Back in 2021, Woodberry moved to Lubbock, where sports continues being a focal point, as a junior high athletics coordinator.

After working at O.L. Slaton the past couple of years, Woodberry is now the junior high boys' coordinator at McKenzie Middle School which is the feeder for Class 6A Lubbock Coronado.

"It's all about helping these boys develop, which hopefully helps them compete better later," Woodberry said. "Hopefully what we're doing with these boys now makes a bigger impact on their high school careers."

Looking back, Woodberry



'88 TRACK STAR

Gerry Woodberry is pictured with his grandchildren, Kaleigh, Dreyden, Zamiah, Konnie, and Xzavion.

submitted photo

is glad that he's got roots right here in Lamesa. Gerry played on Lamesa's Little League baseball tournament which once qualified for state back in 1982.

"They've had a lot of great athletes come through Lamesa over the years. Lamesa's one of those hidden gems," Woodberry said. "You're going to find a lot of good kids -- good athletes

who take to good coaching." Woodberry and wife Tasha, a junior high English teacher, have six children between the two of them including their youngest Cadyan who graduated at Texas A&M on May 9.

Woodberry's mother Linda Woodberry, a retired nurse, still calls Lamesa home today.

The Woodberry family

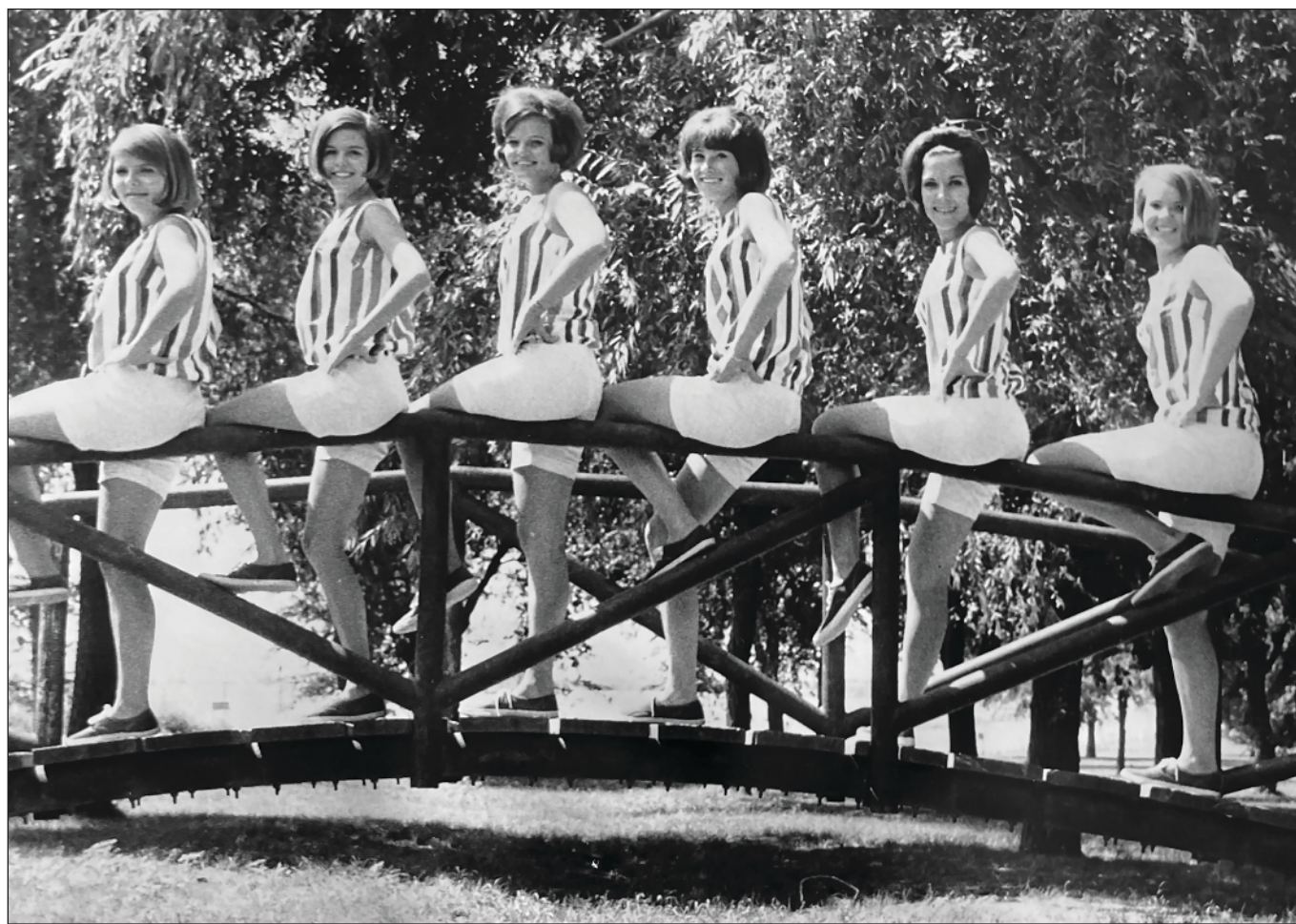
also includes six grandchildren between the ages of one and 10 years old.

"I've got a grandson who plays a lot of soccer. It looks like he's going to be an athlete someday," Woodberry said. "He's already got pretty good foot speed."

Imagine that!

65-66 Cheerleaders

L to R: Susan Jones, Kathy Crawley, Marilynn Crawley, Linda Stephens, Brenda Meeks and Jackie Alexander



1925 Sports From the '25 yearbook