

Thorndale Ex-Students

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I hope you all had a wonderful Independent Day week-end celebrating July 4. At least it wasn't quite so hot.

The BBQ Cook-Off had to be a real success. There were cars parked in every direction as far as the eye could see. We had a great turkey and dressing lunch with all the trimmings, so good. There were all sorts of arts and crafts, every sort of games, mainly baseball. There was music and dancing and the beautiful fire works display at the end of each day. Lots of work for the firemen and ladies auxiliary, but well worth it when it turns out so great.

We received a real sweet thank you note from Emily Northcott, Class of 2025 for the Thorndale Ex-Students Memorial Scholarship. She will be attending Blinn with an interest in Early Childhood Education. We send her our very best wishes.

We received a real nice donation from David and Starla Rodenbeck Hall, Class of 1985 and Allen Hall, Class of 2013 in memory of the late Richard Cook, Class of 1986. Richard passed away June 11, 2025. Our many thanks to the Halls as this keeps our scholarship program going strong.

So nice to see that RWE and McCarthy Building Companies donated \$5,000 to Thorndale Elementary School. They also made some repairs around multiple areas on the grounds. So nice and we send them our many thanks as, if I'm not mistaken, they are also the ones building our new High School Building on the East side of the football field. It's looking good with all the ground work being done and pipes sticking up. Can't wait to see it finished.

Thanks to dear niece, Jennifer Patschke Fisher, Class of 1970 for a couple of address changes as she works on their class reunion. Sure nice to get these address changes before we mail Homecoming invitations. So, if your address has changed since last years Homecoming, please please let us know. And 2025 Seniors, we need your addresses or you won't get an invitation. Homecoming is open to all, not just exes, but we are the ones that put it on.

Had one of those great, interesting letters from Wayne Chandler, Class of 1943 of Hurst. He thinks I can't read his writing, but I do just fine. He has written to us enough over the years that I'm used to his writing. I used to have to call him to verify some of his words from time to time, but not much any more. But I love visiting with him on the phone, too. He says to tell Jean Hejl "hello" for him. Mrs. Grace Fulcher Davis Berry, Class of 1915, Jean's grandmother, was like a second mother to him. He spent lots of time at her home playing with son, the late Neil Davis, Class of 1940 and his large train set in the small house in their back yard. They built a small town with roads, structures and had small toy cars. They also played with rubber guns. (Hadh't thought of a rubber gun in many years). The barn had a trap door in the loft. He said Neil became an electrician and the late James David Rutherford, Class of 1940 became a medical doctor in California after getting out of the Navy in WWII. Says Jean may know all this and I'm sure she does, but worth remembering. Always thanks to Wayne for his nice letters.

Congratulations to Major Bobby Niemtschk, Class of 1992 of South Korea. Probably his wife doing the pinning as her back was to the camera. He is a Chaplain in the U. S. Army. He had such a huge grin on his face. Great picture on Facebook, thanks to his mom.

I had a real nice surprise phone call from Debby Curry of Rockdale this last week. She wanted to know all about our Exes Homecoming and she told me about Rockdale's Homecoming that they just had. She was so nice and we had fun talking about the good and the bad. She also wants to talk later about our weekly newsletter. It was nice to compare and I got a few new good things to think about.

Just an interesting note: The Thorndale Area Chamber of Commerce will be holding their Chili Cook-Off on October 4, same day as Homecoming. But, it will be held on Salty Street, downtown according to their Facebook posting. Maybe some will come to Homecoming, too. We hope they have a good turn out.

10 Years Ago: Emergency crews from Rockdale, Thorndale and Cameron responded to the Worley Bridge over the San Gabriel River at Apache Pass at 4:14 p.m. Monday and pulled off a dramatic rescue. Witnesses told the The Reporter a group was floating down the rain-swollen river when 20-year-old Lamar Locklin of Rockdale became separated from his companions and was carried downstream in the swift current. Locklin managed to grab a large tree branch under the bridge. Rockdale and Thorndale VFD's dropped a harness, then Locklin was plucked off his precarious perch by Deputy Sheriff John Mendoza (red life preserver) and Game Warden Burk Burchett from a boat. An AMR paramedic crew also responded to the scene. No injuries were reported.

Federal and state charges alleging customers were "scammed" out of possibly hundreds of thousands of dollars by a Thorndale firm are anticipated as the result of an investigation that now includes the FBI and the Texas Attorney General. Thorndale Police Chief Martin Jackson said Cowboy Reflections, owned by Steven and Tammy Dorsett, has been the source of complaints since it opened in 2012. The couple, whose whereabouts are not currently known, were indicted for the

second time this year on Thursday by a Milam County Grand Jury. The Dorsetts, age 46 and 51, respectively are each charged with two counts of theft.

Yours and my friend, Barb Ewing came and had a sandwich lunch with me last Sunday. Always enjoy her visits. Brought some of those beautiful, huge, dark brown eggs, but forgot the obituaries. Nice lady and the obituaries are from surrounding communities that I don't get newspapers from. I thank her so much.

We can be found on the web at www.thorndale.txed.net or you can e-mail locojo@austin.rr.com. You can call 512-898-2072, leave a message with your school name and phone number and I will call you back. You can always write to Thorndale Ex-Students Assn., P. O. Box 393, Thorndale, TX 76577. We love to hear from our exes.