

Thorndale Ex-Students

512-898-2072 | PO BOX 393 THORNDALE, TX 76577 | LOCOJO@AUSTIN.RR.COM
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There is very little news this week. Thank goodness for Facebook because I can usually pick up a little there. Always so happy to report no deaths that we know of this week.

Double congratulations go out to Michael and Melanie Towery Kunkel, Class of 2002 of Gatesville. Melanie for being featured by Thorndale Independent School District as Alumni of the Month for March, 2025. Her husband, Michael was chosen Teacher of the Month for February, 2025 at Gatesville Intermediate. They make us proud.

Johnny Ray Limmer, Class of 1956 of Terrell and his wife, Kathern, have just celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary. Our congratulations to them and we wish them many more. Lovely pictures of their wedding and now posted on Facebook by their son, Andy. Johnny and wife come to Homecoming nearly every year and it's always good to see them.

Just a reminder, Homecoming is October 4, 2025 so be sure and mark your calendars. We need some volunteers this year as a couple of our great regulars won't be able to attend. If you are available and want to have a good day with lots of visiting, eating and maybe winning prizes, give me a call, e-mail, text or come by.

Happy April Fools Day on April 1. It's early, but my next newsletter will be after that date. Pranks are great fun if done safely and respectfully. Have a great day.

Dear cousin, Shirley Roepke Becker, Class of 1955 called to see if I wanted to go to Rockdale to eat fish for supper. I was in the middle of baking Amish bread so couldn't leave. Well, she offered to bring me a plate and I love fish. So she did and it was great. Two or three other folks went along so I missed a fun time. My many thanks to Shirley for being so nice. By the way, she really bounced back fully after the two procedures she went through a couple of weeks ago. She's amazing.

Thorndale Bulldog Baseball team beat Bartlett last week to move them to 3-0 in district play at this writing. Nice picture on the front of the Champion. Our congratulations to them. Go!!! Dogs!!!

Dear niece, Jennifer Patschke Fisher, Class of 1970 called about a chicken fried steak plate at St. Paul. I saw it advertised on Facebook and told her I wanted one. It was a fund raiser for a class or organization at St. Paul. So sweet of her to offer to bring it to me. Then she sent me a text that there was a fund raiser at the High School of a fish plate and she had put my name there. So, she's bringing me two plates about a week or ten days apart. My thanks to her.

Congratulations to Case McDaniel and Brandon Pickel for being named to the TABC 2A Regional IV All-Region Team. This is basketball and we are so proud of them. Nice big picture posted on Facebook by dear Jennifer Patschke Fisher, Class of 1970 and my thanks to her.

Mine and exes friend, Barb Ewing came by for an early visit. She has a friend coming to visit her in April from Alaska and she was busy getting ready. Always enjoy her visits.

FYI: I know most of you already know all the following as I've written it before.

Five years after the town of Thorndale was established in 1878, the first school house was built in 1883, a one room building. The first trustees were: J. K. Quinn (our street is named after him), J. C. Elliott, and George Gresham. Miss Annie Clement, sister to Sam Clement was the first teacher.

This building was used until 1905 when a new, 2-room building, white frame building was built. The late Grace Fulcher Davis Berry, Class of 1915 said. "It was the most glistening white we'd ever seen."

In 1914, a 3-story brick building with 12 classrooms and on the 3rd floor, an auditorium. In 1915, Mrs. Berry and 4 other women constituted the first class to graduate from this building. (11th grade)

August 17, 1913 a law was made which created the Thorndale Independent School District.

The building cost \$16,496.00 and was built in 6 1/2 months. There were 4 teachers and the 11th grade was added in 1914-1915 with 5 to graduate.

Before TISD was created, there were 9th and 10th grade graduates in 1911. 3 10th graders and 4 9th graders No graduates in 1912 since 2 years graduated in 1911. In 1913, 3 graduated. No graduates in 1914.

The 12th grade was added in 1941-1942 school year.

On July 2, 1940, a tornado took the top floor off of the building. So, after major repairs, the school became a 2 story building until 1965 when the current middle school was built as a high school. This until 1998 when the current high school was built East of the 1965 high school.

The first gym, a wooden building, was built in 1934 where the current Ag building is located.

In 1945, an old barracks opened where the current tennis courts are now located as a cafeteria.

The 2nd gym which still stands, brick was built in 1949. The old gym was torn down.

In 1998, the 3rd gym was included with the new high school. The old gym remains for elementary and junior high use.

More next time.

We can be found on the web at www.thorndale.txed.net. You can e-mail locojo@austin.rr.com or you can call 512-898-2072. If I don't answer, leave a message with your maiden 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.