

Thorndale Ex-Students

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When you get this it will probably be March. My how time flies. March is named for the Roman god of war, Mars. This was the time of year to resume military campaigns that had been interrupted by winter. Remember to VOTE. Tuesday March 5 is the Primary, so take time and vote if you didn't vote early like I always do. That way, I can go on a day to my choosing.

Our condolences go out to the family of Teresa J. Leal who passed away February 8, 2024 at the age of 99 years. She was grandmother to Sunny McDaniel Gebhart, Class of 1997 of Round Rock. We know Mrs. Leal will be missed by many loved ones. Thanks to Sunny for posting this sad news.

We are so proud of our Bulldog basketball team who beat Shiner in Bi-district (69-32) and Mumford in Area (53-43). There were several nice colored pictures in the Rockdale paper. Our congratulations to the whole team and a special congratulations to Kaden Kover, Class of 2024 for hitting a milestone of 1,000 career points.

Had a call from dear neighbor across the street, Geraldine Biar, Class of 1957 to see how I am doing. She noticed that my sweet dear niece had picked up my mail for me and saw my Jeff here which he comes every week and most times more often. So sweet of her to think of me. Doing better every day. Can even walk some without the walker. Age and I just don't seem to get along very well. Thanks for the call, Geraldine. I really appreciate it.

Carol Ware, Class of 1982, sent her current mailing address in Hutto. She is our newest ex-student and glad to have her.

Our tennis team came in third at the Caldwell Tournament in mixed doubles. the Lady Bulldogs golf team took 1st place in the Thrall Tournament. The Bulldogs golf team placed 2nd. Thorndale High School powerlifters did well, too. At the Aggieldand Showdown meet in College Station, 1 placed 4th, 2 took 1st place in their weight classes and 1 had a 3rd place finish. How about that!!! Our student athletes are tops and make us so proud. Our congratulations to all who competed.

I had a call from dear friend, Bette Lee Graham Youngblood, Class of 1954 of Bryan and we always have a few phone tags before we catch each other. It's always so much fun to visit with her and so happy to hear that she loves her new living arrangement which sounds wonderful.

Dear sweet niece, Jennifer Patschke Fisher, Class of 1970 had a birthday this week. She called to see if I needed my mail picked up but my Jeff had just been here and picked it up. So sweet to think of me and I thank her so much.

There was a nice article and picture in the paper about Thrall school leaders honored in Florida. Russell Richter, Class of 1986, director of safety and custodial services at the Thrall school, was honored for a national award nomination through the District Administrative Leadership Institute. He and the Thrall Superintendent were invited to be honored at the superintendent summit on December 13-15 in Naples, Florida. The two were in the picture and we congratulate Russell and Thrall Schools.

Dear sweet niece, Glenda Lehman Merz, Class of 1968 came for a visit and it's always so good to get a visit with her. We have so much family and many friends in common. I always save anything in the papers that might concern her and her family and pass it on to them. And as always, thanks for the goodies. Always love having you visit.

Dear friend, Shirley Rutherford Parker, Class of 1956 of LaGrange called this week and it's always such a thrill to hear from her. She wanted us to know that the late Kenneth Gifford, Jr., Class of 1969 who passed away January 19, 2024 was her nephew. Our condolences to her for this loss. She told me that in the facility where she lives, they vote every year for a Valentines Day King and Queen. Shirley was voted Queen, so we now have more royalty among our exes. (Others are our Homecoming Kings and Queens) As always, thanks for the call Shirley. We enjoy your news.

Exes Secretary, dear Jami Pounders Becker, Class of 1998 came by and picked up the ex-students mail. We also had scholarship money that she takes care of. Many thanks, Jami.

100 Year Ago: Everything is in readiness for the girl's county basketball tournament to be played here (I assume "here" is Cameron, but it could possibly have been Rockdale) Friday and Saturday of this week. Thirteen teams have notified H. B. Hughes, county athletic director, that they will enter. The schools which will compete are Thorndale, Bryant Station, Val Verde, Sharp, Pleasant Hill, Jones Prairie, Buckholts, Fox, Ben Arnold, Tracy, Duncan, Salty and Rockdale. (I hope in the next week or so that they tell us how it came out.) Many thanks to the Rockdale paper for this interesting memory. FYI: A long time ago all schools were run by a District superintendent located in the county seat and they made most major decisions. This order was still in effect when I worked at the school from 1967 to 1983. If I remember correctly, it all ended before I left in 1983. All records were kept at the county seat but when it ended they were all sent to each school in the area.

FYI: Meteorologically speaking, the official first day of Spring is March 1 and the last day is May 31.

Astronomically speaking, the first day of Spring is marked by the spring equinox, which falls on March 19, 20, or 21 every year. The equinox happens at the same moment worldwide, although our clocktimes reflect a different time zone.

Interesting, due to time zone differences, there isn't a March 21 equinox in mainland U.S. during the entire 21st century! We won't see a March 21 equinox again until 2101.

Bluebirds are a sign of spring; warm weather and gentle south breezes they bring. Thanks to the Old Farmers 2022 Almanac for this interesting article.

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 maiden name and phone number. You can always write to Thorndale Ex-Students Assn., P. O. Box 393, Thorndale, TX 76577. We love to hear from our exes.