

W.H.S. Smoke Signals

VOLUME 53

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Happy 50th Anniversary!

Guess who just turned 50? Your Ex-Students' Association! This year marks a significant milestone for us and we plan to celebrate the occasion. You are cordially invited to join in the festivities planned.

The year 1961 was a year of many firsts and beginnings - we have listed a few inside for those of you that like a good walk down memories lane. Our association's founding was the result of lots of hard work by several Waxahachie graduates with a vision of what a former student association could bring to their high school alma mater and com-

munity. We owe them a great debt and would like to recognize their contribution in this issue.

Another significant event is the grand opening of the renovated Lumpkins Stadium. Construction

the most beautiful stadium in Ellis County!

And, of course, we have to talk about Homecoming 2011. This year the Indians opponent will be neighboring Navarro County

nemesis Corsicana. Activities begin on Friday with the parade and football game, and continuing into the weekend. We hope that this year you will join with classmates to cele-

brate the old and the new of Waxahachie High School.



is still ongoing but should be complete in time for the Indians football season home opener on September 23 against Red Oak. If you haven't witnessed the work while underway we encourage you to drop by this season to see

**Go, Indians!!!
Beat the Tigers!!**

Schedule of Events

Friday, October 7, 2011

Homecoming Parade - 3:00 p.m.

Honor classes may join the festivities by entering a float in the Homecoming parade. Look for entry forms in the Waxahachie Daily Light. Questions should be directed to Kim Axtell at WHS - (972) 923-4600. All WHS Ex-Students are invited to ride on our float in the Homecoming Parade! Call Bill Baty at (972) 937-3039 for meet up details.

Homecoming Football Game

Pre-game activities begin at 7:00 p.m. with kick-off scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Classes wishing to reserve a space to sit together at the game should contact Kim Axtell at the High School.

Saturday, October 8, 2011

11:00 a.m. Annual Ex-Students' Honors and Awards Luncheon

All students and their guests are invited to attend the 50th annual Ex-Students' luncheon. We will gather at the Ninth Grade Academy Cafeteria located across Indian Drive from the High School. Information for making reservations is inside the newsletter.



2011
HONOR
CLASS
CONTACTS

Class of 1951	<u>60 Year Reunion</u> Bette Forrest Reaser - 972-937-7406 James Shank - 972-937-6484
Class of 1956	<u>55 Year Reunion</u> Dinner October 8 at 6:00 p.m. at Ta Molly's - 1735 Hwy 77N Contact Beverly McCullough - bevbmcc@gmail.com
Class of 1961	<u>50 Year Reunion</u> Julius Zsohar - janetzsohar@att.net Jeanette Stoffregen - hjstoffregen@sbcglogal.net
Class of 1966	<u>45 Year Reunion</u> Linda Hutchins - LHutchins48@msn.com
Class of 1971	<u>40 Year Reunion</u> Brenda Fincher Donnell - 972-935-2231 Monica Pearman Wilson - 972-935-8657
Class of 1976	<u>35 Year Reunion</u> Patty Anderson Griffith Smith Facebook: Waxahachie High School Class of '76
Class of 1981	<u>30 Year Reunion</u> Jennifer Howell Kelley Paul Navarro Connect on Facebook: WHS Class of 1981 Reunion
Class of 1991	<u>20 Year Reunion</u> Tisha Eppler Casey - tishaandjoe@hotmail.com Facebook: Waxahachie Class of 1991
Class of 1996	<u>15 Year Reunion</u> Les Hendrix - 469-261-2653 or notw2247@gmail.com Event tickets & details at http://whsclassof1996.eventbrite.com
Class of 2001	<u>10 Year Reunion</u> Melissa McClain-Lewis - melissa@melissamccclainlewis.com Facebook: Waxahachie High School Class of 2001 Ten Year Reunion
Class of 2006	<u>5 Year Reunion</u> Facebook: Waxahachie Hish School Class of 2006

For more information on each reunion visit the Waxahachie Ex-Students' website: www.waxahachieexstudents.org

Would You Like to Receive Your Smoke Signals by Email?

Do you send and receive email? Would you prefer to get your copy of the Smoke Signals by email rather than by postal service? We can help you here. Just check the box on your membership form (see page 7) or contact us on Facebook. Copies of past Smoke Signals are also available at the WHS Ex-Students website: www.waxahachieexstudents.org.

If you prefer to continue the current service you do not have to do anything - it will continue to come to you by mail.

A Message From President Bill Baty

The WHS 2011 homecoming will be one to remember. Many new and exciting activities are happening at your high school alma mater.

The new football stadium will be dedicated on September 9th. It is a beautiful state of the art structure built to serve us for years to come. Many graduated classes will be proud of their engraved brick purchased in the walkway's giant "W" in honor of their class. I hope you had an opportunity to participate in that historic tribute.

The Ex-Students' Association has something to celebrate as well. For the first time ever, on May 16th, we presented two

scholarships to deserving WHS 2011 graduates. The second scholarship was made possible by a \$4,000 contribution from the 1960 honor class last year. Those scholarship recipients will attend the luncheon.

The luncheon this year will be very special because the Association will celebrate its 50th anniversary. Yes, 50 years ago, in 1961 a group of eleven individuals gathered to create the first board of directors. This year we honor those original board members. Two of the original members will join us while others will be represented by either a child or grandchild at the luncheon.

To add to the excitement, several members of the original 1961 Cherokee Charmers will join us to commemorate their 50th anniversary.

Honor classes this year are those that graduated in a year ending with a "1" or "6". Those classes will honor their special members with "Who's Who" and "Hall of Fame" awards, so send in your nominees.

We look forward to this October's homecoming activities with great anticipation. Please join us for the luncheon, parade and various class reunions. Look for us in the homecoming parade and find us on Facebook or check out our website at www.waxahachieexstudents.org.

Bill Baty
Class of 1956

Nominations Needed for Who's Who and Hall of Fame

All classes, honor or otherwise, may nominate a classmate for either the 2011 WHS Who's Who and/or Hall of Fame Awards. The Who's Who award honors the achievement and distinction of individuals who have excelled in business or profession. The Hall of Fame award honors the achievement and distinction not related to vocation, such as someone who has excelled beyond the call of duty in the civic or social obligations or volunteer capacities. Those selected as recipients will be honored at the Homecoming Luncheon. Classes are requested to nominate only one candidate for each award category.

Nominations should include the following information:

- Complete name (including maiden name),
- Year of graduation from WHS,
- High school achievements and activities,
- Colleges attended and degrees obtained,
- Career or profession achievements,
- Armed services record (if applicable),
- Civic and /or social activities,
- A detailed account of the special achievement upon which the nomination is based and
- Be signed by ten (10) classmates.

The deadline for receipt of nominations is Friday, September 9th.

Nomination forms are available on the Ex-Students' website: www.waxahachieexstudents.org

All nominations should be sent to:

Bob Aday
WHS Honors Committee
P.O. Box 2894
Waxahachie, TX 75168
(972) 938- 2086



"The luncheon this year will be very special because the Association will celebrate its 50th anniversary. Yes, 50 years ago, in 1961 a group of eleven individuals gathered to create the first board of directors. This year we honor those original board members."



Lumpkins Stadium Dedication

On Friday, September 9, 2011 Waxahachie ISD will host a dedication ceremony for the newly renovated Stuart B. Lumpkins stadium. The community is invited to participate in this event. In addition, the district has extended an invitation to those VARSITY football alumni who played in Lumpkins Stadium (1972 – present) to return and participate in the dedication ceremony. Indian Varsity football alumni will be seated on the track and will take part in the ceremony itself in the “finale’.”

The schedule for events for Friday, September 9th is as follows:

6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Varsity Alumni “Check In” at Lumpkins Stadium. Check in will be by Decade (70’s, 80’s, 90’s and 2000’s)
Obtain Stadium Pass & Alumni Shirt. You **MUST** have stadium pass to gain access to the track where you will be sitting.

7:15 p.m.

Alumni Group Picture on Field. Meet your “Decade Leader” and Listen to Dedication Ceremony Instructions.

7:45 p.m.

Take Seats in your Reserved Section on Track. (Will sit by decade – 70’s, 80’s, 90’s and 2000’s).

8:00 p.m. Dedication Ceremony Begins.

Source: <http://www.waxahachieindians.com/media/2011/stadiumform.pdf>

Optimist Building Renovation CD Benefit

The Final Showdown Band is selling a compilation CD of its most requested songs to help raise funds for the restoration of the Optimist Youth Center Building located at 219 Patrick Street. The renovation effort is being led by Waxahachie resident Bryan Johnson, with an estimate of \$160,000 needed for the renovation. Johnson has said if \$80,000 can be raised by the community, he will donate the remaining \$80,000.

The Final Showdown CD is available at the Waxahachie Daily Light office, 200 W. Marvin Ave. The CD is being sold for \$10 each, with all proceeds from CD sales going to the renovation fund. Donations may also be made at Citizens National Bank of Texas, c/o Optimist Building Fund. For additional information, contact Dave Eder at davelee75165@yahoo.com.

Indians 2011 Football Schedule



Dates	Opponent	Time
Aug. 27	@ FM Marcus (Carrollton)	7:30
Sept. 2	@ Dallas Carter (Kincaide)	7:30
Sept. 9	Open	
Sept. 16	@ Terrell*	7:30
Sept. 23	Red Oak*	7:30
Sept. 30	@ Forney*	7:30
Oct. 7	Corsicana* (<i>Homecoming</i>)	7:30
Oct. 13	@ West Mesquite* (Memorial)	7:00
Oct. 21	Lancaster* (<i>Pink Out Night</i>)	7:30
Oct. 28	@ Ennis*	7:30
Nov. 4	Mesquite Poteet* (<i>Parent' Night</i>)	7:30
* District games		
Source: http://www.waxahachieindians.com/index-4.html		

So What's the Problem with 50?

OK, OK, I can already hear the comments about this article: "Hear we go, another youngster complaining about being 50! Why, I'd take 50 again any day..." or so it goes. Well, speaking as one of the those who recently turned 50 (well, two years ago is not that far back) I would like to point out that, well, nothing is wrong with it. I may not have been looking forward to it but I would rather keep having birthdays than not. So instead of listing complaints (why do pants keep getting smaller?) I will instead point out a few others that turned the Big 5-0 in 2011:

- Meg Ryan
- Ricky Gervais
- Julia Louis-Dreyfus
- Billy Ray Cyrus
- Fabio
- Carl Lewis
- George Clooney
- Isiah Thomas
- Toby Keith
- Heather Locklear

- George Lopez
- Wayne Gretzky
- Melissa Etheridge
- President Barack Obama
- Sean Hannity
- Scott Baio
- Ralph Macchio
- Dennis Rodman
- Eddie Murphy
- Woody Harellson
- Michael J. Fox
- Leif Garrett
- Wynton Marsalis

In addition, these also turned 50 this year:

- Berlin Wall
- Barbie's buddy, Ken
- *Breakfast at Tiffany's*
- Charlie the Tuna
- The Peace Corp
- Six Flags over Texas

- Mr. Bubble
- Pampers
- *Catch-22*
- Jaguar Type-E automobile
- Manned space flight

Finally, I note one other party turning 50 this year, one a little closer to home: our own Cherokee Charmers started back in 1961.

"Happy Birthday, Charmers!"

Fifty never looked so good!



2011 WHS Ex-Students' Association Scholarship



The 2011 recipient of the WHS Ex-Students' scholarship is Whitney Ground. She is the daughter of Paul and Sheryl Ground. Whitney will attend Texas Christian University where she will study biology and pre-med. While at WHS, Whitney was in the top 2 percent of her class, was student council vice president, and was ranked number 7 in her class.

Whitney's decision to attend

TCU and study pre-med was due to TCU having a strong pre-med program, along with a large Alpha Epsilon Delta chapter, a pre-health student honor society that is very involved with the surrounding hospitals. "I chose my major because I have always loved to help people, particularly children, and I believe becoming a doctor who is involved in a pediatric specialty would be a great way to help kids."

Whitney is also unique in that she is the second in her family to receive the WHS Ex-Students' scholarship. Her brother, Cody Ground, was the scholarship recipient in 2008. "It means a lot knowing that both my brother and I have earned this scholarship because throughout my life I have always done my best to excel academically like my brother has."

Class of 1960 Cecile Autrey Ham Memorial Scholarship



The recipient of the Class of 1960 Cecile Autrey Ham Memorial scholarship is Paige Hill. She is the daughter of Liz and Randy Nesuda, and Terry and Becky Hill. Both mom and dad are graduates of WHS. Paige will be attending the University of Mary Hardin Baylor in Belton where she will be pursuing a degree in nursing.

"I chose UMHB because of its amazing nursing program and

its Christian-centered learning environment. Ever since I was young I wanted to be in the medical field and I feel like the Lord pushed me in the direction of nursing."

When asked about who inspires her to succeed, Paige listed a particular teacher and her family. "My most inspiring teacher is Mr. Fields! He has a full load of high school and college classes he teaches and has his family, but he still man-

ages to show up everyday excited and full of life. And my family is really important to me. We do everything as a family, always. We go to every sport game that someone is in and they all push everyone to succeed. My family just radiates what I want my relationship to be when I am older; I want a close-knit family, willing to love anyone, and loves to support one another."

A Scholarship in Your Class Name

For the first time in Association history, two scholarships were presented on Scholarship Night in May to deserving WHS 2011 graduates. The second scholarship was made possible by a \$4,000 contribution from the 1960 honor class at last year's luncheon, thus making the class of 1960 the first class to participate in a new scholarship program begin in 2009.

This new program creates a scholarship in the name of the alumni class making the contribution. President Bill Baty, who suggested

this program, described it as "an opportunity to increase awareness of the contribution that the honor classes make to the scholarship fund and recognize the class' generosity at the annual luncheon."

This new scholarship can be either a one-time award or reoccurring award. Contributions would be separately identified within the existing WHS Ex-Students' Scholarship Fund. Students to receive the scholarship are selected by the Scholarship Recipient Committee, the same committee that selects the

current Ex-Students' scholarship recipient. The scholarship is then presented by a member of your alumni class at the annual WHS scholarship night .

There are several benefits of to this program. It allows more than one student to receive a scholarship each year, while providing the alumni class access to a recognized scholarship selection process and tax-protected trust fund account.

If you have questions regarding this program, please contact Bill Baty or Alton Chambers.

WHS Ex-Students' Association, Inc.:

Our Mission Statement

To encourage and motivate former students of Waxahachie High School to reunite with their classmates, teachers and friends, and to support current WHS graduates in achieving their higher educational goals through recognition and scholarships.

2011 Officers

President	Bill Baty (1956)
Vice President	Kim (Hallabough) Garlitz (1983)
Treasurer	Alton Chambers (1976)
Secretary	Nancy (Anderson) Ross (1960)

2011 Directors

Bob Aday (1968)
Paul Box (1998)
Phyllis (Hall) Chambers (1977)
Carolyn (Roberts) Jenkins (1960)
Mike Smith (1963)
Barbara (Giles) Tachias (1958)
Richard Todd (1968)
Susan (Lewis) Clymore (1963)
Jackie (Brown) Wray (1968)

2011 Committees

Scholarship Recipient	Kathryn (Hacker) Aday (1970); Meagan (Simpson) Mills (1983); Melissa (McMinn) Morgan (1978); Emily (O'Brien) Price (1979)
Scholarship Trust Advisor	Paul Box
Luncheon Coordinator	Phyllis Chambers
Awards & Honors Chair	Bob Aday
Outstanding Educator Chair	Current President
Smoke Signals	Alton Chambers
Publicity	Richard Todd; Kim Garlitz; Susan Clymore