

“Showcasing Our Favorite T.V. Shows / Commercials”

69th Annual Gathering

Hamlin Ex-Students Alumni Homecoming 2023

September 15 & 16

Please note these are the scheduled events as of this newsletter composition time (mid-July). Please continue to check our **web page: [https:// hamlinexstudents.com](https://hamlinexstudents.com)** and our **Facebook group: “Hamlin Ex-Students”** for updates or additions as time passes. You may also call and leave us a message with your name and phone number so we can get back with you: (325) 576-2325. Stay up-to-date with our school: **<https://www.gohamlin.com>**

Come to town early on Friday and before the parade on Saturday to shop and visit with our businesses. **Memorial Windows:** West 200 block of South Central Avenue in the alcove of the former McDonald’s Dept. Store. These windows will be lighted at night for your viewing.

High School and Alumni Queen/King Windows: 319 South Central Avenue at Bell’s Home and Auto storefront. These windows will also be lighted at night for your viewing.

Friday, September 15

Registration / Voting / Meal Ticket sales from **9 a.m. – noon / 1 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.** in The Book Nook, 245 S. Central Avenue. **Alumni Registration \$10 / Friday meal tickets \$12/\$8**

Friday Meal: Note NEW times 5:00 p.m. – 6:45 p.m., Hamlin High School Cafeteria, 450 S. W. Avenue F. Meal: Fried fish, hush puppies, fries, slaw, beans, cookie, and beverage – catered and sponsored by The Hamlin Lion’s Club. Meal tickets may be purchased at the door, along with continued Alumni Registration / Voting. **Meal Tickets: \$12; age 10 and under, \$8.**

Homecoming Football Game: 7:00 p.m. – Piper Stadium. Hamlin Pied Pipers vs. Munday Moguls. Special half-time activities will take place recognizing and crowning Hamlin High School’s queen/king nominees/winners, along with the Ex-Students nominees / winners from the classes of 1963, 1973, 1983, 1993, and 2003. Tickets for reserved seating for the game may be purchased by contacting Sheila Maberry at (325) 576-3624. Tickets will also be available at the ticket window prior to and during game time.

Post-Game Fellowship and Reception for all Alumni in the Foyer of Piper Court, located just behind Hamlin High School. Many of you have not seen the interior of our playing gym, so this will give you an opportunity to see more of our school’s fine facilities. Come have some refreshments following the game, and take a minute to visit with your friends. Vocal entertainment by Elaine Carlton Shearer, Class of 1976. **Some of the downtown businesses** will be open post-game for more visiting, shopping, etc. Enjoy the entire evening!

Saturday, September 16: PARADE followed by our 2nd annual “SATURDAY IN THE PARK”:

Homecoming Parade begins at **10:30 a.m.** in downtown Hamlin. **Parade Grand Marshall will be James Wright, Class of 1952.** Parade route begins on the far south end of S.W. Avenue F to West Lake Drive, turning east towards downtown and heading south on S. Central Avenue,

making a U-turn at S. W. 5th Street, coming back north through the downtown district, and back west on West Lake Drive, finally turning south on S. W. Avenue E, **with all floats going into the Hamlin City Park south entrance and being parked along the California Creek bank** for adjudication for additional monies as selected by all attendees coming to the City Park as **the “People’s Choice Award” for “Best Overall” float.**

Note new meal time and location: 11-2:30 p.m. in the **Hamlin City Park**. Come join your fellow alumni and the Hamlin community **with your lawn chairs** for a **donation only contribution meal to our Ex-Students Alumni Association** consisting of your choice of either grilled hamburgers or hot dogs with all of the trimmings, condiments, chips, and a drink. **Food will be served until we run out. Included in the post-parade event: professional alumni musical entertainment, vendors, and activities in the Hamlin City Park. Casual wear, please.** This is open to our alumni and the general public.

“Showcasing Our Favorite T.V. Shows /Commercials” was selected as this year’s Homecoming theme, particularly for entries in our annual parade. In 1946, only some 8,000 homes in the United States had television sets; by 1960, some 45.7 million homes had included them as both an entertainment center and a furnishing piece. Many recall the “rabbit ear” antennas, followed by the outdoor antennas that extended above the rooflines. Now, there are so many options for viewing any type of show that a T.V. set is no longer required. We each had our favorite shows and commercials, and now, there are even some streaming venues that allow one to restrict the number of commercials shown. The price to view our home entertainment has skyrocketed leaving everyone scurrying for the next great deal. The title of one of Bob Dylan’s songs pretty much sums up our everyday world: “The Times, They Are A-Changin’ “.

Hamlin has had many changes as well with many for the betterment of the community. We have been blessed with 14.08” of rain as of this writing, improving our prospects for both wheat and cotton crops. The farmers have been challenged by the weather conditions as we’ve had too much rainfall in short order that have hindered the harvesting or planting of the crops. Last year, there were minimal to no crops in this area, and the landscape was a dull yellow or sandy brown. We’ve battled a few severe storms in and around us recently, including two different tornadoes on two occasions reported as approaching Hamlin with some of our folks west of Hamlin, along with our neighboring communities of Rotan and Roby suffering damage and loss. California Creek has raised her head a few times going out of bounds with threatening flood waters to our citizens, with some receiving water damage.

City Hall and the Hamlin Police Department have moved to their new location in the previous Hamlin Memorial Hospital, leaving the former First State Bank / F & M National Bank site vacant for the first time in its 100+ year history. *The Hamlin Herald* changed ownership within the last month, but continues to produce a weekly hometown paper with a new online edition included in the subscription price. Pied Piper Deli / Pizza Pro closed its doors after many dedicated years of serving the Hamlin public, which now has the community longing for just one more opportunity to eat there. We now have two businesses dealing with tire sales, repairs, etc., both located on East Lake Drive in and around our newly re-opened Hamlin Elevator and Piper Feed Store, which has proven to be a big boom for this entire area. As of the 2023 crop tally on July 20th, the elevator has accepted over 1,121,000 bushels of wheat and has 7 full-time employees. Tina’s Cakes and Bakes has moved to a larger and newly remodeled facility just east of the red light and behind the Chamber’s lighted marquee. A new eatery, bar, and family game combination is under new construction on the corner of S. Central and S.W. 5th Streets. Downtown businesses continue to improve their properties, and some of the Junior Class students are undertaking a project to construct a corner downtown park / entertainment area as a project through the Texas Midwest Community Network. The Chamber has been having monthly Friday Night Frenzy’s in the downtown district, and Linda Cooper has been organizing a monthly Farmer’s Market and Trades Day. The former First United Methodist Church has changed to a non-denominational congregation accompanied by a name change to New Beginnings, with Sherman Bates serving as the Pastor of the growing congregation. Exterior and interior building improvements and upgrades for both New Beginnings and First Baptist Church are ongoing projects that have helped to improve their campuses. Hamlin is in the “go” gear, and is looking forward to continued success!

