



The Barker



The *official* newsletter of

The Lexington Alumni Association

P. O Box 263, Lexington, OK, 73051 <http://www.lexokalumni.org>

Once a Bulldog...**ALWAYS** a Bulldog!

Volume 1, Number 2

Make plans to join us on Saturday, June 19th, 2010, for the next Alumni Reunion!

Leader of the Pack-a message from the alumni President

Auld Lang Syne. With the passing of each year, we sing that song. Since it is the beginning of a new year and we just finished singing that song, it really got me thinking. What does that song mean? What's it all about? Let's take a closer look.

The song was written by Robert Burns (1759-1796) in the 1700's, though there is some fuzziness as to when and if he actually "wrote" it or "compiled" it from other sources. In any case, it is one of the better-known songs in English-speaking countries. But, it really doesn't matter who wrote it or when. What does matter is the meaning of it.

The song's title may be translated into English literally as "old long since", or more idiomatically, "long long ago" or "days gone by". It is, basically, a Scottish song of remembrance. Remembering old times & old friends. When was the last time you took time to do that? When was the last time you took the time to write to your best friend in grade school or high school, or better yet, called them? Do you even know where the person is that once shared your laughter, your tears, your life?

After high school, we get busy in life with new priorities, new goals and new friends. Your high school friends just kind of fade into your memories, for the most part. That's what happened to me and my friends. A few years ago, I happened to bump into one of them at Lexington's 89'ers Day celebration. We chatted for a few minutes, then we each went on our merry way. But that encounter never really left either of us. How exactly it happened neither, of us can tell you to this day, but we wound up having dinner with several of our classmates and our families. Now, we stay in touch and have dinner as often as our busy schedules allow. We have a great time reminiscing about our days gone by and our spouses LOVE hearing about what we did when we were all young and idealistic (and down right CRAZY!). We joke and laugh like children and it is a wonderful time.

In the House-news from Lexington Public Schools

Making a run at football....

The Lexington Alumni Association would like to congratulate Coach Brad Beller and the high school varsity football team. For those of you that don't know, they completed the season with a 7-5 record and were eliminated in the second round of the state playoffs! Here's a recap of the great season.

The mighty Bulldogs opened the season with a trip to Konawa. Our young Bulldog squad put a whipping on the Tigers they won't soon forget by scoring 50 points on the Tigers 4-4 defense while holding Konawa's Wing-T offensive attack to no first downs and zero points. Behind the blocking of offensive linemen Marcus Nere, Luke Pearson, Kyle Hobson, David Skinner, Jordan Idlett and Danny Somers, Lexington had 410 yards rushing. They were led by sophomore quarterback, Seth Howard, who rushed for 110 yards on 11 carries. Chance Hobson anchored the stingy defense by registering eight tackles and recovered a fumble. Starting the season with a dominating shutout win on the road was big, especially with the next game being in the friendly confines of Floyd West Field in Lexington.

Week two brought the Oklahoma Christian School Saints to town. Our Bulldogs opened the game with a fumble on their own 25 yard line on the game's second play. That led to a Saints touchdown and a 7-0 lead. Lexington fumbled the ensuing kickoff and OCS scored another touchdown on a six-yard run. The Bulldogs, again, fumbled the ensuing kickoff and found themselves digging out of a 21-0 first quarter deficit, after a 10-yard Saints touchdown. Saints dual threat quarterback, George Overbey, steered the OCS spread offense to only two more touchdowns the remainder of the game. They finished the game with 284 total yards, behind a 25 of 30 for 208 yard passing night by Overbey. Lexington battled back with a couple of touchdowns against the 3-5 odd stack defense of the visitors, but it was not enough to

My very best friend in high school (the one that was the best man at my wedding, as I was best man at his) and I lost touch a few years after graduation. With life changing us and taking us in different directions, we just grew apart and he eventually moved away. I often wondered about him, though, and it turns out he had often wondered about me. He moved back to the area several years ago and I knew that, but just didn't seem motivated to contact him. I figured he would contact me if he wanted to talk. I looked up his address so I would know where he lived just in case I wanted to drop by his house sometime. One day last fall, I was on my way to referee a couple of Noble Junior High/Junior Varsity football games and I had an idea. I drove by his house one day, but didn't stop. I did the same thing again on my way to another Noble game. I did it a third time. On the last trip to Noble's field for the year, I drove by, again, trying to muster the courage to stop. What if he didn't remember me after 20-odd years; what if he just didn't care? Well, as I drove by, I happened to see him getting out of his car, though I almost didn't recognize him. I drove into his driveway, jumped out and called his name. Not realizing who it was or not recognizing me for a moment, he strolled up his driveway. When he was close enough, his face broke into a huge grin, and he offered his hand. We shook hands and talked for the brief time I had before kickoff. We parted with a "manly" hug and a promise that we would get together for dinner after the season and the holidays. We haven't made that dinner, yet, but we will. I'm determined.

The point to all of this is that you have no friends like your high school friends, and the vast majority of us haven't known people longer. Yeah, life goes on and we meet new people and there is nothing wrong with that. There is also nothing wrong with staying up on your old friends, either. I still email all the people from high school for which I have email addresses when I can. Is there somebody with whom you have lost touch? What's keeping you from sending them a letter or email or, better yet, a call? They are most likely wanting to hear from you, but are just too busy. Go out to dinner with them or have them over. You'll laugh, you'll talk about old times and the years will melt away. After all, none of us are getting younger, but you can feel a little younger. Try it! What do you have to lose? The rewards FAR outweigh any risk.

Be sure to drink a toast to "days gone by".

Thank you.



Greg Yeary, Class of 1976

overcome the touchdowns off turnovers to start the game. The final score was a disappointing loss of 34-13. Zak Sukenis led the Bulldog charge with 103 yards rushing on 14 carries, including a 70-yard run for a touchdown. Patrick Frazier had nine tackles, two for losses, and recovered a fumble to lead the defense. There was no time for the mighty Bulldogs to dwell on the loss. Up next, the Battle of the Bridge showdown with a road trip to Conger Field, home of the always tough Purcell Dragons.

The Dragons entered the game 0-2, with losses to Lindsay and Blanchard. Reinstated quarterback, Seth Barrett, guided Purcell's multiple/flexbone offense and threw two touchdown passes and ran for another against Lexington's 4-4 defense. Meanwhile, the Dragons' 4-3 defense held Lexington's multiple I-formation offense scoreless as Purcell snapped a 3-game losing streak dating back to the final playoff game of last season. The 21-0 loss to Purcell dropped the Bulldogs' record to 1-2. The otherwise cleanly played game was marred by off-the-field paint antics.

The tough Bulldog team traveled to Frederick to open district play in week 4. In spite of a reunion of their 1956 state championship team, the Bomber defense had no answer on how to stop the Bulldogs. Lexington, buoyed by running back Danny Chambers' 103 yards on just eight carries, amassed 184 yards rushing and added another 94 via the air. Chambers had the long run of the night with a 45-yard run, while Luke Sylvester helped break open a tight 14-0 game by taking the second half's opening kickoff 85 yards to pay dirt. Defensively, Patrick Frazier led the tackling charts with 14 stops, while fellow linebackers, John Somers and Kasey Gabehart, had 11 and 13, respectively, as the Bulldogs evened their record to 2-2 by shutting out the Bombers 39-0 on the Bombers' homecoming. More importantly, the Bulldogs' district record was 1-0.

Week 5 had the Bulldogs host a 2-2 Little Axe team that had lost its last two in a row. The offensive line of Marcus Nere, Spanky Hobson, Kyle Renbarger, Danny Somers, David Skinner and Trent Mitchell lined up and took control of the game, allowing Zak Sukenis to score five touchdowns against the Indians' odd stack defense. Patrick Frazier was the ring leader on a defense that held the visitor's multiple I-formation down by making nine tackles, while Nere had seven stops, including one sack from his defensive tackle slot. Kenny Bruehl (son of current Alumni Association Secretary and Class of 1983 alumnus Sandy Phillips Bruehl) is credited with a 2-point conversion. Little Axe scored a late touchdown after Lexington had the game well in hand, with the scoreboard reading 48-10. The win left our Bulldogs with a 3-2 record. The win lifted their district record to 2-0.

Comanche, with a record of 1-4, provided the homecoming crowd at Floyd West Field with a game that

President, Lexington Alumni Association

In the pack:

Our friends in memoriam.....

Maxine Burkett Allen, 92, **Class of 1933**, 10/8/1915-10/28/2007

Dr. David Gordon Sherman, 65, **Class of 1960**, 3/11/1942-11/29/2007

Thomas (Tommy) Henry Miller, 58, **Class of 1968**, 1/30/1949-10/26/2007

Robert Alan Coker, 45, **Class of 1980**, 1/17/1962-9/24/2007

Norene Newville, 77, teacher's aide-Lexington Public Schools, 11/8/1929-10/2/2007

Congratulations to.....

William Earl (Bill), **Class of 1942**, and wife, Maxine, for celebrating their 65th wedding anniversary.

Travis Barton, **Class of 2003**, for being selected Mr. March on the 2008 Men of Mortuaries calendar. See his picture elsewhere in this edition.

Vicki (Whitehead) Hamilton, **Class of 1976**, for passing the Real Estate Brokers Exam.

Mike Edwards on his settling in at his new home in Beebe, Arkansas.

Scott Hewitt, **Class of 1978**, for being featured in the November 27th edition of "boydstreet" magazine.

Senior fullback Daniel Chambers, senior defensive back, Luke Sylvester, and sophomore quarterback, Seth Howard, for being selected for the "Little All-City" team by *The Oklahoman* newspaper.

Luke Sylvester, senior defensive back, for being named All-State Honorable Mention in football as selected by *The Oklahoman*.

Big Dog: - *Fellow Alumnus worth noting*

"I see dead people." That quote was made famous in the

featured what Head Coach, Brad Beller, called best defense the Bulldogs had faced to that time. Quarterback Seth Howard riddled the Indians' 4-3 defense by rushing 13 times for 45 yards and completing 7-9 passes for 181 yards and one 74-yard touchdown. Linebacker Patrick Frazier led the effort with 13 tackles, while Clint Jeffery posted nine stops in the defensive line and had two quarterback sacks against the visitors' spread offense. The Bulldog defenders limited Comanche to 137 yards on the ground and a mere 49 through the air. In the end, the mighty Bulldogs won the game 21-0, to remain undefeated in district play and lifted their overall record to 4-2.

With the Bulldogs controlling their own destiny regarding playoffs, a win in week 6 against Lindsay would almost assure them a berth in the post season. However, superior speed would be the key to beating the Leopards, who were sporting a 2-1 record in district play. Lindsay's two-back shotgun offense boasted an offensive line that averaged between 250 and 260 pounds, while their defense was a stingy 4-4. Lexington, using big plays, including five scoring plays 23 yards or longer and three of 53 yards or longer, was able to rack up points. On defense, linebackers, Patrick Frazier and John Somers, led the team in tackles with a dozen each. In the end, the Bulldogs took a bite out of the Leopards to the tune of 34-20, almost assuring themselves of a playoff berth, with a shining 4-0 in district play. Their overall record is 5-2.

The next step between our beloved Bulldogs and a guaranteed spot in the playoffs were the 3-4 Hobart Bearcats in week 8. The Bearcats, sporting a district record of 2-2, brought their hard-hitting 4-4 defense and an offense that alternated between the spread and I-formation to Floyd West Field. Turnovers and punts were the name of the game as the score was tied at the end of regulation. If the Bulldogs were to be guaranteed to advance to the playoffs, they would have to prevail in overtime. It took a thwarted 2-point conversion try after the teams traded touchdowns in the extra stanza, with Lexington converting their PAT, which allowed the good guys to win 13-12 in overtime. Zak Sukenis was the star of the game, getting the job done on both sides of the ball, rushing six times for 104 yards and leading the team with 13 tackles, including two for losses. The win secured the Bulldogs' first winning season since 1973, when the late Coach Floyd West's team went 7-3.

In week 9 the Bulldogs, winners of five in a row, hosted Bridge Creek in the final regular season home game of the year. The name of Bridge Creek hasn't exactly evoked fear in the past. However, these aren't your father's Bearcats. The good guys put their 6-2 record on the line against a Bridge Creek team that sported a record of 7-1, with their only loss being to Bethany. More importantly, the Bobcats had a 4-1 record in league play, good enough to put them on the heels of the

movie *The Sixth Sense*. In that movie, the young boy, Cole Sear, could not only see the dead, but could also talk with them. In this edition, we look at a case of life imitating art, sort of. While one of our fellow alumni doesn't talk TO the dead, he definitely speaks FOR the dead. And, unlike Cole, he considers it a "sacred responsibility" to tell their story so their loved ones and the public will know why they died. He *wants* to do it.

Now, when I say speaking for the dead, I don't mean in some kind of psychic, supernatural way, during a séance or even the kind that happens when one has indulged in the consumption of too much alcohol or pharmaceuticals. The speaking for the dead to which I refer is the real kind; the kind you do as the Chief Investigator for the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner for the State of Oklahoma. Speaking for those who can no longer tell what happened to them that led to their death is what Kevin calls "an awesome responsibility."

Kevin Rowland has spent his life after high school involved with death in some capacity. He became interested in death investigations while watching the television series, *Quincy, M. E.* In case you don't remember, in that show, Jack Klugman would autopsy the various unfortunates that were sent his way and would find out how and why they met their untimely demise. Shortly after graduation from Lexington High School, Wedall Little of Little's Funeral Home in Purcell, got Kevin a job at a funeral home in Norman, and the rest, as they say, is history.

During his 22 years of working at the OCME, Kevin has held several positions, such as Pathology Assistant, Investigator and has been the Chief Investigator since 1993. As the Chief Investigator, as you can imagine, he has tons of responsibilities. His main responsibility is overseeing the death investigations for the entire state, which are over 16,000 per year. He has to supervise 36 employees and is responsible for the training and quality control of all aspects of medico legal death investigations. As if that wasn't enough, he is also the Public Information Officer, as well as being required to oversee all operational issues that relate to daily operations and mass disaster preparedness. He provides continuing educational training to local, federal and state law enforcement agencies, physicians, nurses and legal entities.

Kevin is also an instructor for the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine residents in Pathology, medical students, Physician Associates as well as the University of Central Oklahoma's Masters in Forensic Science program. He has also taught for The Oklahoma State University, Oklahoma City, and the Virginia Institute of Forensic Science. In the midst of all those responsibilities, Kevin also has to have a lot of communication with the legislature for reasons of budgeting and legislation related to his agency.

Bulldogs, who were tied with Bethany with a 5-0 district record. Offensively, Bridge Creek's spread offense, with a shotgun package, featured great team speed. The biggest task for Lexington's defense was to slow down big play wide receiver, Michael Aska. Defensively, the Bobcats operated out of a blitzing 3-5 alignment. Despite the fact that Lexington led 3-0 at the half, turnovers and costly penalties were the name of the game. In the end, Bridge Creek prevailed, upsetting our Bulldogs on Senior night to the tune of 23-9, dropping the 'Dawgs to 6-3 and 5-1 in district play. Next week, they still had the opportunity to win the district championship and a home playoff game in round 1, but that road led through Bethany, the third-ranked team in the state in Class 2A.

A win at perennial power and third-ranked Bethany, combined with a Lindsay loss to Bridge Creek, and the Bulldogs would finish the season in a three-way tie for the district championship. A loss and the Bulldogs would finish third in the district. Bethany's lone loss of the year was to Class 3A's Tuttle. The showdown was rated the no. 8 game in the state by *The Oklahoman*. In spite of what Coach Brad Beller said, was "probably our best four quarters of effort we've given all year", the Broncos prevailed in a hard-fought contest 30-14. In the game, Ryan Northcutt led the tackling charts with 13 stops. On the offensive side, Seth Howard rushed for 80 yards on 12 carries and a touchdown and was 6-9 passing for 97 yards. Their final season record was 6-4, with a final district record of 5-2. The Bulldogs finished third in District 2A-3 behind district champions, Bethany and runners up Bridge Creek, and would have to travel to Tishomingo for the opening round of the playoffs.

Having never been beyond the first round of the football playoffs, the Bulldogs would have to beat a 7-3 Tishomingo team that finished second in District 2A-4 with a 6-1 mark with a team that ended the regular season with two consecutive losses. The Indians' lone district loss was to Davis. With a spread offense anchored by a front line that averaged 255 lbs., the Indians could have made for a formidable foe. The good guys' offensive line was so outstanding, the Bulldogs didn't need to attempt a pass. The 'Dawgs running game shredded the 4-4 defense utilized by the Indians for 412 yards, all on the ground. The Bulldogs averaged 7.1 yards per snap on 58 rushing plays and only 7 yards in losses. John Somers led the rushing attack, gaining 128 yards on 13 carries, with Seth Howard adding another 117 yards on 14 attempts. Chambers and fellow fullback, Steven Howard, finished with 85 yards each. Defensively, the Bulldogs dominated the Indians, giving up 128 yards rushing and another 123 passing. Patrick Frazier had his best game of the year at linebacker, registering 14 tackles. Eighty of the Tishomingo's yards came on the late drive. After Tishomingo had scored their only touchdown against substitutes late in the game, the Bulldogs had not only won their first playoff game ever, they DOMINATED

When not working, Kevin loves to fish in farm ponds with his daughter, Danielle, a freshman honor student at Putnum City North High School, where she excels in orchestra, playing the violin and is an accomplished pianist. Kevin says that when he lived in Norman, it was easy to do that almost any day of the week. Now, though, he, Danielle and his wife of 19 years, Michelle, make their home at 9105 Whitehall Court in Oklahoma City, so it isn't easy as it used to be. It can't be easy for Danielle attending school where her mom has been the Assistant Principal for ten years. Kevin met Michelle while she was living in Purcell, where she had moved after growing up and graduating from high school in Toledo, Ohio. She was the Outstanding Student in the College of Education at the University of Oklahoma, where she is currently completing her PhD. She taught at Noble Junior High for seven years before becoming an administrator at PCN.

Kevin was born the third of four sons in Purcell on June 3rd, 1965, and attended Lexington schools from Kindergarten through graduation. His dad, Glenn (Red) Rowland, worked for American Airlines for thirty-eight years and served in the Oklahoma National Guard for twenty one years. Mom, Betty, was the Chief Accountant/Office Manager for Purcell Municipal Hospital, as well as serving as Secretary for the Lexington Freewill Baptist Church. Older brother, Terry (Class of 1977), and his wife, Paula, now live in Duncan with son, Bryce, and daughter, Leslie. Older brother, Tim (Class of 1980), resides in Lexington with wife, Loretta, son, Brandon, and daughter, Elizabeth. Younger brother, Cary (Class of 1992), makes his home in Midwest City.

Kevin's fondest memory of growing up in Lexington is the way people treated each other. He says they had such great neighbors like Harold (Jody) Taylor (yes, of Jude and Jody fame) and Kenneth Matthews. He remembers the neighbors driving by and stopping what they were doing to help, even though the help wasn't requested. Memories such as the one day Mr. Matthews drove by and stopped while the Rowlands were re-shingling their house. He not only showed them a better way to do it, but stayed the entire day until it was finished! Another great memory is the family having to call Mr. Taylor and Mr. Matthews to find out who mowed their yard while they were out of town. It was just neighbors being neighbors without asking anything in return. (I remember those days and wish we still had that neighborly spirit.)

While a student at Lexington, Kevin enjoyed the two years he was in Edna Shoaf's class. She made learning fun, interesting and could bring out the best in any student. He says her students always wanted to please her because she was so caring and enthusiastic every day. In fact, Ms. Shoaf so inspired Kevin that he arranged for his wife to student teach under her guidance, because

Tishomingo to the tune of 34-7. Up next, a road trip to unbeaten and top-ranked Heritage Hall.

Heritage Hall's Chargers' closest games this year had been wins over sixth-ranked Davis, 21-0, and 21-7 over OCS, a team that beat Lexington 34-17. Defensively, Heritage Hall played an odd-stack that resembled a 3-5 look. On offense, they were led by senior big-play threat quarterback, Garrett Valdez. The Bulldogs hoped to win on the road in front of their overflow contingent of fans. In the end, there was just too much Chargers, as the team that eventually finished runner-up in the state stopped our Bulldogs by a final score of 33-0. The Bulldogs, who finished the season with a magnificent 7-5 record and with a playoff victory under their belts, have a lot to build on next year.

The Lexington Alumni Association would like to offer our congratulations to Coach Brad Beller and all the Bulldogs! We would like to thank him and all the players for bringing some pride and recognition to Lexington High School in which all graduates can share. We would also like to thank the eleven seniors, including Sylvester, Jory Perry, Jesus Franco, Justin Washburn, Kasey Gabehart, Danny Chambers, Zak Sukenis, Kellen Watson, Spanky Hobson, David Skinner and Trent Mitchell. Just like the returning underclassmen and the new players, we look forward to next year. We will be there rooting for you!

Taking a shot at basketball....

With the football players' success on the gridiron, the Bulldog boys' team only had one practice as a full team before their first game. The boys' team lost to Wynnewood 35-33 and beat Holdenville 43-41. Even with the split, head coach, Clint York, is optimistic about the forthcoming season. Against Wynnewood, Brian Helvey (son of former Alumni President and member of the Class of 1981, Terri Helvey) led the Bulldog scorers with seven points in the loss. The Holdenville win was the first loss dealt to the 2-0 Wolverines. Josh Gordon led the scoring with 12.

After playing tough pre-season games against Capitol Hill, Piedmont, Westmoore and Shawnee, the Lexington Lady Bulldogs kicked off their 2007-08 cage season by also splitting games at Wynnewood and Holdenville. The Lady Bulldogs, coached by Robert Barger, beat Wynnewood, 36-22 and lost to Holdenville 52-46. Guard, Bri Bryant, has been leading the scoring, with 15 against Wynnewood and 16 over Holdenville.

In their next games, both the boy's and girl's basketball teams lost to Little Axe, moving their records to 1-2. Luke Sylvester and Blaine Garriott both scored 20 in their 71-70 loss. The Lady Bulldogs lost to the 3A No. 11 Lady Indians 54-42, with Emily Tarp scoring 16 to lead the Lady Bulldogs.

she was the best teacher he ever had. His wife agrees. Though he enjoyed Ms. Shoaf's class, his favorite subject was Science. The teacher, Mr. Oliver, was fantastic and Kevin had him for two Biology classes and a Chemistry class. In fact, Mr. Oliver is still an inspiration to Kevin in his profession. When not in class, Kevin primarily hung out with Doug and Dave Northcutt, Mark Cliff, Mitch McWhirter, Jeff Wilhite and Terry Mark Black, though he counted many as friends. He also was an athlete, playing football, basketball and baseball through school until his senior year, when he dropped all sports due to burn out.

While being influenced by Dr. Quincy early in life, Kevin actually started taking private voice lessons at the University of Oklahoma during his senior year and earned a scholarship as a voice major. Believe it or not, he sang opera, of all things. After a few semesters, he changed to the College of Liberal Studies.

He says he really wishes he had more contact with some of the people with which he grew up. According to Kevin, there were "about fourteen" of them that went from kindergarten through graduation together. He hasn't talked to any of his classmates in years, and it seems to him that the only time he hears from anyone is when someone they know or were close to has died and they want more information. So, all you old classmates of his from the Class of 1983 and anybody else that would like to contact Kevin, email him at kevin.rowland@cox.net and say, "Hi."

Kevin wants to tell the world, "You should always tell the truth no matter how much it offends the politicians and hopefully your example of leadership will wear off on them. Don't ever forget, they signed up to work for you (at least they say they did) and you should hold them accountable as their employer." The reason he says that is because when he went to work at his job, his boss at the time said that Oklahomans expect their politicians to screw them over and don't do a thing about it. He was offended by that statement, but says that now he has matured enough to know it's true. Kevin says that the worst part of his job is not the death and destruction, but trying to get the lawyers and politicians to do what's right. This from a man who, in his job of dealing with death and destruction, had the overwhelming responsibility of being in charge of scene operations for the recovery of victims of the May 3rd, 1999, tornado as well as the MONUMENTAL task of investigation and recovery of the victims of the April 19th, 1995, bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City. See, he really does see dead people. He has speaks for them, too. He *wants* to.

The Bulldogs lost one and won one, while the Lady Bulldogs won their next two games.

The Bulldogs defeated the Bridge Creek Bobcats 57-52 in overtime, but lost to Mount St. Mary 45-36, leaving their record 2-3. Against Bridge Creek, Luke Sylvester scored 21 points as Coach Clint York's squad took care of business. Blaine Garriott scored eleven in the loss to Mount St. Mary to lead the Bulldogs. Meanwhile, The Lady Bulldogs beat Bridge Creek 45-41, with Emily Tarp leading the charge with thirteen points. The Lady Bulldogs also posted a big win over Mount St. Mary 41-27. Annie Taylor was the lead scorer with 10 points. Head Coach Robert Barger's squad is now 3-2.

Next up for the cagers was Coach Lee Reimer's Purcell Dragons in the continuation of the Battle for the Bridge in Purcell's Boney Matthews Fieldhouse. The boys' team lost to the Dragons, 45-37, to drop their record to 2-4 on the season. The Lady Bulldogs fared better, as they won 40-37, raising their record to 4-2.

Taking a swing at softball....

After starting the season by beating Anadarko 4-0 in the first softball game of the season, the Lexington Lady Bulldogs sported a record of 5-2. With six of their first seven games at the Chisholm Trail Classic at Reaves Park in Norman, Head Coach Kindra Gregory's team defeated Wayne 3-0, Amber-Pocasset 6-1, Comanche 5-1 and Noble 1-0, while their losses were to class 2A No. 5 Haldton 4-3, and class 4A No. 1 Piedmont 7-1. The Lady Bulldogs' season ended with a 9-4 loss in the regional play to Washington on the Warriors' home field.

Taking hold of wrestling....

Wrestling season is in full swing and the Bulldogs are in the thick of things. Here are some recent scores:

12/04/07-McLoud 65, Lexington 18

12/07/07-Deer Creek Tournament: Lexington 25 points, 14th place.

12/08/07-Deer Creel Tournament: Lexington 62 points, 12th place.

12/20/07-Bethel 53, Lexington 18

Dog Star-*spotlighting alumni that are giving back*

How many people were in your graduating class? How many went all the way through from kindergarten or first grade through graduation? One unique thing about a



Kevin, Michelle and Danielle.

Lost Dogs: *-our classmates with whom we have lost contact. If you know how to contact them, PLEASE let us know.*

Class of 1950: Joyce (Giles) Hages

Class of 1954: Allen Froese

Class of 1956: Richard Kerns

Class of 1958: Alan "Mike" Stockdale

Class of 1960: Floyd Parks

Class of 1961: Jimmy Humphries

Class of 1966: Kathy Owens

Class of 1967: Barbara (Lairson) Perry

Class of 1976: Karen (Compton) Aguilar

Class of 1979: Casey Harper

Class of 1981: Melia Carol Reed

Class of 1985: Donna Messick

Class of 1994: Casey Bookout

Class of 1998: William Cronick

Class of 2003: Jessica Beabout

Class of 2004: David Saldana

small town school is that there is a distinct probability that most of the people you graduated with are the same ones with which you started school. Just because a person didn't start school with the class doesn't mean they can't have a deeper affection for it than some of those that went all the way through. Here's the story of one such transplant.

One of our fellow alumni has served Lexington schools for the past fifteen years, but not as a teacher. Not only was he a classmate of mine from the Class of 1976, but his wife, his two children and his younger brother are also graduates. That's quite a lineage. Our focus is on the life and leadership of the current President of the Lexington Board of Education, Charles Wayne Barton.

Charles moved to Lexington from Moore, Oklahoma, in 1970, at the beginning of junior high. He was born the third of four sons to Crusty, a Fire Chief in Oklahoma City, and homemaker, Bonnie Barton. His older brothers, Dan and Jerry, did not attend Lexington schools, but younger brother, Tim, is a 1977 graduate of Lexington. Charles and his wife, Joyce (Class of 1979), make their home at 613 NE 5th, right next door to where he lived when the family first moved to Lexington, and where Jo is a homemaker and a cattle woman.

He immediately embraced the school after moving here, and was an active participant in numerous sports and activities. He played football in junior high and high school, making co-captain his senior year. He also played junior high basketball. Charles was a member of the Future Farmers of America for four years and was elected Treasurer of that organization when a senior. He was also a member of 4-H, was our Boys' State Representative, elected to Student Council and was Mr. LHS his senior year. Charles was also a member of National Honor Society and ran track, competing in the pole vault.

While he was in school, he enjoyed his classes under Mrs. Arnold and Mrs. Wootten. The reason, Charles says, is that they always treated him with respect and pushed him to learn. He says they were also upbeat. In spite of those teachers, his favorite subject was History. While it always repeats itself, we can learn from the past to create a better future, says Charles.

Charles says he enjoyed all his years at Lexington. In fact, he enjoyed it so much that he met the love of his life, his wife, Joyce, while she was still attending Lexington High School. She moved to Lexington in 1977, and graduated with the Class of 1979. They married while she was still in high school and, together, they raised two children, Travis (Class of 2003), a twenty-three year-old electrician, and nineteen-year-old Dana (Class of 2007), who is a student at Hillsdale in Moore. Literally, you can see more of Travis later in this newsletter. Charles and Jo enjoy their spare

Under Dog: *-a message from your alumni Secretary-Sandy (Phillips) Bruehl, Class of 1983*

Happy 2008 Everyone!!!! How about that Bulldog football team. Go Dawgs!!! You guys had a season to be proud of breaking numerous records not to mention the first time in Lexington history we won a first round playoff game. Yeah!!!!!! I am so proud of you all.

Excitement is in the air with all of the activity going on with the Alumni Association. Greg has gone above and beyond the call of duty as President of the Alumni Association. He has put several of his ideas in place including but not limited to, the alumni website, our new newsletter which he so aptly named "The Barker", the soon-to-be constructed alumni plaza along with several other activities.

We are currently putting together an alumni cookbook called "The Dog Bowl". I would love to have any recipes you would like to submit from yourself or fellow alumni or faculty. Please feel free to include any stories or photos

with the recipes you send to me. (Keep in mind I will not be returning the recipes or photos so send me copies.) I want this to be as much of a trip down memory lane as well as a great cookbook so get those recipes to me as quickly as possible. Mail them to:

Lexington Alumni Association
P.O. Box 263
Lexington OK 73951

You can also e-mail me at thewhitedaisyalon@yahoo.com . I can't wait to hear from you all.

God Bless

Sandy Phillips Bruehl
Class of 1983

Calling the Dogs: *-classes that are due reunions in 2008. If your class is planning a reunion, please let us know so we can announce it, help you with addresses or even attend, if you'd like*

Class of **2003**: 5-year

Class of **1998**: 10-year

Class of **1993**: 15-year

time playing golf and working their cattle.

When not in class, Charles used to pal around with Danny Mathews, Donald Cliff, Allen Idlett, Nancy McKiddy, Malinda Tilley and yours truly. I remember spending time during the summers and after school playing football, riding horses and motorcycles with Charles. Great times!

After graduation, Charles went on to continue his education at Oklahoma City Community College from 1977-1979. After that, he went on to the University of Oklahoma from 1979-1982, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Business. He received his Certified Public Accountant in 1985. He earned his Master's Degree in Management from Southern Nazarene University.

Charles has worked at Oklahoma Electric Cooperative in Norman for 30 years. He is currently Chief Financial Officer. In that capacity, he works with Randy Simmons (Class of 1975) and Tempie (Lambdin) Power (Class of 1975). I still see Charles at football games (on the rare occasion my own football referee duties allow me to attend) and various school functions.

As his fifteen years of service draws to a close, Charles says he has been very honored to serve on the Board of Education for the past 15 years. He says they have a good set of board members who have a positive attitude for the success of the school. He has particular praise for the Superintendent, Denny Prince, for working really hard to make the school system run smoothly. He also wants to assure us that the administration and teachers do an excellent job, often under difficult situations. He says he is extremely pleased in what has to be the greatest achievement in his years on the board. That, of course, is the high school building that is currently under construction. It is a much needed improvement to our community.

After looking at the life and career of Charles Barton, I have to agree with what he says he would like to tell the world. He says that God has blessed him beyond measure. If you'd like to thank Charles for his years of faithful service in making Lexington Public Schools the best it could possibly be, please email him at cbarton@okcoop.org.

Thank you, Charles, for helping make our Alma Mater a better place for everyone -- from the students, to parents, to those who have graduated and have no immediate connection to it. We need more people to give their time, energy and efforts to keep the school system moving forward and continue momentum. You are truly appreciated! Thank you for allowing us to tell your story.

Class of **1988**: 20-year

Class of **1983**: 25-year

Class of **1978**: 30-year

Class of **1973**: 35-year

Class of **1968**: 40-year

Class of **1963**: 45-year

Class of **1958**: 50-year

Class of **1953**: 55-year

Class of **1948**: 60-year

Barkings: *-happenings of your Alumni Association*

Though nobody has mentioned it, some of you might have noticed that I am now the President of the Alumni Association after being elected Vice President at the last reunion. The reason is that the duly-elected President, Terri (Peery) Helvey (Class of 1981), resigned her position last year. As was mentioned in the last newsletter, she accepted the position of Middle School Principal at Lexington schools. On behalf of the Alumni Association, the officers would like to thank Terri for her hard work and dedication to this organization. Her leadership is what helped your last alumni reunion be what it was. We sincerely wish her luck in her new position! In case you have forgotten or just didn't know, the remaining officers, besides me, are Sandy (Phillips) Bruehl (Class of 1983) Secretary. Annette (Mowdy) Hamm (Class of 1979) is our occasional Treasurer.

The Alumni Association has been busy planning some events for the upcoming spring. We are in the process of setting up a Lexington vs. Purcell flag football game that is to be held on Lexington's graduation weekend. Also on that weekend, we are trying to set up a 5K run, perhaps a varsity-alumni basketball game and other activities. All proceeds would go to the Lexington Alumni Association general fund to be used to fund our expenses such as the web site, postage, post office box rent and scholarships. All leftover money in the general fund will be used for the next alumni reunion on June 19th, 2010. If you are interested in playing in the games or would like to coach, please contact us as soon as possible.

Our "Pave-the-Plaza" program is in full swing. You can leave a legacy for yourself, your child or loved one and



Charles Barton (photo from Oklahoma Electric Cooperative)

(Editor's note: We'll be featuring another alumnus that is serving Lexington schools in some capacity. If you are an employee of Lexington schools or involved in the school system in some manner, please let us know).

Dog House-*a look at the new Lexington High School*



The future site of the new Lexington High School. This picture was made from across SH 39 looking northwest across the site. The Methodist Church is to the right of the picture.

help the association raise funds at the same time. You can purchase a brick paver for \$30 that will be installed at the Alumni Plaza at the new Lexington High School that is currently under construction. Again, all proceeds, after the bricks are purchased, will go into the general fund of the Alumni Association. Buy yours today from our website at: www.lexokalumni.org. Just click on the "Merchandise" button and use the bricks portion. You will pay through a SECURE PayPal website with a credit or debit card and YOU DO NOT HAVE TO HAVE A PAYPAL ACCOUNT. Of course, you can also mail us a check to the address on the top of this newsletter. Buy as many as you want! You can also find on the "Merchandise" page other items that we are selling.

Speaking of the plaza, you can also vote on the name of the new plaza on our website. There is a page that tells the stories of our two well-deserving nominees-Tommy Haley and Gary IIIe. The voting is VERY close right now, so cast yours today! We will be writing more about those two individuals in an upcoming issue of this newsletter.

Of course, as mentioned in the Under Dog section above, we are putting together a new cookbook for the Alumni Association. Please dig out your best recipes and send them to us at the address above or email them to us at the email address above. That section is written by our hard-working and very intelligent alumni secretary, Sandy (Phillips) Bruehl, Class of 1983. NONE of this would be possible without her help and I'm TRULY grateful for her help!

Your Lexington Alumni Association will have a table at Lexington's '89ers Day Celebration. We will be checking addresses and MIGHT even have some goodies! We'll see you there.

For those of you interested in being a part of the Lexington Alumni Association and help with planning the 2010 Alumni Reunion, we have a place for you! We are currently organizing committees and need your help! If you would like to help, please consider the following and contact us as soon as possible through the website. All committees will answer to and work in tandem with the current officers in good standing of the Lexington Alumni Association. All committees must be able to work within a specified budget, but will have input on what the budget will be.

The committees and their responsibilities (so far) are:

Entertainment Committee-this committee shall be responsible for deciding the entertainment that will be performing before and during the business meeting and meal. THIS MAY OR MAY NOT BE THE MAIN ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE EVENING!! The committee can be provided with a list of possible entertainers.



Concrete building slab. This picture was made looking to the east.

Dogs at Play: -sports schedules

Basketball: Varsity

Jan. 4	Lindsay	Away
Jan. 8	Newcastle	Home
Jan. 10-12	Wayne Tournament	
Jan. 15	Marlow	Home
Jan. 18	Blanchard	Home
Jan. 22	Pauls Valley	Away
Jan. 24-26	Little Axe Tournament	
Jan. 29	Bethany	Away
Feb. 1	Washington	Home
Feb. 5	Tuttle	Away
Feb. 8-9	Match Play	Lindsay
Feb. 11	Purcell	Away
Feb. 15-16	District	
Feb. 21-23	Regional	

Under the Fence: -catching up with fellow alumni-By (Darlene Lawson) McGonigle, Class of 1963

Hope everyone is getting set for the winter months. Some of you may live in areas you don't see much of a change, but for the ones that do (me included), I am sorry. Destiny places me in Kansas and there is never a good hair day. Wind most of the time and around Wichita, it is flat, so nothing to stop the wind.

Decorating Committee-this committee shall be responsible for planning and implementing the decorations for the reunion.

Communication Committee-this committee shall be responsible for helping address/stamp invitations.

Hall of Fame Committee-this committee shall be responsible for helping research qualifications and helping recommend/nominate potential inductees into the Hall of Fame.

Dog Show: - *a special alumni article*

If you don't have your 2008 calendar yet, you MIGHT want to think about getting the 2008 Men of Mortuaries calendar. Why, you ask? How about Mr. March. He's Travis Barton, Class of 2003, and is featured in one of the 14 available spots on the calendar! All proceeds from the calendar sales go to KAMM Cares, a nonprofit foundation that gives grants to women who need financial help for such necessities as child care or groceries during their cancer treatment.

Travis is a funeral director apprentice at the Dallas Institute of Funeral Service. While at school one day, a secretary got a brochure seeking applicants for the calendar. She told him he was entering. Travis was surprised when he made the first cut for 25 semifinalists. Then began the real work- dieting, exercising and tanning. He started working out two to three hours every other day to build muscle. While some of the competitors had to lose weight, Travis actually had to gain some. He gained about 10 pounds for the shoot. "I didn't want to lose," he said, "and I'd never been to California", where the shoot was held. In the end, he had earned one of the 14 available spots on the calendar.

Travis has taken a year off from school and is living with his grandmother. When he's not helping families cope with the loss of their loved ones, he enjoys life on the farm - working with cows, hauling hay, building fences and riding horses. Travis was more than happy to help KAMM, since his grandmother is a breast cancer survivor.

So how did his family react to his shirtless appearance? "My family all think it's great," Barton said, "I'm kind of shy about it."

His friends and family have all had a good laugh out of his selection for the calendar, he said. "I get a lot of ridicule out of this whole thing from my friends, but it's been worth it," Barton said. "Everybody has known somebody that has been touched by breast cancer, and this is for a good cause. My friends and I go out and they

I am getting responses and emails so I can get news from the Alumni's and start posting more on their story. Keep up the good responses. We are hoping to have some funny stories sent also. You can tell us some things you remember about your teachers. Remember Mr. Sawyer? Fred Sawyer was one of the best Biology/Science teachers at the time. We had no clue, we just knew he had jars of fermented things and live tarantula's, and a salamander. He loved to bring out phosphorus and put it in water. He lived for Science and you better listen. He probably gave me my worst chewing out because he intercepted a note being passed from a girl to a boy and he took the note from me and thought I was the recipient. Well, I went home in tears and he later found out I was not the person and apologized. From that day on, we never had another problem and I really got into the Biology. Yeah you got it, COWARD NUMER ONE!!!!!!!!!!

Darlene Lawson McGonigle

ariesdancer63@cox.net

Thanks for putting so much time and effort into The Barker. Great job! I particularly enjoyed the historical references and catching up on news about old buds.

Working hard for an upcoming art exhibit in the SF Bay area, doing my graduate practicum at UCal Berkeley and still going after my masters in psychology. Life is hectic....but good, and I'm enjoying it. My husband, John, and I have just opened a mixed media art business, making altered art in our "spare" time. He is dean of arts and sciences of a university here in California that plans to move us to Southern CA next summer, so we'll be starting all over down there with our two little dogs, Boofus and Tad.

My three children are doing well. Stacy, Jr. (also an artist) lives in the Dallas area with daughter, Alexandra, and husband, Eric. Her elder daughter, Kelley, lives with her dad and step-mom in Midwest City and visits Jr. often in Tejas. Son, Myles, lives here with us, in the downstairs part of our big old loft, and when he isn't teaching sculpture classes at Institute of Mosaic Art, is working on plans to build his own house in the Santa Cruz mountains or helping his friend build a house in Half Moon Bay. Youngest daughter, Sarah-Lynda just beat her mom and got her masters degree first, in library science. She and husband, Nate, are both artists living and loving life in Portland, OR.

I'd love to hear from any and all of my old friends who may be reading this and ask that any of you who still live in Lex, please stop by and see my folks when you are "up at the top of the hill" (431 W. Broadway) My dad has been ill and gets lonely staying at home as much as he has to these days, so he would really appreciate and enjoy a

tell all the girls 'Hey, he's Mr. March in the dead people calendar,'" he said.

His grandmother keeps the calendar in a prominent location in the hallway, always turned to his picture. He has to pass it every morning.

Barton has been the most popular of the models in the 2008 calendar, according to the calendar's creator. "I don't know about that," said Travis. "In California, it was a big whoop and holler because I'm a cowboy and was in my boots and jeans. They don't see that, but here in Oklahoma it's no big deal."

Order yours today at: <http://www.menofmortuaries.com>. The money goes for a good cause.



Travis Barton is shown as Mr. March in the 2008 Men of Mortuaries calendar. Photo used by permission.



Here is a picture of Lexington's monument to the alumnus that was featured in our last issue of *The Barker*, Marine Colonel John Lucian Smith. The monument is in the "Y" park on the north edge of Lexington.

visit.

Cheers!
Stacy Alexander

Stacy Alexander, Class of 1972
Mixed Media Artist

http://www.ebsqart.com/Artists/cmd_801_profile.htm
and
<http://id.sito.org/sta/>

Dogs in Training: -alumni members furthering their education

For those that don't know, the Lexington Alumni Association sponsors scholarships to one deserving graduating senior male and one graduating female. It is a one-time \$250 scholarship that is to be used at the institute of higher education of their choosing and is paid after the proper paperwork is presented to the officers. The scholarships are based on performance in the classroom, the paragraph they write on why they deserve the scholarship and, of course, need. Last year, the scholarships went to two legacies. They are:

Jordan Northcutt, who just completed his first semester at THE Oklahoma State University in Stillwater.

Cassie Cartright, who just completed her first semester at the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma in Chickasha. She is majoring in Secondary Education with the hopes of becoming a teacher.

Do you remember....

When Lexington had a cotton gin

When Lexington had a cola bottler

When Lexington didn't have a football field or team

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