

REUNION EDITION



Touchet All-School Reunion 2015
Come see what is happening at Touchet High School!

Touchet Superintendent, Susan Bell, says "Changes are afoot at Touchet High School as the almost 40-year old campus embraces the process of modernization and transformation. Thanks to the support of our Touchet citizens who approved the 2013 construction bond, Touchet students and staff will soon enjoy a more efficient and suitable learning environment. After a little over two years of planning, we're experiencing the construction phase. We are on budget and right on schedule!"

If you haven't been to Touchet since the last All-School Reunion in 2010, or if it's been even longer, there are plenty of changes to see! We hope to see everyone back in Touchet on Saturday, June 13th!

2015 THS Reunion Committee

Reunion Schedule & Registration – see page 10



Touchet Educational Foundation
Dedicated to serving the graduates of our community
Class of 2015, 16 students eligible for scholarships

TRIBAL TIMES

Contributors

BOARD MEMBERS:

President, Doug Loney
Vice President, Marilyn Hines
Secretary, Carol Hopkins
Treasurer, Melissa Cummins

Sandra Bradley, Jose Godinez, Diane Harris, Cynthia Huesby, Wendi Kregger, Lance Rea, Sandy Reppe, Kristi Scherger, Sharla Wagoner, Megan Waite

WRITERS and PHOTOGRAPHERS:

Touchet friends & families

LETTERS: *Tribal Times* invites letters on its content or on topics related to Touchet School. Letters for publication must be signed and may be edited for style, length, and clarity. Shorter letters are more likely to be published due to space limitations. Writers should include an address and daytime phone number.

Send all correspondence to:

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Thank you!

Mission Statement

To provide financial support for Touchet students in pursuit of Educational opportunities, and to encourage community support for higher education.

NEW TEF BOARD MEMBERS

We are pleased to announce that we have five new TEF Board members joining our organization



Sandra Bradley was born and raised in the Tri-Cities and graduated from the University of Washington. She moved to Touchet in 2001 and served 9 years on the Touchet School Board.



Jose Godinez graduated from Touchet High School in 2002. He double-majored in Spanish and Comparative Literature at the

University of Washington, graduating in 2007. In 2013 he earned his MBA from Washington State University. He has held various positions at Walla Walla Community College where he is currently employed. He is married to Sonia Godinez and they have one son, Owen.



Lance Rea is a life-long area resident and Touchet alumni '88. He graduated from University of Idaho with B.S. '94 and is a fourth generation wheat farmer and volunteer firefighter/EMT. Father of three Touchet Indian daughters, Autumn class of '16, Olivia '17 and Emma '19.



Cynthia Huesby was born and raised in Walla Walla. After graduating from DeSales High School, she earned her BA in Education, Special Education and Early Childhood Development at Eastern Washington University. She spent several years teaching at Blue Ridge Elementary and Garrison Middle School. After her children started school in Touchet (Rachel '09, Emily '11, Will '13 and Katelyn '15), Cynthia began substituting and is still doing so. She also assists her husband Joel on their farm.



Megan Waite grew up on her family's wheat farm in the Walla Walla Valley, graduated from Walla Walla High School and attended Walla Walla Community College. She moved to Touchet in 2007 and married her husband Rusty, together they have one daughter Karley and expecting a son in June. Megan is employed at the Walla Walla Country Club and is a volunteer firefighter & EMT for Walla Walla County Fire District #6 in Touchet.

Touchet High School
GRADUATION
SATURDAY
JUNE 6TH, 2015
1:00 PM

LETTERS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dear TEF – Thank you so much for all your support over the years. It really helped me achieve my academic goals and I was very lucky to grow up in such a great community with such great people! Thank you.
Taylor Gregg '09

TOUCHET AT THE SUPERBOWL

Did you know? Two of Touchet's own attended this year's Superbowl!

Sergio Pedroza '03 has now attended two Seahawks Superbowls, having been with the organization both years. He studied Turf Management at WWCC and works for the Seahawks in their practice facility as a Turf Tech.

Saul Martinez '09 works for the Mariners, also in turf, and got the opportunity to attend this year's Superbowl. Saul agreed to a quick Q & A regarding his Superbowl experience...

Q: Did you meet any of the players?

A.: Not during the actual Superbowl, but he does talk with Kam Chancellor and Earl Thomas regularly during practice.

Q: How long were you there? **A:** Thursday - Monday, except for Sunday & Monday it rained.

Q: Favorite part?

A: Overall experience, unlike any other football game, excitement, tension, intense Seahawk fans

Q: Least favorite part (besides the loss)? **A:** Flying to and from the Superbowl

Q: Where would this rank in terms of life events? **A:** Top 5

Q: Should they have ran the ball? **A:** Will not answer

Q: How did you get your ticket? **A:** Through the Seahawks as a guest, paid a hefty price

Q: What did you think of the half time show?

A: Not a Katy Perry fan but the show was "pretty alright". It was also very different than watching on TV because you could see the performers changing, something you don't see on TV.

Q: What else was pretty cool? **A:** Saw Snoop Dogg and Drake at the post party

Q: What would you say to anyone who hopes to someday attend the Superbowl?

A: If you get the opportunity, go, regardless of the cost.



Saul Martinez '09 & Sergio Pedroza '03
in Glendale, AZ for the SUPERBOWL

ENDOWMENT UPDATE – ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP



Oscar Ferrians

We are proud to announce that the Alumni Scholarship has been funded to the Endowment Level of \$10,000 by a generous donation made by Oscar Ferrians in 2014. Mr. Ferrians graduated from Touchet High School in 1946 and then graduated from Washington State College (WSU) as a geologist. His parents were Oscar and Lucretia "Tish" Cummins Ferrians. He married Muriel Broughton and lived in Alaska and worked for Perma Frost. Mr. Ferrians now lives in California.

Thanks to this wonderful donation by Mr. Ferrians, the Alumni Scholarship has become a permanent award that recognizes not only his generosity, but that of all Touchet Alumni who support scholarship programs for future generations of Touchet graduates. The Touchet Educational Foundation would like to give a special thank you to Mr. Ferrians, not only for this generous gift, but also for his many contributions in previous years. What a lasting gift and legacy Mr. Ferrians has given!

CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS

ATTENTION CLASS OF 2014

The Touchet Educational Foundation announces an opportunity for THS class of 2014 graduates to apply for scholarship assistance for their second year of college. The scholarship amount available will be shared equally among those who apply and are eligible, with a maximum amount of \$500 to each applicant.

To qualify, the student must plan to enroll in their second year of college, have earned a minimum of 36 college level credits (quarter system) or 24 college level credits (semester system) during their first year of college, and have achieved a minimum GPA of 2.75 during their first year of college. Visit the TEF website toucheteducationalfoundation.com to download an application.

POSTMARK DEADLINE FOR 2nd YEAR SCHOLARSHIP IS JULY 15, 2015

PAST GRADUATES – JUNIOR STANDING AND ABOVE

The Touchet Educational Foundation is offering two (2) continuing education scholarships to past Touchet graduates that will have a minimum of junior standing and be enrolled at a four year college/university to complete an undergraduate or graduate degree. Visit the TEF website toucheteducationalfoundation.com for more information and to download an application.

POSTMARK DEADLINE FOR PAST GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS IS MAY 15, 2015.

EILEEN COLLIER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP \$1000 A general continuing education scholarship available to students majoring in any program of study, with a minimum 2.75 GPA and a minimum of junior standing at the start of the 2015-2016 school year. Applicant needs to be enrolled at a 4 year college or university, planning to obtain an undergraduate or graduate degree.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP IN MEMORY OF KATIE NOLAN \$500 A scholarship established by her family in 2010 to encourage others to follow Katie's example of service to others, offering hope and inspiration. This continuing education scholarship will award a minimum of \$500 to the successful applicant. In addition to the general application requirements, applicants must also submit an essay of 300 to 500 words describing in detail their philosophy regarding service to others, activities and/or projects participated in that reflect their commitment to making a difference in the lives of others, as well as plans made for service after college graduation.

Touchet graduates are currently attending...



2014 Scholarship Dinner & Auction

Another successful and fun fundraising event for the Touchet Educational Foundation in 2014. The senior class pre-sold 330 tickets, with top honors going to Colter McKeown (130 tickets) and Tim Weber (72 tickets). Everyone enjoyed a delicious BBQ Ribs & Chicken dinner, a terrific variety of raffle and auction items and good company. The senior class "Rent a Team of Teens" auction, along with raffles and other live and silent auction items, helped to raise more than \$12,000.

It was a great end to Homecoming Week!



Thank you to everyone who volunteered, donated items, the alumni and community members who make this annual event a success.

Auctioneer Doug Swenson for offering his enthusiasm and generous support!

Lions Club for their help with the BBQ and use of the Hall!

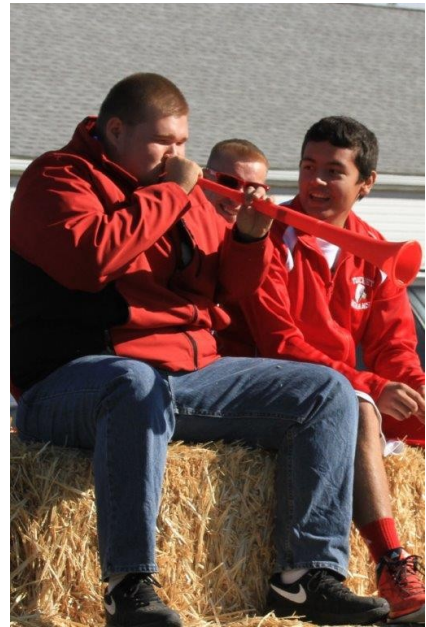
Rent A Team Of Teens Auction Supporters raised \$1,600

Lois Garbe, Kevin & Susan Brown, Tim & Erica Richartz, Bob & Jan Willoughby

Raffle & Auction Donors

Alice Adams, Don & Lynda Adams, Todd & Perla Adams, Kurt & Susan Bald, Rowdy & Laura Lee Barry, Susan Bell & Wally Rasmussen, Dominga Contreras, Melissa Cummins, Ben & Rie DeRuwe, Shane & Kathy DeRuwe, Morgan Downing, Richard & Judi Easton, Keylee Gaffrey, Jorge Garcia, Dee Vee Garcia, Alma Garza, Jose Godinez, Dick & Mary Hanson, Jackie Helm, Marilyn Hines, Joel & Cynthia Huesby, Jonathan Ingham, Nate & Diana Jones, Kevin & Lindsey Kregger, Kurt & Darla Krull, Doug & Berta Loney, Mark McCubbins, Tim & Missy McKeown, Jim & Valeria Neuschwander, Margartio & Mercedes Ochoa, Jessica Pedroza, Mike & Patty Phelps, Flor Preciado, Elliott Quick, Sheri Reiswig, Sandy Rensland, Sandy Reppe, Tim & Erica Richartz, Mario Saldana, Mike Schaecher, Terry & Shirley Schaeffer, Jay & Kristi Scherger, Fernando & Angeles Solis, Matt & Jennifer Stephens, Ken & Kathie Warner, Chuck & Molly Weaver, Joey Weber, LeLand & Traci Weber, Larry & Myrna Weber, Bob & Jan Willoughby

Abrielle's (Nancy Grudzinski), Albertson's, Banner Bank, Big Cheese Pizza, Blue Mountain Dental, Bordertown Feed & Supply, Burlingame Machinery, Burwells Waterhole, CDH Drafting (Chris Hopkins), Clarette's, Coffee Cravings, Del Taco, Dunning Irrigation, Graphic Apparel, Humbert Asphalt, L&G Ranch Supply, LeFore Orchards, Les Schwab, Long Shadows Vintners, Platinum Distributor (Roy Ramirez), Red Goat Fab (Gary McColley), Rodda Paint, Ron's Place Pizza, Shari's, Super 1 Foods, Tallman's Pharmacy, Tates Umapine Mercantile, The Personal Touch (Jorge Martinez), Waitsburg Elite, Walla Walla Farmer's Co-op, Widner NAPA, Wilbur Ellis, Woodward Canyon Winery, WSP Sustainable Products Lab, WSU Marketing & Promotions, WWCC ASB.



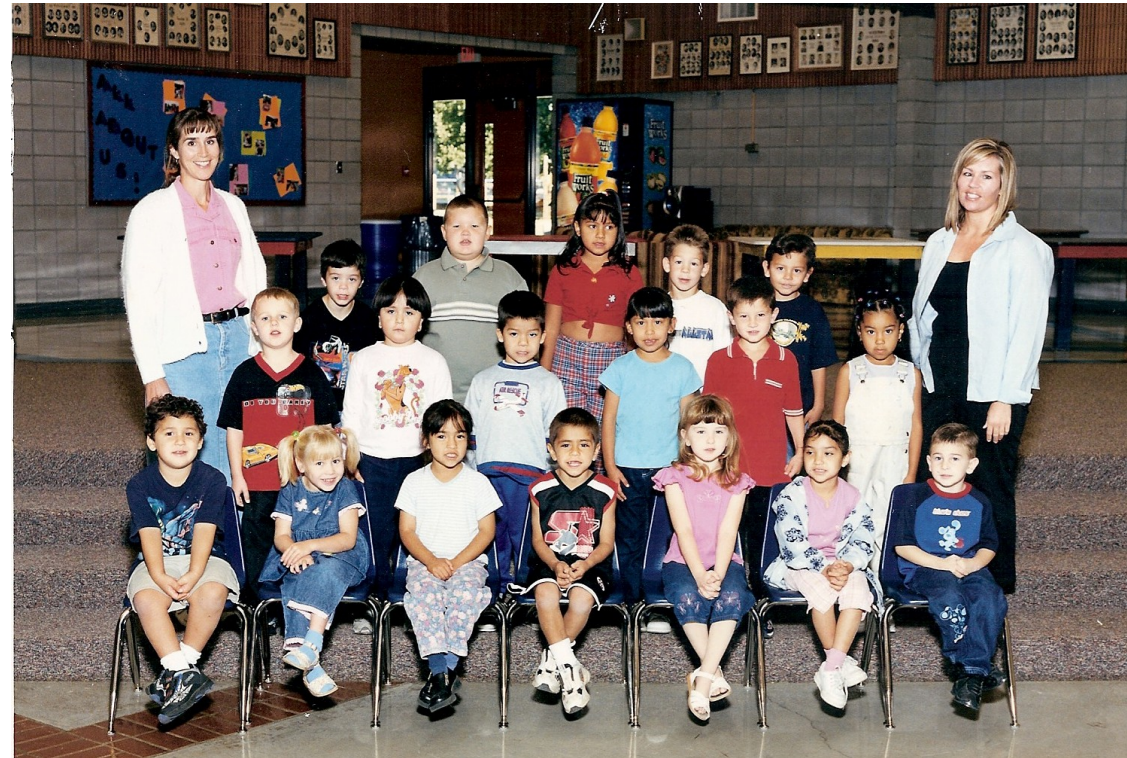
TOUCHET
HOMECOMING
WEEK
2014



Class Motto

"Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world. It is the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead

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BACK ROW

Mrs. Huesby, Miss Gaffrey

Scott Alcala, Tim Weber, Juana Ochoa, Kane Chaney, Fernando Solis

MIDDLE ROW

Ben DeRuwe, Kenya Garcia, Anthony Perez, Veronica Perez, Colter McKeown, Alexis Martinez

FRONT ROW

Mario Saldana, Katelyn Huesby, Lupita Rodriguez, Alejandro Lomeli, Morgan Downing, Maria Contreras, Tristan Sorenson



BACK ROW

Jorge Garcia, Zac Neuschwander, Colter McKeown, Riley Shanks, Alexis Martinez, Fernando Solis,
Tim Weber, Elliott Quick, Ben DeRuwe,

FRONT ROW

Juana Ochoa, Lupita Rodriguez, Daisy Hernandez, Morgan Downing, Katelyn Huesby,
Maria Contreras, Mario Saldana

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TRACKING THE INDIANS

We love to share news and updates about our Touchet Alumni in our "Tracking the Indians" section. Please send us a message through our facebook page or email at touchetedfund@yahoo.com to be included in a future issue!



Tierra Kessler ('10) graduated in December 2014 from Oklahoma State University with a degree in Animal Science with Emphasis in Livestock Merchandising. She is doing a spring internship at Ranch House Designs in Wharton, Texas, a full service graphic design and advertising firm that bills itself as "the world's best livestock advertising agency." The company website includes a blog written by Tierra titled "5 Values I Learned on the Ranch." It begins ... "There are few places comparable with raising a family on a ranch. Children from agricultural backgrounds learn an unlimited number of life lessons and values before others do. My siblings and I were fortunate enough to learn how to be virtuous people while watching our parents build their dream together."

Taylor Gregg ('09) graduated from Washington State University with a degree in History and is currently attending Cal Poly. He writes "I'm here at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, in the Counseling and Guidance 2 year Master's program, looking towards a career in higher education. This spring I plan to college rodeo for Cal Poly in the steer wrestling and maybe the team roping. Right now I am thinking of becoming a career counselor, and possibly even a rodeo coach."



Yuri Can ('10) attended Washington State University and graduated in December 2014. She obtained a Bachelor's degree in Spanish with a teaching endorsement and a minor in French Area Studies. She did her student teaching at Walla Walla High School in the fall of 2014. Yuri received four scholarships from the Touchet Educational Foundation, as well as many scholarships from other private organizations, which helped her graduate from WSU loan free. She accepted a Spanish teaching position at Steilacoom High School within a month of graduation.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Class of '47 Lois Colwell Cummins, **'52** Al Aichele, **'53** Shirley Marbach MacMurdo, **'63** Mike Brock, **'65** Jim Martin, **'10** ReAna Butler

DON MERRILL, 1930-2015, Longtime Touchet resident, Don Merrill, passed away on February 3, 2015. The "pop" man was what most kids called him, when he cruised the neighborhood in his favorite red chevy pick-up with ice chests full of pop, offering cool drinks to whoever would need it. Always looking to make people smile – kids and adults alike. He loved creating things with wood – swings, wishing wells and clocks.

Some of you may not know this but he and his wife of 57 years, Alma, donated money for years for Touchet scholarships anonymously. He was sneaky like that. Selfless in so many ways, it's what makes small towns go round, and city dwellers jealous. Many of you may remember him picking you up in a Touchet school bus. He also did several carpentry projects at the school, including the trophy cases, hall lockers for the elementary students, and a podium for the sports awards. Don was a great asset to the Touchet community and will be greatly missed by many.

ELBERT DURFEE, 1932-2015. Longtime area resident and friend of TEF, Elbert "Al" Durfee of Milton-Freewater, passed away on February 10, 2015. He worked for many years at the Pendleton Grain Growers store in M-F, retiring in 2009. He was a proud Touchet grandfather of Ashley Durfee Carlisle '02, Kylie Durfee Flowers '04, and Natalie Durfee Snodgrass '06.

Mr. Durfee, and his children, Stuart, Teri and Jess, established the Education Scholarship in memory of his wife, Helen Durfee, the first year the Touchet Educational Foundation began in 2003. In 2014, Mr. Durfee funded the scholarship to the endowment level, which established it as a permanent award for a worthy student pursuing a degree in education. The Touchet Educational Foundation will proudly continue to award this scholarship in honor and recognition of Mr. and Mrs. Durfee. Elbert will be missed and remembered fondly by many in our Touchet community.



*Thank You 2014 Donors
for all you have done for Touchet Students*

The Touchet Educational Foundation would like to honor all those who have made contributions and chosen to support this work.
Your generosity is appreciated and the donations that are received are supporting graduating seniors and past graduates.

<i>Adams, Don and Lynda</i>	<i>Fulgham, Bob and Naomi</i>	<i>Rensland, Sandy</i>
<i>Adams, John and Pat</i>	<i>Garbe, Lois</i>	<i>Reppe, Sandy</i>
<i>Addison, Penny</i>	<i>Garcia, Miguel and Dee Vee</i>	<i>Richards, Brad and Lisa</i>
<i>Aichele, Al and Pat</i>	<i>Gary, Walter and Margaret</i>	<i>Richartz, Erica and Tim</i>
<i>Anderson, Perry</i>	<i>Gerla, Sam and Kathy</i>	<i>Richartz, Shae</i>
<i>Baker Boyer Bank</i>	<i>Greene, James</i>	<i>Sauer, Karen</i>
<i>Art & Clara Bald Trust</i>	<i>Grudzinski, Randy and Nancy</i>	<i>Schaecher, Mike</i>
<i>Bald, Kurt</i>	<i>Hanson, Dick and Mary</i>	<i>Schaeffer, Nance</i>
<i>Barnett, Wayne and Beverly</i>	<i>Harmon, Mertis</i>	<i>Schaeffer, Sally</i>
<i>Bredberg, Wayne and Judy</i>	<i>Harpe, Lyle and Sally</i>	<i>Schaeffer, Sylvia</i>
<i>Brock, Frank and Carol</i>	<i>Harris, Joe and Diane</i>	<i>Schaeffer, Terry and Shirley</i>
<i>Brown, Susan and Kevin</i>	<i>Hines, Marilyn</i>	<i>Scherger, Kristi and Jay</i>
<i>Buckley, Mike and Sandy</i>	<i>Hobson, Allen and Marlys</i>	<i>See, Dan and Gayle</i>
<i>Burlingame Machinery</i>	<i>Hopkins, Chris and Carol</i>	<i>Smith, Charles and Sandra</i>
<i>Burt, Gary and Kristie</i>	<i>Huesby, Gordon and Lois</i>	<i>Smyth, Jeffrey and Debbie</i>
<i>Bussell, Larry and Martha Lee</i>	<i>Ingham, Mike and Sharron</i>	<i>Stilson, Robert</i>
<i>Byerley, Stuart and Sheryl</i>	<i>Johnson, Marty and Shirley</i>	<i>Sullivan, Ian and Kelly</i>
<i>Cheryholmes, Barbara</i>	<i>Jones, Nate and Diana</i>	<i>Tallmans</i>
<i>Chvatal, Ed and Kelly</i>	<i>Kregger, Marguerite</i>	<i>Touchet FFA Chapter</i>
<i>Crowe, Fred and Genie</i>	<i>Lloyds Real Estate</i>	<i>Touchet-Gardena Lions Club</i>
<i>Cummins, Keith</i>	<i>McCubbins, Mike and Julie</i>	<i>Tri-Community Homemakers</i>
<i>Cummins, June</i>	<i>McKeown, Caden</i>	<i>United Seed Services</i>
<i>Cummins, Melissa</i>	<i>McKinnon, Jack and Lynn</i>	<i>Wagoner, Mark and Sharla</i>
<i>DeRuwe, Shane and Kathy</i>	<i>Mendoza, Kaitlyn</i>	<i>Walla Walla Farmers Co-op</i>
<i>Dickey, Wayne and Nancy</i>	<i>Nelson Irrigation</i>	<i>Watson, Lynn</i>
<i>Dilts, David and Beth Ann</i>	<i>Neuschwander, Valerie and Jim</i>	<i>Weber, Larry and Myrna</i>
<i>Doty, Reginald and Jenise</i>	<i>Pape Machinery</i>	<i>Weber, Leland and Traci</i>
<i>Dunning Irrigation</i>	<i>Pheasants Forever</i>	<i>Well, Elsie</i>
<i>Dunning, Ron and Dana</i>	<i>Post Harvest Farmer</i>	<i>Whited, Paul</i>
<i>Durfee, Elbert</i>	<i>Golf Tournament</i>	<i>Williams, David and JoAnn</i>
<i>Erickson, Marie</i>	<i>Preciado, Manuel</i>	<i>Willoughby, Bob and Jan</i>
<i>Ferrians, Oscar</i>	<i>Rea, Lance</i>	<i>Zahl, Jerry and Kathryn</i>
<i>FPL NextEra Energy</i>	<i>Rea, Robert and Anna</i>	
<i>Frazier, Troy and MaryAnn</i>	<i>Reich, Paula</i>	

Contributions Made (March 2014 to March 2015) In Memory Of:

Alvin & Mary O Adams, Al Aichele, Mike Brock, Merri Bussell, ReAna Butler, Lois Colwell Cummins, Scotty Cummins, Janis Dorman, Ron Dunning, Jr., Helen & Elbert Durfee, Hayden Folett, Otto Garbe, Tyler Gluck, Mike Humphreys, Jean Jones, Jim Martin, Robert McCubbins, Shirley MacMurdo, Don Merrill, Katie Nolan, Macelino Pedroza, Dell Pisca, Humberto Ramirez, John Rea, Jr., Oroville Reiber, Dave Reppe, Donna Rose, Robert Schaeffer, Frank Scott, John Scott, Leisha Rea Synoground, Justin Shurtleff, Lucille Voshell, Edna Warner, Walter Zier

TOUCHET EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION
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96th May Day
Celebration

May 1, 2015 in the Touchet Park

King & Queen Colter McKeown & Daisy Hernandez

Herald & Maid of Honor Tim Weber & Morgan Downing

Junior Princesses

Sarai Berumen
Rachel Miller

Sophomore Princesses

Melisa Garcia
Laura Pedroza

Freshmen Princesses

Katie Skramstad
Vanessa Valasquez-Pedroza