

Texas Tech Homecoming Brings Alumni Back to Lubbock - and Back to Familiar Local Favorites

As Red Raiders return for Homecoming 2026, longtime Lubbock barbecue restaurant Bigham's Smokehouse celebrates the food, friendships, and traditions that make coming home special.



Lubbock, Texas Oct 14, 2026 ([Issuewire.com](https://www.issuewire.com)) - For Texas Tech alumni, Homecoming is about more than football. It's a chance to revisit the places, people, and traditions that made Lubbock feel like home. As the Red Raiders prepare to welcome Arizona State on October 17, longtime local businesses like Bigham's Smokehouse are part of the familiar landscape awaiting returning graduates.

Founded in 1978, Bigham's Smokehouse has served [Lubbock-style barbecue](#) for nearly five decades. Through generations of Texas Tech students, alumni, and local families, the restaurant has remained a locally owned gathering place where barbecue and community come together.

Homecoming Is About More Than the Game

Texas Tech's 2026 Homecoming celebration brings a full week of traditions to Lubbock, culminating in Friday's Homecoming parade, pep rally, bonfire, and concert, followed by Saturday's football game against Arizona State.

For many returning alumni, however, the Homecoming experience extends well beyond campus.

It means driving past an old apartment, revisiting familiar neighborhoods, meeting friends who haven't

been together in years, and finding time to enjoy the local restaurants they remember from their college days.

That's where established Lubbock businesses have a special place in the Homecoming experience.

Bigham's Smokehouse has been part of the city's restaurant community since 1978, serving smoked meats, classic barbecue sides, and Texas hospitality through decades of change and growth.

A Family-Owned Lubbock Tradition Since 1978

Bigham's Smokehouse was founded by Don Bigham and continues today under the local ownership and operation of Nick Bigham.

What began as a [family barbecue business](#) has grown into three Lubbock locations, offering dine-in, carry-out, drive-thru, delivery, and catering services.

Throughout the years, the restaurant has served the community surrounding Texas Tech, including students, families, longtime residents, and visitors to the South Plains.

As Lubbock has expanded and generations of Red Raiders have graduated, Bigham's has continued doing what it knows best: preparing barbecue and welcoming people around the table.

For those returning to town, familiar restaurants can be just as meaningful as familiar landmarks. A meal shared with former roommates, classmates, or family members can bring back memories that have little to do with the final score of a football game.

Barbecue and the Traditions That Bring People Together

Food has always played a role in Texas football culture. From pregame gatherings and family cookouts to postgame meals and alumni reunions, barbecue provides a natural setting for people to reconnect.

Homecoming weekend gives returning Red Raiders plenty of reasons to gather, and local restaurants provide opportunities to carry those celebrations beyond campus.

With three locations across Lubbock, Bigham's Smokehouse offers options for alumni visiting old friends, families spending the weekend together, and groups looking to enjoy barbecue during their time in town.

The restaurant also offers [catering for larger gatherings](#), making it an option for reunions, group celebrations, and other events.

For Bigham's, the connection between barbecue and Homecoming reflects something that has remained consistent throughout the restaurant's history: good food gives people a reason to gather, but the people around the table make the experience memorable.

Celebrating the Lubbock Community

Homecoming also highlights the relationship between Texas Tech University and the city of Lubbock.

The return of alumni and visitors brings renewed attention to the restaurants, shops, and locally owned

businesses that help define the community's character.

For a business with roots stretching back to 1978, that connection is especially meaningful.

Bigham's Smokehouse represents the type of longstanding local establishment that helps make Lubbock recognizable to returning visitors while continuing to serve the people who call the city home year-round.

As Texas Tech celebrates Homecoming 2026, Bigham's Smokehouse welcomes returning alumni, current students, families, and visitors to reconnect over barbecue and enjoy another memorable weekend in Lubbock.

About Bigham's Smokehouse

Founded in 1978 by Don Bigham, Bigham's Smokehouse is a family-owned and locally operated barbecue restaurant serving Lubbock, Texas. Today, Nick Bigham continues the family's tradition of serving smoked meats, barbecue plates, sandwiches, and classic sides. With three Lubbock locations, Bigham's offers dine-in, carry-out, drive-thru, delivery, and catering services for individuals, families, businesses, and community gatherings.

For restaurant information, menus, locations, and catering, visit <https://bighamsbbq.com/>.



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