

WOODLAKE UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT FOUNDATION

Woodlake Union High School District Foundation Newsletter

Issue 52 • Spring 2014

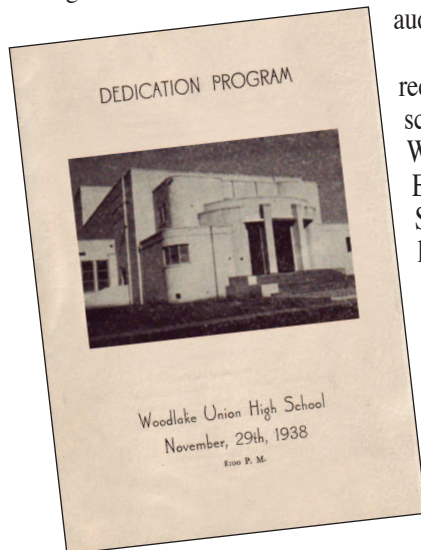
WOODLAKE HIGH SCHOOL CELEBRATES IT'S CENTENNIAL YEAR IN 2013-2014!

Out of the 13,000 acres entrepreneur, Gilbert F. Stevenson purchased in 1906 to build a town, he donated 10 acres to build the high school. By 1914 the population of the "Woodlake district including the town of Woodlake and the tributary territory" had blossomed to 4,000. In April 1914, Mrs. Naught held a series of meetings in her "spacious millinery parlors" to discuss the formation of a high school district. Classes for 20-25 students began in the fall of 1914, growing to 30 attendees by spring, in the "Brick Block," built in 1912. At the time there was also a grocery, dry goods, bank, drug and hardware store conducting business in the "Brick Block." Two years later enrollment doubled to 65 students, and the high school moved into its new building, a 13 room building with an auditorium, which seated 600.



Woodlake Union High School Campus - 1915-1936

Residents today might recognize a few of the feeder schools to the high school: Woodlake, Naranjo, Townsend, Elda, Jefferson, Paloma, and Stone Corral. Likewise a few last names of the elected trustees might also be familiar: D.C. Cole, Albert Rangle, Philip W. Davis, J.G. Howard, and W.V. Brown. By 1917, the first class of "Pioneers" graduated.



In 1920 legislation had passed that required "every elementary school to become part of a high school district." Woodlake High School became Woodlake Union High School. Woodlake competed with Exeter Union High School to sign on Three Rivers and Lemon Cove Elementary Schools, and Administrator, Mr. Doig won their partnership. Bus service gathered in students living over 30 miles apart, from Seville to Three Rivers. Romantic bus driver, Ray Prichard, married one of the student passengers, Verna Barton, in 1916, and the other driver, Fred Ogilvie finished high school while driving bus, and in 1926 married a Three Rivers student, Rena Alles, who rode his bus.

The Woodlake High School Campus looks much different today

than in did 100 years ago. The original building burned down in 1936. The next building burned down in 1980. The present building opened

in 1983. Students today, numbering 721, enjoy two gymnasiums, a swimming pool, the Performing Arts Building, a baseball and softball complex and our newly renovated football stadium with an all new weather track.

Effective July 2012

Woodlake Union High School unified with Woodlake Union Elementary School, eliminating governance by two different boards. The newly elected trustees are: Joe Hallmeyer - Current Board President, Helen Renteria, Edmond Pena, Kent Owen, Ralph Chapman, George Sanchez, and Richard Rochin to serve the Unified School District under the direction of Superintendent, Drew Sorensen. Other leaders include: Glen Billington - Assistant Superintendent; Lisa Castillo - Principal; Rick Rodriguez - Learning Director; Carmita Pena - Dean of Students, Casandra Ledesma - Counselor, Steve Katz - Coordinator of Student Services/Counselor.



Woodlake Union High School Campus - March 2014

Woodlake High School will be celebrating our Centennial for the next three years, culminating with the graduation of the Class of 1917, the 100th graduating class. We are trying to put together a history of the school and we need your help compiling historical information. Robert Castillo's yearbook class is scanning all the yearbooks. We hope to fund a WHS section in the new Museum to house WHS Memorabilia and a computer that will have a copy of all of the school yearbooks.

Article By: Marsha Ingrao

Sources: Elliott, John F. *A History of Woodlake Union High School* Davis, Roy Lee. http://tchistorygal.blogspot.com/2014/02/the-history-of-woodlake-area-from-roy_12.html?q=brick+block

Have You Included the Woodlake High School Foundation in Your Will or Trust?

AMANDA RENTERIA - A DAUGHTER OF THE VALLEY

Amanda Renteria was a standout student and athlete in Woodlake High School's class of 1992. After leading her basketball, softball, and volleyball teams to league championships, she was voted the Central Section's CIF Girl Scholar/Athlete of the Year. Amanda was also the top student and valedictorian of her class.

Amanda was the first female Mexican-American from Woodlake to be accepted at Stanford University. While at Stanford, she earned a BA in Economics and a BA in Political Science, with honors. She was also a member of the varsity basketball and softball teams. In softball, Amanda was voted the team's captain and Most Inspirational Athlete.

In her first job out of college, she gained nearly four years of private sector work experience as an investment analyst in Los Angeles. But because she wanted to give back to the community that had given her so much, Amanda soon returned home to teach Advanced Math and Economics at Woodlake High School. She also coached the girls' junior varsity basketball and softball teams.

After teaching at Woodlake, Amanda attended Harvard Business School, where she earned a Master's degree in Business Administration with a focus on public/non-profit management. She then returned to California to work for the City of San Jose, where she managed the budgeting process for three city departments in America's 11th largest city. She also served as an interim development director for the city's Strong Neighborhoods Initiative and led major projects to



Amanda Renteria



Amanda Renteria with parents Trinidad and Helen Renteria.



Amanda's Family: Son: Diego, husband: Patrick Brannelly and Son: Timid

improve city services.

In 2005, Amanda had the honor of joining the office of California's US Senator Dianne Feinstein, serving as the Senator's advisor on economic issues. In 2006, she moved to the office of US Senator Debbie Stabenow of Michigan, where she soon became the first Latina Chief of Staff in the history of the US Senate.

In 2009, Amanda received the Imagen Foundation's Latina Leaders Award. In 2010, she was named Outstanding Chief of Staff by the Tri-Caucus Staff Association. In 2011, she received MANA's Primera Award for being the first Latina Chief of Staff in the US Senate. And in 2012, she led the team that authored, negotiated, and gained passage of the 2012 Senate Farm Bill. This was a landmark achievement and one of only a few major bipartisan successes of the past few years.

In 2006, Amanda married Patrick Brannelly at St. Mary's Church in Visalia. They live in Sanger, where they are raising their sons Diego (age 4) and Trinidad (age 1). In her spare time, Amanda serves on the Advisory Board of Stanford University's Haas Center for Public Service.

Amanda is a dedicated and effective public servant who is sincerely motivated to help others. She is running for Congress as a pro-growth Democrat because she believes the Central Valley deserves a stronger voice in Washington. Amanda has the right values and can work effectively to solve problems, address challenges, and get things done on behalf of our community.

RUDY MENDOZA - STRENGTH THROUGH ADVERSITY

I am a native of Woodlake, Graduate of Woodlake High School Class of 1993. As a first generation Mexican-American, I picked oranges, grapes, and other crops alongside my family in Central Valley fields until my early twenties, when I was named the youngest manager of a well-established Porterville farming operation.

Throughout my career, I have worked as a human resource specialist and operations manager in both the agricultural and manufacturing sectors. I built my own business helping small business owner's deal with burdensome regulations.

I was re-elected to my second term on the Woodlake City Council in November of 2012 and I currently serve as Mayor of the City of Woodlake. My main focus has been balancing the budget, providing for public safety and essential services, increasing local economic development, and generally promoting the city. I also serve on many boards and commissions, including Vice Chairman of the Tulare County Association of Governments, Tulare County Water Commission, LAFCO, Small Business Advisory, and the San Joaquin Valley Policy Council.

I never had much interest in pursuing power simply for power's sake. I became involved in politics be-

cause I had ideas about how to make some things better, such as infrastructure improvements around my native Woodlake. As a member of the Woodlake City Council and later as Mayor, I supported a major revitalization project for downtown Woodlake that we advanced even while erasing a \$1 million budget deficit. The colleagues I worked with on this project – people in many different agencies and boards – didn't get caught up in politics - we just focused on getting the job done.

Today I work as District Director for Congressman Devin Nunes (R-Tulare) – representative of California's 22nd Congressional District – where I work as a liaison between the district's residents and the federal government.



Rudy Mendoza - Mayor of Woodlake



Rudy Mendoza Jr., Mirla Mendoza, Rudy Mendoza, Sebastian Mendoza & Jacklyn Mendoza

When I am not working, I devote much of my spare time to community projects in Woodlake and throughout Tulare County. My family and I are proud supporters of local organizations including Woodlake athletics, service clubs and the Woodlake Valley Chamber of Commerce. My wife Mirla (WHS Class of 1995) and I have three children, Rudy Jr., Jacklyn, and Sebastian, all of whom attend Woodlake public schools.

Whether it's a Friday night football game rooting for the Tigers or watching my daughter tear up the soccer field – you can always find us somewhere in Woodlake. - Rudy Mendoza

A WORD FROM OUR PRINCIPAL - LISA CASTILLO



Today Woodlake High school has a combination of 46 certificated and classified employees, a student enrollment of 721, two gymnasiums, a swimming pool, a Performing Arts Building, a baseball and softball complex and our newly renovated football stadium with an all new weather track! Current Board President is Joe Hallmeyer, Board of Trustees are Helen Renteria, Edmond Pena, Kent Owen, Ralph Chapman,

George Sanchez, and Richard Rochin. WUSD is now a unified school district with Drew Sorensen as Superintendent, Glen Billington as Assistant Superintendent, Lisa Castillo as Principal, Rick Rodriguez as Learning Director and the counseling staff consists of Carmita Pena Dean of Students, Casandra Ledesma as Counselor and Coordinator of Student Services/Counselor is Steve Katz. The class of 2014 along with some parent supporters would like to consider raising funds to be able to provide a firework celebration at graduation; however, nothing is official nor has the word been put out to all.

Lisa Castillo - Principal

MELISSA SAMANIEGO - COMPETITIVE GREATNESS



John Wooden defines Competitive Greatness as; “A real love for the hard battle, knowing it offers the opportunity to be at your best when your best is required”. Here at Woodlake High School, we have one such athlete, Melissa Samaniego. Melissa is a Senior and a 4-year Varsity Volleyball player. She has been a part of the WHS Varsity teams that have won four league titles in a row, with a combined four-year overall record of 82-25, and league record of 37-1.

In 2012, after 25 years, the team was crowned as the Central Section Division IV Valley Champions and the ladies were able to get to the 2nd round of the CIF State playoffs. Not bad for a school with less than 800 students, many of which participate in more than one sport. Melissa’s teammates describe her as a loyal contributor, not only to herself, but foremost to her teammates.

Melissa has earned numerous awards and accolades, starting with being named as the 2010 East Sequoia League Rookie of the Year, and most recently as a two time ESL MVP (in 2012 and 2013). It doesn’t stop there; in 2012 she was named to the Visalia Times Delta All-Tulare County Volleyball 1st team, and the Fresno Bee All Star Volleyball 1st team. This year she was named to the Visalia Times Delta All-Tulare County Volleyball 2nd team, and

again to the Fresno Bee All Star Volleyball 1st team. Additionally, Melissa was recently named to the MaxPreps.com Division IV All State team.

Academics are of paramount importance to Melissa. She continuously displays teammate like behavior in the classroom as well as on the field. She maintains a 3.37 GPA while taking rigorous AP and honors classes. Other activities she has been involved in include leadership programs on campus, such as, the Woodlake Rotary – Interact President. Melissa was selected as an attendee at Camp Royal in 2013, as well as a Hugh O’Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) delegate in 2012. She is also the WHS School Board Student Representative, which serves as a voice for the students at Woodlake High School. Melissa also makes time for volunteer work, providing assistance at the Camp Zap Youth Foundation.

Melissa wishes to remain on the road to success as she hopes to continue her volleyball career at California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks. We will send her off with the best wishes toward her bright future. Melissa undoubtedly will continue to be rigorous toward reaching her highest aspirations in life. As John Wooden stated; “Success is peace of mind which is a direct result of self-satisfaction in knowing you made the effort to do the best of which you are capable.”



WHS GIRLS BASKETBALL - TEAM REUNION 1985

From 1984 through 1987, the WHS girls’ basketball teams won their league, Central Valley Championships and the Southern Section Division 3 Championships. Four years in a row, they went to Oakland for the State Championship games. Three of those years, they made it to the final game. In 1985, they were the California State Division 3 Girls Basketball Champions.

At the November Alumni Game this year, the WHS Girl’s Teams honored that State Championship Team. At half time of the game, the Champs were introduced and presented with a permanent board commemorating the achievement. Twelve of the



fifteen original players, both of the team managers and Coach Marvin Welch all came for the reunion. Five of the players who came decided they could start for the alumni team against the present team. Though only one of them continued to play the entire game, it was a great show for the crowd.

Much like a dribbled basketball, the girls 2013-14 season was filled with ups and downs. Two of the Varsity starters sustained knee injuries; one was forced to end her season early. Most of the nine seniors on the team had been in the program all four years. In spite of that, the team struggled to establish its personality. One night it would play inspired basketball that resulted in a big win. Two nights later a different team would not find its competitive edge and lose the game it should have won. These inconsistencies resulted in the team’s missing the playoffs by one win. Overall, they were a team in every sense of the word. At the end of the last game, which they had won by a big score, the tears began to flow in the post game huddle, as they realized that their season was over. This was a very special group of young ladies. The J.V. and Frosh teams had successful seasons. There will be a huge turnover with those nine seniors leaving. But, look for a lot of talent in the teams next year.



WOODLAKE HIGH SCHOOL - SPORTS: FALL 2013 & WINTER

FOOTBALL: Woodlake High School Tiger Football had a fresh start this year on a newly remodeled football field and an overhauled Varsity Program under the direction of first year coach Jose Del Rio. Their overall record was 7-4 and their ESL League record was 3-2. Eli Cunningham, senior, had 1200 in rushing yards. Jimmy Rios, senior, middle linebacker, had over 100 tackles. We had a young sophomore QB in Eric Schwarz who stepped up when Cade Hedrick became injured early in the season. Coach Rios says "I know successful seasons are based on championships, but I believe we made positive movement towards a great future in Woodlake football. These seniors started something great! I can't wait for them to come back to Woodlake someday to see what they started. I'm looking forward to our offseason program and I'm excited about the young men making big jumps in the weight room. We have some key players coming back next year."

VOLLEYBALL: Varsity Volleyball experienced a stellar season. Their overall record was 24-5 and they went 10-0 in ESL League. In playoffs they beat Taft, in second round they beat Liberty Madera and finally were defeated by Bakersfield Christian. Two times ESL League MVP Melissa Samaniego made the Fresno Bee 1st team All Star Team. She also was selected for the Maxpreps.com All State team for Division IV. Kianna Cunningham was chosen to the Fresno Bee All Area team as honorable mention. The girls that made up the Varsity team won 35 straight league games dating back to 10-13-10. Congrats on an awesome season!!

SOCCER: Boys' soccer enjoyed a successful season finishing with an ESL League record of 6-4 and finished 2nd place. The team advanced to the quarter finals in Division IV. Girls' soccer also finished 6-4 in ESL League with an overall record of 10-13.

GIRLS' TENNIS: Girl's tennis finished in 4th place in ESL league (out of 8 teams). They also qualified for a playoff berth. Their overall Record was 11-10 with an ESL League record of 8-6.

The doubles team of Xochitl Quezada and Bridget Lima took 4th place in doubles at the ESL Individuals, qualifying them for the Area Tournament. At the area tournament they won their first match in come-from-behind style by a score of 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7-4) before falling to the #2 seeded doubles team from Monache.

Selina Ramirez was the top player for WHS this year and earned Team MVP.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL: Two Varsity starters sustained knee injuries early and one was forced to end her season early. Despite injuries the team played on solidly, missing the playoffs by one win. Most of the nine seniors on the team had been in the program all four years. At the end of the last game, which they had won by a big score, the tears began to flow in the post-game huddle, as they realized that their season was over. They ended the season 6-4 in ESL League with an overall record of 10-13. The J.V. and Frosh teams had successful seasons. There will be a huge turnover with those nine seniors leaving. But, look for a lot of talent on the teams next year.

CROSS COUNTRY: The team qualified for a State berth for the 5th time in the last 7 years. The Boys' team finished 2nd in ESL League with Sophomore standout Sotero Silva being the top finisher at all races this year. The Girls' team boasts the attributes of Annette Acosta who was 2nd in ESL League and placed 5th at Sectional Championships. She also set many new school records.

WRESTLING: The wrestling team made great leaps forward this year in experience and growth. While their final dual meet record (3-10, 1-5 ESL) Individual standouts included Alex Zamora at 132lbs. (1st Jeff Forhman Memorial, 3rd ESL), Nate Rodriguez at 120lbs. (2nd Jeff Forhman Memorial, 2nd ESL, Ricardo Cuevas at 126lbs. (4th ESL), and Nick Negrete at HVY (10-3, 3rd ESL). All four wrestlers who qualified made the second day of the valley championships (Ricardo Cuevas, Nate Rodriguez, Alex Zamora, and Nick Negrete). With no seniors, and the prospect of all wrestlers returning, the wrestling team will continue to make solid growth in the off-season with the goal of an East Sequoia league championship in 2015.

BOYS' BASKETBALL: Their overall record was 11-15 and they were 4-6 in League. Highlights this year for the team was defeating Lindsay and Corcoran for the first time in 9 years. The team was led by seniors Jaykob Rodriguez, Marco Gonzalez and sophomore Jacob Varela. Coach Louie Perez says of his team "Our motto this year was not just to play, but to compete hard, which they did. This group of players has set the tone for the years to come with their hard work ethic in and out of the classroom."

Woodlake High School DRAMA DEPARTMENT

Presents



Thursday-Saturday:

May 15, 16, & 17

Curtain Rises at 7:00 pm

Admission:

General \$5 • Seniors & Military \$3 • Students \$1

For More Information Call:

Barbara Hallmeyer: 559.564.2334

JOHN WOOD AND FAMILY - CELEBRATING THREE

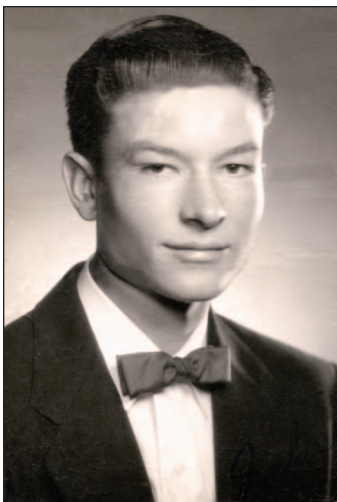
by Steve Hopper

My introduction to the John Wood family – and indirectly to the city of Woodlake – began in the summer of 1984 with a church youth group in Portland, Oregon. Then it happened: I witnessed the most beautiful redhead with the most incredible personality and the most infectious laugh – Debra Wood. It really was “love at first sight.” The church convention ended and I was back in Illinois, back to Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, back to routine life. Fortunately, Debra visited my hometown Murphysboro, Illinois, a few times to attend our church camp meeting, and that is when we became better acquainted. Fast forward through a few interesting anecdotes ... we were married in Woodlake on June 13, 1992.



Barbara Scott - Age 16 • John Wood - Age 19

Next, I would like to mention two individuals who not only allowed me to be part of their incredible family, but have also had an impact on my life: John and Barbara Wood.

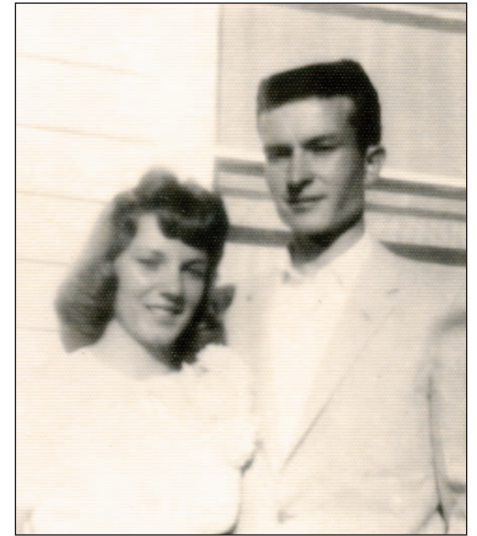


John Wood Graduation - Age 16

A native of Woodlake, John was born to Morris A. and Zola May Wood on June 28, 1939 – the youngest of eleven children. His father was the pastor of the Woodlake Gospel Tabernacle on the corner of North Palm and Antelope; at that time, there were only two churches in Woodlake. The family moved a few times, living in different locations in the San Joaquin Valley. John attended 8th grade and his first three years of high school in Woodlake, and then completed his senior year at Caruthers graduating in 1956. The day after graduation he moved back to Woodlake where he has resided for 58 years.

After earning an associate of arts degree in Building Trades from the College of the Sequoias (COS), John worked for Max Caldwell Construction and later at Spalding Lumber building Spalding homes before starting Wood Brothers Construction at the age

of 20 years old along with his older brother Don. Wood Brothers Construction specialized in pre-sold custom built homes with approximately 700 contracts throughout Tulare, Kings, and Fresno counties – John himself planned and designed around 500 of those! While in business and after his retirement in 2001, he has had the privilege of assisting many church



Barbara & John Wedding Day - July 2, 1960

projects in Arizona, California, Missouri, Oregon, Washington, Wisconsin, and Virginia. Recently he designed and supervised the building of the Woodlake Valley Cultural Museum.

John would tell you that his family’s stability and business success are attributed to his faith in God, prayer, and the support of his wife Barbara. Barbara was born on November 1, 1942, to Henry and Pearl Scott in Woodlake – the youngest of ten children – on the 100 block of North Palm (both John and Barbara were born on the same block, three years apart). She attended elementary school in Woodlake and Oregon and was a majorette at Woodlake High School.

Through a friendship with Barbara’s brother Carl, John began dating Barbara, and they were married in John’s parent’s home in Woodlake on July 2, 1960. Soon they became the proud parents of four daughters – all of whom graduated from Woodlake High School.



The Wood Daughters - Debra, Janice, Cindie & Sandy

Janice (Class of '80) married Fred Klauser, from Portland, Oregon, who is co-owner of Klauser Masonry in Visalia. They have two children: Erik and Melany. Erik, co-owner of Klauser Masonry, is married to Amber, a marriage family therapist. Melany graduated from Smittcamp at Fresno State with a degree in medical physics and is a nuclear medicine technologist at Kaweah Delta Hospital. She and her husband, Bryn White – a field energy

THE GENERATIONS AT WOODLAKE HIGH SCHOOL



The Wood Ladies - Janice Klauser, Sandy Enns, Barbara Hood, Cindie Baltzell and Debra Hopper

consultant for Solar City, are the proud parents of one year old Mason, who is babysat by Grandma Janice.

Sandy (Class of '81) and her husband David Enns, a CPA at Enns & Associates, have four children. Derek graduated from UC-Santa Barbara with a degree in chemistry and is presently pursuing a doctorate in physical therapy in Denver, Colorado – he also speaks Mandarin Chinese and Thai fluently! Josh, also co-owner of Klauser Masonry, and his wife Gabriele – a homemaker with a passion for animal rescue – have four daughters: Jade, Sage, Reagan, and Kennedy, with son Bradley arriving this June. Janae graduated from Fresno State with a degree in child development as well as from San Joaquin Valley College with a degree in respiratory therapy. Hunter is a high school sophomore attending a boarding school in northern California.



John and Barbara Wood - Family Get Together

Cindie (Class of '90) and Randy Baltzell – pastor of The Trinity Apostolic Faith Church in Woodlake – are parents to Kylie, a COS student who is pursuing a career as a dietician and plays piano and sings in the church choir; Austin, a junior at Central Valley Christian, sings in the school and church choirs, plays trumpet in the church orchestra, and participates on the CVC football and swimming teams; Hayden, an 8th grader at CVC, sings in the school choir and studies violin. Cindie, in addition to her duties as a pastor's wife, teaches Sunday School, plays flute in the church orchestra, and sings in the church choir.

Debra (Class of '83) and I lived in Medford, Oregon, where I worked as a minister of music in Medford, Oregon, for several years. I discussed my idea with Debra about returning to the classroom. Through a series of events, I was hired as a music/English teacher at Woodlake High School in 2001 through a teacher recruitment fair in Visalia. In addition to working at Castle Rock Elementary School as a special education aide, Debra teaches Sunday School, plays violin in the church orchestra and sings in the church choir (Our daughters also play violin in the church orchestra and sing in the church choir). Mariah graduated from WHS (Class of '12) and currently attends Porterville College and works at Starbucks. In high school, she participated in basketball and swimming; she plans to transfer to Fresno Pacific University and pursue a career as an elementary/special education teacher. Kelsey participated in volleyball, basketball, and swimming at WHS, and graduates this June with plans to attend Porterville College in the fall. She would like to transfer to UC-Davis and pursue a career in veterinary science.



John and Barbara Wood - With all Their Grandchildren

God has been good to our family through the highs and lows of life. Sadly, Barbara succumbed to cancer on August 16, 2011, yet she left a legacy as a gracious and godly woman to her family as well as to the community she loved and supported: Woodlake. I can see why John and Barbara love and support our town – there are many individuals who give of their time and resources to make this a truly unique community. Although not a Woodlake native, I have grown to appreciate that “Tiger Pride.”

LUCIANNA AGUILAR ACCEPTED FOR 22ND ANNUAL IVY LEAGUE PROJECT

Lucianna Aguilar is a junior at Woodlake High School. This year she had the privilege and honor to be nominated and accepted into the 22nd Annual Ivy League Project. This project develops the next generation of leaders. This is a program that will send students to the East Coast to visit many prestigious Ivy League Universities, which one day Lucianna hopes to attend. Students selected will be visiting Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Brown, Columbia, MIT, and Penn during the spring break of 2014. In addition, students will be able to tour the Statue of Liberty, historical Boston, the Liberty Bell and other historical sites.

This is a wonderful opportunity for Lucianna as this trip will allow her to meet admission officers and students from various colleges. She will be able to expand her views regarding college, universities



Lucianna Aguilar

and cultures beyond Tulare County and California. She would like to study at a university. She would like to be a role model for her family. Her father, Alvaro Aguilar, especially encourages Lucianna in her pursuit of a higher education.

Lucianna is interested in pursuing a law degree at an Ivy League college. Lucianna has the ability and determination to succeed. She has set high goals for herself as she has throughout her high school career. She is currently a member of the Drama Club, the California Scholastic Federation, Key Club, MAYA Club and was also on the Mock Trial Team. Lucianna has a great work ethic and a determination to reach her goals.

Woodlake High School is very proud to be represented by a student of this caliber!

WOODLAKE HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS

Woodlake
High School Foundation

Dollars for
SCHOLARS®

Scholarship America®

Woodlake High School Foundation Dollars for Scholars® officially launched a new website on December 15, 2013 through a new software tool provided by Scholarship America®, Dollars for Scholars' parent organization.

This new website will allow Woodlake High School Foundation Dollars for Scholars to help students in the community access more scholarships. Through the website, students will have the ability to create an online profile, which allows them to apply for and be matched to multiple scholarships—on both the local and national level—in just a couple of clicks.

Woodlake High School Foundation Dollars for Scholars was able to customize the website to meet its specific needs; it includes keeping the local community updated on chapter news, events, deadlines, fundraising opportunities. This website gives students and parents a one-stop-shop for chapter scholarships, educational resources, opportunities, and events.

Woodlake High School Foundation Dollars for Scholars encourages students to begin developing their online profiles early in their

high school career to assure they are alerted about scholarship opportunities in advance of deadlines. In addition to scholarships, students will also have access to exclusive volunteer and internship opportunities that may be available to them, as well as a wealth of financial aid and college success tools and resources provided by Scholarship America.

Scholarship America® is the nation's largest provider of private scholarships, helping students pursue and complete their education beyond high school through local and national scholarship programs, and emergency financial assistance. Scholarship America has distributed more than \$2.7 billion in scholarship assistance to more than 1.8 million students over the last 50 years. Scholarship America's programs, which include Dollars for Scholars®, help fund both entry-level and multi-year scholarships, as well as emergency financial grants. More information is available at www.scholarshipamerica.org.

Woodlake High School Foundation Dollars for Scholars will better serve students and community with the official launch of an online student scholarship application. This online application replaces the Local Scholarship Application that students would traditionally complete.

Students and parents will be able to access the new website at:
www.WoodlakeHS.dollarsforscholars.org.

Contact: Carmita Pena

WHS Dean Student Services/Head Counselor
559.564.3307 ext. 329 • Email: cpena@w-usd.org

WOODLAKE HIGH SCHOOL - SCHOLARSHIP NIGHT

It's that exciting time of year when our seniors are deciding what happens after they finish at WHS. This year's senior class has about 180 students. Many of them will be trying to find the means to continue their education. That's where the Foundation can do the most good. Not only do we do our best to raise funds to help students, but we serve as a conduit for others who would like to help worthy students.

The counseling department completed the WHS link to Scholarship America's Dollars for Scholars. This allows the

students to research a wide area of available scholarships and financing online. They will also apply for the local scholarships online for the first time.

Seniors will be interviewing for local scholarships on March 24, with Awards Night scheduled for May 19th. Consider helping a student through the Foundation; your contribution is fully tax deductible with the IRS and the State of California. Plus, it's such a reward to watch a WHS graduate grow into a contributing member of society.

WOODLAKE AWARD 2013 WINNERS



Organization of the Year - Ballet Folklorico del Lago

Ballet Folklorico del Lago is a youth dance organization that has been active in Woodlake for over 5 years, providing traditional Mexican dance classes for children ages 5 – 13. Through dance, students learn and express the Mexican culture, building confidence, teamwork and performing arts skills. The group founder and instructor is Micaela Rodriguez Macareno WHS Class of 1997. She has also expanded her program to include adult Zumba classes.



Woodlake Youth of the Year – Melissa Samaniego

Melissa Samaniego, (Daughter of Ana Carretero, Class of 1983) is a student with strong leadership characteristics with pride in herself, school and the community of Woodlake. She is noted for being kind, caring, responsible, trustworthy, devout and respectful. She has given countless hours to mentor youth at Camp Zap as well as with the travelling Club volleyball team. She leads by example with her positive attitude.

She has given countless hours to mentor youth at Camp Zap as well as with the travelling Club volleyball team. She leads by example with her positive attitude.



Woodlake Youth of the Year – Carlos Vargas

Carlos is a person who represents Woodlake High School, the community of Woodlake and himself with true character and Tiger Spirit! He has given approximately 370 hours of community service. He is a scholar with a tremendous work ethic and positive “can do” attitude.



Spirit of Woodlake - Irene Bly

Irene Bly is this year’s recipient of the Spirit of Woodlake Award. Because of her positive enthusiasm, she has made a positive impact on the youth of Woodlake. Irene has been a member of Woodlake Rotary Club and served as president in 2004-05. She interviews WHS students for scholarships and exit interviews and has hosted Rotary Exchange Students. She is active with many other organizations outside of Woodlake.

Lifetime Achievement Award - John Wood

John Wood is a native of Woodlake who is being recognized for all he has given back to this community. Founder of Wood Bros Construction, he and his wife, Barbara, were the first to come forward with a donation for the Woodlake Botanical Garden. Mr. Wood was asked to be the chairman for the construction of the Woodlake Museum in March 2013. He organized local contacts in the community and through his church, Trinity Apostolic Church and began building the museum in September 2013. He has also been acknowledged by the state of CA for his involvement with Habitat for Humanity.



Woman of the Year Award - Courtney Hengst

Courtney Hengst has been an inspiration and an asset to the community of Woodlake since coming here in 1985. As a teacher at Woodlake Valley Middle School, the door of her classroom remains open to students long after the final bell of the school day and they congregate there because they feel safe and loved. Courtney has been active with re-starting Woodlake 4-H Club, Woodlake FFA, WHS Football Boosters, Woodlake Valley Middle School Leadership and Builder’s Club, Kiwanis of Woodlake, and all youth activities at Foothill Bible Church. Courtney is married to David Hengst (WHS Class of 1984) and has two children – Hayley (WHS Class of 2011) and Foster (.WHS Class of 2014) They make their home in Elderwood.



Man of the Year Award - Ramon Lara

Ramon Lara (WHS Class of 2000) is a Woodlake native and currently works as the City Manager. But his activities don’t stop there. Ramon has brought new activities and projects to Woodlake. His love for his hometown inspires him to dream great dreams for this little town, something he calls “Homegrown Project.” He found funding for the City of Woodlake and Woodlake Unified School District to work together on “Step Up” and “Summer Night Lights.” He has been the coach for WHS Softball and, at his own expense, coached a summer league team so that the girls would continue to improve their skills and return as ESL Champs the following year. He is married to Cassie (WHS Class of 2000) and they have two children – Ella and Andre.



COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS - CCSS, LCFF, AND LCAP

There is a sea change in education in California beginning with the passage of Proposition 30 in November of 2012. All school districts are now using the Common Core State Standards in place of the California State Standards. The biggest change in using CCSS is that we will be teaching our students Twentyfirst Century Skills that should serve them well as they become college and career ready. We no longer have our students take CST tests in the spring, but we will have them, on a practice basis, take the new Smarter Balanced Assessments in English and math beginning in April. These tests are now given to all 3-8th graders as well as 11th graders, a switch from the previous CST's that were given to all students in 2-11 grades.

From a budget standpoint, the new Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) is our funding model. This is a change from our previous budget model called the Base Revenue Limit. The LCFF gives dollars to all school districts based on enrollment, and then also give additional funds, called Supplemental and Concentration grants, based upon the number of students who are considered Low Income, English Learners, or Foster Youth. These budget dollars will be different for all school districts which make previous comparisons of budgets very difficult to make.

How districts spend these additional Supplemental and Concentration Grants dollars must be included in what is called the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP). These LCAPs go to the respective governing Boards in May for formal adoption, so all school stakeholders should do their best to attend any meetings where the LCAP will be discussed and your input solicited. The LCAP is a three-year plan that will allow districts to look ahead to increasing student achievement in the years to come. Remember, the key to all of this input is to find the myriad of ways that may help all students, but especially those who are Low Income, English Learners, or Foster Youth, reach their academic potential, so if you have thoughts and/or suggestions, please contact your respective district and site administration and teachers and pass these thoughts along.



*Drew S. Sorensen - Superintendent
Woodlake Unified School District*

WOODLAKE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI HALL OF FAME

What do Joe Montana, Willie Mays, or Jerry West have in common with Woodlake High School? For those of you that have lived in Woodlake or followed Woodlake alumni, you know that none of these men attended Woodlake High. However, they are in the Hall of Fame in their respective sports. If a few locals have their way, Woodlake will soon have a Hall of Fame for their alumni to be inducted into.

The upcoming 2014-15 school year will mark the 100th year of Woodlake High School being in operation. With all of those years in the books, don't you think there are some people who have accomplished tremendous things either on the athletic fields while attending Woodlake High or beyond? Aren't there some people who have

become accomplished in their chosen professional field once they left Woodlake High? How about the teachers or staff members that are synonymous with your Woodlake High School memories?

If you would like to be a part of committee that would put together the criteria and inaugural event honoring former staff and students at Woodlake High, please contact Tony Casares at 564-8716, Principal Lisa Castillo (564-3307) or Athletic Director Raul Quintero (564-3307). Woodlake High has a unique history with "artists" who have contributed to the painting that is Woodlake High School. Like Montana, Mays, and West, it would be nice to enshrine them in such a way to give them credit for their contribution.

Tony Casares

DANIELLE BRADBURY BRINGS HER VOICE TO WOODLAKE

What started out as a simple canned food drive, put on by the Interact Club, at Woodlake High School became a community wide effort. Within the span of one month, over 2 thousand pounds of non-perishable food items were collected. A large portion came from Mr. Palomo's classes and the Woodlake Rotary Club. Money donations were also accepted; every dollar counted as 5 pounds of food.

On Tuesday January 14, 2014 Danielle Bradbury, the Season 4 winner of the hit TV show *The Voice*, came to perform at Woodlake High School. The 17-year-old caught the attention of Adam Levine, Blake Shelton, and Usher as she sang "Mean" by Taylor Swift, who ironically also sang in Woodlake as an up and coming artist, during the blind audition. Thirteen weeks later she was announced the youngest artist in the competition to ever win.

Woodlake High School students were beyond excited to have



Danielle perform at school. Before she began to sing she was awarded the key of the city on behalf of The Chamber of Commerce. Also, on behalf of the students and staff of WHS she was given a baseball jersey and baseball cap with her last name on the back and a beautiful arrangement of flowers thanks to the high school's Floral Culture class.

She stood 5 foot 3 inches, but her voice easily filled the entire Event Center. Although many of the students did not know too much about Danielle prior to winning the contest, once they heard her sing they would never forget who she was. "I thought her voice was amazing, it was as if she didn't even have to try," said senior Jamerra Carmichael. Everybody in that gym felt

the same way as they sat on the floor, in chairs, and in the bleachers just listening to her voice in awe. All in all, the concert was an extreme success. This just shows how dedication and motivation can go a long way within a small community.

BECKY GRISWOLD - BIENVENIDOS A COLOMBIA

Becky Griswold, WHS Class of 2006, graduated from San Francisco State University in 2013 with a Bachelor of Science in Parks, Recreation and Tourism Administration. After graduation, she wanted to do something internationally, but not simply travel. She wanted to volunteer and work her way around a region of the world, and chose WorldTeach on the advice of a friend. This story is taken from Becky's blog, beckiend03r.wordpress.com

On January 1, 2014, she started the New Year by flying to Bogota, Colombia for three weeks of training. Then it was on to her assignment in Barranquilla. It's very hot in this part of Colombia, even in winter! The school day begins at 7:00 am and is done by 1:00 pm, precisely because the heat gets so bad in the afternoon. After work, she meanders to her house and has learned to enjoy a siesta. Around 4:00 pm, las brisas begin to pick up and life resumes.

Two months into this adventure, Barranquilla was abuzz with excitement for Friday, February 21, when Guacherna, Barranquilla's Carnaval would be held. The professors at Madre Marcelina, the school where Becky teaches, had chosen Becky to be la reina, and she would have to dance and speak Spanish in front of the entire school of 500 stu-



Becky Griswold and a few of her ninth grade students.

dents with a day and a half to prepare. Borrowing a Cumbia costume from one of the professors and also getting a few dancing lessons, she learned that she would be dancing for most of the two-hour celebration. She also received La Banda, a declaration from the Queen to the students; it contained ten articles which she would recite, in Spanish, with passion and emphasis. Wondering what she had

signed up for, she practiced reading it out loud for her host family who corrected her pronunciation every other word.

The day of Guacherna was full of energy! Becky walked to each classroom and led the students to the auditorium, dancing all the way. Glitter, sequins, feathers...it was a celebration, pulling out all the stops! Just before going on stage, a professor decided that she would only have to recite the intro, first articulo and the last articulo, as well as the final hooray. Students would take care of reciting the 2nd through 9th. This made it not so bad, but still a bit terrifying



Becky Griswold

for one who speaks very little Spanish.

Becky writes, "All my students know I can't speak Spanish, or only know a little bit. They take great pleasure in asking me to say words or phrases in Spanish. I used this experience, me reading la banda as a lesson for them in practicing

English. It's hard for them and embarrassing, but if I can do it in Spanish in front of the entire school, they have no excuse."

Becky Griswold will be in Colombia with WorldTeach through December 2014.

Check out her blog beckiend03r.wordpress.com to get more information about her adventure.

EARL MCKEE - ECHOES OF BLOSSOM PEAK

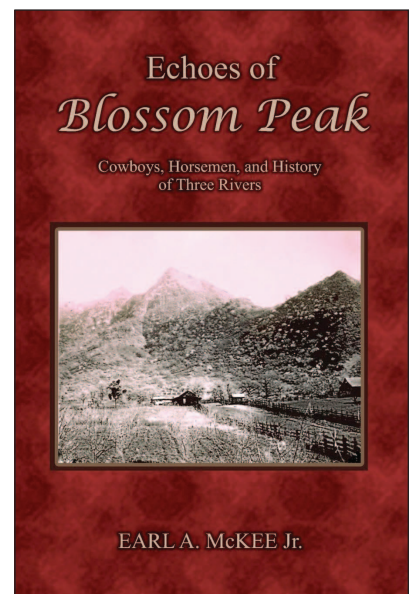


Earl A. McKee & Pinky

father in the beautiful foothills of the Western Sierra Nevada and worked summers with his dad's packing business in the High Sierra, guiding the elite of business and learning on extended pack trips into the rugged backcountry from Giant Forest to Mt. Whitney, Yosemite to Mineral King. Earl is vocalist and

Cattle, horses, mules and music are the life of Earl A. McKee, Jr., a rugged, sensitive cowman who lives in the house he was born in over 80 years ago. Earl grew up cattle ranching with his

sousaphone player in the famous Dixieland-style High Sierra Jazz Band of Three Rivers, California that for 40 years has played jazz festivals across the United States and entertained around the globe. Earl is a sought-after source of colorful tales of Old Timers and history, and he chronicles much of his amazing life in this book. "Echoes" is a colorful narrative that draws you in to his corner of the West, a book that's easy to read, hard to put down.



**Woodlake Union High
School District Foundation**

P.O. Box 475
Woodlake CA. 93286

Tax-Exempt EIN # 77-0285500

Nonprofit Org
US Postage
PAID
Kast & Company



Woodlake Union High School District Foundation newsletter is published quarterly by the Woodlake Union High School District Foundation at P.O. Box 475, Woodlake CA. 93286. Published April 2014.

OUR FOUNDATION GOALS

The purpose of our foundation is to generate significant financial support for projects which otherwise would not be possible within the budget of our district.

Individuals or businesses interested in contributing to the WHS Foundation are encouraged to contact any of the members of the board or

Call WHS at **(559)-564-3307**.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Date:	Event:
May 2	WHS Foundation Spring Dinner
May 3	Western Week Kick-off at Miller Brown Park by the Woodlake Lions
May 4	Cinco De Mayo Celebration at Miller Brown Park by the Woodlake Lions
May 7	Soap Box Derby by the Post Office
May 8	Meet the Clydesdales at the Woodlake Rodeo Grounds 3-7 pm
May 10	Woodlake Rodeo Parade and Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast
May 10 & 11	Woodlake Lions Rodeo
June 6	WHS Graduation

The Publishing of this Foundation newsletter was funded by the WHS Foundation.
Publishing Team: Lauri Polly and the WHS Foundation Board of Directors



ADVISORY BOARD

- Tony Casares
- Ted Gill
- Jeff Johnson
- Sandy Owen
- Lisa Castillo
- Holly Crain Peltzer
- Rick Rodriguez
- Drew Sorensen
- Rachel Katz
- Diana Pearcy
- Brian Vaccaro

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- PresidentDee Rochin
- Vice President Mary Scharn
- Treasurer Ana Carretero
- Recording Secretary Terry Thompson
- Corresponding Secretary Frances Mann

- Valerie Abanathie
- George Betancur
- Ana Carretero
- Ginger Curtis
- Alice Fesperman
- Larry Garcia
- Cathy Garza
- Barbara Hallmeyer
- Frances Mann
- Mike Marquez
- Jim Johnson
- Sally Pace
- Carmita Pena
- Dee Rochin
- Mary Scharn
- Raquel Rivas
- Debbie Stevenson
- Penny Urena
- Irene Zacarias
- Bianca Rodriguez
- Jasmin Rangle

ADVERTISE YOUR CLASS REUNIONS

If you would like to have your reunion advertised in the newsletter, please contact Sally Pace at 559 805-3975 or email: runningp64@gmail.com

Visit the WHS Website - www.woodlakefoundation.org

Know a "Tiger" or "Tiger Family" we should feature. - Please call Sally Pace at 559.805.3975 or email: RunningP64gmail.com