

## WOODLAKE HIGH'S MOCK TRIAL TEAM TULARE COUNTY CHAMPIONS FOR 2010 ADVANCE TO STATE FINALS

The county Mock Trial competitions have come to a close and the Woodlake Mock Trial team has come out on top! After a nerve-racking four weeks of competition, Woodlake has led the other Tulare County schools in the battle for the championship. In March our team will be representing Tulare County in the state competitions in San Jose. This accomplishment is made even the better because Casey LeFave, of Woodlake High, also won the county court room artist contest.



Every year in October, high school students around the state are given a case packet to study and prepare for competition in January. This year students studied *People vs. Bratton*, a case which explored the murder of well-known critic Preston Palmer. Jordan Bratton, a struggling comedian, was charged with Palmer's murder based upon several factors connecting him to the crime scene: a microphone cord, a pack of brown cotton gloves, and the defendant's own tire tracks.

Each school prepares two teams, a prosecution and a defense. On the night of the trial, one school's defense team will go against another's prosecution. A trial begins with the pre-trial motion, which this year was an issue regarding the Fourth Amendment. Both the prosecution and defense must call forward four witnesses for direct and cross examination. At the end of the trial one lawyer from each team presents the closing arguments. During the trial three scorers grade each part of the proceedings. Students receive a score from a one to a five based upon their performance. The team who has the most points at the end of the trial wins, regardless of the verdict given by the judge. In case of a tie the scorers are asked to circle the team they believe should win.

Woodlake started competition on a good note with a decisive win against Mt. Whitney High School and soon followed up with a win against Tulare Western. On the third night of competition, Woodlake battled against Redwood High, who has been the Tulare County Champion for the past six years. In 2009, Redwood placed fifth in the state competition. That night Redwood beat Woodlake by a slim margin after an intense and passionate trial. Woodlake

went on to take a big win against Farmersville, placing the team in the semifinals.

In the semifinals, Woodlake was placed in a re-match with Redwood High School. Woodlake prepared for the trial by scrimmaging Clovis North to try and gain the upper hand on the proceedings. The scrimmage helped perfect the team's performance and prepare it for the objections that could become issues

against Redwood. The hard work paid off because Woodlake took the win, and made it to the final competition.

In the finals, Woodlake competed against Tulare Union. The competition took place at El Diamante's theatre, and was filmed by students from Exeter High School. Each speaker wore a microphone so the audience could hear the proceedings. Along with this a live feed of the trial was projected onto a large screen. At the end of the trial, it was announced that the two teams had tied. However, Woodlake won the tie-breaker and will be advancing to the state competitions.

Woodlake's Mock Trial team has had a fantastic season and is looking forward to the state competitions. They are coached by Kevin Skeen, a math teacher at the high school, as well as by lawyer coaches Erin and Nathan Leede, who both have extensive criminal trial experience. Woodlake is so fortunate to be able to draw such quality lawyer coaches. Their enthusiastic volunteer effort certainly helped the team secure the county championship. The team members and their roles are:

### Lawyers:

- Pre trial arguments – Ben Pfenninger
- Opening statements – Paula Gonzalez & Brian Pfenninger
- Closing arguments – Danielle Knapp & Analisa Skeen

### Witnesses:

- Defendant – Molly Dunn
- Expert witnesses – Joee Denis & Catherine Lima
- Arresting Officer – Kelly McGinnis
- Jordan Martinez, Maria Aguilar, Samantha Arellano, Lauren Moore

**Bailiff** – Alberto Reynaga | **Clerk** – Alejandro Reynaga  
**Court room artist** – Casey LeFave

**Have you included the Woodlake High School Foundation in your Will or Trust?**

# News in and around Woodlake...

## WOODLAKE HIGH SCHOOL A HENGST FAMILY TRADITION

HAROLD HENGST  
1930



WOODLAKE HIGH SCHOOL BUS 1928

WILMA DINKINS  
1929



A tile in the Performing Arts Building reads, "Woodlake High School, A Hengst Family Tradition." Truly this family has been one of the long-time Woodlake residents who have enjoyed the beauty of living in the foothills of the Sierra.

Hayley Hengst is the youngest Hengst, currently a student at Woodlake High School. She is now a junior, but her brother, Foster, is soon to follow in her footsteps next year as a freshman.

There was no high school in Woodlake when Hayley's great, great grandmother was ready for higher education. Bertha Griffes Dinkins graduated from Sulfur Springs Elementary School in Three Rivers, where she was born. She married Abe Dinkins and they purchased property in Elderwood from Bertha's step-father, Jason Barton, who was mentioned in the last newsletter. The family valued education, so she was sent to what was then called Normal School in Tulare, where she lived with friends of the family until graduation.

The first Hengst to attend our local high school was her daughter, Wilma Dinkins Hengst. Wilma was born in Elderwood in 1915 and went to Townsend School. The students at Elder School, (commonly called Elda School) located by the Dudley Ranch near the Lions Rodeo grounds, later joined with the Townsend school and changed the name to Elderwood Elementary School. Wilma went on to attend Woodlake High School, San Jose State College and U.S.C. She was valedictorian for her high school graduation class of 1929 and in 1960 became the first Woodlake Woman of the Year.

Hayley's great grandfather, Harold Hengst, grew up in Three Rivers on the North Fork. His relatives had been part of the Kaweah Colony. He rode a horse five miles to elementary school

and later rode the bus to Woodlake High School. He played football after school and when he missed the bus, he had to walk home. Harold's football team had the distinction of playing Visalia Jr. College (now C.O.S.) and beating them. Wilma became better acquainted with Harold at a family gathering at the Savage Ranch. They would later marry. Wilma was a year older than Harold and graduated ahead of him. She served on the 1929 year book committee, but they did not have the funds to have much of a year book because of the depression.

The next Hengst to attend the high school was Harold and Wilma's only son, Robert (Bob) Hengst. Bob graduated in 1958. He was very active in 4-H and F.F.A. He loved electricity and won "state" in both organizations, receiving awards, recognition and trips to the Chicago 4-H Convention and the F.F.A Convention in Kansas City. He was also awarded State Farmer Degree. Bob's interest in science led to the building of the historical rocket house on the Sentinel Butte Ranch owned by the family. The high school set off many rockets built by students in this club. The movie "October Sky" is almost a mirror of Bob and his friends' high school days.

Bob married Linda Hengst on Feb. 15th, 1964. They were both graduates of Fresno State College. Linda, however, was a graduate of Mt. Whitney High School in 1960. She, too, had a long background in 4-H and farming. Bob joined his parents in the family farming operation establishing Hengst Farms. The main Hengst operation has included cattle, cotton, oranges and later, plums. Linda first taught 3rd grade at Palm School in Orosi. She became a part of the Woodlake Elementary School District after their children entered school, teaching classroom music and later substitute teaching.

Bob and Linda have been active in the local Kiwanis Club and both have been honored as Man of the Year and Woman of the Year for Woodlake.

Bob and Linda have three children, David, a 1984 graduate, Gary, a 1986 graduate, and Lynette, a 1988 graduate of Woodlake High School. In addition to their own, they hosted two foreign exchange students from the Netherlands. Pieter graduated in 1983 and Matthijs in 1985. All three children attended C.O.S. and then Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. David was an agri-business major. He became part of the Hengst Farms operation after his graduation and marriage to Courtney Canterbury. Just this year he has assumed the responsibility of Manager of Wutchumna Water Company. Grand-daughter Hayley and grandson Foster are the children of David and Courtney. Courtney is also a part of the Woodlake School District, currently teaching history at the middle school.

Gary was a bio-chemistry major and is currently the head of the Lincoln Wastewater Plant. He married Kristina Schaefer from Roseville. They live in Auburn, CA. A job change will soon see Gary assume responsibilities of overseeing many different wastewater plants in Placer County as Utility Program Manager. He and Kristina have four children.

Lynette was a home-economics major and also got her teaching degree. She first taught at a Christian school for a few years before becoming home economics teacher at Woodlake High School for a year. She married Hugo Ramirez from Kingsburg and also taught bi-lingual 5th grade at Cutler for a few years. After starting their family of three children, Lynette has enjoyed being a stay-at-home mom.

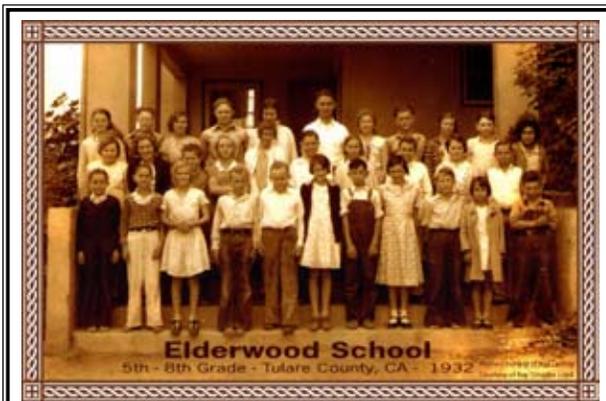
And now you can see why we say "Woodlake High School, a Hengst Family Tradition"!

THE GRAVES/MCCARTER/  
MCKEE/DEITZ FAMILY  
FOUR GENERATIONS AT WOODLAKE HIGH SCHOOL

The family of Donald S. Graves came to Woodlake in the early 1920's to farm south-west of Woodlake. Don played football and graduated from Woodlake High with the Class of 1936. He was attending Davis when he realized a major war was eminent. He joined the Navy and was admitted to flight school. He became a PBY (Seaplane) pilot and spent most of the World War II years in the South Pacific searching for enemy ships. He left the service with the rank of Lt. Commander.

The family of Lenora McCarter came to Woodlake from Virginia in the early 1900's. Her mother Rhea came to live with family in Exeter and teach school. Her father Emmett McCarter came first to Three Rivers to work for the Mt Whitney Power Company. After they were married, they settled in Elderwood and planted citrus trees. Their daughter, Lenora went to Elderwood School and later to Woodlake High graduating as valedictorian of the Class of 1937. She graduated from U.C. Berkley and came back to teach school in Woodlake, and later at Sequoia Union in Lemn-o-cove.

Don & Lenora were married in 1943 and moved to Elderwood after World War II. They farmed citrus and developed a cattle operation. Their daughter, Virginia also attended Woodlake High School (Class of 1963). She was a member of the pep squad and involved in many other activities. She attended Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo and has



**Back row:** Elizabeth Vanderhoof Hansen, Roy Lantrip, Mildred McNaught, Wayne Corbit, Mrs. Virginia Stapp, Orvill Lofton, Verbena Bachmann, Warren Mattesen, Dorothy Byal, Pat Elliot, Angelita Ledesma

**Middle Row:** Anna Bell Harrell, Charlotte Wilkins Merchant, Robert Brown, ???, ???, Milvern Harrell ???, Eugene Fry, Kathleen Elliot Newbury, Brant Merchant,

**Front Row:** Robert Merzoian, Richard Ainley, ???, Ben Pitman, John Lucas, Ina Bachmann Glentzer, Billy Tsuji, Lenora McCarter Graves, Orvill Ray Owensby, ?? Ownesby, Morris Bennett

If you can identify any of the ??? students, please contact Sally Pace at [sally@woodlake.k12.ca.us](mailto:sally@woodlake.k12.ca.us) or 559-564-2054.

been Office Manager for McKellar Ag Group near Ivanhoe for many years. She married Ken McKee (also a WUHS Grad). They farm citrus and raise beef cattle.

The third generation to attend Woodlake High consists of Steve Deitz, Emmett Deitz and Jeff McKee. Steve was valedictorian of the Class of 1984, involved in sports and FFA. He graduated from Cal Poly, SLO and got his Masters at Clemson University in South Carolina. He is self-employed as a

Research Biologist for Sawtooth Ag Research. He is married to Melissa (a WUHS teacher) and their children are Cash Costa (Class of 2009) Carson Costa, a WUHS Junior and volleyball player, Jacob a WUHS Sophomore (basketball, swimming and band), Nate, 8th grade and Callie, in third grade.

Emmett Deitz was Co-Valedictorian of the class of 1986 where he was involved in FFA and played football and basketball. He graduated from Cal Poly, SLO with a degree in Ag Business and is currently a Supervisor for Paramount Citrus. He is married to Dion and their children attend Woodlake Schools – Ethan, 8th grade, Delaney, 4th grade and Owen who is starting kindergarten in the fall of 2010.

Jeff McKee graduated from WUHS in 1996 and was involved in FFA, basketball and football. He graduated from Cal Poly, SLO with a degree in Ag Business and is currently the manager of the Santa Margarita Ranch near San Luis Obispo. He is married to Alie, also a Cal Poly graduate.

Our family has appreciated the values and traditions of our small town high school where you know the teachers, and the teachers care about their students and encourage them to excel. We have also appreciated the coaches who work with the students, especially Frank Ainley and Leo Robinson. We will continue to support Woodlake Union High School as our fourth generation family members graduate.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Alumni, *February 8, 2010*

Thank you thank you for the GREAT Woodlake High School Foundation Fall 2009 Publication. Sure enjoyed the outstanding articles written about my classmates. The last reunion attended was 1994 when many old classes got together in Visalia. I am the oldest (84yrs), Kenneth (80yrs), Leroy (died in '02), Whitney Brothers. We all completed 4yrs of Agriculture classes with Ag Teacher Robert Glim. Our activities included; WWII War Bonds, Junk Drives, Rationing, extra labor and Patriotic Music was a lifestyle. With my wife Mary, we have farmed in Humboldt County since 1946. We have 1 daughter and son in law, 4 grandchildren and their wives and 4 Great Grandchildren. Keep up the fine work.

Sincerely,  
*Eugene C. Whitney*

SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTE:

Woodlake Union High School will be under construction when school lets out this June as more of the Measure C project come to fruition. The portable classrooms currently occupying the space behind the permanent 50's wing will be removed and replaced with more modern classrooms and a restrooms facility. We have successfully completed the first phase of a Career Technical Education Grant that could bring over \$340,000 to the district to help fund the classroom construction and the purchasing of equipment for those rooms. As we are all aware, funding from the state is nearly at a standstill, but we are hopeful that we will receive those funds at some point.

Also due to our State's fiscal situation, securing matching funds for the remaining

projects is difficult at best and therefore we are being patient with regards to starting the Performing Arts Building, the Stadium and the Tennis Courts. We do not want to rush into beginning projects without the funds to complete them to our level of expectation.

Lastly, to answer the question that is on everyone's mind, we are having to make changes in a variety of ways due to the funding reductions to education. Our budget has been cut such that we are reducing services to students and that saddens us all. Woodlake should be very proud of the staff because they have been active participants in finding solutions for reducing expenditures that have the least impact on the education our students receive at Woodlake High School.

Thank you for your continued support.  
Respectfully,  
*Tim Hire*

## DEITZ FAMILY MEETS DALE EARNHARDT JR.

My son was born with a rare metabolic disease called Gluteric Aciduria Type 2, which affects the muscles, his ability to convert food into energy, which affects just about every part of the body. He has had over 20 surgeries including open heart surgery to replace 2 heart valves. When he was diagnosed at 18 months old they told us he wouldn't live to see his 8th birthday. Tyler turned 16 last December. He is a true fighter and his courage to live in pain on a daily basis keeps us all humble. His dream is to be the first handicapped NASCAR driver with hand controls.

On Feb. 25, 2010, the Make a Wish Foundation sent us to Las Vegas, Nevada to the NASCAR race and to meet Tyler's idol, Dale Earnhardt Jr. After checking into the awesome Planet Hollywood Hotel, we went down onto the Famous Las Vegas Strip to watch the driver's hauler parade. This is when the NASCAR haulers drive through town out to the track. That was the perfect start to our NASCAR experience.

The next day we headed out to the track to meet our Make a Wish guide. We also had the privilege of meeting the president of NASCAR outreach Billy Mauldin. He took us on an adventure that we will never forget. We walked through all the driver's garages and saw how they worked on the cars. We talked to Tony Eury Jr., who walked us around Danica Patrick's car and showed us the ins and outs of the #7. It was so amazing to talk to all the guys and see all the cars. Next we were allowed into the inspection area where the NASCAR officials inspected the cars right before they rolled out onto the track. After the inspection, we followed Billy out onto the track and walked down pit road. It was the most incredible feeling to look up and be stand-



ing on pit road with all the Sprint Cup cars and drivers. We were just like one of the guys; Jimmy Johnson #48, Dale Earnhardt Jr. #88, Jeff Gordon #24, Juan Pablo Montoya #42, Carl Edwards #99, Tony Stewart #14, Mark Martin #5, Kyle Busch #18 and Joey Logano #20 just to name a few. After Dale Jr. qualified, it was time to go back into the coach area where all the personal busses of the drivers were. That's where we met Dale Earnhardt Jr. He came out of his coach and we all introduced ourselves and talked for a good 30 minutes. We gave him a blanket that my cousin made for him that is just like the one Tyler has on his bed. So they both have the same blanket. Tyler's grandpa has a lucky silver dollar that he gives to Tyler to hold any time he has surgery. This silver dollar has gone through 20 plus surgeries with Tyler and is very special to him, (a good luck charm) Tyler gave it to Dale Jr. to keep, and Dale said he was going to put it in his pocket and keep it there when he races. It's neat to think that a little part of us will always be with Dale Jr. when he is out there racing. We will forever remember this special time he took to meet with us.

The next day we were off to the track again, thinking to ourselves that nothing could possibly top all the things we did the day before. Boy were we wrong! We met Billy and the Make a Wish gang, and we were off and running. Billy took us into the high security building where the driver's meeting was about to take place. We got to go into the drivers meeting which is where all of the drivers, crew chiefs and owners were, plus any celebrities that are doing shows at the pre-race ceremonies and the President of NASCAR, etc. We talked to Carroll Shelby, JD Gibbs, Rick Hendrick, Jack Roush, and sat next to Kevin Harvick who later won the Sam's Town 300 race that day. Then we joined them in chapel. Singing "How Great is Our God" as the race cars zoomed by. It doesn't get any better than that!!

We saw all the things behind the scene of NASCAR. Now Sunday, came and it was time to watch the Shelby American Race. It was a beautiful sunny day, engines fired up, the crowd rose to their feet, and we went racing. There is nothing like the roar of the engines when that green flag drops.

The whole experience of this weekend is hard to put into words. When you see your children be able to do something so life changing and as wonderful as the NASCAR people and The Make a Wish Foundation allowed us to experience together, it made memories we will have forever. Thank you to The Make a Wish Foundation, (Lori Steinman), and to Billy Mauldin, President of NASCAR outreach for making this a dream come true.

Sincerely,

**Rich, Heidi, Dylan and Tyler Deitz**

## NEW YEARS EVE PROPOSAL ON DICK CLARK'S LIVE FROM TIME SQUARE

"Look who came, Mom!" Brianne Bartlett (2004), exclaimed with tears running down her face. Little did she know that her boyfriend had not only driven 6 hours to see her after just finishing a 24 hour shift at the station, he had ulterior motives. Unknown to her, he had driven up from San Diego on Christmas Day to meet with her father to ask for her hand before her mom brought her to meet her dad that afternoon. The turn around to go back to S.D for work the next morning at 7 A.M. was not going to be easy, but the long trip was worth it. Planning on proposing on New Year's Day in Central Park, Joe could not pass up the opportunity when it arose to do it "in front of millions of people on National T.V." on New Year's Eve as they waited



for the "Ball" to drop. The trip to New York had been pre-planned since Joe's sister and her family lived in upstate N.Y. The text message her mother received shortly after 9 P.M. was "Watch Dick Clark's Live from Time Square between 10:15 and 10:30 P.M. and call the family." The time difference made it possible for her family to share in the excitement of the Proposal.

## WOODLAKE HIGH FOUNDATION NOW ACCEPTING DONATIONS ON-LINE

Woodlake High Foundation Website [www.woodlakefoundation.org](http://www.woodlakefoundation.org) is now updated to accept donations online. Click on the Donation icon, fill out the donation purpose, fill out the amount and your credit card info. You will receive an email confirmation. You will also receive a thank you letter from the Foundation. If you are setting up a new scholarship fill out the scholarship criteria information on the scholarship link on the website. You may also buy your tickets for the Spring Dinner through donation page. Thank you for your support of the Foundation.

# WOODLAKE AWARDS 2009



Santos Hererra, Jesus Mendez, Nichole Hocker Glentzer, Ben Pfenninger, Terry Fauble Thompson, Manuel "Rusty" Moran, Rosellia Cordova, Rudy Garcia, Clair Castles Glentzer *accepting for* Charles Castles

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## Woodlake's Man of the Year Rudy Garcia, Class of 1979

Rudy Garcia has given selflessly to the community for many years. Born and raised here, Rudy has found many things to do that make Woodlake a special place to live. He is responsible for getting the Christmas lights strung up on the businesses to decorate Valencia Blvd. He helps with the Woodlake Car Show each summer and helps raise money for the Woodlake Valley Chamber of Commerce, of which he is a past President. He and Marcy Miller are working on setting up a museum to house and preserve Woodlake's history. Without his unflagging, reliable help, Manuel Jiminez would not have succeeded with the Botanical Gardens project. Rudy is employed at the Woodlake Branch of Valley Business Bank.

## Woodlake's Woman of the Year Terry Jean Thompson, Class of 1978

Terry Thompson is one of the busiest people you could ever know, mainly because she has to keep up with her daughter, Karla, who was honored as Youth of the Year 2007. She has been the General Manager of AAA Quality Services for eighteen years. She has served on the Woodlake Veteran's Memorial District Board, is a Board Member of the WHS Foundation, a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, the CA Historical Artillery Society, and a member of Foothill Bible Church. Terry is almost a charter member of Woodlake Kiwanis, currently serving as President of the club. She is the first-ever female engineering Warrant Officer in the Navy, and will retire this month after 30 years with the U.S. Navy/Reserve CW04.

## Spirit of Woodlake Award Jesus A. Mendez, Jr.

Officer Jesus A. Mendez, Jr. joined the Woodlake Police Department five years ago, bringing with him his radiant smile and cheerful disposition. He helped coordinate the Neighborhood Watch Program, Night Out with the Cops, activities for youth at the Tiger's Den, the Woodlake Police Explorers, Camp Zap, Woodlake's Gang Summit, taught the DARE and GREAT programs in the schools, coached WHS J.V. soccer, and works as a School Resource Officer at WHS, assisting in school functions like sporting events and dances. He received the Latino Peace Officer Award, Local Hero Award,

Ivanhoe School Appreciation Award and was recognized in Fresno Magazine for the Hispanic Heritage Award. He still finds time to be a husband to Heidi and great dad to their eight children.

## Youth of the Year Rosellia A. Cordova, Class of 2010

Rosellia Cordova loves living in Woodlake because it is a small town where people look out for each other and care deeply for each other... and we have no stoplights! Always an outstanding student, Rosellia has excelled at WHS. She has been active in multiple clubs, Marching Band, Concert Band, Jazz Band, CA Scholarship Federation, planning Career Day, and is currently the ASB President. Her parents are Benjamin and Crisanta Cordova; she has six siblings. Her words to live by: "Have the courage to take chances, so you don't question what might have been."

## Youth of the Year Benjamin Joseph Pfenninger, Class of 2010

Ben Pfenninger is the son of Paul and Deborah Pfenninger of Three Rivers; he has one brother, Brian. Ben was one of the co-chairs for 2009 Career Day at WHS, chaired the Veteran's Honor Day 2009, has been class President all four years, a member of the WHS Marching Band and Drum Major, Concert Band, Jazz Band, School Board Representative, Journalism Staff Co-Editor, a member of the Tulare County Youth Council, Theatre Arts productions, and a member of Woodlake's award-winning Mock Trial Team. Ben's words to live by: "Those who say the impossible cannot be done should not interrupt the people doing it!"

## Lifetime Achievement Award Manuel "Rusty" Moran, Class of 1954

Manuel "Rusty" Moran has been running around Woodlake for many years. Literally; Rusty can be seen running almost every day. He has competed in half marathons and was a member of Visalia Runners for about ten years. After high school, he joined the U.S. Marine

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Corps, serving in Japan. He has been a volunteer for Woodlake Pride, Food Link, and Team Captain for the "Relay for Life" Cancer Walk in Visalia. He was married to his wife, Estella for almost 60 years; they have one daughter, Diana Moran. The best thing about Woodlake according to Rusty is the friendly atmosphere, of which he is a big part!

## Inspiration Award Nicole Hocker Glentzer, Class of 1981

Nicole Hocker Glentzer arrived in Woodlake in the early 1970's with her parents, Jim and Sherry Hocker as an infant. She attended Woodlake schools, graduating in 1991, and studied in Spain for a year. Nicole married Kyle Glentzer in 1997; they have two sons – Kenneth and Guy. Nicole has taught at WHS, Cutler-Orosi Schools, Immanuel High School, and Exeter Schools. She enjoys the strong sense of community in Woodlake, which she found overwhelmingly evident after her diagnosis of breast cancer last year. The show of support ranged from pink ribbons all over school and her neighborhood to a sudden swath of pink clothing on a definitely orange and black campus! Nicole is a member of Woodlake Rotary Club, Woodlake Tiger Shark Advisory Board and the WHS Foundation.

## Pastor of the Decade Rev. Charles J. Castles

Rev. Charles J. Castles came to Woodlake via Dallas, Houston, Korea, Cincinnati, Pasadena, Missouri, and Oklahoma. From the moment he arrived it seems he has been busily serving not only his congregation at Woodlake Presbyterian Church, but the people of Woodlake and the surrounding areas. This energetic man has helped with the Botanical Garden, Woodlake Food Pantry, Service Dog Project, WHS Baccalaureate and various other Rotary Club and church projects. His special project has been Kids' Club at Woodlake Presbyterian, where he teaches and does a lot of the behind-the-scenes work that makes it so special to the children. Charles was the sports photographer during the brief life of the Woodlake News Roundup newspaper. Charles has been married to Shirley for 37 years. They have two daughters, Claire Hocker and Jhey Castles, and three grand-dogs. Charles and Shirley will be leaving Woodlake for a life of retirement in San Diego.

## WINTER SPORTS 2009-2010

Girls Soccer – under the coaching staff of Sal Guerra, Varsity, Sophia Nunez, Varsity and Raul Cabrera, J.V. has had a very successful year. The JV team had a record of 10-5-3. The varsity is in the playoffs, hosting Orosi on Wednesday, February 17, 2010. Their record was 6-1-1 in league and 8-10-3 overall.

Boys Soccer – under the coaching staff of Jose Palomo, Varsity and Florencio Guerra, J.V. also had a very successful year. The JV record was 10-4-2. The varsity team is in the playoffs. On Thursday, February 18th, they hosted Fowler, winning 2-0. Again played and hosted Parlier, winning 1-0. On February 26, our team traveled to Mission Prep (SLO) and lost an exciting valley playoff game, 1-0. Let it be known that the team was ESL undefeated champions with a record of 15-5-3.

Wrestling – had a great year with 11 wrestlers, all returnees with the exception of 1 senior. They participated in many tournaments with Woodlake placing at least 3 at each tournament. On Friday, February 19 Woodlake will be sending 4 wrestlers to divisional in Shafter. Woodlake also sent one to valley, who earned a spot at State. The wrestling team was coached by Tony Ramirez and Kevin Russell.

Boys Basketball, under the coaching staff of David Pasquini, Varsity, Jameson, JV, and Jeff Johnson, Frosh team, had a good season. The team traveled to Bakersfield for a playoff game and lost a close game to them, 75-70. Their record was 7-11, respectively.

Girls Basketball was coached by Kris Schlossin, Varsity, Eddie Dominguez, JV and Mel Carter had the frosh team. All the teams had good games and learning experiences. They traveled to Fresno for a playoff game losing a tough game to them. Their record was 10-12, respectively.

**Once a tiger, always a tiger!**

## -MARK YOUR CALENDAR-

### **8th Annual Tiger Golf Tournament and Tri-Tip BBQ**

*Saturday, October 23, 2010  
Valley Oak Golf Course in Visalia*

All proceeds from the tournament will directly benefit the programs and students of Woodlake High School.

## FFA UPDATE

The Woodlake FFA is honored to have 7 members receive their State FFA Degree during 2009 and 2010. The State FFA Degree is the highest degree the California State FFA Association can bestow on its members. Those members are Lennea Fraser, Steven Martinez, Bridget O'Shaughnessy, Caleb Crawford, Daisy Casteneda, Seth Jones, and Taylor Howell. These individuals have progressed within the FFA Organization and have met the minimum qualification to receive the coveted golden charm that symbolizes their growth and dedication to the future of agriculture. To receive the California State FFA Degree, one must participate in an agriculture related occupational program and have earned and invested at least \$1,000, as well as worked a minimum of 300 hours within this program. These recipients must also actively participate in various leadership and community service activities to receive this award recognition. Woodlake FFA is proud to add these individual's names to the fifty-one other FFA members from Woodlake since 1943 who have also received their State FFA Degree.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

The WHS Foundation is in the home stretch as we move toward the graduation of the Class of 2010. With budget cuts and cost increases looming on the horizon, we are pleased to be able to fund requests from teachers, coaches and administrators at WHS that would otherwise go unfilled.

Our scholarship committee, headed by Sandy Owen, moves into action as Local Scholarship applications come in to the Counseling office. Seniors interviews are on Friday, March 19th.

This issue of the newsletter continues our focus on generations; we hope you enjoy it! If you have information to share as well, please contact Sally Pace - (559) 564 2054 or [runningp64@gmail.com](mailto:runningp64@gmail.com). We don't want to leave anyone out!

WHS Foundation's Spring Dinner Fundraiser is quickly approaching – get your tickets for the April 30th event from any Foundation member. Tickets are \$50.00 per person with \$1,500 in cash prizes to be given away. Your participation in this event helps us provide scholarships for next year's graduating class. If you have any Silent Auction or Live Auction items to donate, please contact me or any Foundation member; these donations may also be dropped off at the WHS office.

Thank you for your support and encouragement of the students!

Sincerely,

*Barbara R. Hallmeyer  
President, WHS Foundation  
WHS Class of 1973*

- A Letterman Sweater and Graduation Announcement donated by Andrew Lee, Class of 1945

## DON'T LET YOUR TREASURES GATHER DUST!

### -A CALL FOR WOODLAKE HIGH SCHOOL MEMORABILIA-

During a recent basketball game, the trophy cases in the Student Event Center were dedicated to a very successful and dedicated staff member of Woodlake High School, Louise Achenbach. Those cases are very large and are in need of items to share the rich history and success of our school. If you or someone you know would like to donate your old letterman's sweater/jacket, sports jersey, FFA Jacket, yearbook or any other Woodlake High School memorabilia, we would love to showcase it in our trophy cases. Please bring your memorabilia to the High School office or send it to us at 400 West Whitney Avenue, Woodlake, California 93286. Your items could inspire the coming generations of Tigers to do great things!

## MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP TO GENE/MINNIE FESPERMAN



**Back:** Gene, Jimmy  
**Front:** and Minnie



**Back:** Lisa, Steve, Alice, Kenny, Debbie  
**Front:** Danielle, Madison, Zach, and Toby Fesperman



**Back:** Minnie, Peggy, Jimmy, Thrice  
**Front:** and Gene Fesperman

The Fesperman family arrived in Woodlake in 1945 (via Okla. to Ivanhoe in 1935). They purchased a small ranch with olives & oranges and lots of Johnson grass. The house needed lots of TLC. They worked hard to get the house in working order and the orchard back in production. Minnie & Thrice ("Shorty") had three children, Peggy, class of 1949, Gene, class of 1952 & Jimmy, class of 1960. Peggy married Robert Wooten class of 1947. Gene married Alice Lujan of Visalia (graduate of Mt. Whitney), Jimmy married Mary Lou Brake of Ivanhoe (graduate of Redwood). Peggy & Robert moved to Phoenix and got into the greyhound dog racing business. Gene & Alice met in San Jose and Alice worked at the Santa Clara Co. Health Dept, Gene worked for ITT Jennings in the engineering dept. Jimmy & Mary Lou married and lived in San Jose also. Gene & Alice returned in 1970 with their two sons Steve & Ken. They decided that country life would be better for their sons than life in the city.

They purchased the Hugo Galley ranch next to Gene's parent's ranch in 1973. It had always been Gene's dream to own that ranch. A few years later, Jim & Mary Lou also

returned to Woodlake and purchased their parent's ranch then later moved to Visalia. Both Jim & Gene worked for Randall's Machinery in Woodlake. Gene later started working for the Woodlake school district and eventually became the Maintenance, Operations & Transportation Manager. Jimmy eventually became the Manager of Diamond Walnut in Visalia. Alice started working at the Woodlake High School in 1974, then moved on to the Woodlake Valley Middle School as office manager in 1979. Alice is a charter member of Woodlake Kiwanis and has been on the WHS Foundation Board of Directors.

Steve & Ken were enrolled in Woodlake schools much to Gene's delight. It seems like the Tiger Spirit never leaves Woodlake alumni. One nice thing (among many!) is that

Gene, Steve & Ken all had a great teacher

in 4th grade, Katherine Robinson! Both boys were active in sports and feel so fortunate to have been coached by the best, Leo Robinson & Frank Ainley. Both Steve & Ken were involved in Football Valley Championships. Steve in the 1982/83 Valley championship and Ken in back to back Valley Championships, 1985/1986, 1986/87. Ken also played baseball and basketball. Ken's baseball team were League champs in 1986/87. Grandma Minnie never missed a baseball game. You could always hear her with the cow bell she rang vigorously. She always had a stick of gum for the boys and a \$1 for homeruns. She had wonderful memories of those games and "her" ball players. She followed them from T-Ball through high school. She was an avid fan of the Woodlake Tiger teams and the Dodgers. Following the boys in football and baseball and other events were wonderful years.

They both feel that going to a small school is a definite advantage. Some long-lasting friendships are established in a small school, both with students & teachers. Ken said only Mrs. Pace could have gotten me into FHA/Hero and the salad prep competition. You could not say no to Mrs. Pace! Of course, when Ken & a few other brave coerced boys found out that there were only about 20 male students to about 300 girls at the competition, all was cool! Mrs. Pace & Mrs. Wolfe traditionally always won at the county level and always finished with 25 or more at the state level of competition. Ken ended up taking 2nd place at the state level with his famous spinach salad!

Steve & Ken both graduated from Fresno State and both went into teaching. Steve got a Bachelor of Science Biology degree, and teaches 7th grade Life Science at El Monte in Orosi. Ken started his teaching career at WVMS, 7th grade English and coached baseball, basketball and flag football. Ken is currently teaching 6th grade at Heritage School for Tulare Unified School Dist. Steve is an avid sports fan and hunter enthusiast while Ken is an avid sports fan and golf enthusiast.

Steve married Lisa Molezzo, graduate of Redwood 1985, and they have two children, Madison, sophomore at WHS, and Zack, 7th grader at the WVMS. Madison is involved in basketball, volleyball, softball, Key Club, FHA & student government. Zack has been involved in soccer, basketball, wrestling, baseball & hunting. He now has decided he loves baseball, hunting & girls, in that order. Lisa is currently working on a teaching credential.

Ken married Debbie Wilson, graduate of Hoover, 1989, and Fresno State, 1994. They have two children, Danielle, 6 years and Toby 4 years. They are already into sports, having just finished a basketball program and currently playing soccer with their mom as coach.

Jimmy & Gene both died at young ages unexpectedly, Jimmy at 53 & Gene at 59. A memorial was established for Gene at the High School. He loved sports so it was decided to build a much needed scoreboard for the football field in his memory. The monies were used for the scoreboard and a scholarship fund in his name. Minnie Fesperman, our "GG" passed away this year on March 20 at the age of 96. In lieu of flowers, the family requested donations to the Woodlake High School Foundation, Gene Fesperman/Minnie Fesperman scholarship fund. She was an advocate of higher education so this seemed like a perfect fit.

If you would like to donate to the Fesperman Memorial, or any other scholarship, you may visit our website [www.woodlakefoundation.org](http://www.woodlakefoundation.org) and click on the donate icon. You can also see a list of all the scholarships that are give through the Woodlake High Foundation and download the criteria forms on the website under Scholarships, or you may mail a check to Woodlake High School Foundation, P.O. Box 475, Woodlake, CA 93286.

## 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 @ (559)-564-3307.

### Mark your Calendar

**October 15** - WHS Career Day

**October 23** - Foundation Golf Tournament

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Publishing Team:  
Bobby Mashtal, Class of 2005

and the WHS Foundation  
Board of Directors



**Woodlake Union High  
School Foundation**

P.O. Box 475  
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### Advertise Your Class Reunions

If you would like to have your reunion advertised in the newsletter, please contact Sally Pace at 564-3307 ext 139 or email [sally@woodlake.k12.ca.us](mailto:sally@woodlake.k12.ca.us)

Visit the WHS Website - [www.woodlakefoundation.org](http://www.woodlakefoundation.org)