

## ANNUAL CAREER DAY - KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Pedro López, an AB 540 student, arrived in the United States in 1999 not knowing one word of English. His mother, Ereyda Jaimes, always motivated him to excel in school and to pursue a higher education. Pedro's first day of 8th grade was the beginning of a new life. He showed up to school with a manila folder, a few sheets of lined paper, a pen, and a lot of confusion because he did not understand a word the teachers said. Even though he struggled with the language, he was active and joined wrestling and flag football.

Pedro's high school era was the foundation for his higher education. From 2000 to 2004, Woodlake High School provided him with a safe learning environment where he was able to grow, develop, and improve his English Language skills. During his freshman year, Pedro focused on his English as a Second Language (ESL) classes to learn and improve his English. He also joined the guitar class where his passion for music started. He was part of this class throughout all four years. Pedro's hard work began to pay off when he was placed in regular English classes starting his sophomore year. Moreover, he joined soccer and played as a goalkeeper for three years. In his junior and senior years, Pedro was placed in College Prep English classes, where he passionately enjoyed reading literature. In addition, during his sophomore, junior, and senior years, Pedro attended three Migrant Leadership Academies at SCICON where he gained valuable information about higher education, developed his leadership skills, networked with other students, and met personnel from Fresno State who would later become his mentors. The support and assistance from teachers, counselors, and staff at Woodlake High School pushed and motivated Pedro to continue with his education. The kid from Mexico who showed up with just some paper and a pen the first day of school was ready to graduate from high school. Playing the national anthem on the electric guitar at graduation is one of his greatest memories.

Since completing high school in 2004, Pedro has continued his educational and professional journey. In the fall of 2004, Pe-



*Pedro López - WHS Class of 2004*

dro attended Fresno City College, and at the same time enrolled in a Flamenco Guitar class at Fresno State. In the spring of 2005, Pedro enrolled as a full-time student at Fresno State. For the first two years of college, Pedro adapted to a new life once again. His passion for music led him to major in Music. He also wanted to help high school ESL students in the future so he double majored in Linguistics and Music. From 2005 to 2014, Pedro worked for English Language Development summer residential programs for high school students at Fresno State through the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) where he implemented the skills and teaching techniques that he learned in his linguistics classes.

From 2007 to 2015 Pedro worked in an Elementary School coordinating an educational after school program for about 95 students. From 2007 to 2015, Pedro volunteered with the Education and Leadership Foundation in community events, student conferences, professional development conferences, fundraisers, and the Leadership Academies at SCICON. In 2014, Pedro graduated from Fresno State with a bachelor's degree in Linguistics (Teaching English as a Second Language) and a minor in Music. In 2015, Pedro began working for the Education and Leadership Foundation (ELF) where he is currently the Director of Educational Programs. Being in this position has allowed him to continue to serve K-12 and college students through the services, educational programs, and opportunities that ELF offers. Planning and coordinating the Leadership Academies at SCICON has been a big accomplishment for Pedro. Remembering himself attending these Leadership Academies as a high school student back in 2002 motivates him to continue improving, innovating, and providing programs like this for students. Daily, Pedro continues to improve professionally doing the work that he loves. His future academic and professional plans include attending grad school to pursue a master's degree in education and an administrative credential so that he can continue to serve the community and to continue to be a role model for our youth.

# Greetings Tiger Fans - from WHS Athletic Director

At Woodlake High School, we pride ourselves in supporting our student-athletes as they dedicate and commit themselves to the rigors of their athletic endeavors, and academic courses. We strongly encourage participation in athletics because it provides WUSD students with important lessons in life, such as teamwork, discipline, commitment, integrity and a strong work ethic. At WUSD we offer athletic programs K-12, and through these programs our students can apply their talents and skills, which in turn brings pride to our schools and community. WUSD has high standards in regards to sportsmanship and conduct. We expect our students, coaches and community to uphold these standards at all times during ath-

letic competitions. On behalf of the WUSD Athletic Department, I would like to thank the community of Woodlake, our feeder communities of Three Rivers and Seville for their continuous support and enthusiasm for our student athletes. I am confident that we are creating an atmosphere which builds young men and women of character and to prepare them for the journey in life that lies ahead of them.



Sincerely,

José A. Palomo- *Class of '91* - WUSD Athletic Director

## WHS Volleyball Welcomes - New Coaching Team



***Congratulations to our WHS Varsity Volleyball team for winning FIRST PLACE in the Silver bracket at the Ridgeview High School tournament! Congratulations ladies, Coach Guerra and Coach Ornelas!***

WHS Volleyball has a new coaching staff in place this year. The varsity team is led by WHS Alumni Florencio Guerra and Mason Smith. The JV squad is led by WHS Alum Bernadette Ornelas, while the Frosh team is led by WHS teacher LeAnna Blackmon. Coaches and players have invested their short time together in unifying the program and building a cohesive unit. The Varsity program is 2-4, the JV program is 2-9 overall, while the Frosh squad is 1-4 on the season. All teams open their league season on Wednesday, September at Strathmore. After a grueling preseason where the teams played larger schools, they are primed for the season and expect to be successful.

## Lady Tiger Tennis

Our Lady Tigers Tennis team is led by coach Mike Judson who is in his 16th season and Yolanda Bolanos. Coach Judson's team is currently 3-3 on the season, with narrow defeats to Exeter, Tulare Union and Tulare Western. Their victories have been over Orange Cove, Kennedy and league opponent Granite Hills. Coach Judson and his team are ready for the final stretch of the season. On Sept.12-13, the team participated in the Visalia Invitational where they placed 4th in Division 2.



## Track Reaches an All Time High in Participation



Cross Country is now under the direction of WHS teachers Blanca Lucatero, Raul Quintero and Gary Cannon. Our Cross Country team has experienced an all-time high level of participants. The squad consists of over 30 members, which spans across grade levels 9-12. The coaches and team members have enjoyed an array of cross training in their season which ranges from weight lifting, plyometrics, swimming, and many more.



*Soph. Julia Gamino,  
top 20 finish at McLane  
Invitational*



*Soph. Noemi Ortega  
Top 20 finish at Kingsburg  
2-Mile*

***6 AM training- We run this town!***

# Tiger Football - STRONGER than EVER! - Feel the Roar!!!



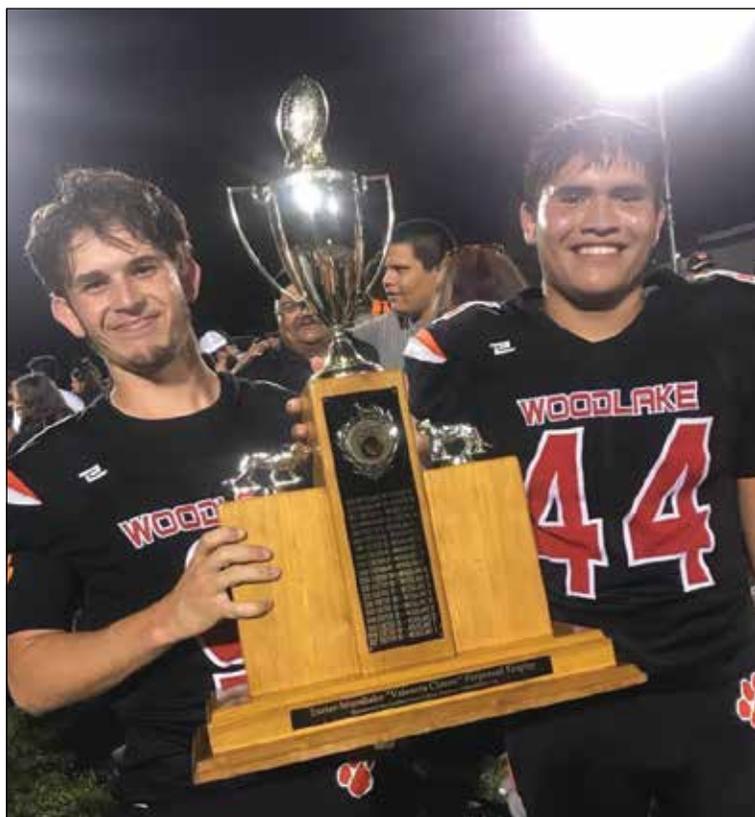
The Varsity Football team is currently 5-2 this season, our two defeats were to D5 powerhouse, Caruthers and to the Strathmore Spartans. The entire community has traveled well to support our Tigers on the iron grid. With impressive road victories over Mission Prep- San Luis Obispo and Sierra-Tollhouse, our Tigers hosted their lifetime-rivals, the Monarchs from Exeter on August 30. If you did not attend this battle, boy did you miss out on a great game. The WHS Tiger Football coaching staff executed a perfect game plan that sealed at 26-0 win over Exeter sending a resounding message that the 2018 Tiger victory was no fluke, thus retaining the Valencia Cup. Coach Jeff Johnson and his staff had prepared the team extremely well and had them focused throughout the game. The entire community flooded the stadium to near capacity and Tiger Pride was alive and boisterous the entire night. From the band

to the student section, and to the explosive boom from the cannon, the night was electrifying. Valencia Blvd was draped in Tiger Pride flags from Whitney Ave to Naranjo. It was an impressive sight to behold and our Tiger Football team knows that the entire community is behind them. Tiger Football is back and is a force to be reckoned with!

The JV Football team is currently 3-2 and it looks like they are clicking at the right time. With back to back losses to Mission Prep and Exeter, the team rebounded with great performances over Caruthers, Sierra-Tollhouse and the Strathmore Spartans. Head Coach Terrance Anthony and staff are ready for league play to begin.

**For all WHS Sports Schedules  
Visit: [www.whstigers.org/tiger-athletics](http://www.whstigers.org/tiger-athletics)**

## Friday Night Lights - Woodlake Tiger 26 - Exeter Monarchs 0



Left is #9 Senior Chase Wallace- Runningback/Safety, (son of Ryan Wallace Class of '94)  
Right is #44 Senior, Saul Palomo- Fullback/Linebacker(son of Virginia (Nena) and Jose Palomo Class of '91) with the Valencia Cup

*By Saul Palomo #44 Senior, Fullback/Lineman*

Prior to the August 31st Woodlake High School (WHS) Football game, the community of Woodlake put up new Woodlake Tiger Pride flags all throughout Valencia Boulevard. This came as a surprise to the entire football team, football coach, and Athletic Director because the community had never done anything like this before. The flags made the WHS football team feel like we had the entire town supporting us for the game. This was an important game for Woodlake given that we were up against Exeter, and hoping for a repeat victory in our hometown. At kick off, the gates were filled with people trying to get into the game, the stands were packed with waves of orange and black. When the team ran out of the tunnel all we heard was a new level of cheering and support from people in the stands.

The student section was roaring, singing songs that the band was playing. Throughout the entire game, it was all positive support coming from the fans which consisted of parents, students, and community. If you drive through Woodlake on a Friday night you typically find little activity, but not on a football game day.

From a player's perspective on the sideline there was nothing but excitement. The excitement was felt by every player as we gained yards. The crowd supported us and pumped up the excitement on the field. After every touchdown, the players were headbutting each other, the cannon would go off, and the crowd was cheering with excitement. Shutting out Exeter is a memory that our team will remember for the rest of our days. This game now sets the tempo for the rest of the season.

# Greetings from the WHS Agriculture Department!

This has been a crazy first few weeks of school with a visit by the new San Joaquin Regional Supervisor to review our department plans and FFA Program of Activities; but we are excited to get our students involved in industry tours, Supervised Agriculture Education Projects (SAEP) and Tulare County Fair.



WASA freshmen at the UC Lindcove Extension and Research Center

The WASA freshmen were invited to the UC Lindcove Extension and Research Center where they participated in a mini research project. Students were able to expand their knowledge of the scientific method by collecting data by evaluating leaves for citricola scale. Dr. Beth Grafton-Cardwell and her research technicians led the group through the process, explaining the importance of the study to the agriculture community. Many students were intrigued by the investigations the extension conducts that they have chosen a research as their SAEP for the year.

Since May, students with livestock projects have been preparing for the Tulare County Fair. Advisors were busy with 26 students participating in livestock projects.

## BIG THANK YOU to Mike & Leslie Rivas



We would like to thank Mike (WHS 1982) and Leslie Rivas (FJW Reading Specialist) for their dedication to Woodlake 4H and FFA Beef Exhibitors. Mike and Leslie started helping with beef students when their daughters Britney (WHS 2005) and Heather (WHS 2006) started showing cattle in 2002. They have also been very active in the Tulare County Cattle Drive Beef Boosters since 2006. This group has given over \$800,000 to Tulare County Beef Exhibitors.

*Thank you for your dedication to WHS Ag students.*



Kyle Davis - Supreme Grand Champion Commercial Bred Heifer



Kyle Davis - Supreme Grand Champion Commercial Bred Heifer

This years participants included 7 beef students; **Kyle Davis** (Son of Kyle Davis Class of 1987) took Supreme Grand Champion Commercial Bred Heifer, **Diego Renteria** (Son of Terrie Marquez- Class of 1989) took 4th commercial heifer market class, 2nd in class Grade heifer and Final drive experienced, **Devani Renteria** (Daughter of Terrie Marquez Class of 1989) took 5th grade heifer and 10th experienced, **Rogelio Chavez** took 2nd Class-6th overall-Black Angus Cross Steers and 4th-Beef Boosters Interview, **Jessica Henderson** took Grand Champion Angus Steer, Grade Heifer #1- 1st in class, Grade Heifer #2- 2nd in class and Showmanship- 6th in final drive Experience class, **Reagan Henderson** took Reserve Champion Angus, Commercial Heifer- 3rd overall Grade Heifer- 3rd overall, Carcass Grand Champion Steer and Beef Booster Interview- 5th and **Merrick La Marsna** took 3rd place- Feeder class.

Six students worked market hogs in the ring, **Mckenzie Albright**, **Gary Spivey** (Son of Anica Ayala Class of 1993), **Megan Spivey** (Daughter of Anica Ayala Class of 1993), **Isac Sanchez** (Son of Pablo Sanchez Class of 1992), **Wyatt Jordan** with **Alyssa Mendez** (Daughter of Esther Hernandez Class of 1990 and Tomas Mendez), taking the highest third in class.



Three young men showed market goats; **Jason Alcorn** (Son of Jason C. Alcorn Class of 1996) took 5th in class- middle weight, **Keith Mehrten** and **Kevin Mehrten** took 4th in class- middle weight.

# WHS FFA - Outstanding Results at the Tulare County Fair



Natalie Palafox in the Novice Showmanship Final Drive

The market lambs had the largest showing of different students and breeds represented with various class winners; **Serena Carrillo** took 5th in class, **Kenya Pinon** (Daughter of Norma Pinon), **Alonzo Medina** took 2nd in class- 7th in breed (All other breed- Dorset), **Celeste Medina** (Daughter of Sandra Andrade & Jesus Medin) took 5th in class - all other breed (Dorset), **Daniel Lopez** took 6th in class (Hampshire), **Izaiah Benavides** (Son of Miguel Angel Benavides Class of 1991) took 3rd in class (Hampshire), & Final Drive for Experienced- 7th over all, **Allyssa**

**Blaswich** took 2nd in class- 8th in breed (Speckled), **Natalie Palafox** (Daughter of Rafhel Palofox) took 4th in class (Hampshire) & Final Drive for Novice, **Jorge Medina** took 3rd in class (all other breeds- Dorset), and **Alexis Morales** took 5th in class (Hampshire).



Jesse Knight took Color Print- Nature- 1st place Digitally Enhanced, any subject- 1st place, Best of Division, Best of Show

For the first time in recent history, Woodlake had 10 students with indoor entries and 3 students entered in the Ag. Mechanics Silent Auction. All participants took first place in at least one of their projects and two had Best of Division in the Senior Photography and FFA Ag. Mechanics.

**Jesse Knight** (Son of Jason Knight Class of 1981), took Color Print- Nature- 1st place Digitally En-



Isaac Reynoso won Best of Division with his Plasma Cut Wall hanging and Jason Alcorn with his first place with his metal rose. Both pieces were sold in the FFA Ag. Mechanics silent auction.

hanced, any subject- 1st place, Best of Division, Best of Show, **Maria Meza** Multiple Entries- took 1st place, **Jasmin Paniagua** (Daughter of Erica Hernandez Class of 2000 and Amadeo Paniagua Class of 1999) took Senior Division- Multiple Entries- 1st place, **Selina Lopez** took Tole Painting & painted Objects- 1st place, **Jonathon Martinez** took Welding and Forging- Scrap Wagon- 1st place, **Isaac Reynoso** took Large Shop Projects- Plasma cut sign- 1st place; Best in Division, **Gary Spivey** (Son of Anica Ayala Class of 1993) took FFA Large Project- Hand Forged Ring- 1st place, and **Jason Alcorn** (Son of Jason C. Alcorn Class of 1996) took Combo.



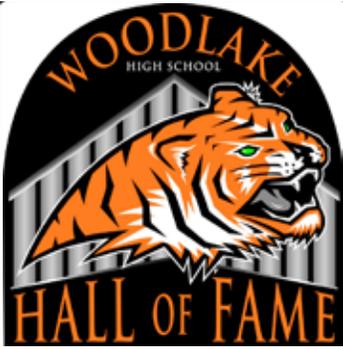
Woodlake FFA creates booth showcasing 1919-1930 focusing on the local citrus industry in our community

As this was the 100th anniversary of the Tulare County Fair, the FFA Chapters and 4H Clubs were required to have an exhibition that showcased various years of the fair. Woodlake was assigned 1919-1930, the first years of the fair. The students and advisors built a wonderful display that featured authentic magazine articles from the early 1900's that focused on the local citrus industry. Box labels featuring Woodlake Gold and others highlighted the importance of citrus to our community. With all this talent in the showing, a community booth showcasing our agriculture history, and a pilot venture into the indoor entries, Woodlake FFA will be a force to be reckoned with next year.

Other exciting news includes various upcoming projects including working with Sequoia Riverland Trust, Woodlake Kiwanis in the Botanical Garden, and many more. FFA team events that will be coming up this fall include the Opening/Closing team, AgriScience Fair and Public Speaking teams. If you would like to help out with one of these teams please contact one of the Agriculture Department Instructors.

Mrs. Thornburg is the newest team member to the Agriculture Staff at WHS (WHS 1995), and went on to get her associate degrees in Animal Science and Agriculture Production, her B.S. in Animal Science and her Masters Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies with an emphasis in Animal Science. She worked for the USDA Farm Service Agency as a GIS Specialist before her tenure at UC Davis Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory as a Research Associate in the Veterinary Pathology Lab. She has been an Associate Professor at College of the Sequoias for the past two decades and has been teaching high school full-time for the last 10 years. She is married to her childhood sweetheart Don Paul Thornburg and has two beautiful daughters, Courtney and Cassidy, that also attended WHS. Her hobbies include gardening, gastronomy and raising livestock. She is excited to be back in Tiger Country.

## WHS - Hall of Fame



In April of 2019, the third group of Woodlake High School Hall of Fame inductees were enshrined at the Foundation dinner. Now it is time to add to the list with our fourth class of Hall of Fame inductees. The most recent class consisted of Sally Pace (long time counselor), Ernie Garcia (Who will ever forget the present school

board granting Ernie his high school diploma?!) and Jim Barton (former board member from Three Rivers). The newest class will be decided when you nominate a candidate based on simple criteria. The individuals could have served in many capacities such as student, teaching staff, clerical staff, board member, administrator, or district administrator. The goal is to induct people who have taken "Tiger Spirit" outside the walls of the school and have brought Woodlake High School notoriety either from their exploits during their time in school or after in their careers.

**Fill out the nomination form online at:  
[www.WoodlakeFoundation.org](http://www.WoodlakeFoundation.org)**

We will close the nomination in mid-January in order for the committee to have time to meet and select the next deserving class! We look forward to seeing the nominations come in.

## WHS Hall of Fame 2019 Honoree



### Ned Baker

*WHS 2019 Hall of Fame Inductee*

Ned was born October 5, 1919 in Pomona, California and was the only son of Glenn and Nita Ferris Baker. He was raised on the family citrus ranch west of Woodlake, attended Woodlake Union High School, College of the Sequoias, and graduated with a BS in marketing from the University of California, Berkeley. He was the founder of Glenita Ranches in Woodlake and a partner in Visalia Citrus Packing Group.

Ned's commitment to local education began when he was elected the Woodlake Union High School Board of Trustees in 1950. He subsequently served as member and president of the Tulare-County School Boards Association, on California School Boards Association as a representative of Tulare and Kern Counties, and as president of the Tulare County Academic Decathlon committee. Baker served another 30 years on the College of Sequoias Board of Trustees from 1967-1996.

Ned participated in numerous civic activities throughout his life and was honored as "Woodlake Man of the Year" in 1963. He served on the Board of Directors of Agricultural Producers for 25 years and as Chairman of the Board for over a decade. He served on the Board of Directors of the Tulare County Lemon Association for 15 years. In 1997 he was inducted into the COS Hall of Fame in recognition of outstanding achievement.

During one period he served on nine different boards of directors at the same time. He was also a Past President of the Woodlake Rotary Club.

Ned also provided leadership in the citrus business, serving on the board of directors of the Tulare County Lemon Association, as chairman of Agriculture Producers, and as a member of the Navel Orange, Valencia Orange, and Lemon Administrative Committees. In 1976, he was appointed by the governor to represent citrus growers on the State Board of Food and Agriculture. He later became the face and voice of Sunkist Growers through a series of TV and radio commercials broadcast in the U.S. and England.

Ned and his wife, Karyll, had three children and three grandchildren that are WHS graduates: sons Jeff 1961, Terry 1965 and his wife Sally Dudley Baker 1976, Craig and wife Becky Walters Baker 1975 and their children Kyle 2002, Jennifer 2003, and Ryan 2007. Ned and Karyll were two of the founding members of the St. Clements Anglican Church in Woodlake. Both were active leaders in the ministry of the church, working to build the St. Clements Day Care Center to serve the community. Ned passed away January 24, 2010.



## WHS Hall of Fame Nominate Your Candidate

The Woodlake High School Foundation established a Hall of Fame for its distinguished staff and alumni.

### **The Foundation Spring Dinner, May 1, 2020**

will host the fourth induction class into the newly established Woodlake High School Hall of Fame.

Candidates are eligible based on their contributions in areas such as academics, the community, athletics, professional occupations, and the arts. Any person may nominate a candidate to the

### **Woodlake High School Hall of Fame.**

Once a name has been placed in nomination, it will be kept on file to be considered in later years. Former students with at least two years at Woodlake High School, former Woodlake High School staff members including teachers, administrators, counselors, high school support staff, past superintendents, and former board members, are all eligible for nomination.

A student candidate is eligible once their graduating class is five years out of high school.

Former staff members, board members, and administrators are eligible if they worked for Woodlake a minimum of 10 years and have been retired from Woodlake for at least four years.

**Nomination form: Deadline is January 15, 2020**

# WHS Hall of Fame - 2019 Honorees

## George Clausen *WHS 2019 Hall of Fame Inductee*



George Gerald Clausen was born in the Woodlake Hospital on June 25, 1929, to George and Etta Lulu (Ragle) Clausen. He grew up in the Naranjo area and attended Woodlake Elementary School from 1935-1943 and Woodlake High School from 1943-1947. After high school he attended Visalia College (C.O.S.) from 1947-1949 and then the University of California, Berkeley from 1949-1951. On June 15, 1951, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force as

an airman before entering the Aviation Cadet Training Program. He graduated from pilot training on October 25, 1952, and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant. However, he was only one of three in his class that were offered a regular commission into the Air Force. He served as a pilot in the F-80, F-84, F-86, F-100, F-105, and F-111 aircraft. Over his career he completed Squadron Officer's School, Armed Forces Staff College, and the Air War College. He flew combat over North Vietnam (100 missions in Operation Rolling Thunder) and during that tour was Commander of the 34th Tactical Fighter Squadron. He was based at Korat Royal Thai Air Force Base. All operations were over North Vietnam or were in support of CIA operations in Laos. Later he served in NATO and was Director of Fighter Operations for USAF Europe. His last assignment was Director of Plans for 9th Air Force (Tactical Air Command).

Over the span of his career, he was stationed in France, Germany, Thailand, Arizona, Nevada, Virginia, Alabama, and South Carolina. He has been decorated with the Silver Star twice, the Legion of Merit twice, the Distinguished Flying Cross three times, and the Air Medal sixteen times, among many other commendations and service medals.

While he was stationed at Williams AFB, he met his wife Ruth Hess in Phoenix, Arizona. They were married on January 4, 1957 in Mesa, Arizona. They raised

four children: Margaret, George Henry, Nancy, and Kathy, while living the nomadic life of a military family, traveling all over the United States and Europe. Nancy graduated from Woodlake Union High School in 1979 and is teaching 3rd grade at Castle Rock Elementary in Woodlake. Kathy graduated from Woodlake Union High School in 1980 and is a supervisor for the State of California's Department of Weights and Measures. Margaret is retired from UPS. Ruth and George Henry are both deceased. George is blessed with five grandchildren.

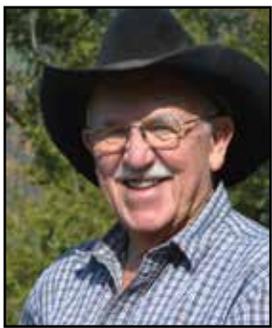
After retirement from the USAF after 26 years in 1977, he moved back to where he was born and raised in Woodlake. He became an orange grower again, farming the grove that his grandfather planted in 1905. He was asked to teach at The College of the Sequoias in 1980. Since his major at UC Berkeley was Soil Science, he taught the Soils, Fertilizers, Economic Entomology, Citrus, Irrigation, and Forage Crop Science classes. In 1990, he quit teaching at COS to devote himself to fulltime farming.

He learned community service from his grandfather and father, who both served as school board members in Woodlake. He was a founding member of the WHS Foundation. At nearly 90, he still serves as president of the Woodlake Cemetery Board and as an Elder at the Lemon Cove Community Church. He is a member of the Tulare County Farm Bureau Land Use Committee and participates in a local committee devoted to measuring wells and collecting data on local water levels.

In his free time, he still oversees the management of the grove, meets for coffee with his friends every morning, enjoys solitaire, and mentors a young man that attends a private school in the area.



## Earl McKee *WHS 2019 Hall of Fame Inductee*



Born and raised in Three Rivers, Earl McKee has led a diverse and fascinating life. Earl's father started the family mule packing business in 1910, later buying the park concessions for packing and riding stables in Giant Forest, Sequoia National Park. Earl spent all his summers of his early life in the back country. He raised cattle, and quarter horses. He has sung at uncountable

weddings and funerals sang western music with his family; playing his Tuba and singing all over the world with the well-known "High Sierra Jazz Band" for over 42 years.

Earl graduated from Woodlake High School in 1949. He was a member of a scrappy group of football players that claimed the San Joaquin Valley Championship for two years running...1947 and '48, quite a feat for such a small town team. In his senior year, Earl was president of FFA and received the prestigious award of State Farmer. (In 1976, this proud honor was also earned by his son known as "Little Earl.") Earl also received the Chamber of Commerce Banker's Agricultural award; he was president of the athletic letterman's "Block W" association and was voted Vice President alongside dear friend and Student Body President, Jess Cox. While attending Fresno State University, Earl played for the Frosh football team. There, he was taught several lessons from two powerful varsity players just out of the Marines; Herman Ziegler and Bud Loverin. (Herman was the boxing heavyweight champion of the Southwest Marine Corps!) Earl faced those two on many scrimmages and they showed him no mercy. With much due respect, here began their lifelong friendship.

Twenty years later, Earl served on the Woodlake H.S. Board of Trustees under the leadership of Principal/Superintendent, Bud Loverin and Vice Principal, Herman Ziegler. He spent 12 years on the board and during that time, handing out diplomas to his own children. He is especially proud of the boards work with Courtney McCracken as they developed the plan for the new Public Library and the schools new swim complex.

Soon after high school, Earl married his high school sweetheart, Gaynor Hardison. They celebrated their 68th Anniversary in December of 2018. The McKee's three children also graduated from Woodlake High; Linda in 1971, Cheerl in 1974, and little Earl 1975.

Earl joined the Three Rivers Lions Club in 1950 and has been a member ever since. Earl received the Tulare County Cattleman of The Year award in 2003 after breeding beef cattle for 55 years. Earl has led an amazing life and met many memorable characters along the way. He developed quite a knack for remembering names, dates, stories and antidotes. In 2013 Earl published his first book of old time memories "Echoes of Blossom Peak" and in 2016 published, "Echoes Of Three Rivers." Earl cherished the many friends which he had come to know and shared precious time. Over the last 20 years, members of his 49er class have been meeting for dinner once a month. Jess Cox and Frank Ainley are still the dearest of classmates and this summer Don Nice came to visit and talk about old times all the way from New York City.



# Welcome Note - from the WHS Foundation Board President

Greetings to all supporters, and potential supporters, of the great kids of Woodlake HS!! My message isn't just about supporting the WHS Foundation, but how we can support the future of our community and our society as a whole.

Each year I help interview senior students for scholarships and their senior exit interviews. What I see is hope and optimism. Many young people are the first in their family to attend college. Others have older siblings who set the standard for their family. Others just want to get on with their lives and follow their dreams.

We don't answer every wish or prayer, but the Woodlake High School Foundation works very hard on behalf of ALL students to do what we can to help them achieve their goals. That's why we exist. That's why we try. That's why we work for all our deserving students.

I am proud of our accomplishments. Our dedicated board is united on one thing ... it's about the students of Woodlake High School and it always will be.

Are you ready to step up to the plate? To help by being part of this committed winning team? You can be, you know. Just go to our new website at [WoodlakeFoundation.org](http://WoodlakeFoundation.org). Or call me at 559-737-1249.



**George Kulick**  
WHS Foundation Board President

## GO TIGERS!

## Woodlake High School – “Tigers Rising”



**Rick Rodriguez**  
WHS Principal

The collective passion and dedication by school staff to our students is the reason Woodlake High School (WHS) is a special place for teaching and learning. The 2018-2019 school year was especially rewarding for everyone within the WHS community. Usually every 6 years, a high school completes a comprehensive self-study and then a team commissioned by the Western Association of Schools & Colleges (WASC) reviews the self-study, completes an on-site visit, and affirms whether

what was reported by the school is accurate. If all is in proper order, the school is re-accredited by WASC and most often the school then completes a 3-year progress report and receives another on-site affirmation visit. In June 2019, WHS outstandingly received the highest accreditation level possible; 6-years with no need for a 3-year affirmation visit. Only 1 in 4 schools receive this level of accreditation. In essence, this accreditation level certifies that WHS is not only a quality institu-

tion for student learning but is directed by a school staff that is reflective, self-sufficient and capable of completing its own monitoring and self-improvement process. **WHS Tigers Rising!**

New for 2019-2020, is the establishment of the Engineering Pathway. Students interested in this new pathway will be engaged in hand-on projects related to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). Introduction to Engineering Principles became a new course offering and is one of a sequence of 3 courses students will complete and obtain knowledge/skills so if interested, can then pursue a STEM related career. By expanding career pathways, WHS is looking forward to learning about the additional successes students will have by offering more opportunities to prepare for college and a variety of careers. **WHS Tigers Rising!**

Together, WHS endeavors to develop in all our students Tiger Pride and 21st Century skills needed to be successful college scholars and future working professionals. If you would like more information about WHS's educational programs or would like to visit the school, please do not hesitate to contact me at school 559-564-3307 or by email at [rrodriguez@w-usd.org](mailto:rrodriguez@w-usd.org). **WHS Tigers Rising!**

## WHS 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Career Day - October 25th, 2019

Woodlake High School will be hosting its 33rd Annual Career Day which is an opportunity to feature our alumni as distinguished presenters and share their career path and experiences. This event host approximately 100 to 150 presenters which consist primarily of WHS alumni but also very active community members that would like to promote their career sector to our youth. The day will start with a Keynote address by Pedro Lopez, class of 2004. After the Keynote address, students attend five different career presentations based on their registration request. While the presentations are going on in classrooms, we also hold a College/Career Fair in the Old Gym. The College/Career Fair hosts representatives from a variety of universities, as well as local companies or organizations that provide employment opportunities for students. Presenters are invited to join us for Senior Night at the WHS Football game that evening with free tickets to the game against the Farmersville Aztecs. Come Feel the Roar!!! Go Tigers!!!

This year's Career Day is organized by a student steering com-

mittee headed by Elizabeth Haro. The College Fair is put on by the AP Spanish Literature class which is advised by Mrs. Blanca Lucatero, Spanish teacher. These students work hard all year to make Career Day a great success. They are in charge of overseeing the rescheduling of the entire student body for one day, inviting presenters, and helping to organize seven student committees. They do an outstanding job coordinating this event from the planning process through the final thank you letters.

The financing for this event is made possible by generous donations from the Woodlake High School Foundation, Woodlake Kiwanis Club, Woodlake Lady Lions, and many local businesses. The committee selected the theme “Reach for the Sky” as we want to promote the unlimited possibilities that our students can attain. The goal is to have a Woodlake High School student design the T-shirt. The career day committee will vote on the design they would like to feature on the front of the t-shirts, the back will have all of the sponsors.

# WHS Welcomes our New Teachers



## Jonathan Nava

### *Education Specialist*

Mr. Nava was born in Texas but has lived in Corcoran, CA most of his life. He's been married since 2015, has a 3-year old son and a two and half month old daughter. Mr. Nava enjoys tinkering in the garage trying to build things for his home. He also enjoys coaching football and track but has put that on hold for the moment.

Mr. Nava is a huge sports fan and enjoys going to different sporting events. He has been to nine out of 32 Major League Baseball stadiums and would like to attend all of them at some point in his life. Mr. Nava says, "everyone has truly made my first few weeks here easier and it is truly appreciated. The staff/admin has been very kind and helpful since starting here at WHS"



## Allie Hansen *Education Specialist*

Ms. Hansen grew up in Exeter/Tulare. She has a daughter named Audrey who is 7 years old. Ms. Hansen also has two cats whose names are Rizzy and Teddy. She loves anything having to do with water like swimming or going to the beach, lake, or river. She also loves sweets, thriller rides, and concerts. About being at WHS, Ms. Hansen says, "I like how everyone is helpful"



## Dana Jobe

### *Biology Teacher*

Mrs. Jobe grew up in Paso Robles. She has been married for 26 years and all her 3 adult children are WHS Graduates. She enjoys riding her motorcycle, coaching soccer and participating in taekwondo. Mrs. Jobe is hoping to get a group of WUSD staff/friends to go on a game show together to show district spirit. This trip will

also be a fundraiser to help send AP Biology students to an environmental science camp over Easter Break. I have enjoyed getting to know the students in my community. Mrs. Jobe has lived in Woodlake since being married and feels like she is "coming home" to teach. She says, "The WHS staff are also a great team that have made me feel welcome to their campus"



## Michael Truck

### *Chemistry Teacher*

Mr. Truck grew up in Visalia, CA. He and his wife Sherry have been married almost 9 years. They have a 3.5 year old daughter whose name is Lauren and a 5 month old son whose name is William. He enjoys spending time with them. His hobbies include wood working, pen making, playing music, being outdoors and spending

time with my family. Mr. Truck says, "I have enjoyed the positive, encouraging and helpful culture here at WHS. I feel that each one of my students and coworkers, as well as staff, make this a place I want to be at each day"



## LeAnna Blackmon

### *English teacher*

Ms. Blackmon grew up between Visalia and Tulare. As the middle child of five siblings, she liked to be a team player and help others. She is thankful that her family has always valued education and sees how powerful it is in creating opportunities. Ms. Blackmon loves reading, writing, music, movies, and learning. She feels

fortunate to work with amazing people, teaching at different K-12 levels plus some college and writing/editing for Strategic Planning Consultants and Microsoft's Xbox. She is especially excited to be here at WHS and feels it is an awesome place because of the staff, students and community!



## Elizabeth Renee Thornburg

### *Ag Teacher*

Mrs. Thornburg's grandparents, who raised her, came to Woodlake when they were young and lived here until they retired in the early '90's. She married her childhood sweetheart and they have been together for over 26 years. Both of her daughters went to Woodlake High School and were active in FFA, Drama and other extracurricular activities. Mrs. Thorn-

burg and her family all live together just outside of Woodlake on a citrus ranch with their livestock and pets. She enjoys gardening, gastronomy/food preservation, and archery. She says, "The family atmosphere at Woodlake is unbelievable! It is definitely like coming home when I walked into class the first day. I have students of my high school friends, teachers that my girls had are still here and many of the staff have been here since I was a kid. The school spirit is great and the determination of the students and faculty to make sure every student is successful is phenomenal. I'm an open book so if you ask I'll tell you. I may have worn a toga but I will always have Tiger Blood"



## Edward Ronquillo

### *Education Specialist*

Mr. Ronquillo grew up in Paramount, CA with 3 brothers and 1 sister. He is married and has a 5-month old daughter. Mr. Ronquillo enjoys swimming, biking, nature and doing group activities. At WHS, he has been enjoying students' eagerness to learn.



## Diego Hernandez

### *Math Teacher*

Mr. Hernandez grew up in Huron, California. He enjoys watching soccer and spending time with his family on the weekends. Mr. Hernandez says, "I have enjoyed how welcoming the staff is at WHS. Since the beginning of the school year, everybody has been willing to help"

## WHS Welcomes our New Teachers



### Guadalupe Cisneros

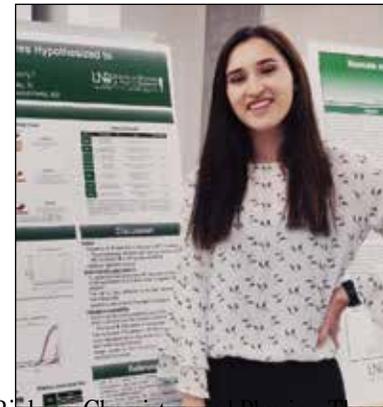
#### *Spanish Teacher*

Ms. Cisneros is a native of Woodlake and Woodlake High School Alumnus from the Class of 2010. She is the middle child of five siblings. She and her older brother were the first in her family to attend a four year university and hopes to see her younger sister also follow in their footsteps. Ms. Cisneros hobbies include reading, listening to music, baking, and cake decorating. Prior to becoming a Spanish teacher for WHS, she taught 5th grade at Castle Rock Elementary for 3 years. Since coming to WHS, she says, "I've enjoyed the connections I am making with my students. Each day, I look forward to the stories they may share with me. At the same time, I have enjoyed the positive atmosphere on campus and how staff has been so welcoming".

## Zoë Sweeney - Dreams of Attending SACNAS

Zoë Sweeney graduated from Woodlake High School in 2017. Zoe was a stellar student at Woodlake High School and continues to achieve in higher education.

She is a first-generation Mexican-American college student, currently a third-year student enrolled at the College of the Sequoias (COS) in Visalia, California. After this academic year, she plans to earn three Associates of Science in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. These degrees will prepare her to transfer to a University of California where she plans to major in Neuroscience. Once she receives her degrees, she plans to further her education by attending medical school.



## Same Teachers - New 2019 Postions



### Luke Campe

#### *Engineering Pathway Teacher and STEM Coach Education Specialist*

Although not new to Woodlake Unified, Mr. Campe is a WHS alumnus who is now serving in a new role for the school District. He is the new Engineering Pathway Teacher at WHS and District STEM coach serving students in kindergarten to high school. Previously, he taught Physical Science at Woodlake Valley Middle School for 4 years and physics, chemistry and AP Physics during the most recent 8 years.

As the Engineering Pathway teacher, Mr. Campe is starting a 3-year sequence of courses. "Introduction to Engineering Design" is the first year course where students learn about the engineering field, core engineering content, how to use "design thinking", and learn technical CAD skills. Students can continue in the pathway to gain engineering skills and apply them to design projects that will serve the community of Woodlake. They will also attain technical certifications along the way. As the STEM Coach for K-12, Mr. Campe will be working with all site levels to establish a common vision for building STEM in WUSD. He will provide support to teachers directly in implementing NGSS science standards and curriculum to prepare students for future careers in STEM related fields. With his support, the District looks forward to increasing the level of science literacy and critical thinking through the application of NGSS.

This past summer Zoe was part of a Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program at the University of North Dakota. For 10 weeks, she worked in Dr. Keith Henry's lab, which researches the effects of antidepressants and substances of abuse in epigenetics. Her project involved researching the changes in gene expression due to methamphetamine exposure in mice. She learned complex techniques and processes that other students at the community college level could only imagine without such programs. The REU culminated in a poster presentation that she worked on for multiple weeks: processing data, writing each section, creating figures, and rehearsing. After all of her hard work, she was eager to share her poster and new knowledge with others, which brings us to even more exciting news to share about Zoe.

She has been accepted to present her research at the 2019 SACNAS conference taking place Oct 31-Nov 2 in Honolulu, Hawaii. It's the largest multidisciplinary and multicultural STEM diversity event in the country. 2019 SACNAS is a 3-day conference which serves to equip, empower, and energize participants for their academic and professional paths in STEM. Over the course of the three days, college-level through professional attendees are immersed in cutting-edge scientific research and professional development. This conference is meant to encourage the success of Chicano/Hispanic and Native American Scientist.

"Attending SACNAS will give me not only the opportunity to share my research with others, but to also gain experience and advance my professional career. In addition, I would be able to use my experience to encourage other women and first-generation college students to pursue careers in STEM. As a community college student, it is very common to hear students discuss the opportunities they are excited to participate in once they transfer to four-year universities. Attending SACNAS will give me the ability to show others that despite our position, there are multiple ways to become involved whilst at COS."

*We look forward to seeing the future endeavors of one of our Tiger Alumni. Zoe, we are proud of your accomplishments.*

### Nicole "Nikki" Frazier

#### *6th -12th Grade Instructional Coach*

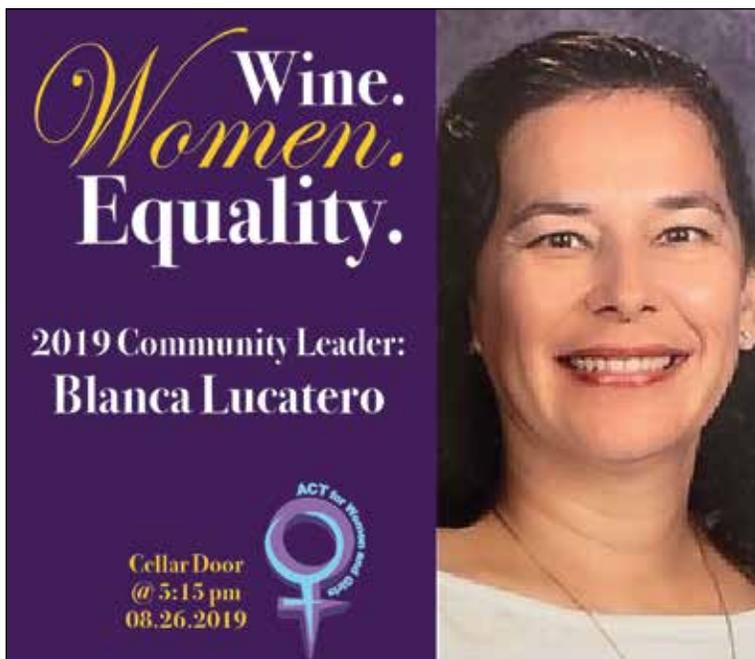
Beginning her 12th year working for WUSD. As our new 6th-12th grade Instructional Coach. Nikki has a reputation of being a very dynamic teacher and now aims to support implementation of best teaching practices into all classrooms by working closely with teachers and school leaders. Nikki serves as a mentor to her fellow educators and provides support with educational technology, lesson planning, and professional learning sessions. For the previous 11 years, Nikki had been a member of the WHS Science Department teaching Biology and AP Biology. Nikki is overjoyed with her new role and the opportunity to visit and collaborate with teacher on a daily basis.

### **SAME TEACHERS - NEW 2019 POSITIONS:**

**José A. Palomo - Class of '91 .....WUSD Athletic Director**

*See Athletic Directors Article on Page 2*

# Blanca Lucatero-Student Advocate and Community Leader



Wine.  
Women.  
Equality.

2019 Community Leader:  
Blanca Lucatero

Cellar Door  
@ 5:15 pm  
08.26.2019

ACT for Women and Girls



ACT for Women and Girls, an organization established in 2003, is humbled to work with and honor Blanca Lucatero with the 2019 Community Leader Award. Blanca has played a very special and instrumental role in the success of ACT's Woodlake-based sexual health education program. Six years ago, ACT with the help of Blanca, a handful of students, and the Counselor Steve Katz, was able to pass Comprehensive Sexual Health

## WHS Foundation - Scholarship Program

By: Sandy Owen - Scholarship Chairperson

One of the top goals of the Woodlake High School Foundation is to provide scholarships to graduating seniors. We provide a tax-exempt conduit for businesses and community members to help us with this project. We feel that it is critical to give our students the opportunity to continue their education beyond the level of high school. We also help the high school with donations for facilities, clubs, sports, and classroom projects needing our support. We've supported FFA competitions, the band, Career Day and many others.

Last year, 47 graduating seniors applied for scholarships. Between Foundation money and private donors, these seniors were awarded about \$305,000.00 towards their continued education. It is rewarding to see many of them coming back after graduation from college to work in and help the community. It is also wonderful to see community members honor a loved one by giving a memorial donation.

We also work hard for various fundraisers during the year. There is now a Foundation website equipped to take donations from anyone who wants to help with these efforts. A super friendly reminder is that the end of the tax year is coming in just about two months. There can't be a much better way to get a tax break/credit than by helping a needy student -

*ESPECIALLY one of our smart, loving and talented WHS students.*

WHS Foundation website: [woodlakefoundation.org](http://woodlakefoundation.org)

Education before California's state mandate. Since 2013, Blanca continues to advocate for students and values of ACT on and off campus, but more importantly has been an ally for social justice movements, LGBTQ students, undocumented students and parents, and students who experience emotional or physical trauma in their lives.

Blanca opened up her classroom to ACT leader Sarah Hutchinson in the Spring of 2014 as work began to create a youth activist club that would address the high teenage pregnancy rate in Woodlake. S.H.A.P.E. (Student Health Advocates for Peer Empowerment) began as an after school club to advocate for Comprehensive Sexual Health Education and Mrs. Lucatero became a strong ally in recruiting students to participate, and talking to students, parents and teachers about the goals of the club.

Blanca is considered a "second mom" by many students. She takes personal care to hear them out, and makes time after school and on weekends to be present for her students. Blanca's classroom is a safe haven for many students who are struggling with depression or bullying. Blanca is a key supporter for trans students and makes it her priority to mentor the entire school community about being accepting of student diversity. Blanca is currently a Spanish Teacher, English Department Chair and Head Cross Country Coach for WHS. WHS and ACT are eternally grateful for Blanca's openness, her courage, and her faith in the work she does in Woodlake together to advocate and advance justice for all young people.



This will take one minute of your time, cost you nothing and help WHS Foundation tremendously! Welcome to Amazon Smile! We all shop on Amazon, especially with Christmas coming up. Follow these simple directions, do your regular Amazon shopping and Amazon will contribute 0.5% of your purchase price to the Woodlake Union High School District Foundation. This percent is paid by Amazon, not you! You designate us as your preferred charity and from that point on, every time you shop, Amazon will contribute their portion to us automatically.

**Follow these easy instructions:**

1. Sign in to smile.amazon.com on your desktop or mobile phone browser (you do not have to create a new log-in).
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3. Select a new charitable organization to support. Please type in: Woodlake Union High School District Foundation and save it.
4. For more information go to <http://smile.amazon.com/about>



WOODLAKE UNION HIGH SCHOOL

Classes of  
78-80  
79

40 YEAR CLASS REUNION HOSTED BY CLASS OF 1979  
[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/WUHSCLASSOF787980](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/WUHSCLASSOF787980)

February 29th, 2020 • 5:30 - 11:30 pm • \$50 before 12/20/19  
at the Wyndham Hotel • Visalia, CA - Pine Cedar Ballroom

RSVP: CO '78 - Irene 559.679.3110 [marinbarba@gmail.com](mailto:marinbarba@gmail.com)

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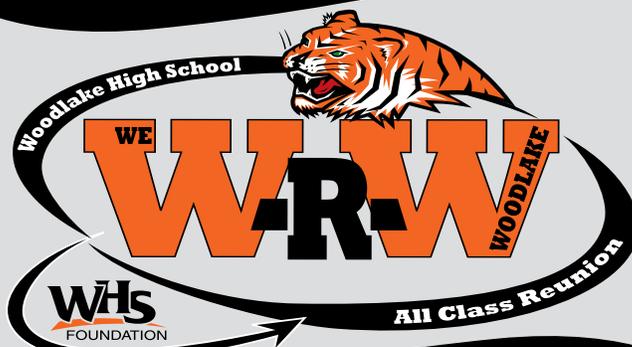
## Generous Donation of Pristine Letterman Sweaters



Milton Savage  
WHS Class of 1943

Pristine letterman sweaters donated to Woodlake HS by Carol Savage of Three Rivers in honor of her late husband, Milton Savage, who was a 1943 graduate of Woodlake HS. These sweaters will eventually be on permanent display at Woodlake HS.

# SAVE THE DATE!



## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2020

Follow us on Facebook at:

**Woodlake High School Foundation CA**

for more details...

or visit: [www.WoodlakeFoundation.org](http://www.WoodlakeFoundation.org)

## Christmas Tree Auction

The Woodlake High School Foundation will be sponsoring a Christmas Tree at the 2019 Festival of Trees and Globes Event hosted by Saint Anthony's Retreat in Three Rivers, Thursday, November 21st at 5:00 p.m. Tickets include a cup for sampling local brewed beer and a variety of wine. There will also be an assortment of foods from local eateries. If you are interested in attending, purchase tickets at St. Anthony's retreat. You will be able to bid on-line for this tree prior to the event. The highest on-line bidder will get 2 free tickets and a chance to place the final winning bid at the event. For more information about bidding on the WHS Foundation Christmas Tree visit our website at [www.woodlakefoundation.org](http://www.woodlakefoundation.org). This is a great opportunity to walk away with a beautifully decorated tree and gifts while supporting the foundation and its efforts to provide scholarship opportunities for Woodlake High Students.

## 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**

## SAVE THE DATE

- Oct. 28-30, 2019 .....WHS Haunted House-PAB
- Nov. 22, 2019 .....Be Future Ready Conference (all 10th graders)-TCOE
- Nov. 21, 2019 ..... Three Rivers Christmas Tree Auction -  
WHS Foundation Tree
- Dec. 3, 2019 ..... FFA Booster Drive Thru TriTip Fundraiser
- Dec. 5, 2019 ..... Woodlake FFA Can Food Drive
- Dec. 7-8, 2019 ..... Fall Drama Scenes Performance- WHS PAB
- Dec. 9, 2019 ..... Band Winter Concert-PAB
- Dec. 12, 2019 ..... WHS/WVMS Choir Winter Concert-PAB
- Dec. 13, 2019 ..... Scholarship Applications Due
- Dec 14, 2019 ..... Woodlake Christmas Parade
- Jan. 15, 2019 ..... WHS Hall of Fame Applications Due
- Jan. 25, 2020 ..... WHS Winter Formal-Cafe 225
- Feb. 22, 2020 ..... Woodlake FFA Donkey Basketball, Gym
- Feb. 29, 2020 ..... Class of 78, 79, 80 Reunion
- March 6, 2020 ..... Senior Exit Interviews
- March 30, 2020 ..... WHS Spring Open House
- April 22, 2020 ..... Senior Exit Interviews
- April 23, 2020 ..... Ballet Folklorico Dance Performance-PAB
- April 29, 2020 ..... Senior Exit Interviews
- May 1, 2020 ..... WHS Foundation Hall of Fame Dinner
- May 1-3, 2020 ..... Spring Musical-PAB
- May 14, 2020 ..... WHS End of Year Choir Concert-PAB
- May 16, 2020 ..... WHS Prom-Visalia Convention Center
- May 18, 2020 ..... WHS Scholarship Night-PAB
- May 19, 2020 ..... WHS Band End of Year Concert-PAB
- June 5, 2020 ..... WHS Graduation-Robison-Painter Memorial Stadium
- July 3, 2020 ..... July 3rd Blast Woodlake Miller Brown Park
- Oct. 10, 2020 ..... We Are Woodlake - All Class - School Reunion



**WHS**  
FOUNDATION

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