



March 1, 2017

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[Tumwaterhighalumni.com](http://Tumwaterhighalumni.com)

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# THSAA NEWSLETTER



## Thunderbird

In past issues of our newsletter we have written of the mythology surrounding thunderbirds. To continue we will add, "just a little more 'myth' to the mighty Thunderbird."



In Algonquian mythology, the thunderbird controls the upper world while the underworld is controlled by the underwater panther or Great Horned Serpent. The thunderbird throws lightning at the underwater creatures and creates thunder by flapping its wings. Thunderbirds in this tradition are commonly depicted as having an X-shaped appearance. This varies between a simple X to recognizable birds. The X-shaped thunderbird is often used to depict the thunderbird with its wings alongside its body and the head facing forwards instead of profile. All the depictions on this page are of "Thunderbirds".



# Address From Our Vice President



A Message From The Board

This is a special year for Tumwater High school. 2017 will mark the fifty-fifth year of the first graduating class. I was honored to have served as the first ASB President of the first class of a small class of forty seniors. Although this was a small class, it was the class along with the rest of the student body that helped to select "Thunderbirds" as the school's mascot and chose "green and white" as the school colors. We wrote the first By Laws for the school government and helped to start the many traditions that are carried on to this day. In sports we won the school's first basketball and baseball games in league competition.

Over the years the school has grown in size and structure. There has been great growth in community support. It was this support and sense of pride that led to the establishment of a special committee that planned and held the fiftieth anniversary celebration in September 2012. The outreach of the community was tremendous. The celebration of this event led to the creation of the Tumwater High School Alumni Association which is now served by an eleven member board. There are many activities that the THSAA coordinates to serve the high school. Among these activities the THSAA raises monies to award three scholarships to graduating seniors each year.

To keep these activities going we need the continued support of the alumni through memberships. Your memberships help to continue the THSAA to sponsor its many activities. If you are an alumni and not already a member, please help us and the school community by joining the THSAA. Application forms may be found on the THSAA website or by contacting the membership chairman Melissa Beard at [melei@stanfordalumni.org](mailto:melei@stanfordalumni.org). Your membership really helps! The board is always looking for new members who might be willing to serve on the board to help the school and our community by planning and sponsoring THSAA activities.

Tumwater High School is a special place with many wonderful memories. As alumni we can give back to the school by joining, serving, and supporting the Alumni Association. If you are an alumni, please help us by becoming a member. Check out our website at [tumwaterhighalumni.com](http://tumwaterhighalumni.com).

William Curtis '62

## Message from Principal Broome



Greetings THS alumni! It is always an honor to have the opportunity to keep our alumni up to date with all that is going on at THS.

### Retirement Celebrations

This year we honored retiring football coaches Sid Otton, Pat Alexander and Steve Shoun. Together they represent 117 years of coaching experience. We had the opportunity to honor them in January with a retirement ceremony. At the ceremony, a bronze bust of Coach Otton was revealed. The bust will be mounted in front of the stadium so every visitor can recognize the dedication and sacrifice of Coach Sid Otton. It was an amazing evening to honor three men who have influenced our community for the last four decades.

### New Football Coach

With the retirement of Coach Otton we had the opportunity for the first time in 43 years to select a new football coach. After sorting through many qualified applicants and interviewing several candidates; the hiring panel unanimously recommended the hiring of THS alumni Bill Beattie. Bill had most recently coached at Olympia High School for the last 22 years. We are so excited for the Bill Beattie era. Next year you will see many of the same traditions and formations from our football program but you will also see a few new wrinkles. We look forward to supporting Coach Beattie as he begins a new era of THS football.

### Construction

While we will be taking a one-year break from construction upgrades this summer, we will be doing some work at the District stadium. This summer we will be removing the 12-year-old field turf surface and replacing the surface with new turf. At that time, we will also be resurfacing our track as well. Our district custodial and grounds team does a great job of making sure we get the most out of our bond dollars.

Thank you for your continued support of Tumwater High School, our staff and our students.

Go T-Birds

Sincerely,

Jeff Broome, 97'  
THS Principal



**Spotlight on Norm Wisner**  
**Coach, Athletic Director, Principal, and Superintendent**  
**From 1961 to 1994**  
**A Student/Athlete's Perspective**  
**of the "Early Years"**



To say that the name "Norm Wisner" is synonymous with Tumwater High School and the Tumwater School District is an understatement! He was part of the first group of staff members at the newly opened high school in 1961. Over his 31-year career at the Tumwater School district, Norm held the positions of Teacher, Assistant Coach, Athletic Director, Assistant Principal, Principal, Assistant Superintendent, and Superintendent. He was involved in the hiring and mentoring of many legendary coaches and teachers at THS. He budgeted, funded, and oversaw the construction of most of the district's current facilities, including half of the current school buildings, the football stadium, gymnasiums, and related locker and weight rooms. Norm was also instrumental in the development, construction, and implementation of the New Market Vocational Skills Center, which serves several local districts. His commitment to the community and specifically Tumwater High School athletics over such a long period have earned Norm Wisner a place in the THS Athletic Hall of Fame. This opening paragraph was taken from the 2016 THS Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony.

Clearly Norm Wisner left a legacy of excellence in teaching students, coaching athletes, administering programs, and leading organizations and people!

Former student/athletes recall Norm Wisner in the early days of THS. To begin with, Norm was mentored by THS's first Principal, Dr Joseph L. Kearney who went on to become Athletic Director at the University of Washington, Michigan State University, and Arizona State University. He retired as Commissioner of the Western Athletic Conference in 1994. Dr Kearney was a dynamic leader/motivator/administrator who set high standards and was driven by achieving positive results. He certainly had great influence on the staff he assembled and mentored at THS from 1961 to 1963. Truly a "rising star" among this staff was young Norm Wisner, Earth Science teacher, Assistant Basketball and Assistant Football Coach on Dr. Kearney's staff.

What stood out about Norm Wisner was his unique ability to "connect" with students and athletes. In the classroom, he taught with a lot of enthusiasm and kept interest level high with clear explanations about the principles of the earth sciences. Many students pursued teaching as a profession due in large part to the influence of Norm Wisner. In the early years of THS, Norm was an Assistant Football Coach to Coach Chuck Loete and an Assistant Basketball Coach to Coach Bill Ward. In football, Norm coached the linemen who after two tough seasons, developed into a league championship line. His linemen always practiced fast and hard and toward the end of their game week preparation, Norm added a little fun to the practice regimen. The linemen played "knee ball"; a game where the linemen were running backs, QB, and receivers. They played football on their knees; what a fun way to end a week of practice for linemen who don't get many opportunities to touch the ball during games. In basketball, Norm coached the JV as well as work with varsity on individual skills. Most memorable was Norm's explanation of "best shooting trajectory". He would explain that the basketball hoop lays in a horizontal plane and shots have a better chance going through if shots were executed at a higher trajectory. He was also willing to stay after practice to shag balls for the player to develop their shot and also to prove his point about "best shooting trajectory". Also memorable was his suggestions on "best playing posture" which later became known as the "triple threat position." Norm was also a very positive motivator to all athletes, always encouraging that they "can do" it if they put their mind to it.

The high school years are such a critical period in a person's life. It is the early transition from adolescence to adulthood. Work habits are developed, lifetime goals are contemplated and created, and career tracks are initiated. The staff at THS did a great job of facilitating this transition period and Norm Wisner had a very significant role in creating positive attitudes among the students of THS and encouraging them to excel at what ever they chose to do. Through his many years of dedicated service, it was no surprise that Norm Wisner eventually became the Superintendent of the Tumwater School District. On behalf of so many former students at THS, thank you Mr. Wisner for your enthusiastic approach to teaching, coaching, and leading the district.

# 2016 Scholarship Winners

THSAA awarded three \$1,000 secondary education scholarships to three graduating THS seniors. The graduates are Allie De La Cruz, Senna Larson, and Devon Reich. The scholarship selection is made based upon leadership and scholarship. These persons are fine examples of the values of THS and the alumni association. Congratulations Allie, Senna, and Devon.

## Allie De La Cruz

My name is Allie De La Cruz from Tumwater High School and I am one of the 2016 THSAA scholarship winners. First and foremost I'd like to say a huge thank you all for selecting me as the recipient of this year's scholarship.

I will be attending Portland State University next year. I also will be studying Biology with a Pre-Optometry concentration and am so grateful to the Tumwater High School Alumni Association for supporting my goals. I am honored to be able to participate in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade! Enclosed is the requested photograph of myself.

Sincerely,  
Allie De La Cruz



## Senna Larson

Thank you so much for providing this scholarship opportunity and awarding me the Tumwater High School Alumni Association Scholarship. This scholarship means the world to me and I cannot express how grateful I am for it. Without this scholarship I may not have been able to attend my dream school Azusa Pacific University in Southern California. I will be arriving at Azusa Pacific on August 26<sup>th</sup> and cannot wait to start school there. At Azusa Pacific University I plan to major in Allied Health so that I may be able to become a Physician's Assistant. I want to eventually become a PA specialized in reconstructive surgeries so that I am able to heal burn victims and children with cleft palates. Also once I get my PA certification and have a few years of experience I plan to go on medical mission trips. Thank you again for your generous gift, I feel so blessed that you awarded me the Tumwater High School Alumni Association Scholarship.

## Devin Reich

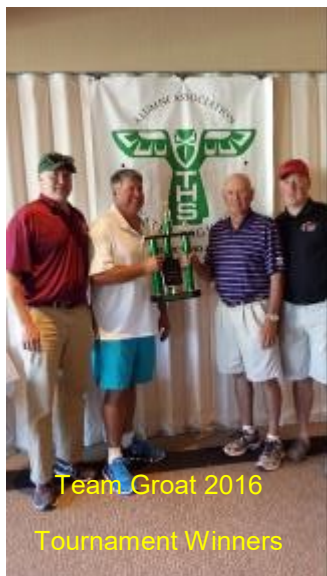
Devin Reich also was awarded a scholarship from THSAA. Devin was a 4.00 GPA student at THS taking several Advanced Placement (AP) courses and a member of the National Honors Society. Devin participated in basketball, baseball, and tennis. He qualified for state tourney play in tennis in multiple years.

At THS he learned about hard work in school, in extra-curricular activities, and in community service. He intends to follow this path in college as well as the semi-official THS motto of NGUNNGU.

Devin is attending the University of Washington studying for a degree in computer science.



## THSAA 2016 Activities



Team Groat 2016

Tournament Winners

# 2017 Annual Tumwater High School Alumni Association (THSAA) Golf Tournament

Save the date! Our annual major fund raiser Golf Tournament will be at Tumwater Valley Golf Course on 3 June 2017. Tee times will range from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM with the first 60 to sign up guaranteed a spot (will need to negotiate w/TVGC if we exceed 60 registrants). Dinner banquet to follow.

## 2016 THSAA Annual Charity Golf Tournament

32 enthusiastic golfers assembled for the 4<sup>th</sup> annual THSAA Charity Golf tournament on June 25<sup>th</sup> at Tumwater Valley Golf Course. This year's best ball scramble was again won by team Groat with a low score of 64. Members of team Groat include Randal Groat, Mike Groat, Brent Grabinski, and Tim Lookabaugh. Hotly in pursuit, one stroke back, were team Lakeside Industries (Nick Smith, Russ Beaulieu, Dean Smith, Tony Hammett) and team THS basketball coaches (Thomas Rowswell, Mike Anchors, Cramer Sunde, and Andy Beagle). Two strokes back was 2014 tournament winner, Team Olympia Federal. The "longest drive" award went to Nick Smith of Team Lakeside Industries and "closest to pin" award went to Gary Luecknotte of team Madison.

This tournament is our primary fund raiser for the THSAA scholarship program which awards \$1,000 scholarships to graduating THS seniors. Based on the success of last year's tournament and alumni contributions, THSAA was able to award scholarships to three graduating seniors, Allie DeLaCruz, Devin Reich, and Senna Larson. This year's tournament will again allow THSAA to award three scholarships, due in large part to the excellent support of our community tournament sponsors. Brewery City Pizza (Dennis Gard) provided a cash donation. "Hole Sponsors" included: N R Smith & Associates (Norm and Gayle Smith), Thunderbird Real Estate (Beth Johnson and Leslie Center), Donald Sampson Family Dentistry (Alice Sampson). "Cart Sponsors" include Tumwater Auto Spa (Denise Hardcastle), Tumwater Automotive (Brett Hardcastle), and Lakeside Industries (Dean Smith)



# MORE 2016 GOLF TOURNEY PICTURES



# INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE 2016



## 2016 Homecoming



THSAA sponsored our 3rd Annual Homecoming Burger Feed. Our extensive THS Historical Wall was again displayed for all to see.



THSAA will be back in October, 2017 to feed and cheer on our fabulous T-Birds.

**GO T-BIRDS !!!!**

# More Homecoming Photos





## THSAA ADDS TWO POSITIONS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors of the Tumwater High School Alumni Association wish to announce the addition of two board of director positions, Golf Coordinator and Historian.

The Golf Coordinator will organize the annual golf tournament and arrange and manage all aspects relative to it.

The Historian will collect and preserve relevant historical documents, memorabilia, and information regarding Tumwater High School and THSAA. The Historian may be called upon to display historical documents and memorabilia at THSAA and high school functions.

Two THSAA members have been selected for the positions: The Golf Coordinator is Kevin Campbell and the Historian is Judi Hambrick.

## THSAA Membership Chair Person appointed to School Board

### **Melissa Determan Beard, THSAA Membership Chairperson '91**



Melissa is Sworn In



Melissa with friends & family

"I am honored to have this opportunity to serve on the Tumwater School Board. It is still unbelievable to me that a kid from Peter G is now on the Board. While I expected to learn about the District's strategic plan and budget during board meetings, an unexpected benefit has been going to school and district events and reconnecting with former teachers and classmates. My husband has learned to add 30 minutes to the end of any meeting time because I always stay and talk with old and new friends. I love being a part of this community!"

## NFL HIGH SCHOOL COACH OF THE YEAR AWARD

The NFL announced today the high school football coaches nominated by the 32 NFL teams for the *Don Shula NFL High School Coach of the Year Award*. Representing the best at the high school level, these coaches were nominated for the national award, named for the winningest coach in NFL history, by NFL teams for their character and integrity, leadership and dedication to the community, commitment to player health and safety, and on-field success.

“High school football coaches have a profound impact on the lives of young athletes. We are honored to recognize these individuals who embody the leadership and commitment to excellence demonstrated by Coach Shula,” said NFL Commissioner **ROGER GOODELL**. “Their dedication to developing young men of character will lead their players to success far beyond the field of play.”

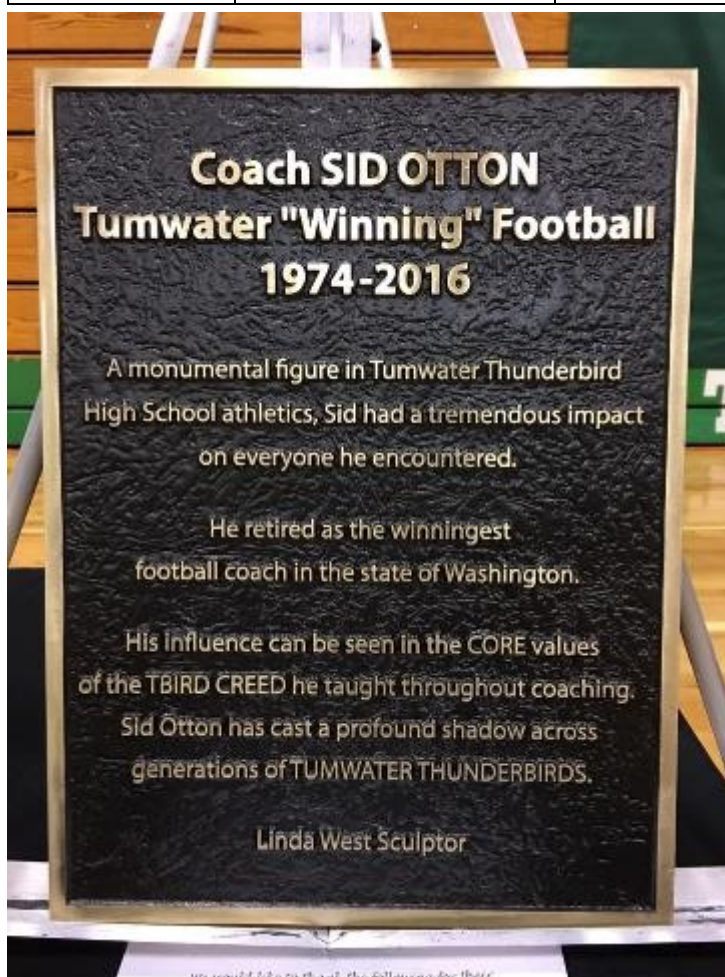
For the first time, Don Shula Award nominees from all 32 teams will be invited and recognized in special ways during the NFL’s week-long celebration of football at the 2017 Pro Bowl in Orlando. The coaches will visit Pro Bowl practices, participate in the USA Football National Conference and attend the Pro Bowl at Camping World Stadium. The coaches will be made available to media on **Saturday, Jan. 28 at 2 PM ET** at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando.

Two finalists will each receive \$15,000 from the NFL Foundation, \$10,000 of which will go to his high school’s football program. The Shula Award winner will be announced during the third quarter of the **2017 Pro Bowl**, airing **Sunday, Jan. 29 at 8 PM ET** on ESPN, and will receive an additional \$10,000 from the NFL Foundation, \$5,000 of which will go to his high school’s football program. The winner will be recognized at a press conference on Friday, Feb. 3 during Super Bowl week in Houston and walk the red carpet at NFL Honors, a two-hour primetime awards special airing nationally on FOX on Feb. 4, the night before Super Bowl LI.

The winner is selected by a panel of distinguished individuals. New to the Don Shula NFL High School Coach of the Year Award selection panel this year are two-time Super Bowl champion (XLI, 50) and five-time NFL MVP **PEYTON MANNING**, Super Bowl XLII champion and Good Morning America contributor **MICHAEL STRAHAN** and Pro Football Hall of Fame President **DAVID BAKER**.  
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Below is a full list of the 2016 Don Shula NFL High School Coach of the Year nominees. For more information on the NFL Foundation, visit [nflfoundation.org](http://nflfoundation.org) or follow @NFLFoundation on Twitter.

NOMINATING TEAM	SCHOOL NAME	COACH
Seattle Seahawks	Tumwater High School	Sid Otton



Thank you Sid !!!!



# REUNIONS

## CLASS OF 66' (50TH)



Class of 1976



Class of 1976



Class of '86'



# Yearly Treasurer's Report

THSAA  
Treasurer's Report  
January 1 – December 31, 2016

## OPERATING ACCOUNT

1/01/16 Beginning Balance	\$7042.81
<u>Deposit</u>	
Membership	\$2350.00
Golf tourney:	
Sponsors	\$2400.00
Gold Teams	\$3040.00
Banquet only	\$ 105.00
Sale of merchandise	\$ 38.00
Homecoming BBQ	\$ 205.00
Total deposits	\$8138.00
<u>Expenses</u>	
Office & Misc.	\$ 675.03
Donation	\$ 255.00
Golf tourney	\$2408.48
Homecoming BBQ	\$ 217.01
Scholarships	\$4000.00
Transfer designated funds to savings	\$ 940.00
Total expenses	\$8493.52
12/31/16 Ending Balance	\$6,687.29

## SAVINGS ACCOUNT

1/01/16 Savings (beginning balance)	\$6,473.15
<u>Deposits</u>	
Interest	\$ 6.17
Transferred designated funds	\$ 940.00
Batura (designated scholarships)	\$ 2700.00
12/31/16 Ending Balance	\$10,119.32

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Sapp, Treasurer

## IN MEMORIAM & VETERANS' HONOR ROLL

One can find lists of those THS alumni that have passed and our Veteran alumni on our THSAA website, [Tumwaterhighalumni.com](http://Tumwaterhighalumni.com)