

Dec. 20 2024

See us on the Web @ Tumwaterhighalumni.com or on Facebook "Tumwater High School Alumni" group

Inside This Issue

President's Mes-2 sage

Principal's Mes-3 sage

Scholarships 4

THSAA Activities 7 7 **THSAA** (ARTESIAN) Golf Classic

Reunions 13 13 All Class Reunion

Alumni Spotlight 16

THUNDER-CLAP

Official Newsletter of The **Tumwater High School Alumni Association**









The Thunderbird is a mythological bird-like spirit in North American indigenous peoples history and culture. It is considered a supernatural being of power and strength



Tumwater High School Alumni Association Message from the President December 2024



Greetings THS Alumni!

2024 was another good year for THSAA as we continue to pursue our mission of promoting alumni connectivity, having fun, and giving back to THS. This year's Artesian Golf Classic was again a huge success. We repeated last year's total of 20 teams joining the tournament. We continue to pursue our goal of hosting a "full" tournament of 30+ teams. We were blessed by great weather and a lively group of golf enthusiasts! Proceeds from this tournament along with donations from several very generous alumni donors allowed THSAA to award eight total scholarships totaling \$16,250 which is a "high water mark" for annual scholarship awards. We are very grateful for the many donations received from alumni who contributed to our scholarship program; without your support we would not be able to increase the quality and quantity of scholarships awarded over the years.

We are thankful to again host our annual "all class" reunion on August 24, 2024 at Swede Hall in Rochester. We estimate approximately 150 alumni gathered to enjoy the comradery of classmates spanning from class of 1962 to the present. Some folks have asked why Swede Hall in Rochester and why not in Tumwater? We are open to other venues that meet certain criteria (large enough to accommodate approximately 200 people including tables and chairs, available kitchen, and reasonable rental cost.) Suggestions for alternate reunion sites can be sent to Sonja Eby Winkelman ('75) at (quickasawink@comcast.net). Special thank you to all the folks who did all the planning and heavy lifting to set up, tear down, and clean up the Swede Hall; notably Board members Louisa Ward Shimamoto, Pam Sapp, Janet Ishihara, Rock Boardman, Dan Parsons, Sonja Winkelman, and Judi Hambrick. Also thank you to alumni Steve Wisner, Terry Van Meter, Ruth Ishihara, Elizabeth Damitio, Laurie (Legacie) Rawlins, Luanne (Watson) Tamburlin, and Matt Gleizes for joining the work party.

We are interested in putting a "spotlight" on alumni (former students, teachers, and administrators) who have been a positive influence in our community or have noteworthy accomplishments in their careers. If the alumni community have suggestions for future "spotlights", please contact Rock Boardman at (elkhorns@comcast.net)

Our bylaws call for each board position to be voted upon every three years for renewal/rotation and staggered so not all positions are voted upon the same year. Alumni members who attend the February Annual meeting are eligible to vote; the past three votes were conducted by Zoom Meeting so physical presence is not required. Positions up for renewal/rotation are Vice President, Membership Chair, and Website Chair. Our by-laws call for the VP to assemble a slate of persons who are interested in a board position, so if you are interested please contact Louisa Ward Shimamoto at louisaths75@gmail.com.

Currently, we have scheduled the 2025 Artesian Golf Classic for 1:30PM (Shotgun start) on May 31, 2025 at Capitol City Golf Club and is open to all interested golfers. Sign up "online" at **tumwaterhighalumni.com/golf** or via "snail mail" with the form on page 12. If you're aware of folks interested in providing sponsorship, please send their contact information my way (jim.ishihara@wavecable.com) and I'll get in touch with them. Stay tuned at our website: **tumwaterhighalumni.com** or on Face Book: "Tumwater High School Alumni" group. Looking forward to a prosperous 2025 as we reminisce our THS past.

Special thank you to Rock Boardman for again publishing this newsletter!

Leaning Forward,

Jim Ishihara, Class of '64

MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL SUDERMAN

Dear THS Alumni Association -

Well, they decided to keep me around as Principal for a second year. I want to reiterate that it is with great pleasure that I get to serve as Principal of Tumwater High School, work with the THS staff, and among the Tumwater Community.

Our Tumwater High School culture continues to thrive. We had a great start to the 2024-25 school year and I am affirmed that our culture thrives because our staff invest a ton of their time and energy in their work with students, have genuine care for students, and our community rallies around THS in awesome ways.

Here are some highlights from the start of our school year:

- Student engagement is up! We implemented "Off and Away" telecommunication device (cellphones, etc.) expectations that have had a significant positive impact on student engagement. This isn't just classroom academic engagement; students are engaging with each other and the world around them across all aspects of their school day in hallways, during assemblies, during lunch, as tablemates in a classroom, and with our staff and faculty. Implementation was a heavy lift and we are receiving overwhelmingly positive feedback from students, staff, parents and the community.
- Assembly energy Jordan Stray (Activities Director) and Student Leadership are rocking our all-school assemblies. We're having a ton
 of fun and it feels as though the "old school" assembly energy has infused school spirit, fun, and smiles. I've included some photos
 for your viewing fun.
- Our staff are reporting high levels of job satisfaction and effectiveness. Without sharing the boring details, it is apparent from recent staff surveys that we have a good thing going - our systems are supporting a strong culture that, when geared together, open the door to improved teaching and learning.

In short, there is a positive vibe running through THS that surfaces in observable ways and, in some ways, it's just a good feeling - something that I hope is reminiscent of your experiences at THS.

Thank you, Alumni Association, for your support and continued investment in Tumwater High School. As I mentioned in my graduation speech from last year, we continue to benefit from a culture built by many years, graduates, and generations of T-Birds - THANK YOU!

Gratefully,

Zach Suderman

Principal

Tumwater High School









2024 Scholarship Winners

THSAA awarded seven \$ 2,000 and one \$2,500 secondary education scholarships to graduating THS seniors. The scholarship selection is made based upon leadership, scholarship and community service. They are, Preston Dodge, Riley Clemmons, Benjamin Morgan, Bella Huld, Jacob Kaikkonen, Natalie Manning, Kaylee Pickering, (our 2024 Edna Belle Granacki Service Award Recipient), and Brianne Robinson. These graduates are fine examples of the values of THS and the alumni association. Congratulations to our award winners. Since 2013, THSAA has awarded 52 scholarships to graduating seniors in the amount of \$ 77,750.

Preston Dodge

Every high school graduate walks across the stage and gets a diploma, but the values of a Tumwater High School graduate are what separates us from the rest. The knowledge I learned while attending is very valuable, but I think being a THS graduate is about representing our core values. These include being respectful, responsible, present, and kind. I use these values to solve my problems, always trying to encompass them into everyday life.

Being respectful is an important concept that Tumwater is built on. Everyone has unique strengths and challenges, and showing respect makes everyone feel comfortable and included. Showing respect is essential in all interactions, both professionally and personally. Every day, I aim to be respectful whenever possible. Whether its holding the door open for someone or saying "Have a good day," THS has taught me that respect should happen instinctively.



Responsibility is Tumwater High School's second core value. Being responsible means to be accountable for ones own actions. I learned all of your actions have consequences, and taking ownership of your mistakes while learning is the best route to take. One instance where THS taught me responsibility was my Spanish II class. I was slacking on my homework, which caused me to get a 50% on my final exam. After this, I learned I needed to be more responsible and do my homework. I proceeded to do very well on the tests after studying harder, and it was a learning moment that hard work will produce noticeable results. I plan to carry these habits into my college education, staying on top of my work and taking responsibility for my mistakes.

Being present at Tumwater is a fundamental key to success. In an academic setting, it means showing up everyday, on-time, and focused while in class. While valuable in school, it is even prevalent in adult life. Whether it's showing up for work on time or being active and engaged in a conversation, THS taught me to balance my time between my social, academic, and personal life.

Lastly, kindness stands as the foundation of the Tumwater High School community. The first step of doing an act of kindness is realizing that what you say can be impactful to anyone. Doing something simple as saying, "Good Morning" to someone can make their day. Kindness is another value that is essential to use in every interaction. At THS, the community is very kind, showing respect to everyone despite their differences. I learned how to communicate with my peers to solve problems effectively, solving the challenges that come along the way.

In conclusion, being a THS graduate means living by these core values every day. It means to respect others, take responsibility for our actions, be on-time and present, and show kindness to everyone. As I transition to adulthood, the lessons and the values learned at THS will continue to provide a backbone for the decisions I choose to make.

Riley Clemmons

Graduation is just around the corner and I am more anxious/excited than I have ever been. I can't wait to start my new beginning and leave behind my legacy. While at Tumwater High School I have learned many valuable lessons that have shaped me into who I am today. In my schooling, I have been hardworking and able to show my teacher I am committed to my education. Although it wasn't like this, I have maintained good grades through my high school years but at first with little effort. Classes were easy and I would show up and put in minimal effort yet receive good grades. It wasn't till my Junior year that I realized what challenging myself truly was. I was enrolled in 3 college-in-the-high school classes not sure what to be expecting. My upcoming years prepared me for my future but not anything close to what these classes had taught me. I was challenged right off the bat with pre-calculus trying to understand complex problems and theories. Writing pages of essays for my English 101 class and learning about how to make the next better than before. Or studying and taking tests about how we became the country we are today. All these classes challenged me resulting in the work ethic I have today. My experiences here at Tumwater High School have taught me how to work harder than ever.



THS values respect and success and I have demonstrated these qualities at my school. As previously talked about I have many successes with the classes I've taken and grades I've received, but school is more than just grades. It's about the memories you make and the friends you find. Leaving the world a better place and maturing as a member of society. I have learned to be more confident in who I am and discovered many interests at this school. Finding friends that like the same music, sport, etc. Experiencing heartbreak and failure is all just part of the process and I am more than thankful that it all took place in a safe environment here at school. I've always felt respected by my peers and supported by the staff. I've gained a sense or right and wrong, and the ability to figure out what to do in a stressful situation. I have learned so many things here at THS and they will continue to show as I live my own independent life.

Whatever I choose to do with the education I have received from Tumwater High School I know I will be successful in the working world as the school has prepared me to do so.

2024 Scholarship Winners Continued

Bengamin Morgan As a graduate of Tumwater High School (THS), I consider it my responsibility to represent the Community which has helped transform me into the young adult I am today. It will be my aim to carry forth the motto of THS, which is "Pride, Tradition, and Courage", and be the best possible embodiment of those values which I have held true to for the past four years of my life.

To be proud of THS, one must truly love the school, and I believe that there are few here at THS who have more pride in the school than me. Having taken part in clubs, sports, and leadership opportunities at THS, I feel well prepared to speak to the wonderful opportunities at the school I love and am proud of.

The high school years can be four of the most transformative years in one's life. During these years, it is all too easy to feel lost or misguided. It is my belief that in my time at high school, tradition was necessary to keep me engaged and not lose sight

of the payoff that comes from hard work and scholastic achievement. Therefore, to carry forth this integral piece of the THS motto, I will strive to hold true to the tradition of hard work which is one of the values that led me to where I am today. The guiding principle of tradition will continue to help me embrace change associated with growth and learning that is constant in life.

Finally, to be courageous is to fearlessly defend what you believe in, even when others don't agree with you. Throughout my time at THS, I have been exposed to opinions which I may not have always agreed with, but having the courage to stay true to my values and being open about them has allowed me to both keep old friends and make new ones, and better understand the beliefs of others.

I am grateful for my years at THS, and I believe my high school experience has prepared me for the next steps that I will take. I will be proud to call THS my alma mater, and I will keep tradition at the core of who I am and be courageous as I embark on my post high school endeavors.

Bella Huld Some people could ask themselves this question, "What does it mean to be a part of your high school"? Some may not know, but when I think of it, three words come to my mind, "Leadership, grit, and kindness. To start, I didn't always grow up in the THS culture. I moved from a few schools into Bush Middle School my sixth grade year. I grew up playing multiple sports. However, I didn't stick with any of them until I entered Tumwater sports. I joined the Tumwater Dance Team. Once that happened I never left. I stayed on this team and am still till this day. Being a part of Tumwater High School (THS) means that you engrave this hard work ethic into yourself. The love for sports and academics, the environment is inviting and fun. Learning that football and being part of the Nest every Friday is important to Tumwater. Having the grit and mindset of doing these activities. you would think school is just a place you go to learn and then go home and that's it. However, I've not only loved school my fou years of high school, but I've created bonds with teachers and will never forget that. I will carry out every attribute that makes me a THS alumni. I will carry this leadership to my future job as a cop and any other times I am challenged with leading. But I will remember that it came from my high school and that I learned so much as a leader there. I will have grit and hard work. If I didn' have this, then once I hit my real life, I wouldn't even be able to do much.



Lastly, kindness. Not only did I learn this from my parents and my faith, THS has taught me how to be kind because everyone here showed me their kindness. In the end, being able to go to THS has been an honor and once I graduate I will carry out my leadership, grit, kindness, and so much more.

Jacob Kaikkonen

First and foremost, what being a THS graduate means to me is I will carry on an excellent level of Academic familiarity with me after graduation. The classes at Tumwater have great practicality and the teachers themselves taught me the material well, along with values and life lessons. For example, I learned an advanced way to do math in my physics class which enabled me to excel in engineering camp as well as in my senior year math/science classes. My sign language teacher would group people unfamiliar with each other in the class to work together, which taught us how to come together with people we're not related to, a great life lesson to learn early on. Finally in my honors ELA class, I learned how to manage lots of challenging work and doing it outside of my preference level from my teacher by assigning us books to read on our own. What she did for me was introduce me to a workload level that is like the real world and future classes I would take, and by doing so, she built an academic work ethic I carry with me to this day in my career.

Second, Tumwater's sports programs have taught me values like responsibility, perseverance, mental toughness, and a strong work ethic. Tumwater's wrestling team revolves around the thought of being mentally tougher than our opponents, so our

practices were oftentimes brutal and challenging. Wrestling for four years at Tumwater helped me develop mental resiliency that has allowed me to succeed in my life and cope with challenges. In soccer I learned what being responsible for yourself and your belongings means, since they would expect us to be fifteen minutes early to everything. The fifteen minutes early rule built a habit in me to show up early to everything, to show I care and to make sure I know what is going on. The values I learned from playing sports at Tumwater are what got me through challenging times in my high school career and will continue to help me be successful in my future.

Finally, giving back to the community and participating in volunteer work is required at Tumwater. While most of my peers dreaded it, I thrived from it. The large volunteer work requirement allowed me to volunteer in a variety of roles around the community. When I volunteered to coach wrestling at Bush Middle School, I got to work with people I didn't know super well and form a bond to teach the kids. The ability to work with others from different backgrounds will be useful in my future job in the military, as having that teamwork skill will allow me to be successful in that career. The values I learned at Tumwater High School have put me ahead of most people who I compete with in my life, whether it is in sports or academics. Being a Tumwater graduate has prepared me well for the next step in my academic and military career.

2024 Scholarship Winners Continued

Natalie Manning Going to Tumwater High School, (THS), was an amazing experience full of lessons. I hope that I will take what I have learned with me in life. I have learned the values of community, involvement, and leadership. All of these values are important and I am excited that I will be able to take them with me in the future.

I came from a private school with a graduating class of 19 kids. So, coming into Tumwater, I didn't know anyone. I was worried about making new friends and fitting in. My worries did not come true. The community at Tumwater is amazing and I immediately felt connected. The value of community is something that I will carry with me through my next chapter of life. Coming into Tumwater knowing nobody, and leaving being on ASB and the homecoming queen is a testament to how amazing the Tumwater community is. The community at Tumwater gives me the confidence to go into college and be fully myself.



THS emphasizes the value of involvement. I have learned during my four years that being involved is important. At Tumwater, if you are involved, you are able to easily make connections. Everyone is welcoming and if you get involved, you build community. Whether it's playing sports, watching football games, or joining clubs, getting involved makes it very easy to make meaningful connections. The value of being involved is something that I am excited to take with me to college. I have learned that involvement is key to building community.

The value of leadership is encouraged at THS. It is something that you have to choose to partake in. If you choose to be involved with leadership at THS, the opportunities are amazing. You can help with events and make positive changes at the school. I decided to be in ASB this year. I have loved the experience of being on ASB for many reasons. My favorite thing that we accomplished as a team was bringing back TOLO. We brought back the dance and it had great results. The dance was well attended and hopefully can be continued for years to come. The event helped to build community and helped people to be involved. Helping to make this event happen was incredible. Being on ASB and involved in other leadership opportunities has helped me to learn how important leadership is.

Overall, I feel like I have learned many lessons from THS. Tumwater is an amazing place and I am so lucky to have gotten to spend my high school years here. Being a Tumwater alumni will be an honor that I am excited to have. The values of THS are important and I am excited to see where these values take me in life. I have learned the value of community, involvement, and leadership here. I am forever grateful for THS and the connections that I have made and the lessons I learned.

Kaylee Pickering (Edna Belle Granacki Service Award Recipient)

Being a Tumwater High School (THS) graduate could mean so many different things to different people. To me, being a THS graduate means to carry on the values and responsibilities of a THS student, and to take those into life with us after high school to be successful. Those values that I am talking about are not only "Respectful, Responsible, Present and Kind" but also our motto, "Pride, Courage, and Tradition".

How my experience relates to the values of THS is that I have always tried to live up to the values of a THS student. I have done my best to be Respectful in all of my classes and to my teachers, be Responsible in my actions and own up to them, be Present in my education and be kind to my peers. With those values I have held dearly, I walk away from my experiences here at THS with Pride for the school that I have attended, with Courage for my future to conquer what is next as well as carry on the Tradition



By carrying on these values, I have been successful at working in my community and I will be successful in my field at my university. I will remember the values I have learned and practiced here at THS and I will make sure that I will carry on Tumwater tradition when I become an educator myself to preach the practice of our values. I have taken so much pride in being a student here at THS and I am very grateful for the opportunities that I have been provided with by THS and the community of Tumwater to be able to carry on my future and be set up for success.

I have learned so much throughout my high school career here at THS, enough to add my own values on top of the ones that shape me as a THS student. I have learned to challenge myself throughout my education. I learned to never stop learning new things even if you think you have mastered it. I have learned how to make friends and how to choose the friendships that support your values. And most importantly, I have learned not only how to be a hard worker but what I want to do in life which is to educate others. Without my experience at Tumwater High School, I would have never been as successful as I am now. I am very grateful for my education, especially the one I have had at THS and I take so much pride in being able to carry on the values of a Tumwater High School student.

Brianne Robinson The smell of antiseptic was an empty, sterile smell that mimicked the pit in my stomach. I swung my legs as my heart constricted. My mom was with me, nearly as unsettled as I was. Then the doctor knocked.

Shortly before my junior year, I had been happily busy. I shuffled back and forth between soccer tryouts and volunteering at a camp for individuals with disabilities and their families. I was finally ready to be an upperclassman taking AP classes and leading on my beloved high school soccer team.

After sustaining my second serious concussion while playing soccer for my high school, my heart tumbled and turned as the Neurologist explained the seriousness of my persistent post-concussion symptoms. I was in shock when he encouraged me to drop all but two of my classes for the fall to lessen concussion symptoms and cognitive strain. My stomach frothed with grief. My mind crashed in progressive waves as I recognized each opportunity and experience that were to be replaced with fatigue, headaches and recovery.



I wish I could say that the journey in the next months was easy or that I had a moment of epiphany that changed my perspective and motivation. In truth, those months of solitary recovery were some of the hardest months of my life. Yet, months of sickness and disappointment were transformative in a way that single moment of epiphany could have been. As assignments took me double the amount of time to complete and often brought headaches, I learned diligence. My work ethic was refined by the new experience of academic challenges. The determination that had been built by Tumwater High School (THS) athletics and rigorous classes was stretched. I had walked through the halls and seen the sign "NGUNNGU." Do to my injury and the difficulty of school, I had to :Never Give Up Never Give Up." The THS values of resilience, and excellence became necessities in my character and approach to life.

Similar to the challenges I faced in high school which are formative, the transition to life beyond high school will be formative. Adversity becomes a reality in college ranging from rigorous classes to financial difficulties. Sickness and injury unexpectedly exposed me to the disappointments and adversity that accompany a college education and an adult life. Through attending the Running Start program, I not only recouped high school credit, but I will also earn my associates in arts degree in June. Because I volunteered at accessible camps and observed speech therapy sessions. I hope to peruse a degree in either speech and hearing sciences or interdisciplinary studies in order to become a speech language pathologist. THS's values of resilience and excellence have prepared me for higher education and I hope to carry on these THS values in my future career of speech language pathology.

THSAA ACTIVITIES:







Summary of the 2024 THSAA Artesian Classic Golf Tournament

This Golf tournament is THSAA's major fundraiser, supporting our THS scholarship program.

20 teams registered to participate in the eleventh annual THSAA Golf Tournament (Artesian Golf Classic) at Capitol City Golf Club on June 1 2024. Tournament goal remains to one day host a full 36 team tournament and we are over half way there! This year's "best ball" tournament was won by Team Bausch consisting of Keith Bausch, Scott Gubbe, Paul Gubbe, and Casey Saner. Close behind in second place was team Simmons with a score of 57. Player's names from Team Bausch will be engraved on the tournament trophy kept on display at THS. The men's "Longest Drive Contest" was won by Casey Saner of Team Bausch. "Closest to the Pin" was won by Mike Manning. The women's "Longest Drive" was won by Linda McCarthy and "Closest to the Pin" was won by Shawnene Jones. Winners received Costco Gift Cards.

Sincerest THANK YOU to all our community sponsors! This year's Title Sponsors were OBEE Financial Services and Lucky Eagle Casino and Hotel. Hole sponsors included R.L. Smith Logging, The Otis Group, EDWARD JONES/Loren VanLoo, Peter Batura, Tumwater Auto Spa, Rock Boardman, Janet Ishihara, and Pamela Sapp.

Also, many thanks to donors of items for the raffle. Raffle items included Western Meats Gift Certificate, Lucy Eagle Casino & Hotel (Dinner, Lodging, Breakfast) package, Dixon Golf Certificates, and a T-Bird engraved bench made of live edge spaulted maple slabs. A special thanks to Dan Godat for securing a customized T-Bird putter crafted by former coach of Collin Morikawa.

A special thanks to alumnae, Judi (Weaver 66) Hambrick, Linda Godat ('65) and Janet Ishihara ('65) who managed check-in, and Sonja (Eby) Winkelman (75) for managing the raffle tables. Also special thanks to Pamela Sapp (69), Linda Thompson (67), and Dan Parsons (65) for being our tournament photographers and a special thanks to Steve McNelly and his staff at Capitol City Golf Course for their professional support in making this event happen.

Net proceeds from this tournament along with donations from several very generous alumni donors allowed THSAA to award eight scholar-ships totaling \$16,500 to graduating seniors, whose photos have been posted on the THSAA website, tumwaterhighalumni.com.

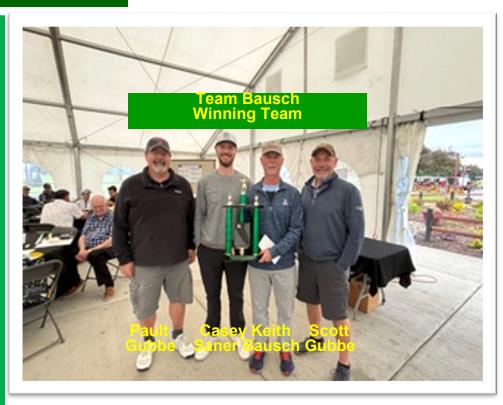
THSAA has "locked-in" 1:30 PM, May 31, 2025 at CCGC for our next THSAA Artesian Golf Classic.

IT'S ON AGAIN FOLKS!!! THE 2025 ARTESIAN CLASSIC GOLF WITH US ON SATURDAY May 31st, 2025

The 2025 Artesian Golf Classic will be at 1:30 PM (Modified Shotgun start) on May 31st at Capitol City Golf Club. Sign-up at our website: tumwaterhighalumni.com.

ARTESIAN CLASSIC TEAMS OF 2024

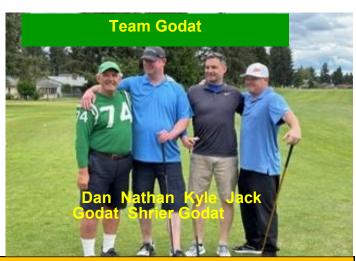
THSAA
2024
ARTESIAN
GOLF
CLASSIC
WINNING
TEAM











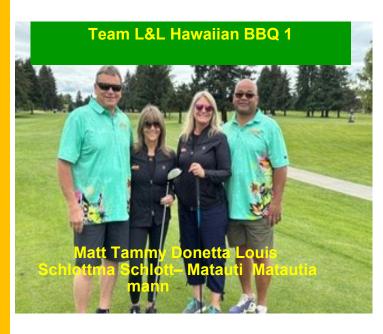
2024 ARTESIAN CLASSIC TEAMS













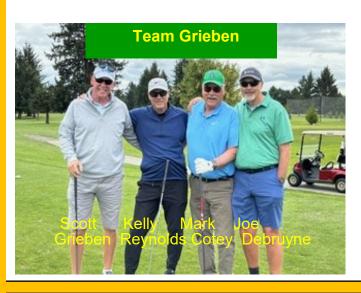
2024 ARTESIAN CLASSIC TEAMS













2024 ARTESIAN CLASSIC TEAMS











May 31, 2025
Capitol City Golf Club
5225 Yelm Hwy SE
Lacey, WA 98503

Shotgun Start @ 1:30PM

Sign up at: tumwaterhighalumni.com or

Submit the below via mail:

Team Captain/Contact person:

Name:	, Phone:
Email Address:	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Player #2 Name:	
Player #3 Name:	
Player #4 Name:	

Singles and double welcome! We'll make foursomes

Remit Check to: THSAA, P.O. Box 14114, Tumwater, WA 98511

Cost: Foursome: \$380 (\$95/person). Includes green fees, cart, prizes, dinner (outdoor under cover) after the tournament, and range balls. Also raffle available.

THSAA ACTIVITIES:

Reunion:

All Class reunion: Over 150 T-Bird Alumnus met for a great time!!









































SINCE 2013, WITH YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS, THSAA HAS AWARDED
SCHOLARSHIPS TO
THS GRADUATES FOR A TOTAL OF \$ 77,750.00

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Kristi Brodin, Class of '66' — She played tennis for Miss Burke at THS

