



THUNDER-CLAP

Official Newsletter of The
Tumwater High School Alumni Association

Dec. 20 2025

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Tumwaterhighalumni.com
or on Facebook
"Tumwater High School
Alumni" group

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Pat Alexander	



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

Letter from the President

December 2025

Greetings THS Alumni!

2025 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 success even though participation was down to 16 teams. 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 ten total scholarships totaling \$19,000 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 again hosted our annual "all class" reunion on August 23, 2025 at the Thurston County Posse Hall in Littlerock. We estimate approximately 150 alumni gathered to enjoy the comradery of classmates spanning from class of 1962 to the present. Special thank you to all the folks who did all the planning and heavy lifting to set up, tear down, and clean up the Posse 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, for joining the work party. Thank you Sonja for inviting "We Be Smokin" Barbeque to be our food vendor, Delicious!

This year, we are putting a "spotlight" on Pat Alexander, longtime THS wrestling coach, defensive coordinator of the football team, leadership coach/teacher, and mentor for thousands of former THS students for over 40 years. Back in the 80's and 90's when THS football was beginning to compete for state playoffs I'd catch some games with my dad. I noticed how the defense was so tough and disciplined and admired the intensity in which Pat coached his players. Many years later (2010) I had the pleasure of meeting Pat but felt I might be intimidated by his apparent intense persona, but I soon learned that he was the nicest person one could ever meet. We became very good friends and we'd vacation with our spouses frequently. Pat's passing December 17, 2024, has left a big void for many in the THS community and I miss him dearly. 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 President and Treasurer. 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. Additionally, our current Website Chairperson would like to step down from the position so we're also seeking a person who may be interested and has website experience.

Currently, we have scheduled the 2026 Artesian Golf Classic for 1:30PM (Shotgun start) on May 30, 2026 at Capitol City Golf Club (CCGC) and is open to all interested golfers. Sign up "online" at tumwaterhighalumni.com/golf or via "snail mail" with the below form. 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 2026 as we reminisce our THS past.

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

Leaning Forward,

Jim Ishihara, Class of '64

Tumwater
ARTESIAN
GOLF CLASSIC



May 30, 2026

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: \$440 (\$110/person). Includes green fees, cart, prizes, dinner (outdoor under cover) after the tournament, and range balls. Also raffle available.

All proceeds go towards funding scholarships for graduating Tumwater High School seniors.

MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL SUDERMAN

Dear THS Alumni Association –

Year three, and I'm still lucky enough to call myself the Principal of Tumwater High School! Every day I'm reminded what a privilege it is to work alongside our staff, our students, and this incredible community. Tumwater High School continues to thrive because of the people who invest their time, energy, and care into making this a place where students feel known, supported, and challenged.

We're continuing to see that culture come alive:

- School spirit is high. From packed assemblies and themed spirit days to attendance at performances and games, there continues to be a genuine buzz on campus that reminds me of what it means to be a T-Bird.



- Our "Off and Away" expectations around cell phones continue to make a positive difference. Students are more present with one another and more engaged in learning and relationships.

- Student learning is on the rise. We've seen encouraging gains in both 10th-grade Math and ELA state assessments, and more 9th graders are finishing their first year on track to graduate. These are meaningful signs that our collective focus - on relationships, consistency, and high expectations - is making an impact.

This growth reflects the direction outlined in our Tumwater School District Strategic Plan, which calls on us to ensure that every student is known by name, strength, and need, and prepared for the future they envision. That belief runs deep here, and I see it daily - in classrooms, on the sidelines, and in the small moments where students feel seen and supported.

On a personal note, this year I also became a parent of a THS ninth grader. Watching my own child experience Tumwater High from a new perspective has made me even more grateful for the staff, students, and community that make this place special. One day, he'll join the proud ranks of T-Bird alumni right alongside you.

Tumwater High School feels alive and focused on what matters most: people, learning, and community. The culture you helped build is still strong and growing in new ways every year.

With gratitude,

Zach Suderman

Principal

Tumwater High School



2025 Scholarship Winners

THSAA awarded ten secondary education scholarships (totaling \$19000.00) to graduating THS seniors. The scholarship selection is made based upon leadership, scholarship and community service. They are, Gabriel Kendall, Rosmarie Uhlmeyer, Rachel Zahn, (our 2025 Edna Belle Granacki Service Award Recipient), Maile Young, Garrett Boling, Jonessa Windenmeyer, Emalyn Shaffer, Katherine DeMay, Elizabeth McCartney, and Joshua Morgan. These graduates are fine examples of the values of THS and the alumni association. Congratulations to our award winners. Since 2013, THSAA has awarded 62 scholarships to graduating seniors in the amount of \$ 94,750.00.

Gabriel Kendall To be a Tumwater High School graduate is a great point of pride. I've had the opportunity to attend such a wonderful school that has been a very important stepping stone toward my future. Attending Tumwater High School for four years has helped me reach for the stars and pursue my next steps with pride, tradition, and courage. The next steps for me will take me to either Pacific Lutheran University or Western Washington University, where I will live by what I've learned here and further develop my character and profession. I will major in Music Education, with the goal of beginning a career as a band director in the Tumwater School District, where I can inspire the next generation of students who love to make music.



During my time at THS I've been very involved in the band programs throughout the district. All four years of high school I've been the lead alto saxophone in symphonic band and lead baritone saxophone in the pep band, where I was the drum major my senior year, lead alto saxophone in the jazz band for three years, and participated in the Black Hills High School Marching Band for two years. I have also volunteered in the band room at Peter G. Schmidt Elementary School for over two years, and volunteered for class periods at Bush Middle School helping with band there for nearly a year. Volunteering at BMS was one of the reasons I'm doing Running Start, because it frees up a few class periods that I can spend helping out and learning about the career I'll be pursuing. In addition to my volunteering in band rooms, I've been volunteering elsewhere, particularly through my Boy Scout troop (9048), I have numerous community service hours at Toys for Tots, Thurston County Food Bank, Nisqually Land Trust, Homes First, Gospel Mission and others. So far, I've accumulated over 400 hours of community service but by the time of my graduation it will be much closer to 500. I hope to instill the values I learned at Tumwater High School and through volunteering to the next generation. I hope to instill the love of learning, the passion for music, and the joy of giving to my community to the future students in the Tumwater School District if there is an opportunity for me here in the future. I am worthy of this scholarship because I will use it to obtain a teaching certificate and have hopes of returning to Tumwater High School or another school in the district as an employee so I can give back to a community that has given so much to me. By supporting me you are supporting the next generation of students.

Rosmarie Uhlmeyer

It was sophomore year and I was sitting in Mr. Haurey's classroom. He was teaching about logarithms and I couldn't have been more confused. Up to this point, math had been fairly easy for me. Mr. Haurey's class challenged me because he encouraged students to explore concepts before asking him for the formula. This was a new way of thinking that I wasn't used to applying academically. I wanted to be given the formula right away so that I could quickly do the problem. Reflecting on the class now, I can see that although the class was difficult, it taught me the value of hard work. That year I understood concepts in ways I hadn't been able to before. It wasn't easy, but without that experience, I wouldn't be the learner I am today so for that I'm very grateful.



Although my time at THS has created many happy memories, it also consisted of some difficult life lessons. At THS, I learned the value of hard work, the importance of integrity, and the need for community. As I have already shared, hard work was a central theme at THS, especially in Mr. Haurey's class. Another value THS has taught me was the importance and value of integrity. There's a sign in multiple teachers' classrooms that states, Right is still right, even if no one is doing it. Wrong is still wrong, even if everyone is doing it. As I sat in class everyday, these words became instilled in my brain. Teachers repeatedly encouraged students to have integrity and be a person of good moral character. As a result of seeing teachers live this out, it impacted my life; it makes me want to do what's right even if no one is watching. This is an important character trait to practice young and continue for a lifetime.

Lastly, THS has afforded me lasting friendships and as I mentioned above, I have learned many lessons in the process. Whenever I faced a difficult problem, my friends at THS helped me navigate my struggles. THS recognizes that life is hard, but community makes it better. For this reason, I now know that I need community in my own life not only to better support myself, but to further help others. Helping friends and being helped by friends enriches and strengthens these relationships, which I hope will last throughout my life.

In conclusion, being a THS graduate prioritizes living up to the standards THS has set for its students. For me, this means living a life that values hard work, integrity, and community. I'll take these core4 values with me after I graduate by continuing to apply them in my everyday life. This could look like being a friend to someone who doesn't have one, choosing to do what's right even when no one is watching and working hard in whatever is set before me. I'm forever thankful for the lessons THS has taught me.

2025 Scholarship Winners Continued

Rachel Zahn (Edna Belle Grenacki Service Award Recipient)

To be a THS graduate, it will mean

leaving behind the concrete aspects of THS and continuing to live out what I have learned from my experiences at Tumwater. I will carry on the THS values of respectful, responsible, present, and kind by continuing to reflect on my high school experiences with these values and applying what I learned from them to future interactions.

I believe that having the integrity to carry on the values of THS is one of the most important things because it allows younger students someone to look up to regarding post-high school decisions. It means setting an admirable example for what post high-school students should still value: respect. Responsibility, presentness, and kindness. THS is where and how I learned, and that influence will automatically be applied in making greater life decisions.

To be a life long learner, it will mean continuing to challenge myself academically and socially in many new environments. I will be looking forward to the next phase of life full of unexplored, unique, opportunities and excitement to teach me how to grow and gain more world skills. When graduation comes, it will be hard to leave behind school, friends, clubs, teammates, teachers, and everything else, but if that break away does not happen, growth never happens. Because of how THS has shaped my future as a respectful, responsible present, and kind person, the personable aspect of high-school lessons learned will never leave. I may never use integrated two math again, but I will use those problem solving skills to work out a conflict or set achievable goals and timelines for my future workspace. I do not only carry on the values of THS come graduation, I carry on all the knowledge, personal development, and time management skills into my next stage of life.



Maile Young

A THS graduate means someone who never gives up and does what they believe is right.

Tumwater High School is filled with a rich history of the commitment of students and staff that pledge to people who value community, grit, and strength. The time I have spent at Tumwater has allowed me to be involved in many aspects of the school with sports, the arts, and clubs. I have been a part of the bowling team, track and field, golf, tennis, swim and dive, orchestra, choir, ceramics, and HOSA club. In all the programs I participated in, the people were extremely welcoming. The variety and acceptance of the different programs has given me a space to try new things surrounded by others who are passionate about the program. To be a THS graduate is to continue the values held by members of THS by doing the right thing.

The fellow THS students have created a welcoming environment that I will continue to carry on past my graduation. I intend on carrying the dedication, outgoing, and grit that I have been shown throughout my time at THS. I plan on attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where I aspire to also be involved in different activities. In the different activities I will spread the values of THS. To be open to others who are trying something new and to also display the passion and strength on "Never Give Up Never Never Give Up".



Within my time at THS, I have also participated in the Running Start dual-enrollment program that is partnered with South Puget Sound Community College (SPSCC). The opportunity to be able to take community college classes has been extremely rewarding for the past two years. I chose to participate in Running Start to attend more rigorous courses that were not offered at Tumwater, gain college credits, and meet more people. The selection of courses at SPSCC are vast, with many different types and levels of courses. I have been able to take more advanced chemistry and biology courses that have been enlightening. The classes have allowed me to better under-

Garrett Boling

Being a graduate of Tumwater High School separates me from the rest of the world in terms of what kind of community I have been raised in. Tumwater is like nowhere else in the nation, with a close-knit town continuing to support one another even after they have moved on with the rest of their lives. What being a graduate of Tumwater High School really means is joining the network of support that alumni find themselves in, banding together for whatever cause or reason that may come up. Tumwater is special for this, in that it is a community that fosters the essence of what a community should have in terms of spirit. It goes much deeper than an education and sporting events. It is a network, a spider web that catches those who need its support in times of need, and knowing that I will have that support brings me joy. The values of THS are another thing that I will find myself carrying on for the rest of my life. These four years have taught me the importance of pride, tradition, and courage, the foundation of Tumwater High School. Pride in myself and everything I do, in that I will stay proud of what I accomplish now, and in the future. Not the cocky sort of pride that many think of, but a motivated and determined sort of pride that will get me to where I believe I belong in life. Every step I take will leave a memory, and I would rather that memory be a good one, and one that I take pride in. Tradition will be how I live

my life. Every day will be lived in my own set traditions that I have set for myself, building on consistency and relentlessness. My own traditions become my own motivation, and without them, I have nothing to build my present and future upon. Courage will be what I approach everything with. Without it, I am nothing. Taking risks and fearing nothing will get me anywhere I want to be in life. With courage, I have nothing to fear, and will take every challenge as an opportunity to improve. Four years have changed how I view everything in my life, and have provided me endless opportunities for my future. Looking back at the past, these lessons will carry me onwards into the future.



Jonessa Wiedenmeyer

Graduating from Tumwater High School is more than just earning a diploma — it's about carrying forward the sense of family that this school is known for. THS has given me opportunities to grow academically, athletically, and personally, and my time at THS has also come with some big challenges. Through medical absences, difficult coursework, and even moments of self doubt, I have been supported by teachers and mentors who reminded me that I was not alone. Their care and encouragement made such a difference in my success, and as I move forward, I vow to carry their kindness and commitment forward with me.



One of the biggest challenges I faced in high school was balancing my education while managing long-term medical absences. Over the years, I have undergone multiple surgeries, including my most major one (double jaw surgery) during my sophomore year. The recovery was much longer than I had been prepared for and I ended up being out of school for six weeks. I worried about falling behind but my teachers went out of their way to ensure I stayed on track. They provided materials online, checked in with me regularly and made sure I knew they truly cared about my success. More than just supporting my academics, they reassured me that I was valued as a student and as a person. That level of compassion made a lasting impact, and I hope to carry that same spirit of support and encouragement into my future career.

Being a THS student has also meant navigating broader challenges within our school community. Recent discussions about transgender athletes have sparked debate, and I've seen firsthand how difficult it can be to find common ground on sensitive issues. However, if there's one thing I've learned, it's the importance of listening and respecting others, even when opinions differ. The administrators, staff, and teachers have positively modeled how to approach tough conversations with care, fairness, and a focus on student well being. As I leave THS, I will carry that same mindset with me, striving to be someone who promotes understanding rather than division.

My time at THS has reinforced the values of community, resilience, and leadership. Whether through sports, volunteering, or simple day-to-day connections, I have learned that success isn't just about individual achievements — it's about lifting up those around us. Just as my teachers and mentors have done for me, I hope to one day be a source of encouragement for others, whether in my future career as an anesthesiologist or in the communities I become a part of.

Being a THS graduate means more than just finishing high school; it means carrying forward the lessons of community, kindness, and inclusivity. No matter where life takes me, I will always be grateful for the teachers and staff who stood by me, the challenges that made me stronger, and the community that shaped me into the person I am today. And I'll **NGUNNGU!**

Katherine DeMay

Over the last four years, I've learned the values of Tumwater High School through experiences in academics and extracurricular activities. Academics have always been a significant part of my high school experience which can be seen in my 4.0 GPA and advanced courses. Throughout my hard work I've learned critical thinking, perseverance, and accountability. Critical thinking has been very beneficial for understanding concepts while perseverance and accountability has helped me complete my work thoroughly and on time. These values will continue to help me later on in life, especially in college when courses are more difficult. I've also become proficient in organizational skills by keeping track of multiple assignments and managing my time between classwork and extracurricular activities. On the other hand, extracurriculars like theater and Honors Society have taught me a lot about the values of leadership, diversity, and fair representation. One of the main goals that we have in the Honors



Society is to give more representation to academic achievements because THS has always been heavily focused on sports. This has shown me how every person should be valued and awarded the same for achievements even if it's for academics rather than sports. Through the after school theater program and thespian troupe, I've learned a lot about leadership and diversity. I am the secretary of the thespian troupe which has led me to learn a lot of the values of being a leaderlike respect and integrity. Having respect for your peers, especially in a position of leadership, is important because you need to listen to the people around you and understand others' opinions. Integrity is also an important part in leadership because you have to be reliable to your peers and honest with them about situations. Learning these leadership values from THS will continue to be influential in my life, especially in a future career. The after school theater program is a very diverse community where everyone feels welcome. It is one of the places at THS where everyone is fairly represented no matter their gender, race, or sexual identity. Diversity is a very significant value that I will continue to fight for in the future. These values of THS that I've learned over 4 years will continue to have a positive impact on my future.

Elizabeth McCartney

We are always told that high school is supposed to be the best time of our lives. We are told that these are the memories that stick with us, and that we will cherish them forever; now I can finally say, I am beginning to understand why everyone says this. Everytime I look back on the memories I have made during this time of my life, the friendships I've grown, and the people I have met, now I can't help but thank the place that it all began. Tumwater High school has given me the most amazing opportunities throughout the last four life changing years; teaching me important core values that I will carry with me throughout the rest of my life. These values include what it means to be a kind, generous, and loving person not only within academics, but in everything I do; each of these things have also been shaped and shown to me through my fellow peers within the walls of THS, overall teaching me these core values firsthand.



2025 Scholarship Winners Continued

Elizabeth McCartney (Cont.)

Considering these values, as a soon to be Tumwater High School graduate, it is important that I take each of these things with me as I continue to walk through these next steps of my life. I truly believe that we learn from each other in each stage of our lives shapes us into the characters we are. I have continuously been shown a gracious amount of love from the admin at THS, showing that they care about more than just the grade but rather the face behind it. This has given me the best education I could have asked for, and truly has taught me how to be gracious and loving to others just as these teachers and staff were to me. The kind smiles, high fives, and subtle acts of service throughout the walls of THS have shown to be a great deal of kindness; making me want to pursue people in the same way that I was, with total kind-heartedness.

All of these things have shown me what it truly means to be a Tumwater High School graduate. Each of these subtle acts of love and kindness have not only reflected my peers at THS, but have also shaped the way I also want to treat each and every single person around me. I have been instilled with these core values that will stick with me for the rest of my life, showing me that it means more than just an education, it is a true change of heart and character.

Emalyn Shaffer

As I get closer to the day I graduate, I realize that being a THS graduate means so much more than just a diploma. It means I have seen and embodied the THS core values over the last four years. First, I learned how respect is a need for every aspect in life. Within the classroom and in your day-to-day life, respect is essential. If you don't show respect, you won't receive respect, and that will get you nowhere in life. I also learned the importance of being present. Both in my academics and athletics, being present has formed the strongest relationships within both spaces. You can't learn to be better if you aren't fully present, not just physically but also mentally. Responsibility is another pillar of success. I have learned here at THS to take responsibility with my actions, academics, sports, and personal life. Without responsibility nothing will ever get done. But to me the most important core value is kindness. Kindness is the key to so much in life. It builds connections with others and makes way for new opportunities



As I leave this school and move forward in life these core values will follow me into my college experience and work life afterwards. I want to become a nurse, and all these values I learned along the way will have a huge influence in my career. The values from THS aren't just core values to know for high school but for life. All aspects of nursing will create a need for me to showcase the values I got the chance to learn in my high school experience at THS. I will need to show respect and kindness to my patients. I will need to embody responsibility to maintain a high level of care in my job, and I will need to be fully present so every patient under my care will receive the very best from me. I will be forever thankful that I got these tools and values that I can put into work beyond this high school and town.

Joshua Morgan

As I have spent hours in the classroom. Working on assignments, reading books, and studying for exams, I have considered what it will mean to be a Tumwater High School graduate and how I will carry on the values of pride, tradition, and courage. As captain of the cross country team and a leader on the track team, I have experienced the pride that comes with being a student-athlete at Tumwater. To wear the Tumwater logo on my chest represents countless hours of work, both in training and in the classroom. There is a long tradition of successful student-athletes from Tumwater that have had great success post-high school in their athletic pursuits. I look forward to continuing my athletic and academic success in college, and to carry on the tradition of Tumwater being represented in sports at the college level. As a transfer student to Tumwater my freshman year, living outside of the district and not knowing very many people at the school, it has taken a lot of courage to find my place at Tumwater High School. Having this experience of going to a new place and meeting new people will serve me well in the next phase of my life as I begin college.



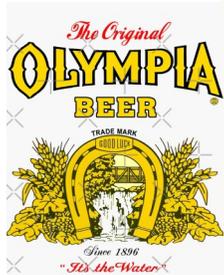
Being a graduate of Tumwater High School will mean taking pride in who I am, where I've come from, and what I've accomplished, carrying on Tumwater's tradition of success, and courageously going forth in the world. I am grateful that I can take these values and these experiences I have gained with me as I embark on the next chapter in my life.

SINCE 2013, WITH YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS, THSAA HAS AWARDED

SCHOLARSHIPS TO 62

THS GRADUATES FOR A TOTAL OF \$ 94,750.00

THSAA ACTIVITIES:



Summary of the 2025 THSAA Artesian Golf Classic Tournament

Fourteen golf teams registered to participate in the twelfth annual THSAA Golf Tournament at Capitol City Golf Club (CCGC) on May 31, 2025. Tournament goal remains to one day host a full 36 team tournament. To date “high water years” were 2023 and 2024 with 20 teams participating. This year’s “best ball” tournament was again won by Team Bausch consisting of Keith Bausch, Scott Gubbe, Paul Gubbe, and Jeff Saner with a score of 61. Close behind were Team Grieben with a score of 62, and Team Barge with a score of 63. Winning team member’s names will be engraved on the tournament trophy kept on display at THS. The winning team was awarded Costco gift cards, team round of golf at CCGC, and professional club fitting at Puetz Golf, along with several gift certificates from Dixon Golf. Men’s “closest to pin” contest was won by Brian Barge at 9’ 3”. Men’s “longest drive” was won by Steve Strong of Team Barge. Women’s “longest drive” was won by Patti Bantz. Contest winners also were awarded Costco Gift cards.

Sincerest **THANK YOU** to all our community sponsors! This year’s **Title Sponsors** were **LUCKY EAGLE CASINO AND HOTEL** and **EDWARD JONES/LOREN VAN LOO**. Hole Sponsors included **OBEE CREDIT UNION, R. L. SMITH LOGGING, THE OTOS GROUP, EDWARD JONES/LOREN VAN LOO, ROCK BOARDMAN, AND JANET ISHIHARA**.

Thanks to all raffle item donors. Raffle items included **CCGC CERTIFICATE FOR A ROUND OF GOLF BY A FOUR-SOME, LUCKY EAGLE CASINO AND HOTEL CERTIFICATES FOR A “GET AWAY FOR FOUR” AT THE HOTEL INCLUDING DINNER AND BREAKFAST AND A CERTIFICATE FOR A STAY AT THE GREAT WOLF LODGE AND PUETZ GOLF, Tacoma, FOR 5 \$20 GIFT CERTIFICATES AND \$5.00 DISCOUNT CARDS**. Also, a special thank you to **Tumwater WALMART SUPER CENTER** for their donation of a \$100 gift card to provide the tournament with water and snacks.

Special Thank You to our alumnae volunteers **Judi (Weaver ‘66) Hambrick and Janet Ishihara (‘65)** who managed checkin, **Sonja Eby Winkelman (75)** for managing the raffle tables, **Dan Parsons (65)** and **Ruth Ishihara** being tournament photographers and **Cindy Renfroe-Barton (75)** for helping with the golf raffle. Also, a special thank you to **Steve McNelly** and his staff at Capitol City Golf (CCGC) Club for their professional support in making this event happen.

IT’S ON AGAIN FOLKS!!!

THE 2026 ARTESIAN CLASSIC

GOLF WITH US ON SATURDAY May 30, 2026

The 2026 Artesian Golf Classic will be at 1:30 PM (Modified Shotgun start) on May 30th at Capitol City Golf Club. Sign-up at our website: tumwaterhighalumni.com.

**THSAA
2025
ARTESIAN
GOLF
CLASSIC
WINNING
TEAM**



Team Bausch



Team Weatherly

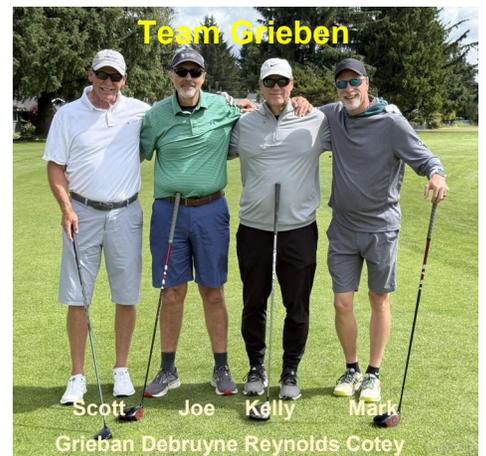
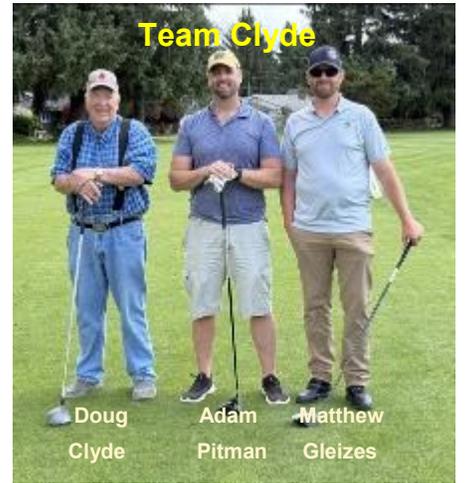
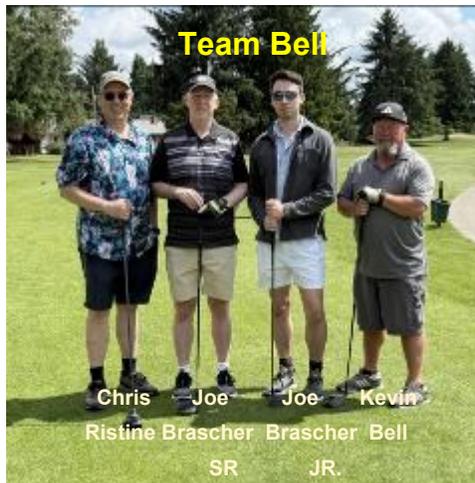
Saphron Weatherly Kat Scheibner Pam Benze Tracy Coffey



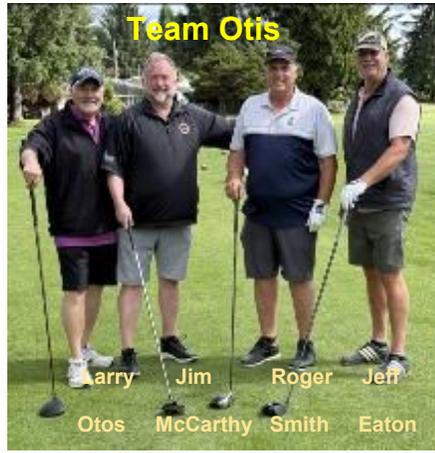
Team Ishihara

Jim Ishihara Frank Uchida Rock Boardman

2025 ARTESIAN CLASSIC TEAMS



2025 ARTESIAN CLASSIC TEAMS



2025 ARTESIAN CLASSIC Photos



QBEE		QBEE	
7A	COTTE L MORAN T DUNN D K. ADAM T	70	4B
1B		77	5A
2A	CAPTEREN J GIBSONAS J DEFRANGE K KERRY M	62	5B
2B	HERRON D MULLIN D WARRANE J TULLOCH J	69	6A
3A	BRADY K KASS K COSE K GILFILLAN E	60	7A
4A	JOYCE D SIMP E WELLES M	65	7B
			69
			63
			73
			65
			72
			64
			75
			71

THSAA ACTIVITIES:

Reunion:

All Class Reunion (2025): Over 150 T-Bird Alumnus met for a great time!!







REST IN PEACE

RACHEL LYNN THORNTON GREEN PASSED ON AUGUST 18, 2025. She attended Tumwater schools from 1st. grade through high school.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

COACH Pat Alexander

(Tumwater, WA) It was perfect! A large crowd in attendance to say goodbye to one of the most beloved T-Birds ever at Tumwater High School, Pat Alexander. Pat, Mr, Coach Alexander or Coach A made his mark at Tumwater coaching football for 41 years with Sid Otton and longtime Wrestling coach.

Patrick Lloyd Alexander passed away on December 17, 2024. That date may not mean much to most but it meant a lot to his kids, Kip, Becky and Mary. Coach Alexander's football number at Lake Washington high school was 17 so Kip Alexander was not surprised when he headed for his next challenge on the 17th. His best friend, Sid Otton was an impressive defensive lineman in his time playing football and wore #71. Players know how important numbers are and in this case has forever connected these two giants of the gridiron.

The numbers were just an added layer of connection between Alexander and Otton. When Coach Alexander first came to Tumwater after teaching and coaching at Mt Si High School, it took one sit down meeting with Otton to sell Alexander. In 1976 the friendship was forged in steel and little did they know what the pair of them were going to achieve over the next 41 years.



Coach Otton still sits atop the list of winningest football coach in state history with 394. O'Dea's Monte Kohler tied Otton winning the 3A State Championship just a couple of weeks prior to Alexander's passing. Otton and Alexander's State Football results were 5 State Championships, 3 2nd place finishes they played in 14 Semifinal games, 19 Quarter-finals and a State play-off game 26 times. I don't find it at all coincidental that Coach Alexander was never going to let anyone top their accomplishment. He would often say after a loss we didn't lose, we just ran out of time. Well he just ran the clock out on anyone ever passing him as part of the winningest coaching duo in state history. He would smile and laugh at the thought of that I am sure.

The success of the program is undeniable and easy to point to achievement and success as the reason to celebrate a Head Coach and his loyal 1st soldier. Coach Alexander may have been officially listed as an assistant coach and the Defensive Coordinator but there was no doubt there was always 2 Head Coaches that led Tumwater to the place in history they will forever be.

Coach A's impact is far greater than on the field or mat. Coach Alexander was a steady presence for so many young people struggling with all kinds of issues that high schoolers face. He was the Activities Director and taught leadership and you couldn't have had a more perfect person to teach young people how to lead and a part many don't quite get and that's how to be led. One of the many life lessons you learned from just being in his presence was the honor and importance to allowing yourself to be led.

He would often say you need the foot soldiers to do work and they need to be open to being led. So as important as it was for him to teach how to be a good leader he would teach and show you how important it was to hold your leader accountable. Not to simply follow but to make sure as you are being led down the correct path. He would say it's lazy allowing someone to blindly lead you into a situation you do not want to be in. There was a responsibility on both ends and an accountability.

That was so important to him because it allowed you to see that YOU get to lead yourself. You get to set your path and when you make the wrong choice there will be consequences and something you couldn't simply blame on someone else. He was sure of self-determination and made sure you knew you had that power within yourself.



Coach Alexander leaves a legacy that is totally unique to himself. He is so beloved not because of what he did, how many wins they collected, not because he was funny or goofy but rather the person he is. You aren't willing to literally run through a brick wall for someone for just being a nice guy. The reason there were people from 1976 all the way to the current players in attendance is because he is important and special to them. Think of that, there were many current players because they know what Coach did and why he was so important to all these people that are now pushing 70. A reminder he hasn't coached since 2016, 9 years ago and yet were there.

The love for Coach Alexander comes back to one simple truth. And the truth is all of us felt his sincere love. You felt it and he meant it. His son Kip was asked what his Dad was really like at home with just the family. Kip smiled had his father's gleam in his eye and said, you know....you know.



COACH Pat Alexander



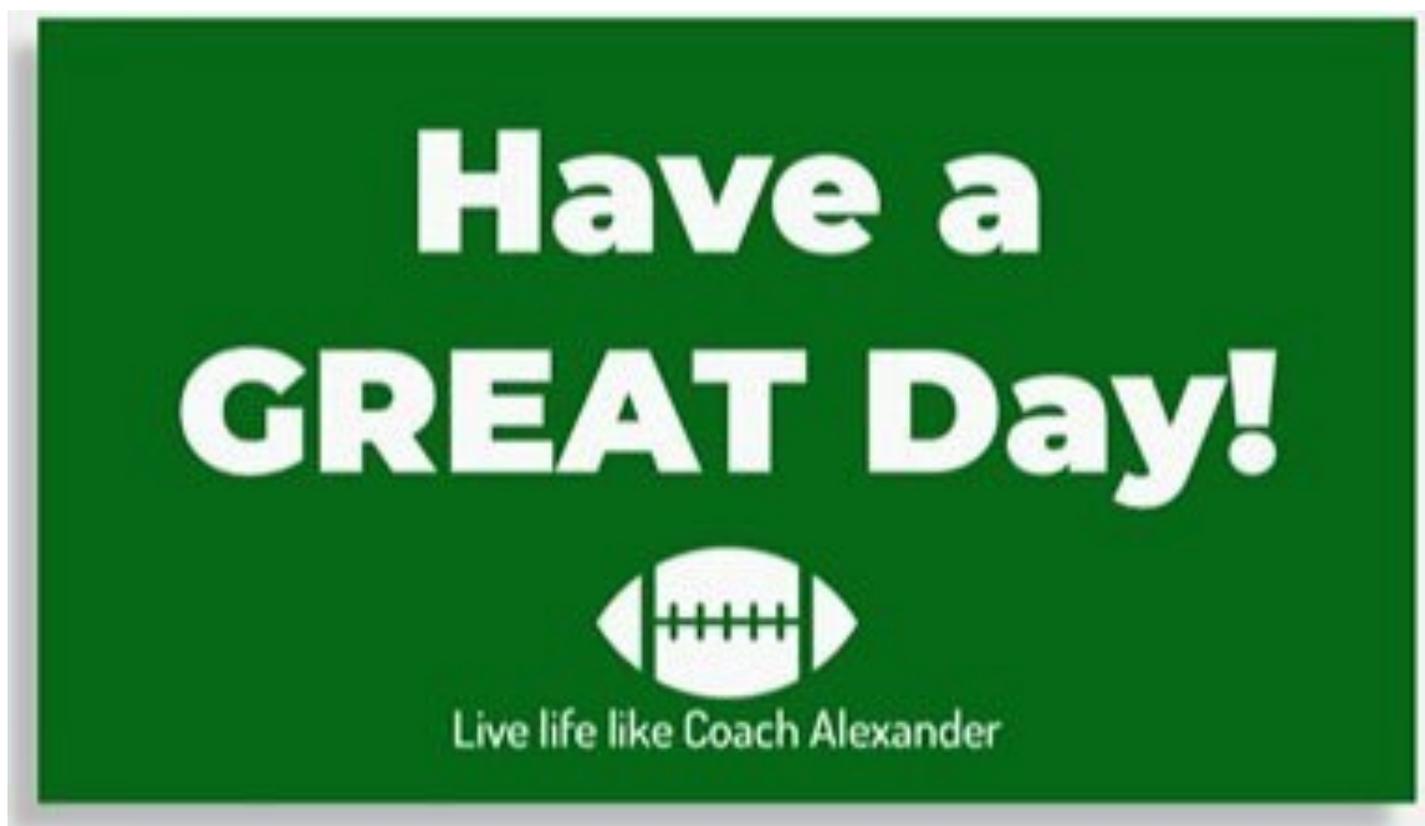
Pat and Sandi Alexander moved their family to Tumwater in 1976. Little did all of us know the impact of that one decision would have on our souls for the next 49 years. Sandi sadly passed from cancer in 1989. The Alexander's were part of the Tumwater community from the beginning and it only grew with Sandi working in the High School administrative office and Pat the Activities Director and coach. It was all T-Birds all the time.

The Alexander legacy is all encompassing and will be forever part of the Tumwater lexicon. Pat Alexander was born to teach and his compassion, empathy and sheer love has touched so many with lifelong lessons that we still use on a daily basis.

There is so much more to tell you about this magnificent man but the biggest thank-you that needs to be said is to Kip, Becky and Mary. Thank-you for sharing such a remarkable soul and person with so many of us. It could have been so easy to not want to let others know about your special gift of both Pat and Sandi Alexander. But the minute you 3 were unleashed on our little town of Tumwater, Washington you were willing to share the ultimate coach with all your friends, neighbors and strangers. For that unselfish gesture the Tumwater High School community gives you and your family many thanks.

The large crowd of family, former coaching colleagues, players, students and friends each have their own story. There was that special moment in time that each one and more had with this man that was theirs and theirs alone. No one can ever take that magic moment away and wow, what a gift he has given all of us.

Some will know what this means, others may not but Coach, I raise my Dairy Queen Marshmallow Milk Shake to you and Thank you. You are simply the best. We love you and we're having a Supergreat Day!



Note: This article was taken from an article in Slider News (March 18, 2025) by Paulb.