



# Alumni e-Newsletter

Winter 2010

Volume 1 Issue 2

# Happy New Year!

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## ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

### **Dr. Anne G. Garrett ('74), Superintendent of Haywood County Schools**



*Mountaineer Alumni,*

*I am so proud to be the superintendent of your school system and a graduate of Tuscola High School. We are having a fantastic school year and providing our students with very rewarding and positive experiences.*

*Tuscola's three hundred seniors last year have now joined the ranks of graduates from the class of 2009. Approximately 85 percent of these students have gone on to post-secondary education. These seniors were eligible to receive over five million dollars in scholarships. We continue to exceed both regional and state scores. Tuscola had one of the highest SAT scores in the region and one of the lowest dropout rates. This validates our dedication to the teaching profession. When visiting Tuscola you will find that we have outstanding teachers, administrators and staff who work hard to provide high quality educational opportunities for our students.*

*Tuscola High School is an exciting place where educational excellence is more than just a goal; it is our standard. We are committed to creating opportunities for all students to do their best and succeed. We have high expectations for students and employees and continually work on open communication, sound fiscal management and strong family and community involvement.*

*Providing our students with challenging academics, cultural experiences and athletic experiences are crucial. These opportunities could not be possible without the support of our community, parents and alumni. Effective*

*schools have strong partnerships with their community, and we welcome and encourage parents, alumni and community members to take part in our educational programs. I am confident that, working together, we can provide the best education possible for each child. I know that teaching everyone takes everyone!*

*I am very proud of the progress Tuscola is making and invite you to join us in realizing our vision and mission. Come visit our school and feel the friendly, inviting atmosphere. Talk with teachers and students and become part of a dynamic school.*

*Sincerely, Anne G. Garrett*

### **Chuck Francis ('74), School Board Chairman**



*Who could have imagined that, when I graduated from Tuscola High School in 1974, I would ever want to be involved in anything school-related? My memories of high school are filled with images of being in the band, studying just enough to get by, being in trouble occasionally, and looking forward to the day that I would be out of there. Those days now, however, are treasured memories of many friends who still remain today. The amazing thing is that those teachers and administrators influenced my life so much and did so without my realization until later in life.*

*How in the world did I get involved in the school system and become chairman of the Haywood County Board of Education? The answer is not so complicated. When you have three children in the school system, it is easy to become active in the Parent Teacher*

*Organization (PTO). My kids attended Lake Junaluska Elementary School, and, therefore, I became involved in and eventually president of their (and later Waynesville Middle School's) PTO. The more I became involved, the more I realized what a great school system that we have in Haywood County and how I, as a parent, could help. My dad always advised me to never become involved in politics, but, about nine years ago, I disobeyed him one more time. I decided to run for the school board, not to change everything but, to do what I could to help our system improve.*

*The campaign was simple, and the election was exciting. I was elected to serve four years as one of the two Waynesville representatives. The learning curve was steep on how things operate and what my responsibilities actually are. The board sets policy, not the everyday running of the school system. I quickly learned that the school system cares about the kids more than anything else and decisions seem to always include "whatever is best for the kids". As a school board member, we always try to live up to that standard.*

*After my first term, I wanted to become chairman and was successful in being elected to that position in 2004. We have a great board of education here in Haywood County and have made many great accomplishments. The school*

*bond issue that enabled us to recover from the floods of Hurricane Frances and Ivan and build the new Bethel Elementary School, auxiliary gyms at Tuscola and Pisgah High Schools, additional classrooms at Clyde, North Canton, and Riverbend Elementary Schools, and many other important projects are examples of the cooperation between all agencies and the*

*citizens of Haywood County. Haywood County Schools have many talented employees, and it is truly amazing how many have been a product of Tuscola High School. I am proud to be a member of the class of 1974 and how our alums contribute to the success of the school system!*  
~ Chuck Francis



### **Armed Forces**

On November 11, 2009, our country honored our veterans for their military service. Please remember also our alumni who are enlisted currently in our Armed Forces:

Robbie Bernardi ('09)	Air Force	U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado
Beth Coleman ('09)	Air Force	U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado
Nicki Grindstaff ('06)	Air Force	Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona
Brian Henson ('06)	Air Force	Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho
Jesse Johnson ('07)	Air Force ROTC	The Citadel, South Carolina
Jonathan Jones ('07)	Army	U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York
Scott Lindsay ('06)	Army Reserves	
Trent Parrott ('08)	Air Force	Aviano Air Base, Italy
Greg Popular ('08)	Navy	Goose Creek, South Carolina
Preston Roberts ('06)	Marines	
Christian Rogers ('09)	Army ROTC	Appalachian State University, North Carolina
Brian Sears ('08)	Army	U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York
Tyler Shipman ('07)	Army	Fort Sill, Oklahoma
Andrew Sutton ('06)	Army	Fort Hood, Texas
Will Walker ('07)	Army ROTC	The Citadel, South Carolina

Please contact [hallen@haywood.k12.nc.us](mailto:hallen@haywood.k12.nc.us) if you are aware of a change in assignment or additional active duty alumni.

### **STAFF RECOGNITION**

#### **National Board Certified Teachers**

Congratulations to Jennifer Smathers and Mary Ann Smith for earning national board certification! The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards is an independent organization that developed national standards for teachers and school counselors. Mrs. Smathers and Mrs. Smith, along with 17 other THS faculty, have pursued and been successful in completing this rigorous process.

Tammy Bates (English Language Arts)  
John Best (Career & Technical Education)  
Lisa Clifford (English Language Arts)  
Mark Ethridge (Science)  
Larry Fox (World Languages)  
Sandra Garland (Career & Technical Education)  
Patricia Lipsey (World Languages)  
Cecilia Ruth Marcus (Social Studies - History)  
Jessica Perry (Exceptional Needs)  
Helen Pollifrone (English Language Arts)

Becky Revis (Career & Technical Education)  
Joey Robinson (English Language Arts)  
Laura Rogers (World Languages)  
Wendy Rogers (Career & Technical Education)  
Beth Sanderson (English Language Arts)  
Jennifer Smathers (Social Studies - History)  
Mary Ann Smith (Mathematics)  
Kristy Sorrells (Mathematics)  
Kelly Vandenberg (Career & Technical Education)

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVOLVEMENT

### **Imaginknit Club**

Imaginknit is a new community service club, founded by Emili Pickenpaugh, for students who want to learn how to knit. The club will knit 7" x 9" rectangles to assemble into blankets for the Open Door Ministry in Frog Level and Warm Up America! Foundation (501C3), specifically their partner the Ronald McDonald House that provides a "home away from home" for families of seriously ill children.

You can help by donating supplies or sending us 7" x 9" knitted rectangles. Using medium/worsted-weight, acrylic yarn and 4.5mm/size 7 needles (or other gauge so that five stitches equals one inch), cast on 35 stitches, knit every row until the piece measures 9", and then bind off. For more information, go to [http://www.craftyarnCouncil.com/files/WUA\\_brochure.pdf](http://www.craftyarnCouncil.com/files/WUA_brochure.pdf). Direct all questions and contributions to club sponsor Heather Allen. You can find my contact information on the last page.



### **Donations**

You are aware, no doubt, of our nation's financial crisis and its impact on public schools. Our faith-based community coordinated a Volunteer Workday in August, and the Haywood County Schools Foundation raised \$47,000 through their Save-A-Teacher campaign. How can you help? Make a donation payable to Tuscola High School with how you want the money designated in the subject line of your check. Address the envelope to the attention of Pat Wyatt, who will send you a receipt for tax purposes. All gifts, large and small, will be appreciated.

### ***The Path of Pride***

The *Path of Pride* at C. E. Weatherby stadium is a fundraising project initiated by the Activities Booster Club. This brick walkway recognizes alumni of Waynesville Township High School and Tuscola High School. To purchase a personalized brick for \$100, visit <http://pathofpride.com>. The first completed project funded by the bricks is the 10-foot mountaineer carving located between the concession stand and home side.

## ATHLETICS

### Cheerleading



*I graduated from THS in 1985 and have been working here at Tuscola as a teacher assistant for 14 years. For the past two years, I have coached the JV cheerleading squad. The neat thing is that, this year, my daughter Gini Jones Taylor is the Varsity cheerleading coach. She is a 2007 graduate of Tuscola, where she, herself, cheered. It has been a blessing to be able to work with my daughter in this capacity. Together we will be coaching the competition squad that will be traveling to Knoxville in January and Myrtle Beach in March for competitions. Gini choreographs and teaches the material that the team will use in competition, and I take care of travel arrangements and paperwork. The team is very talented, and we look for them to do very well.*

*Another exciting event for THS cheerleading is the participation of five of our girls in the Capital One Bowl halftime show on New Year's Day in Orlando, Florida. Brittney Champion, Jordan McCracken, Savannah Morris, Emilie Rose, and Lucinda Sutton and were chosen by Cheer Limited camp staff this summer to participate in this national performance. During their visit to Orlando, they will be visiting Disney World and Universal Studios also. We are very proud of our girls..*

*We are excited to announce that two male cheerleaders have been added to the Varsity cheerleading squad for the 2009-2010 basketball season. I am not sure if Tuscola has ever had male cheerleaders, so we may be making history. Cheerleading is a wonderful SPORT with wonderful ATHLETES!*

*~ Dawn Jones ('85), JV Cheerleading Coach*



### 2009 Border Bash Recap

On October 16<sup>th</sup>, Tuscola and Pisgah High Schools had their 46<sup>th</sup> cross-county meeting. The Great American Rivalry Series, sponsored by the United States Air Force, broadcast the football game on their website as one of the oldest, biggest, and fiercest rivalries in the country. The weather was cold and damp, but we won 41 - 10, making the series history Tuscola with 24 wins, Pisgah with 21 wins, and one tie.

Current students enjoyed talking with several alumni who stopped at our table. Unfortunately, the alumni merchandise was not ready. We hope to have a selection of items for you to see in the Spring issue of the Alumni e-Newsletter.

By the way, the football team ended their season with 12 wins, 2 losses, and one tie in the fourth round of the play-offs, and head coach Donnie Kiefer was named the 2009 AAC Football Coach of the Year!

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The Alumni e-Newsletter will be published three times each year in the fall, winter, and spring. To update your personal information, SHARE NEWS, or offer feedback, please email Heather Allen at [hallen@haywood.k12.nc.us](mailto:hallen@haywood.k12.nc.us) or write/call me at the address, phone, or fax number below:

Tuscola High School, 564 Tuscola School Road, Waynesville, NC 28786  
(828) 456-2408 phone (828) 456-2434 fax



## MOUNTAINEER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*Varsity sports only included.*

*Final scores can be found at <http://www.highschoolsports.net> and <http://www.tuscolafootball.com>.*

*Non-sporting events are highlighted in gray.*

### JANUARY 2010

#### **Tuesday, January 5**

5:45 p.m. – Swimming versus TC Roberson (Away)  
6:30 p.m. – Basketball versus Pisgah (Home)

#### **Wednesday, January 6**

6:00 p.m. – Wrestling versus West Henderson (Home)

#### **Friday, January 8**

6:30 p.m. – Basketball versus West Henderson (Away)

#### **Saturday, January 9**

9:30 a.m. – Wrestling (Greenville, TN)  
3:00 p.m. – Swimming (Waynesville Recreation Center)

#### **Tuesday, January 12**

6:00 p.m. – Wrestling versus East Henderson (Home)  
6:30 p.m. – Basketball versus East Henderson (Away)

#### **Wednesday, January 13**

5:30 p.m. – Swimming versus West Henderson (Haywood Regional Fitness Center)

#### **Friday, January 15**

6:30 p.m. – Basketball versus Franklin (Home)

#### **Saturday, January 16**

10:00 a.m. – Wrestling versus Robbinsville (Away)

#### **Thursday, January 21**

6:00 p.m. – Wrestling versus Smoky Mountain (Home)  
6:30 p.m. – Basketball versus Rabun Gap Nacoochee School (Away)

#### **Friday, January 22**

6:30 p.m. – Basketball versus Smoky Mountain (Away)

#### **Saturday, January 23**

9:30 a.m. – Wrestling (Walhalla, GA)  
3:00 p.m. – Swimming/AAC (Waynesville Recreation Center)

#### **Tuesday, January 26**

6:00 p.m. – Wrestling versus Brevard (Away)  
6:30 p.m. – Basketball versus Brevard (Home)

#### **Friday, January 29**

6:00 p.m. – Wrestling versus North Henderson (Home)  
6:30 p.m. – Basketball versus North Henderson (Away)

#### **Saturday, January 30**

6:30 p.m. – Basketball versus Asheville (Away)

### FEBRUARY 2010

#### **Tuesday, February 2**

6:00 p.m. – Wrestling versus Pisgah (Home)  
6:30 p.m. – Basketball versus Pisgah (Away)

#### **Friday, February 5**

TBA – Swimming/Regionals (Charlotte)  
6:30 p.m. – Basketball versus West Henderson (Home)

#### **Saturday, February 6**

TBA – Swimming/Regionals  
10:00 a.m. – Wrestling/AAC (Home)

#### **Tuesday, February 9**

TBA – Wrestling/State (Away)  
6:30 p.m. – Basketball versus East Henderson (Home)

#### **Thursday, February 11**

6:30 p.m. – Basketball versus Franklin (Away)

#### **Friday, February 12**

TBA – Swimming/State (Raleigh)

#### **Saturday, February 13**

TBA – Swimming/State

#### **Friday, February 19**

5:00 p.m. – Wrestling/Regionals (Away)

#### **Friday, February 26**

TBA – Wrestling/State (Away)

#### **Saturday, February 27**

TBA – Wrestling/State (Away)

### MARCH 2010

#### **Thursday, March 11 – Sunday, March 14**

Summit's Country Western Show

#### **Monday, March 22**

7:00 p.m. – Chorus Concert

