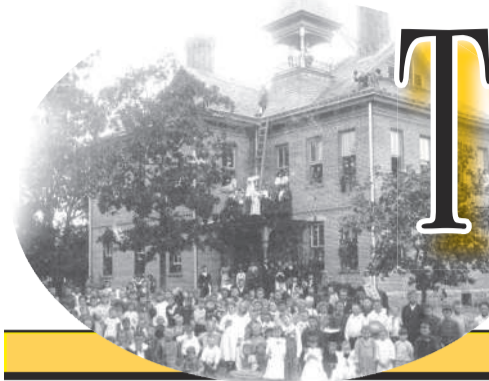




Celebrating
the Golden
Anniversary
Class of
1976!

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"To Keep Alive and Perpetuate the School Spirit of Tecumseh High School ... To Renew and Enjoy School Associations"



Tecumseh Alumni News

Tecumseh High School – Oklahoma's Oldest Alumni Association – Celebrating Our 124th Anniversary This Year

1903-2026

APRIL 2026

They're Your Parties!

The big weekend is almost here! Most anniversary classes are planning reunions for Friday, May 29. But the Class of 2006, Class of 2016 and the Class of 1951 are meeting earlier. And the Class of 2011's party is in July.

Our regular annual business meeting is Saturday, May 30, at 2 p.m. at the W.P. Wood Alumni Building. We'll vote on an updated constitution and bylaws as well as officers.

**GATHERING STARTS AT 5 p.m.
Saturday**

BANQUET STARTS AT 6 p.m.

DETAILS

Tickets

Banquet tickets are available now, \$20 each, via Venmo, PayPal links on page A7, or regular mail to P.O. Box 304, Tecumseh. There'll be a Will Call Line at the alumni building on banquet day for Venmo, PayPal and mail purchases.

Tuesday-Friday, May 26-29
In-person ticket sales Tuesday-Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Ralph's Pharmacy, 211 N. Broadway. Cash, checks, Venmo and PayPal accepted.

Saturday, May 30

9 a.m. until banquet time
Ticket sales move to the alumni building. Please don't wait until 5:45 p.m. Saturday to buy or pick up your tickets.

BUSINESS MEETING

2 p.m. at the W.P. Wood Alumni Building on the THS campus We will vote on adoption of an updated THS Alumni Association Constitution and Bylaws. Read these updated documents on Pages 3, 6-7. We also will elect officers..

STREET GATHERING – 5 p.m.

In front of the W.P. Wood Alumni Building on the THS campus

THS Alumni Banquet

6 p.m. 2026 Seniors called in first, then our Diamond and Golden Classes, 1951 and 1976. Then in order beginning with the 1940s.

CLASS PARTIES

EARLY

Saturday, May 2

Class of 2006

We'll celebrate 20 years ahead of the crowd. Our party is 6-10 p.m. at FireLake Golf Course. Theme is Black and Gold. Abuelita's is doing the food, and a DJ is confirmed. Cost is \$25 per person. Guests are welcome. Please buy tickets in advance so we can plan: \$AdamSeikel on CashApp.

Saturday, May 9

Class of 2016

Tecumseh's 10-year class will get together at 7 p.m. at the Grand Casino. Tickets are \$35. For more details contact Blake or Taylor.

Wednesday, May 27

Class of 1951

Our Diamond Class will celebrate its 75th anniversary with an afternoon get-together, 2-4 pm, Brookdale, 3957 Kickapoo, Shawnee. Light snacks will be served. To RSVP, call or text 405-641-4455.

BANQUET WEEKEND

Friday, May 29

Class of 1959

We'll meet at 5:30 p.m. at the old Van's on Highland in Shawnee. Looking forward to seeing everybody.

Class of 1961

Celebrating 65 years! Let's get together at 6 p.m. at Van's on Harrison.

Class of 1966

The great class of 1966 will celebrate its 60th reunion at noon in the Fellowship Hall of the Highland Church of Christ. The cost is \$20 per person, and significant others and guests are welcome. To RSVP or

From Tecumseh to Boone Pickens Stadium: Patrick Cobbs carries hometown pride, gratitude

By Mary Carter, '81

When Oklahoma State University announced in December 2025 that Tecumseh High School graduate Patrick Cobbs would become the Cowboys' new running backs coach, the news landed like a hometown victory.

In Tecumseh, it wasn't just that one of our own had made it to the Big 12 sidelines — it was that the young man we'd watched outrun entire districts was now returning to the Oklahoma gridiron with the same quiet determination that carried him from here to national rushing charts. As Cobbs said in a recent interview, "I've always tried to represent where I'm from. Tecumseh made me who I am."

Cobbs' story begins long before the headlines. His grandparents, Hiram and Lorene Ryan, moved to Tecumseh in 1959, planting the

Continued on A2



THS all-time rushing leader, Patrick Cobbs, Class of 2001, is back on an Oklahoma field, this time as OSU's running backs coach.

Constitution and Bylaws get cleanup; outdated, conflicting info updated

By Bobby "Trae" Trousdale, '17

Governing Documents Committee Chairperson

At this year's annual business meeting at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 30, the Tecumseh High School Alumni Association will vote on changes that align written constitution and bylaws with current practices and clarify roles, responsibilities and expectations for officers and the organization.

The proposed updates appear in full on Page X, but I wanted to give

you an overview of what to expect and how we've built on previous leadership to modernize our governing documents.

I am proud of these recommendations. Overall, the documents represent long-term strategy that captures realities and roots us firmly in nonprofit best practice.

The Governing Documents Committee has spent the last 10 months delving into our existing constitution and bylaws. The group rep-

resented THS classes across four decades and included people with varied work backgrounds, honorary and traditional members, over 250 years of combined exposure to our organization, as well as past, present and future association presidents.

To begin with, we had four co-existing constitutions that varied depending on the source and date of creation, as well as three sets of bylaws that were self-contradict-

Continued on A3



Chase Rutledge, '88, and Cody Swinson, '90, pull Scott Tucker, '83, into the musical fun at the 2025 THS Alumni Banquet.

Did you get your paper in the mail? No? Here's how

By Carrol Finch VanMeter, '66

Because of the rising cost of the production and mailing of the alumni newspaper, we needed to clean up the mailing list to exclude those who are no longer with us or not interested.

Thankfully, a great number of you have already let us know your desire to get the paper, whether in the mailbox or online. Most of you have contributed \$10 or more toward this. Thank you!!

However, if your friends or relatives did not get the information, they must take action so the newspaper will arrive next year.

To confirm your address with us, you can

Mail a note to P.O. Box 304, Tecumseh 74873. Please include your Class year and your name when you graduated.

Call us at 904 THS-ALUM (847-2586).

Email us THSAlumni1903@gmail.com.

Point your phone at this QR code, which links to our online subscription form. NOTE: If you want to pay this way, you must fill out the



form before Venmo and PayPal links work.

We local alumni have had fundraisers and worked hard to keep all of the THS graduates informed about our school and town, but we needed help. A great many of you have already contributed money toward this effort and it is so appreciated. Though it is not mandatory, it would help greatly if you were able to donate at least \$10 a year to help with the cost of the newspaper.

No matter which generation you graduated in, or which building, which teachers or leaders you knew, we are all THS grads and a big family. And we add another class each year! The Alumni Newspaper keeps us connected and gives us a feeling of classmate memories, family, friendships, and home.

Where it started still shapes him

Continued From A1
 roots of a family that would become loved and respected. Cobbs still visits his grandmother on the family farm east of town — a place he describes as grounding. “That farm is home. It’s where everything started for us,” he said.

His mother, Linda Ryan Talton, integral to her high school basketball team, graduated from THS in 1981. His four uncles — Harvey, Class of 1970; Marvin, ’72; Nathaniel, ’75; and Clifford, ’78 and— were competitors too, with Harvey, a well-remembered standout, named All-District and All-State. In a family where competition was a love language and the football field felt like a second home, Cobbs

grew up with both the expectation and the encouragement to run hard.

And that’s what he did.

By the time he finished his senior season in 2000, he had amassed 4,729 rushing yards and 61 touchdowns, including a staggering 2,354 yards and 32 touchdowns as a senior — the best in Oklahoma Class 4A. “I just wanted to help my team win. That was always the goal,” he recalled. “The numbers were cool, but it was about Tecumseh.”

The Oklahoman named Cobbs firstteam allstate, and Tecumseh fans still talk about the nights when the stadium lights seemed to chase him rather than the other way around.

Recruiters noticed. Cobbs signed with the University of North Texas, where he became one of the most decorated players in program history. A four-year letter-winner from 2001 to 2005, he graduated as the school’s alltime leader in rushing yards (4,050) and rushing touchdowns (36). In 2003, he led the entire nation in rushing with 1,680 yards, averaging 152.7 yards per game — numbers that still echo in Mean Green record books.

But for all the yards he gained, Cobbs never lost sight of where he came from. “I’ve always tried to stay close to home, close to the people who raised me,” he said. “I don’t ever want to forget the folks who helped me get here.”

He still calls Ruth Walker, whom he considers a second mom. He returns home as often as he can. He remembers names, faces, and Friday nights.

At home, he and his wife Amanda — his partner since his senior year at North Texas — are raising four children: Rush, Dash, River, and Rome. Their names alone sound like a playbook of motion and momentum, fitting for a family built around movement, faith, and loyalty. Oldest daughter, Haylee, a 2021 graduate of THS and later, North Texas, teaches elementary school in Denton, Texas.

When OSU’s new head football coach Eric Morris reached back to bring his valued North Texas assistant to Stillwater,

he was bringing more than a great coach. He was bringing a man who understands the long arc of development — the patience it takes to build a runner, the humility it takes to stay grounded, and the pride that comes from representing the people who raised you. “Coaching is just teaching,” he said. “And I learned from some of the best — my family, my coaches, my community.”

For Tecumseh, his success feels personal. It’s the kind of story that reminds our small town that its fields can grow big dreams, that its athletes can play on a national stage and become leaders.

And for Cobbs, the journey isn’t about arrival. It’s about continuing the work — shaping young men, honoring his roots, and proving that the dis-



Patrick Cobbs

distance between Tecumseh and Stillwater isn’t measured in miles, but in heart.



Linda Ryan Cobbs, ‘81, and Patrick Cobbs, ‘01



Patrick Cobbs and his grandma, Mrs. Lorene Ryan of Tecumseh

Party Time in T-Town!

Continued From A1

prepay, contact Margaret Copeland Creider, 3900 N. Union, Apt. 903, Shawnee 74804. Cell 214-766-5095, email: margaret.creider@gmail.com

1976 HAPPY 50TH!

The Golden Class will gather 6-10 p.m. at Fire-Lake Golf Club. There’ll be a cash bar, and the food will be catered by Farmer’s Daughter Market. Cost is \$30 per person. Spouses and plus ones are welcome. Send your checks to Melanie Deatherage Corter, 4312 Blaise Drive, Shawnee 74804. Deadline is May 13. If you want a 50-year class T-shirt, they can be ordered from Define boutique in Tecumseh. If you have questions, contact Melanie, 405-641-4455.

Class of 1981

Fran Topping will host our 45th reunion 6-9 p.m. at spOkeLAHOMA Event Center, 111 North Broadway, across from City Hall. There’ll be nibbles and maybe some lemonade we can spike...BYOB and maybe an easy snack to share. No dress code. Plus ones welcome.

Class of 1986

Our 40th reunion will be at 7 p.m. at the Grand Casino in the Grand Ballroom. The cost is \$25 per person. We hope to see classmates and all friends of the class of ‘85. Please RSVP to Leslie, Kara, or Michelle by May 15. If you plan to stay at the Grand, book your rooms early.

Classes of 1991 and 1996

The Classes of ‘91 and ‘96 warmly invite all alumni to an old-fashioned street gathering at the home of JT Walker (Class of ‘91) and Mindi Walker (Class of ‘94) at 20637 Coker Road. A taco truck will sell food on site 7-9 p.m., followed by a live band beginning at 9:30 p.m. and playing into the night. A cash bar with reasonably priced drinks will be available to help cover the cost of the band, restrooms, and other event expenses. You’re welcome to BYOB as well. **Bring your lawn chairs!** For more information, contact Stephanie (Shirey) Bryant ‘91, Christina (Harris) Shelley, Todd Wilson ‘91, Misty (Young) Stiles ‘96, or JT Walker ‘91 #ttownposseparty

Class of 2011

We’ll celebrate at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, July 25, at the Elks Golf and Country Club in Shawnee. Spouses and significant others are welcome. The classes of 2010 and 2012 are also invited. Everyone please bring your favorite appetizer or dessert. You’ll be able to buy drinks at the Elks. Cost is \$10 per person. Venmo @WhitneyDockreyFord. Find more details by joining the class Facebook page “THS Class of 2011.”

A gem in the heart of Tecumseh, Hartoon’s was a downtown landmark

Editor’s Note: The store has been a mainstay on North Broadway since 1906 - with a brief move to Shawnee a few years ago. How many of us have marked an important life moment with a purchase from Hartoon’s? Gold initial “drops” for a high school sweetheart, class rings and promise rings, engagement and wedding sets, anniversary bands, and all manner of crystal and decorative glass, perfect gifts for a birthday or a shower or a “thank you.” Hartoon’s Jewelry is quiet now, the custom-made brass cash register stilled. But the memories remain. Owner Phil Hartoon’s 1966 THS classmate Carrol VanMeter looks at the history of Tecumseh’s iconic hometown jewelry store.

By Carol VanMeter ‘66

At the turn of the century, an entrepreneur named Charles B. Hartoon moved from Maud to Tecumseh. He first began with an ice dock, selling ice in the summer

and coal in the winter. He then opened a shop in the old Opera House on Broadway selling books, stationery, and cigars while also selling books to the Indianola Business College across town. Many other shops were located in the foyer selling their wares beside his business. Around 1906 when another shop owner decided to sell his inventory of pocket watches and clocks, Charley B. and his new wife, Martha, bought the owner out but then found an old German watchmaker in Shawnee to teach him how to repair

his merchandise. After adding wedding bands and other jewelry in his shop, Hartoon’s Jewelry Store was established. Young Ralph Hartoon grew up in the shop learning the watch repair business from his father. However, during the Great Depression, Ralph joined the Civilian Conservation Corps and eventually the Navy. Recognizing his specific skills, the Navy sent him to Bradley University to become certified in horology, the science of timekeeping. He then was put in charge of timekeeping and watch and clock

repair during World War II and eventually left the Navy as a Chief Warrant Officer. After Charley B.’s death, Ralph and his wife, Gladys took over the business in the early 1950s. In a vacant lot where a theater had burned down, Ralph built a new building with two sections at 109 N. Broadway. He brought his jewelry business into one side and rented out the other section to Herman Hackett for his barber shop. Like his father Ralph, Phillip learned watch and jewelry repair

Continued on A6



Jan, Phil, Gladys and Ralph Hartoon

Alumni to vote on governance updates May 30

Continued From A1

ry and couldn't even agree whether it was by-law/bi-law or by-law.

The updates we have proposed are intended to bring clarity, consistency and long-term stability to the Tecumseh Alumni Association. Nothing in them alters the spirit or mission of the association, but rather aims only to ensure that what we have always valued can continue

with fewer obstacles and greater cohesion. In other words: We aim to "get everybody singing from the same songbook."

As you can see in the proposed text, the new governing documents continue to celebrate our identity, support our programs and honor our aspirations. We have attempted to "build a house" that serves and preserves our tradition and innovation.

The constitution serves as our "big picture," or the foundation of our shared shelter. The bylaws, our framing and insulation, serve as the specifics that can adapt the needs of an evolving association, already in its second century. This work is not just putting words on paper. It honors our culture and sets out strategies for success.

This has been my fifth full overhaul of

governing documents for an organization. It remains a necessary practice of strategic planning and ensuring organizational credibility, functionality and preparation. By consolidating conflicting documents, clarifying officer responsibilities and aligning our processes with recognized nonprofit standards, we are strengthening the infrastructure that allows us to continue as the oldest active

alumni association in the state of Oklahoma. These revisions also create a more transparent and accessible framework that help us all understand why we do things the way we do.

According to these documents, amendments and adoption of changes in both documents can occur only once a year. It is exciting to have this opportunity within the coming weeks as we

convene at the end of May. I, along with the entire Governing Documents Committee, invite you to join the annual business meeting at 2 p.m. on May 30, in the W.P. Wood Alumni Building, to make your voice heard. Your participation ensures that the association honors where we've been while protecting where we are going.

TECUMSEH HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

Tecumseh, OK 74873

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this nonprofit organization shall be "Tecumseh High School Alumni Association Inc." and may also operate and be informally referred to as the "Tecumseh Alumni Association of Oklahoma" for marketing and other purposes. Herein it shall also be the "Tecumseh Alumni Association" or "the Association" used interchangeably throughout.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

The mission and purpose of the Association shall be: to keep alive and perpetuate the school spirit of Tecumseh, OK Public Schools, to renew and enjoy school associations, to support student preparation for post-secondary education and various career pathways, and to otherwise aid and promote the best interest of the Tecumseh Public School District and the general membership of the herein Tecumseh Alumni Association in a manner consistent with applicable laws and best practice governing nonprofit organizations.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

Membership within the Tecumseh Alumni Association shall be granted to all members of a graduating class of the Tecumseh, Oklahoma Public School District, all members who have graduated from Tecumseh High School, and all persons elected as Honorary Members, hereinafter provided. The Superintendent of the Tecumseh Public School District will also be granted ex officio membership, but shall not have a vote in the proceedings or administration of the Association. Except where prohibited, members are entitled to vote and voice in the proceedings and general meetings, therein defined by the Association's Bylaws, of the Tecumseh Alumni Association.

Honorary Members: Recognizing the investment in and support of the purpose of the Association, honorary membership may be extended to individuals of good standing aligned with the Tecumseh High School Alumni Association. All candidates for honorary membership shall first be recommended for membership by the Board of Directors and confirmed by a majority vote of the members present at the Annual Business Meeting of the Association. Confirmed Honorary Members are entitled to equal rights and the ability to vote afforded membership herein. For those previously students at Tecumseh, or being welcomed into the Association by a specific class of graduates, there will be a ten-(10) year waiting period following the potential year of graduation. Candidates must possess a written recommendation with the physical signatures of ten (10) members of the Tecumseh Alumni Association. Any instructor, support personnel, or administrator who serves the Tecumseh Public School District twelve (12) years, consecutively or in total, may also be extended membership of the Association. These individuals must have a recommendation signed by the Superintendent of Tecumseh Public Schools and the President of the Association.

ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS

The Officers of the Association shall consist of: a President, a First Vice President, a Second Vice President, a Third Vice President, one (1) Recording Secretary, one (1) Corresponding Secretary, a Treasurer, and shall be governed by a Board of Directors.

Membership Restriction: The above named officers shall be chosen from the general membership of the Association.

Geographic Restriction: The above named officers shall be chosen from the general membership of the Association, provided no member shall be eligible for any position unless they maintain a primary residence or work address within a one-hundred (100) mile driving radius of the W.P. Wood / THS Alumni Center or a valid Tecumseh, OK ZIP Code, whichever is farthest. A primary residence shall be defined as the location where an individual, or candidate, is physically present for the majority (183 days or more) of the calendar year and may be verified via government-issued identification or mail from a financial institution. A work address shall be defined as the physical location of the organizational headquarters where an individual, or candidate, maintains regular full-time employment. Alternative formal documentation may be submitted and must be approved by the Board of Directors prior to the current election in special circumstances.

Election and Tenure: The above named officers of the Association, shall be elected at the Annual Business Meeting of the Tecumseh Alumni Association. Elections are to be conducted by nomination and, if needed, an immediate vote where a majority, defined therein the Bylaws, of those members present and voting shall be sufficient to elect. All Officers are to be elected at the Association's Annual Business Meeting, outlined herein. The above named Officers of the Association, shall hold office for one (1) year following the date of an election. The three (3) Vice Presidents shall advance as a body in that the First Vice President shall advance to the office of President, the Second Vice President shall elevate to the First Vice President, and soon. The office of the Third Vice President shall be vacated upon the body's advancement and filled via nomination from a member of the Association. Declining advancement within the presidential succession shall be avoided whenever practicable. In the case an individual wishes to forgo advancement, they must submit a letter of intention to the Association's Board of Directors sixty (60) days prior to the date of the body's advancement so alternative solutions can be identified and pursued.

Board of Directors: A Board of Directors shall govern the affairs and Officers of the Association. The Board shall be composed of the Association's advanced or elected President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Third Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and the Treasurer at the adjournment of the Association's Annual Business Meeting. The immediate past president should also serve on the Board of Directors for its full one (1) year term.

ARTICLE V - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

The duties of office and prerogatives of the Officers of the Association, except as otherwise provided herein, shall be the same as those provided for such officers by the latest edition Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised. The Association shall be governed by this edition except where inconsistent with this Constitution or Bylaws, and shall ensure a copy of this edition is

retained alongside these governing documents and made available to all members of the Association. In the context of the Association, the First Vice President shall operate as Vice President and the Recording Secretary shall fulfill the role of Secretary or Clerk as defined in Robert's Rules. Quorum requirements shall be defined in the Association's Bylaws.

President: The duties of the Association's President shall be to serve as the chief executive officer of the organization and preside at all meetings of the membership and the Board of Directors. The President shall enforce the Constitution, Bylaws, and all rules of order adopted by the organization. The President shall decide all questions of order, subject to appeal by the assembly, and shall have general supervision over all affairs of the Association. The President shall also serve as Chair of the Board of Directors and will ensure that the Board fulfills its responsibilities outlined herein and other adopted strategies and responsibilities. In addition, the President shall act as the Parliamentarian for all meetings, unless another qualified individual is appointed, and should interpret and apply Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised in all proceedings to the best of their ability and subject to ongoing consent of the body. The President shall oversee all fundraising and community engagement activities of the Association. Ensuring compliance with nonprofit standards, ethical operation, alignment with best practices, and attempting to secure resources necessary for the Association's sustainability will be the responsibilities of the President, or their designee. The President shall also be charged with the management of the Association's scholarship program. This should include, but is not limited to recruitment of applicants, oversight of the selection process, ensuring distribution of awards, as well as the appropriate reporting and acknowledgment outlined therein the Association's Bylaws. The President shall appoint all committees not otherwise provided for, serve as an ex-officio member for all committees, and shall have the authority to delegate responsibility as deemed necessary for any duration within their term of office. The President shall represent the organization in all official capacities and shall have the authority to act on behalf of the organization between meetings, with oversight from the Board of Directors.

First Vice President: The duties of the Association's First Vice President shall be to assist the President in the discharge of their duties and to preside in the absence of the President. With consent, the First Vice President may perform duties to assist the President. In the event of a vacancy in the office of President, the First Vice President shall assume the duties of the President. The First Vice President shall serve on the Association's Board of Directors.

Second Vice President: The duties of the Association's Second Vice President shall be to assist the First Vice President in the discharge of their duties. With consent, the Second Vice President may perform duties to assist the First Vice President. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the First Vice President, the Second Vice President shall assume the duties of the First Vice President. The Second Vice President shall serve on the Association's Board of Directors.

Third Vice President: The duties of the Association's Third Vice President shall be to assist the Second Vice President in the discharge of their duties. With consent, the Third Vice President may perform duties to assist the Second Vice President. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the Second Vice President, the Third Vice President shall assume the duties of the Second Vice President. The Third Vice President shall serve on the Association's Board of Directors.

Treasurer: The duties of the Association's Treasurer shall be to serve as custodian of all funds of the Association. The Treasurer shall keep full and accurate accounts of receipts, disbursements, deposits, and accounts in the name of the Association. The Treasurer should collect, account, and deposit all monies in the name of the Association and should represent the fiduciary interests of the Association with external parties and partners. The Treasurer shall render a financial report at each Planning Meeting and shall prepare an annual report for transparency. They should assist the President in donor stewardship and ensuring submission of the Association's necessary tax documentation. The Treasurer shall serve on the Association's Board of Directors.

Recording Secretary: The duties of the Association's Recording Secretary shall be to keep an accurate record of all meetings of the Association and the Board of Directors. The Recording Secretary shall maintain a file of governing documents and a permanent record pertaining to the affairs of the Association that should be reasonably accessible to any member of the Association. The Recording Secretary shall take minutes at all meetings of the Association and submit them for a vote when necessary. The Recording Secretary is charged with its custody and may assist the Corresponding Secretary in maintaining a permanent record of the history of the Tecumseh Alumni Association. The Recording Secretary shall serve on the Association's Board of Directors.

Corresponding Secretary: The duties of the Association's Corresponding Secretary shall be to support the Recording Secretary, to manage the written communications on behalf of the organization, to attempt maintaining awareness and a roster of members, and to primarily maintain a permanent record of the history of the Tecumseh Alumni Association. The Corresponding Secretary shall conduct external correspondence on behalf of the body and render a correspondence report at each Planning Meeting as well as, if necessary, issue notice of meetings and ensure their posting. In the absence of the Recording Secretary, the Corresponding Secretary is charged with capturing minutes at all meetings of the Association. The Corresponding Secretary shall serve on the Association's Board of Directors.

Board of Directors: In accordance with the acknowledgement provided therein Robert's Rules of Order, the duties of the Board of Directors shall be outlined in the Tecumseh Alumni Association's Bylaws.

ARTICLE VI - QUALIFICATIONS OF OFFICERS

Any member of the Association who satisfies requirements set forth in this document shall be qualified for consideration and election as an Officer of the Tecumseh Alumni Association. Following their election, Officers should attend a minimum of half of all meetings and a majority

Please Turn To A6

CONSTITUTION continued

Continued From A3

of fundraising and other planned activities, described elsewhere. Officers shall also maintain their residency and/or employment qualifying them for their position throughout their term of office. Any Officer in violation of the Geographic Restriction, shall be considered to have vacated their office. The Board of Directors may grant a single exception to Officers, not to exceed ninety (90) days, in cases of documented hardship or short-term relocation that does not impair performance of duties. Failure to maintain this requirement, or obtain an exception, shall require the Board of Directors to declare the office vacant. Should any of these failures occur, the next eligible successor should be advanced to the existing vacancy to serve in an interim capacity until the vacancy can be filled. In the case no successor exists, the President may inform the Board of their appointment, not to exceed ninety (90) days or until an election at a regular Monthly Planning Meeting can take place, whichever is sooner.

Resignation: If an Officer chooses to resign their position during the course of their tenure, they must do so by submitting a letter of notification to the Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, and the President via electronic mail or in writing to the valid postal address maintained by the

Association. The Board of Directors should be informed within five (5) business days of the Association's receipt of the digital communication or physical mail from the affixed postmarked date, along with the presumptive Interim Officer, if no succession plan exists.

Vacancies: In the cases of removal or resignation, the Board of Directors shall nominate a qualified candidate to settle the balance of the unexpired term where a majority, defined, at the next regularly scheduled Monthly Planning Meeting shall be sufficient to elect.

ARTICLE VII- AMENDMENTS

The terms and articles of this Constitution may be amended at the Annual Business Meeting of the Association. Amendments must be submitted to the Board of Directors in writing, not less than ten (10) days prior to the Annual Business Meeting. The Board of Directors must procedurally review and ensure the consistency of the proposal before placing it before the body for consideration. Amendments must be approved by a vote of two-thirds of the eligible membership present and voting at the Annual Business Meeting.

TECUMSEH HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

BYLAWS

Tecumseh, OK 74873

Tecumseh High School Alumni Association Inc. is proudly the oldest active alumni association in the State of Oklahoma. Since 1903, alumni have gathered to keep alive and perpetuate the school spirit of Tecumseh, OK Public Schools. These Bylaws honor that tradition while clarifying how we meet, decide, and safeguard our programmatic resources and collective identity.

ARTICLE I - Identity

These bylaws affirm the name, purpose, and membership of the Association outlined therein the Tecumseh High School Alumni Association Constitution. The Constitution is the superior document for organizational operations. These Bylaws are intended to provide operational details subordinate to the Constitution and may therefore be amended on a more frequent basis. If contradictions exist, or should ever be made to exist, the Constitution should take precedence. Its enactment and preservation should always be prioritized over these Bylaws.

Membership: All members of the Association are believed to be in good standing with the organization unless otherwise disciplined herein. All members, excluding ex-officio membership, should be entitled to equal voice in organizational meetings and business. Voting eligibility and member rights of the Association are governed exclusively by its Constitution.

Definitions: For purposes of these governing documents, "Majority" shall mean fifty percent (50%) plus one (1) of those present and voting, "Two-thirds" shall mean sixty-six percent (66%) plus one (1) of those present and voting, and "Eligible members" shall mean members in good standing and not recused due to conflict of interest.

ARTICLE II - Officers

The powers of this Association are limited to the Board of Directors as outlined therein the Association's Constitution. Except where reserved for Association's membership by the Constitution, the Board of Directors may act on behalf of the Association between meetings. In executing their duties, the Officers of the Association may establish committees or appoint managers, herein outlined. Each of these roles must be approved by the Board of Directors and shall serve for the term of the appointing officer.

Committees: Any committee established under the authority of the Board of Directors should be comprising an odd number of Alumni Association members in good standing. Without a direct and apparent conflict of interest, the President is entitled to sit on all committees of the Association though they may not chair committees unless outlined elsewhere. Committees have no independent authority unless delegated by the Board of Directors. Ad-hoc committees may be established by the Board of Directors at any time. Standing Committees must be approved by the Association at its Annual Business Meeting for the subsequent term. Committee Charter(s) and SOP(s) must be written, submitted, and regularly reported on at the Association's Board of Directors Meetings.

Managers: Managers shall function in the role of a Deputy for executing specific and specialized duties of Association Officers. Once approved by the Board of Directors, Managers function at the pleasure of their appointing officer and do not possess fiduciary authority unless expressly granted. While members of the Association should receive special consideration, membership and other Officer qualifications outlined therein the Association's Constitution shall not be applicable.

Appointment and Authority: Committee chairperson(s), membership, and managers may be appointed at Monthly Planning Meetings of the Association. Committee shall be limited in their authority to provide recommendations to the officer they support and/or the full Board of Directors. With consent of the Board of Directors, Managers may be granted authority to act on behalf of the Association related to their duties unless otherwise delegated.

ARTICLE III - Meetings

Annual Business Meeting: The Association shall have one (1) formal business meeting per year. All business of the Association may be conducted at this meeting and all members are invited to attend. Presence of nine (9) members, including the Association's President and at least three (3) members of the Board of Directors, is necessary to conduct business and shall constitute a quorum for these meetings. The extension of honorary membership and the adoption of Constitutional amendments may only occur in this setting. A majority, as defined herein, vote of those members present shall pass any measure, not otherwise noted therein the Association's Constitution. The acts of the body during this time shall be summarized in minutes, made available to members, and presented at the next regularly called Monthly Planning Meeting by the Recording Secretary.

Time and Place: The Association's Annual Business Meeting shall begin in the afternoon on the last Saturday of May each year. This meeting shall be held at a time determined annually by the Board of Directors. This meeting has customarily been held at the W.P. Wood – Tecumseh High School (THS) Alumni Center at the Tecumseh High School in Tecumseh, Oklahoma at 2:00 P.M. CST. Notice of deviating from this traditional meeting time and place must be given by the Corresponding Secretary no less than forty-eight (48) hours prior to being called to order.

Monthly Planning Meetings: The Association shall have Monthly Planning Meetings over the course of the year to address matters related to the Association's operations and ongoing administration. The adoption of amendments to the Association's Bylaws may only occur in this setting. All members are invited to attend. Presence of five (5) members, including at least two (2) members of the Board of Directors, is necessary to conduct business and shall constitute a quorum for these meetings. Any decision reached during these meetings, with consent from the Board of Directors, shall be considered conclusive.

Board of Directors Meetings: The President of the Association shall regularly convene a meeting of the Board of Directors for any purpose involving the interest and operations of this Association. A majority, defined herein, of the Board of Directors' membership is necessary to conduct business and shall constitute a quorum for these meetings. Members may attend

meetings of the Board of Directors; however, the Board may enter Executive Session to discuss legal, financial, or other sensitive matters as permitted by law. Any decision reached during these meetings, with majority consent of those voting on a topic, shall be conclusive.

Time and Place: The President of this Association may convene such Monthly Planning Meetings and Board of Directors Meetings at any time and place as they designate to ensure the best interest of the Association and its membership. These meetings are customarily held mirroring the Tecumseh Public School District's academic calendar in the Alumni Association Room, located at the W.P. Wood – Tecumseh High School (THS) Alumni Center at the Tecumseh High School in Tecumseh, Oklahoma. At their discretion, the President may elect to hold meetings in-person at, or with a hybrid format from, any other location in Oklahoma's Pottawatomie County. Notice of the meeting's time and place must be given by the Corresponding Secretary no less than twenty-four (24) hours prior to being called to order.

Virtual Meetings: Hybrid meetings of the Association may be allowed for Monthly Planning Meetings and Board of Directors Meetings at the discretion of the Association's President. Meetings of the Board of Directors are the only meeting type that are permitted to be held in a fully virtual format. When needed, digital participation should be limited to commonly available virtual meeting platforms selected by the President. Meeting links must be included in the official meeting notice distributed to members by the Corresponding Secretary. Members attending virtually shall be reflected in the minutes of a meeting.

Removal: At any meeting, decorum and mutual respect should be observed. Attendees whose behavior becomes harassment or causes significant disturbance outside of reasonably professional conduct may be asked to leave by the President or the Association's Sergeant at Arms, if one should be nominated and accepted by the Board of Directors. Members of the Alumni removed from any meeting may be subject to temporary suspension from the Association's convenings pursuant to the Association's disciplinary procedures herein.

ARTICLE IV - Alumni Banquet

The Association shall host an Alumni Banquet annually. The Alumni Banquet shall be coordinated with the Annual Business Meeting on the last Saturday in May. The President shall plan and oversee the event and may choose to appoint a Banquet Manager to be approved by the Board of Directors.

Ticketing: The Alumni Banquet requires a ticket. All members of the Association, including the graduating class of the current academic year, are entitled to purchase a ticket. Members may purchase up to three (3) additional tickets for their spouse, caretaker, parent, guardian, children aged sixteen (16) or older, or other guests. Current employees of the Tecumseh Public School District may also purchase up to two (2) tickets. The ticket price and purchase process shall be reviewed and proposed by the President and approved by the Board of Directors annually. All members of Tecumseh High School's graduating class are entitled to one (1) complimentary ticket to the Alumni Banquet immediately following their graduation.

Programming: The Association's Alumni Banquet shall be planned and hosted by the President of the Association. The President shall develop and facilitate programming, presentations, and related activities at their discretion. Customarily this has included a State of the District address offered by the Superintendent of Tecumseh Public Schools and the singing of the Tecumseh School Song as well as Harvest Moon in honor of Kenneth McMahan. The President shall ensure that any alumnus who has attained fifty (50) years of membership in the Association is presented with a 50 Year Pin. The Alumni Banquet shall also formally welcome the graduating class of Tecumseh High School into the Association, including the presentation of scholarship recipients. The President shall ensure the delivery of the Association's necrology for the preceding year, maintained by the Corresponding Secretary. This memorial customarily includes an opening ring of a school bell, the reading of names and graduating years, and a closing ring of a school bell followed by a moment of silence. Additional programming may be included at the discretion of the President. This may include, but is not limited to, speakers, distinguished alumni, performers, and public officials. Students, or organizations from Tecumseh Public Schools may also be invited to attend and perform at the Alumni Banquet.

Removal: Any attendee whose behavior causes disruption, harassment, or a significant disturbance may be asked to vacate the premises by any member of the Board of Directors. If an attendee refuses to comply, law enforcement or appropriate authorities may be contacted for removal in accordance with applicable laws and policies. Individuals removed from the Alumni Banquet, or the member who purchased their ticket, may be subject to disciplinary actions including temporary suspension or expulsion from the Association pursuant to the Association's disciplinary procedures herein.

ARTICLE V - Senior Scholarships

The Association shall manage and administer an annual scholarship program. The President shall be charged to execute this program and may choose to appoint a Scholarship Manager to be approved by the Board of Directors. The program shall be open to all Tecumseh High School students scheduled to graduate in the current academic year, including midterm graduates. The Association should ensure an accessible process and ample timeline for students to apply. Applications must be received no later than the middle of April annually. Applicants must attend, unless an exemption is approved by the Board of Directors, and winners will be announced at the Association's Alumni Banquet annually. Applications will reflect award amounts established by the Board of Directors and the qualifying criteria for scholarships approved annually. These criteria may include, but are not limited to: written responses, school involvement, academic performance, civic engagement, passion for Tecumseh Public Schools, and

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Bylaws continued

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post-graduation plans and readiness. Any scholarship provided as part of this program is intended to assist with post-secondary education or training as outlined in an individual's application.

Scholarship recipients will be selected by a designated committee or by the Board of Directors, at the discretion of the Association's President or their designee. The Alumni Association will not discriminate against any student due to race, sex, gender, politics, religion, age, family, Association affinity, or socioeconomic status. Scholarship awards shall be paid directly to an accredited post-secondary institution or eligible educational or training provider on behalf of the recipient. Payment of scholarship awards may be made in any academic term following presentation and up to one year later. Required documentation and payment instructions must be submitted to the Alumni Association's Treasurer no later than ninety (90) days following the start of the applicable term for payment to be processed. Awards that are not claimed or cannot be disbursed in accordance with this Article shall revert to the scholarship fund for use in a subsequent year.

From time to time, the Association may evaluate alternative scholarship disbursement models intended to enhance access, equity, administrative efficiency, or student outcomes. Any such evaluation shall include consideration of fiscal controls, compliance requirements, accountability mechanisms, and administrative capacity. No alternative disbursement method may be implemented unless and until a formal policy is adopted by the Board of Directors establishing clear parameters, safeguards, and eligibility conditions for such payments subject to applicable law and IRS guidance.

ARTICLE VI - Communications and Marketing

The Board of Directors shall define the unified voice of the Tecumseh Alumni Association representing the organization and its members. The President shall have authority to execute this voice and communicate on behalf of the Association. The Recording Secretary and the Corresponding Secretary are charged with executing the Association's marketing (e.g.: annual publication, social media, email list, and promotional assets). Designees and delegation of each of these areas shall be allowed but must be made clear to, and approved by, the Board of Directors annually. A brand standard, brand guide, stylebook, SOP, and various Marketing and Communications policies may be adopted by and updated with the Board of Directors' approval.

Communications: Public statements, press releases, and all printed materials must be approved by the President of the Association before release. The President shall be charged to manage direct communications, media and member relationships, and must approve all marketing efforts of the Association. They may choose to appoint a Publicity Manager, contracting agent, or a committee to be approved by the Board of Directors during their term.

Annual Publication: The Tecumseh Alumni Association shall produce and share an annual publication each spring to share reunion and banquet information, scholarship news, necrology, and general updates of the Association. The Recording Secretary shall be charged to execute this project, direct its subsequent vendor relationships, and may appoint an Editing Manager to be approved by the Board of Directors to serve as the publication's Editor-in-Chief. Voluntary donations, known as News Dues, are strongly encouraged for the annual publication and its nationwide, opt-in distribution for interested members.

External Correspondence: Social media, email communications, and written expressions shall be considered external correspondence. The Correspondence Secretary shall be charged with managing this form of marketing. They should secure the President's approval and/or signature before dissemination and assist the Recording Secretary therein outlined in the Constitution of the Association.

ARTICLE VII - Internal Controls

The Board of Directors shall maintain a framework of internal controls that safeguards the assets, ensures the integrity of financial reporting, supports legal and regulatory compliance, and promotes ethical conduct of the Tecumseh Alumni Association's operations and affairs. The Board shall hold ultimate fiduciary responsibility for the Association's affairs, financial agents, bank and investments accounts, as well as all signatories of the organization. The Board of Directors is charged to adopt and periodically review Internal Control Policies, financial procedures consistent with this Article. The Board may also delegate duties to officers or financial agents, but it does not forfeit its ultimate oversight and responsibility.

Additional internal controls may be adopted in Standing Rules for terms of office for the Association's Treasurer or President. The Treasurer is responsible for day-to-day stewardship of the Association's finances. In addition to the duties outlined therein Article V of the Association's Constitution, the Treasurer shall propose and implement Board-approved controls. The President shall provide executive oversight and support the Treasurer in ensuring adherence to their controls. They may also establish additional safeguards and controls that do not negate or contradict those of the Association's Treasurer.

The Association shall maintain a comprehensive Directors & Officers general liability insurance.

Segregation of Duties: Where practical, the Association shall separate responsibilities for receipt, deposit, disbursement, and reconciliation among its Officers and those volunteers who have signed a copy of these bylaws indicating their agreement and understanding. Where full segregation is not feasible, the Treasurer shall propose controls to the Board and the President, or their designee, shall periodically review sufficient to mitigate risk.

Authorization & Approval: All expenditures must follow a documented authorization process established by the Association's Treasurer, President, and approved by the Board of Directors unless expressly authorized and managed by the Treasurer directly. All expenditures must follow the approval thresholds established in Internal Control Policy and exclude self-approval by the payee or conflicted individual. The President and Treasurer shall have signatory authority for the Association at all times when these offices are filled.

Cash Handling & Bank Controls: All funds shall be promptly deposited into Board-authorized accounts. Electronic and digital payment methods are retreated as cash equivalents. Disbursement and electronic-banking controls, including dual authorization above Board-approved thresholds, shall be maintained as set forth in policy and reconciled regularly.

Reporting: The Treasurer must present a monthly financial report to the general members of the Association at its Planning Meeting. Annually, the

Treasurer should prepare a report detailing the bank balances, revenue/expense summaries, and variances to budgets and submit to the Board of Directors ten (days) prior to presenting the Annual Report during the Annual Meeting of the Tecumseh Alumni Association. Financial records may undergo a biennial independent review by volunteers that do not carry signatory authority organized as an ad-hoc committee. The Board of Directors reserves its right to an independent financial review by an external professional at regular intervals or when the body believes that conduct has violated Internal Control Policies.

Record Retention: Financial records are the property of the Association. Financial records, reports, and reviews are to be retained by the Treasurer for 7 years in accordance with applicable law. Access to these records must be reasonable for all members of the Association. Following this time, the records should be submitted to the Recording Secretary to be retained at their discretion.

Compliance & Ethics: In all cases, Association officers and members should disclose any actual or perceived conflicts annually and as they arise. Conflicted individuals should not participate in related discussions, votes, and are compelled to recuse themselves in that aspect of the Association's business. The Association expects honesty, stewardship, and compliance with internal controls from its financial officers, agents, Board of Directors, and volunteers. If applicable, professional Code of Ethics shall be adhered to. Material breaches shall be considered grounds for corrective action by the Board of Directors and may include removal from office and/or loss of Association membership herein outlined.

ARTICLE VIII - Hazing

The Alumni Association strictly prohibits the use of physical, psychological, or social initiation of members into the body or its represented classes. Hazing, in all forms, is forbidden for new and existing members of this Association. Any member of the Association found to be participating, actively or passively, in these practices is subject to disciplinary action, dishonorable suspension while an investigation is underway, and expulsion by the Board of Directors subject to the disciplinary procedures outlined herein.

ARTICLE IX - Discipline and Removal

The Association may discipline members or officers whose conduct is materially inconsistent with the mission, governing documents, decorum, or standards of conduct of the Association. All disciplinary proceedings shall be conducted with due regard for fairness, confidentiality, and respect. The President shall be responsible to ensure fair and equitable disciplinary action and proceedings are adjudicated, should the need arise.

Disciplinary Action: Disciplinary actions can include warning, temporary suspension, removal from office, or termination of membership, depending upon the severity and circumstances of the conduct and incident. No action shall be taken without written notice of the alleged conduct being distributed to the member being investigated and to the Association's Board of Directors. The President should ensure the accused party has a reasonable opportunity to respond and for the Board of Directors to review their response. Following this reasonable time, a majority vote of the Board of Directors, excluding any conflicted or recused members, shall be conclusive.

Emergency Action: Emergency suspension may be imposed by the President with agreement from one additional Officer when necessary to protect the Association. These actions must be presented and subjected to Board review at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

ARTICLE X - Dissolution

The Tecumseh Alumni Association is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law. No part of the net earnings of the Association shall rise to the direct benefit of, or be distributable to, its members, directors, officers, or other private persons, except that the Association shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth herein. No substantial part of the activities of the Association shall be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Association shall not participate in, or intervene in, any political campaign on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate for public office.

Upon the dissolution of the Association, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all liabilities of the Association, distribute all remaining assets exclusively for purposes consistent with the mission of the Association and applicable law. All assets held or designated for scholarship and educational purposes shall be distributed in a manner that preserves their charitable intent and dedication to supporting students associated with Tecumseh High School and the Tecumseh Public School District of Oklahoma.

Such distribution may include the transfer or endowment of funds to one or more nonprofit organizations, 7871 organizations (entities chartered under tribal law), or community/private foundations provided that such entities are organized and operated exclusively for charitable or educational purposes and qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or applicable tribal law. The Board of Directors shall have discretion to select one or more such receiving organizations whose purposes and administrative capacity align with the Association's mission and the intent of the assets transferred.

Any assets not so disposed of shall be distributed by a court of competent jurisdiction in the state or Native Nation in which the principal office of the Association is then located, exclusively for such charitable or educational purposes or to such organization or organizations as the court shall determine to be qualified organizations organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

ARTICLE XI - Amendments

These bylaws may be amended at Monthly Planning Meetings of the Association. Amendments must be submitted to the Board of Directors in writing, not less than seven (7) days prior to the Monthly Planning Meeting. The Board of Directors must procedurally review and ensure the consistency of the proposal before placing it before the body for consideration. No amendment to these Bylaws may conflict with the Constitution. Amendments must be approved by a vote of two-thirds, defined herein, of the eligible membership present and voting at the Monthly Planning Meeting.

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The store that marked life's milestones

Continued From A2
 at an early age. But since his father was somewhat frugal, Phil had to work several other jobs during high school to earn money for his first car. Phil graduated from Tecumseh High School in 1966 (that was a good class!) He enjoyed playing football and even crowned this writer as football queen. Of course, he gleefully managed to aggravate her boyfriend by asking to borrow his comb to fix his "flat top" before the crowning!! Phil could be ornery. Phil worked as a highway designer for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation for 13 years. During that time, he met a pretty little blonde at Ruby Dee Drive-In. Though this "city girl" was hard to get, Phil managed to marry Jan in 1974. Jan was a bookkeeper and later worked at USPO. Her grandfather was the station agent for Rock Island in Shawnee. In 1981 Ralph retired, and Phil and Jan came back to Tecumseh to take over the jewelry business. Wanting to expand and modernize, Phil took over the entire building, and added much more to the inventory. If you've ever walked into Hartoon's Jewelry, I'm sure you were

amazed at the stunning diamond rings and glittering jewelry displayed. It was a beautiful world of gold, platinum, sterling silver and everything sparkling! Jan added beauty and her own ornate touches to the shop with the help and amazing design talent of JoAnn Young. Longtime employees like JoAnn and Elaine Abbott have contributed much to the success of the business. Danna Wood Higdon was trained by Phil and worked as a bench jeweler for years. Many high school and young college students also had the opportunity to work in this beautiful world. Many young couples found their special wedding rings and many people brought their treasures to Phil for repair or for recasting and modifying. Many of you could testify to Phil's custom creativity in jewelry. In 2004 Phil was adamant about getting a new laser machine to expand jewelry repair and manufacturing. He was one of the first in this area to do laser work. In the '80s the tranquil shop was interrupted by an armed robber. Phil managed to wrestle the gun away and became Jan's hero.



Hartoon's Jewelry, on Broadway Street, where it has been since 1956. The first family store, in the next block south, on the first floor of the Opera House, opened in 1907.

He also recovered his merchandise! Phil and Jan were also active in our community. Phil was Tecumseh's mayor for four years and encouraged others to help him lure Braum's here. It took many years to achieve, but we love our Tecumseh Braum's. They were both in the Jaycees, and Phil was Chamber of Commerce president twice. The Hartoons have been very generous people and have loved our

town. In 1999, Phil and Jan decided to move their jewelry store to Shawnee for more business opportunities. They enlarged again with beautiful showcases and more gifts and merchandise. They enjoyed new customers, friends, and employees. They experienced much success at the corner of Harrison and Federal. But in 2013, the building owner decided to sell the building they were renting and so

they had to make a business decision. Instead, they made a personal decision. Realizing retirement was imminent, they wanted to return to their hometown. They had always lived in Tecumseh anyway and had just commuted. So they came back to where it all began over 120 years ago. Tecumseh has enjoyed this delightful business since 1906 and the last 45 years with Phil and Jan at the helm. I selfishly would

like Hartoon's Jewelry to be around another 100 years, however, Phil and Jan have decided to retire. They had sales for several months but recently only open on occasion. Phil's health has hindered his ability to fashion those intricate creations and repairs. Jan is ready to just be a housewife. This striking couple has been a blessing to our town, and I don't think I'm alone in wishing them, "Happy Retirement!"



JoAnn Young, Phil Hartoon, Jan Hartoon, Danna Wood Higdon



On Nov. 8, 1956, young Phil Hartoon opens the family's Jewelry new location, with scissors from Chamber of Commerce Vice President Ralph Spencer. Also pictured, from left: Mrs. Dora Carlton, Gladys and Ralph Hartoon, and the Rev. Walker Hembree.

A little change goes a long way

From the frantic energy of first-period jitters to the chaotic charm of a Friday afternoon, the four walls of a classroom have always held more than just textbooks and lesson plans. While we often remember our teachers for the assignments they gave or the subjects they taught, it's the moments when the "script" went out the window that truly stuck with us. Whether it was a perfectly timed quip that silenced a rowdy room or a self-deprecating laugh at an attempt to draw a picture on the board, those flashes of humor made "real people" out of the heroes at the front of the classroom and turned a standard education into a shared adventure. A while back I was cleaning out a forgotten back closet and found a box with some of my favorite classroom memorabilia in it. As I reminisced about the students or lessons that brought me to save the items in the box, I saw a small glass jar containing \$3.17 in change. I poured the coins into my hand and laughed out loud at the memory the coins brought back. I began my teaching career in Tecumseh High School. I taught senior English, speech and drama. I was accustomed to using wry wit and tongue-in-cheek humor to try to keep my students engaged. Most seniors would at least give a chuckle at my attempts at humor, but on occasion, I would get lucky and my tomfoolery would elicit a real laugh. After five years of this type of camaraderie, I had developed a repertoire of "humor that worked every time." (Well,

almost every time.) After taking a year off to have my son, I returned to Tecumseh Public Schools, but this time I was a seventh-grade English and reading teacher. I soon learned that my brand of humor was totally useless in junior high. I would fire off a witty quip, and the classroom response would be blank faces looking at me as if I had just spoken Russian with a very poor accent. I persevered. One day, in defeat, I looked out over the gallery of unamused faces and said, "That's OK. Don't laugh. Just throw money." Of course, they had no idea what I was alluding to, so this gave a wonderful opportunity to jettison the lesson on nouns and delve into my other passion - drama. We had a brief journey into Vaudeville that day. We studied the history of Vaudeville from its rather raucous beginnings to the banjo-playing Shakespeare reciter. They discovered that the only salary of many vaudeville acts was the money that was thrown onto the stage during their acts. This little diversion was a welcome digression from nouns and verbs. A few weeks after they had learned what I meant by "Don't laugh. Just throw money," I was doing my hall duty between classes. I noticed that my students were unusually quiet and most were seated even before the last bell, but I was busy and didn't step into my classroom to investigate the suspicious silence. When the last bell rang and I stepped into the room, on some signal that I missed, coins started to roll down

Whispers from Yesterday

By Karen Kinsey (1967)

all of the aisles of the classroom. They must have practiced for days because only a few coins stopped before they reached the front of the room. There I stood with pennies, nickels, and dimes scattered around my feet when one single quarter came wobbling down the center aisle all by itself. The class waited for my reaction. I have rarely been so amused or proud in my entire life. The laughter was uproarious. One student said that they had never seen me speechless before, and before I could respond, another student yelled out, "Yeah! Let's do this every day!" That caused another burst of laughter. After the levity died down, I started picking up all of the coins. (I think they thought I would give them back.) I looked at them and said, "Thank you. That's more than I usually make in a day." That was good for yet another laugh. I kept that jar of coins on my desk at home for years. Every time I had a particularly tough day, I would look at that jar, and it always made me smile! If you were in that class and are reading this now, know that your participation in that prank is one of my favorite memories and your \$3.17 is safe!

Three Sisters, Three Valedictorians: The Moring legacy of hard work and high achievement

Herb and Linda Moring raised three daughters, each of whom graduated as valedictorian of her Tecumseh High School class — remarkable, right? Exceptional.

Their excellence has continued, as Stephanie, Sara and Susan have created interesting, successful, diverse careers. When they reflected together recently, they circled back to the same foundation: a childhood shaped by teachers, music, church, and a small town that gave them room to grow.

Herb Moring was a beloved music educator in Tecumseh Public Schools in the 1970s before moving to Seminole and then to North Rock Creek. He also served 34 years as minister of music at First Baptist Church of Tecumseh. Their mother, Linda Moring, taught high school English in Shawnee and later was an elementary counselor at North Rock Creek, where her compassion and encouragement shaped generations of young students.

Faith wasn't just a value in the Moring household — it was the family language.

"We grew up in a church that raised us," Sara said. "It's hard to separate my childhood from that place." Stephanie added that church music gave her the practical piano skills she still uses every day:

"Classical piano is not the same as accompanying or improvising. I didn't know it at the time, but those experiences were going to be incredibly useful."

The sisters describe their childhood as a blend of Tecumseh and North Rock Creek — school, church and community life woven together. Their neighborhood sat just across Highway 9 from the middle school, a short bike ride from nearly everything that mattered.

Asked what Tecumseh High School meant to them, Sara didn't hesitate. "I'm glad I went to a school that allowed me to do a lot of things," she said. "I was in choir and band and show choir and played tennis. My teachers and coaches were very supportive in helping us learn how to balance and prioritize."

She remembers a tennis coach who let her miss practice for a choir performance, and a choir teacher who let her miss rehearsal for a match. "They just had an understanding," she said. "And that has served me well for a very long time, because I'm a multitasker."

Stephanie agreed. "The size of the school definitely helped," she said. "But it was also parental support. We had parents who were very willing to help us learn how to juggle things, honor commitments, and



Sara Ledford (left), Susan Moring and Stephanie Keegan-Moring on Susan's wedding day in October 2021

prioritize. Those are things I took into my 20-year teaching career."

All three sisters light up when they talk about the teachers who shaped them — especially two Tecumseh legends: Lorraine Beaudette and Virginia Weir.

"Her class was something special," Stephanie said of Mrs. Beaudette. "I remember being pushed and challenged and loving that." She credits Mrs. Beaudette's AP English class with teaching her to love poetry — a love that has stayed with her into adulthood.

Sara vividly remembers a particular assignment. "We were preparing for a final where we had to write an essay defending what literary period a piece belonged to. We were all terrified. And then she had us watch 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas.'" Sara laughed. "There wasn't really a right answer — we just had to defend our thinking. Also, she thought I was funny, and I think she was the first person who ever thought that about me."

Miss Weir left an equally deep

Continued on A6

Stanley Beesley's legacy spans football field, classroom, war

Dr. Bradley Walck, '71

Stanley Warren Beesley, 1967 Tecumseh High School graduate, died peacefully at his home in Norman of complications from kidney failure on June 29, 2025.

His absence is felt by his family and his many friends.

My life falls into two distinct periods: before I met Stanley, and after he became my neighbor, role model, mentor, and eventually one of my closest friends.

Our friendship is one of my longest and most treasured relationships. He became more like another big brother than just a friend. His death leaves a great void for me and to so many others.

Stanley was one of a kind. As a proud THS alumnus, he represented the best about our school and community. He was a leader, athlete, scholar, writer, husband, father, friend, coach, educator, poppy, soldier. A person had to know him well to understand how complex a personality and strong will he possessed.

His mother, Margaret, instilled in him the love of reading when he was a child. She was a polio survivor, and Stanley inherited her inner strength and courage. His father was an accomplished professional cowboy. Carl Beesley earned the title of America's All-Around Cowboy in 1930. He toured the country competing on the rodeo circuit in the 1920's, '30s, and '40s, as well as being a stuntman and double in Western movies. From Carl, Stanley inherited his love of competition and sports.

In 1965, Stanley and his father moved into a garage apartment about a block from my house in south Tecumseh. During the next two years, 1965-1967, which were Stanley's junior and senior years, he spent countless hours at our house playing baseball, football, and basketball. He became a part of my extended family.

We walked to school together. We also walked home after sporting events, especially basketball games. It was a time I treasured and learned the importance of sports and athletic competition.

Stanley was the only four-sport letterman in his class. His best sport was football, but he excelled in all of them. He was the quarterback his junior and senior seasons. Following his senior year, he accepted a scholarship to play football at Northeastern A&M College. His freshman year, NEO won the National Junior College Athletic Association football championship. His contributions to the team earned him a place in the school's Athletic Hall of Fame.

Late 1968 became a turning point for the 19-year-old. During his initial three semesters, he received a college draft deferment which was common at the time. However, for the spring semester of 1969, he had chosen to transfer to a four-year university. When he failed to enroll at NEO, he lost his deferment. The local draft board called him up, and he entered Army.

In the autumn of 1970, Stanley completed boot camp and additional training before joining other draftees who were deployed to South Vietnam. He received the Bronze Star for his valor in battle. During my senior year, while I enjoyed a safe, middle-class life in Tecumseh, Stanley was in the jungles of Vietnam.

I watched the national news every night, primarily since Stanley was in combat. I was naive enough to think I might see him in one of the battle

Continued on B6



Stanley W. Beesley '67



Outgoing president notes new fundraisers, update of constitution and bylaws

Greetings, Hello & Howdy!

Just wanted to say Hey to all of our Alumni friends & family! Here we are again at that time of year when we can all get together, rub elbows, hug a neck and just get re-acquainted with our schoolmates that we possibly haven't seen since we graduated. It's Tecumseh Alumni!! Reunion Time!! This year marks the 124th year of Our alumni association. On behalf of the THS Alumni Association Board of Directors and as the alumni president this year, want to say welcome home once again. I am also asking that you spread the word however you can about the alumni banquet this May 30 at 6:00 p.m. with the street gathering at 5:00 p.m., all to be held at the W.P Wood Alumni Building on THS Campus. In-person ticket sales will be May 26—29, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Ralph's Pharmacy and at the alumni building May 30. You can buy tickets anytime using PayPal and Venmo.

I also want to extend a BIG Thank You to all my fellow alumni who have been such a great help this year!! We've had another great year of activities this past year. It wouldn't have been possible without all your hard work!

We ventured out on some new fundraising activities this year as well as our Fall Fish Fry and our Spring BBQ Luncheon. At our Football Homecoming Game, we partnered with the THS Art class and had a facepainting tent set up. The focus wasn't as much on the facepainting but just having a presence for the alumni association. We did make a few dollars and sold a few bracelets as well. With all the hard work from the art class we shared the proceeds with them. We appreciated their efforts and hope to do it again! Another small fundraising event we did was sell walking tacos at the Senior Night Basketball game. We didn't get rich, but again the alumni association had a presence there. Big thanks to Kacy Parker Kinsey, our 2024-2025 past president, for heading up the taco sales. Thanks to her help from Mary Carter, Mary Pugh and BJ Trousdale, the walking tacos seemed to be a big hit! Also, lots of fun was had at the Frontier Days and Christmas parades, where the Alumni Association had a float.

One of the things that has been talked about for YEARS and is finally becoming reality is simplifying and getting our constitution and bylaws up to date. Big, BIG thanks to the committee and Bobby "Trae" Trousdale, our incoming 2026-27 president, for heading up all the hard work that was put in getting these documents up to date.

Lots of hard work and effort have been made, and I might add is an ongoing process, on cleaning up the newspaper mailing list. This doesn't happen overnight or in a few days, it may and probably will take a few years, so please be patient. Like I said, it's an ongoing process! The goal is to be good stewards of the association's money and continue to send those papers out that need to be and eliminate duplicates and the ones that don't need to be! Postage is getting...well never mind!

In closing I would also like to also mention that we've had a great response to our scholarship applications this year. At the writing of this letter, we have received 17 applications from our 2026 graduating seniors. With all the generous donations and hard work on fundraising, our hope is that all will be awarded

This year we will be honoring the Class of 1976 with their 50-year pins. You will be honored with your own table just for your class! Make sure and get the word out to all your classmates to attend the banquet to receive your well-deserved honor!

Again, it's been an honor serving as your association president this year! And as always, pass the word, call, text, send smoke signals, write a letter, rope 'em and drag 'em if you have to, do what you can to keep this great Tecumseh Alumni Association living strong for years to come!

God Bless You, THS Alumni and God Bless America!

Sincerely,
Craig Rodgers
Class of 1979
President, 2025-2026





CPN Color Guard opens the evening with a moment of quiet dignity.

Leading with Kinsey, a year in review



By ROBERT KINSEY

Hope, resilience, and growing closer

Dear Tecumseh Alumni Family,
This past year has undoubtedly been one of the most challenging in Tecumseh’s recent history. We have weathered an almost unfathomable series of storms, faced unthinkable loss and seen our community’s resilience tested to its absolute core. There are moments when the weight of it all has felt unbearable, moments when the “why” of our mission was obscured by a fog of grief.

Even through those times that have been filled with despair, I write this message to you with a profound and unshakeable hope for our future.

It is natural to question everything in the face of grief, especially the devastating loss of both a vibrant student and a cherished teacher within our school family. In moments of quiet reflection, in the empty hallways and through silent tears, I have found myself, like many of you, grappling with our ultimate purpose. Why do we do what we do, knowing the fragility of the lives entrusted to us?

But in that very questioning, a powerful transformation has occurred.

We are reminded that our purpose is not just about academic achievement. It is not just about extracurricular success. Our purpose is about fostering a community where every individual is seen, valued and loved. We are reminded that the relationships forged within these walls are not transactional, but truly like a family. When the unthinkable happened, we did not just see a school grieving. We witnessed a family rallying together.

We saw students comforting one another in the hallways, their empathy a testament to the values instilled not just by their families but by this entire community. We saw teachers leaning on each other for strength, their shared burden lighter for being carried together. We saw you, our alumni, reaching out with offers of support, a tangible reminder of the enduring bonds that tie us all to Tecumseh High School.

This shared vulnerability has unexpectedly become our source of greatest strength. It has stripped away superficial differences and brought us closer than perhaps any academic achievement or athletic triumph could. The tears we shed have watered the seeds of compassion. The shared grief has fostered a deeper understanding, and the mutual support has created an unbreakable web of belonging. We have continued to become more than just a school, but, rather, we are a family forged in adversity, and we are stronger for it.

The pain will not disappear, nor should it. But it is transforming. It is transforming into a renewed commitment to our core values, into a fierce protectiveness of one another, and into a powerful resolve to honor the memories of those we have lost by building a brighter future.

As we look ahead, I see a landscape of positive growth. I see a student body that understands the true meaning of empathy and resilience. I see a faculty more dedicated than ever to nurturing the whole child. I see an alumni network actively engaged in supporting the next generation of Tecumseh’s students. And I see a community that, though tested, has emerged with an unshakeable belief in itself and in the power of connection.

The path forward may not always be easy, but we will walk it together. We will continue to build on the foundation of love and community that has always defined Tecumseh Public Schools, and we will do so with a renewed sense of purpose and a deeper appreciation for the precious gift of our shared life. Thank you, alumni family, for your unwavering support, your enduring spirit and for being the living proof that even in the darkest of times, hope truly springs eternal.

With heartfelt gratitude and optimism,
Robert H. Kinsey
Superintendent
Tecumseh Public Schools

PAST PRESIDENTS Of THE THS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

#	YEAR	NAME	CLASS OF
1	1903	Records Lost Until	
11	1913	John Arrington	1907
		Records Lost Until	
23	1925	Katherine Dutton Deister	1917
		Records Lost Until	
31	1934	Charles “Ham” Robertson	1925
32	1935	Jasper “Jap” Boyd	1927
33	1936	Aubrey “Buzz” Barton	1932
34	1937	Newton Bell	1925
35	1938	Corrine Hardin Stevenson	1909
36	1939	Eudora Estelle Dickson	1922
37	1940	Berry Hughes Dickson	1924
38	1941	Bertha Williams	1924
39	1942	Dolly Smiley	1916
40	1943	Clyde Guilliams	1921
41	1944	Marion Willingham Napper	1935
42	1945	Perry Waldrip	1920
43	1946	Thelma Cooper	1933
44	1947	Bernard Southgate	1936
45	1948	Reaumone Conaway	1932
46	1949	William R. “Bill” Stewart	1938
47	1950	V.C. “Jack” Fox	1937
48	1951	Earl English	1935
49	1952	Virgil Cooper	1925
50	1953	Helen C. Taylor	1907
51	1954	John C. Dinger III	1947
52	1955	Calvin G. Ott	1942
53	1956	Joe Guilliams	1947
54	1957	Cleta Fox Humphrey	1946
55	1958	Raymond Talley	1941
56	1959	Billy DeWayne Roberts	1950
57	1960	Robert Epple, Jr.	1949
58	1961	David Land	1951
59	1962	Kenneth Sandefur	1951
60	1963	Ronnie Sigman	1951
61	1964	Lewey Gilstrap	1915
62	1965	Robert Riddle	1953
63	1966	G.D. Madden	1957
64	1967	Jack Motley	1955
65	1968	Bill Brooks	1957
66	1969	Gail Trousdale Hackett	1954
67	1970	Don Ealey	1953
68	1971	Gayle Rutherford Newby Morlin	1957
69	1972	Bob Trousdale	1962
70	1973	Bobby Morris	1955
71	1974	Jerri Robertson Wolfinbarger	1963
72	1975	Peggy Harwell	1952
73	1976	Sharyl Tarbox Patton	1965
74	1977	Roy “Tor” Hays	1942
75	1978	Helen Simon Edminster	1956
76	1979	Kenneth McMahan	1944
77	1980	Phyllis Rider Coulson	1965
78	1981	Franklin Talley	1943
79	1982	Elaine Guinn Coker	1959
80	1983	Sharon Minchew Warden	1978
81	1984	Jim Sigman	1955
82	1985	Carroll McMahan	1958
83	1986	Darrell Coker	1958
84	1987	Bob Stewart	1962
85	1988	Dewey Reeves	1953
86	1989	Kenny Etchieson, Jr.	1962
87	1990	Hilton Melot	1958
88	1991	Willis Faye Parker Motley	1959
89	1992	Roy Rider	1962
90	1993	Bob Mayo	1967
91	1994	Syble McConnell Martin	1944
92	1995	J. Cooper	1984
93	1996	Melanie Deatherage	1976
94	1997	Linda Fidler Praytor	1962
95	1998	Jeff McMahan	1978
96	1999	Leslie Jenks Pope	1985
97	2000	Winifred Edgin Fidler	1940
98	2001	Brian Walck	1968
99	2002	Don Holland	1986
100	2003	Alva Melot	1937
101	2004	Randy Gilbert	1978
102	2005	Mary Rousey Branson	1994
103	2006	Bart Sigman	1988
104	2007	Jim Cooper	1959
105	2008	Scott Tucker	1983
106	2009	Judy Stapp Monroe	1967
107	2010	B.J. Trousdale	2000
108	2011	Jay Sigman	1980
109	2012	Frani McMahan Harris	1982
110	2013	Chris Bennett Qualls	1983
111	2014	Barbara Burlison Clemence	1963
112	2015	Linda Bayliss Farris	1965
113	2016	Carrol Finch VanMeter	1966
114	2017	Carolyn Phelps Parks	1967
115	2018	Susan Talley Cockrell	1968
116	2019	Shirley Pockrus Walck	1969
117	2020	Robin Talley	1979
118	2021	Robin Talley	1979
119	2022	Robin Talley	1979
120	2023	Craig Rodgers	1979
121	2024	Carol Deatherage Rice	1968
122	2025	Kacy Parker Kinsey	1990
123	2026	Craig Rodgers	1979

Tecumseh High School Sports 2025-2026

Press Box Views



DANNY CHAMBERS '77
SPORTS EDITOR

FALL SPORTS

FAST PITCH—Head Coach Chad Trahan—THS Class of '89

The Lady Savages had another successful season as they ran all the way to the State Tournament. Tecumseh was 4A-5 District Champions and then was Regional and Super Regional Champions. The Lady Savages lost a close game in the quarterfinals of the State Tournament and finished with a record of 29-10.



Natasha Dunagan, Countywide & Sun

The Tecumseh Lady Savages dogpile as soon as they realized they're going to the State Tournament.

VOLLEYBALL—Head Coach Megan Laughlin—THS Class of '08

The Tecumseh Volleyball squad had another successful season with strong leadership on the court. The team took first place in the tough Chickasha Tournament. History was made for Tecumseh Volleyball as senior Kennadee Mason reached 1,000 career kills, which Coach Laughlin said, "it was an incredible milestone that reflects her dedication and impact on the program." Sophomore Kopelyn Taylor also set a record with 813 assists in a season. The team finished in the Regionals, just a step from State.



Natasha Dunagan, Countywide & Sun

Tecumseh senior Kayley Wood keeps the ball in play.

FOOTBALL—Head Coach Randon Lowe

The Savages had a new head coach for the first time in several years and got off to a good start as they went 3-1 over the first four games. But the rest of the season the Savages struggled to keep opponents out of the endzone and went 0-6 the rest of the way and failed to make it to the playoffs.

CROSS COUNTRY—Head Coach Kortney Ozment

Tecumseh Cross Country has a habit of sending runners to the State Cross Country Meet and this year Traci Harvey qualified. The Cross Country team had a whopping 25 runners with only 2 boy seniors and 2 girl seniors, and it looks like there will be a bunch of runners returning with experience next fall.

WINTER SPORTS

GIRLS BASKETBALL—Head Coach Eldon Gentry II

The Lady Savage round ballers were young, inexperienced and had to deal with injuries and struggled through the season. With a tough schedule and only one returning starter, the young T-Town ladies got better along the way

Alumni News Dues

2026 News Dues, Mar. 25, 2025 - Mar. 27, 2026

Tecumseh Alumni Association
P.O. Box 304, Tecumseh, OK 74737-0304

- Wanda Thompson Waddle
- Mary Rader Fisher
- Leota Rose Trice
- Barbara Montgomery Meador
- Bettycarol Willingham Kostan
- Sonya Myers Linduff
- Marilyn Montgomery Linduff
- Peggy Harwell
- Barbara Woodruff McMullin
- Ella Mae Stroud Gallaway
- Barbara Trousdale Pope
- Donald Rominger
- Hilton Melot
- Bill Trousdale
- Sandra Parsons Wiley
- Wanda Ruth Montgomery Boren
- Barbara Rider Powers
- Delores Wilson Coker
- Dwight Wise
- Fontella Kidney Williams
- Martha Qualls Sneed
- Patsy Fultz Moltz
- Ray Wade
- Robert Wayne Bennett
- Arthenia Stanley Haney
- Doris Kay Hatley Hoggett
- Kenny Etchieson
- La Nell Simmons Montgomery
- Loudene Kepler Reeves
- Ruth Geyer Englund
- Sharon Smith Miller
- Judy Yates in memory of Jerry Paul
- and Willis Faye Motley
- Sandra Laus Davis in honor and memory of the class of 1962
- Vicki Pollard Chase
- Jerri Robertson Wolfinbarger
- Joyce Rowell
- Kathryn Wells Forrester
- Donna White Britton
- Irma Montgomery in memory of Montgomery family memories
- Carolyn Hogue Skelly
- Linda Lake
- Marilyn Reeves Rountree
- Rita F. Botkin Buford
- Carolyn Lincoln Kieffer
- Doris Montgomery Brockett
- Gary O'Neal
- Jack Kieffer
- Linda Bayliss Farris
- Linda Willoughby Smith
- Margaret Coy Harris
- Rex Beal Jr. in honor of the class of 1965
- Herman Vietenheimer
- Carolyn Cable Lowder
- Carrol Finch VanMeter
- David Bourland
- Eddy Parker
- Larry Watson
- Mary Rae Myers
- Rex Motley
- Roger Banning
- Thearlene Stanley Spencer
- Bobby Cearley
- Janet Welch Hickox
- Karen Gear Kinsey
- Linda Morelan Cannon
- Billy Wayne Copeland
- Carol Deatherage Rice
- Donna Shackelford Harr
- Martha Beesley Vaughan in memory of Paul, Carly, and Stan Beesley
- Bill Grogan
- Debra Montgomery Spruill
- Gayle Trice Brewer
- Judy Hurst Smith
- Gena Smith O'Neal
- Johnny Seaton
- Lee Ivy
- Debbie Lester Lyon
- Debbie Jones Tucker
- Jerone Spicer
- Linda Lynn Hubbard
- Richard Timperley
- Vicki Raney
- Merleta Harlin Motley
- Sharon McKiddy Sparkman
- Brad Walck

- Donna Wilson Mayo
- Julia Robinson
- Tony Humphrey
- Jimmie Brewer
- Roy Smith
- Carla Phelps Sutton
- Sue Bowlan Lam in memory of
- Sunny Polson Isenhower
- Rhonda French Holbert
- Candy Foster Ryan
- Carla Clark Hale
- Cheryl Simmons Littleton
- Debbie Venable Tate in memory of
- Otis Townsend
- Deborah Hill Bailey
- Janie Hudgins Tisdale
- Lu Ann Tarbox White
- Patty Shackelford Banks
- Robert Chester
- Robert Montgomery
- Billy Mitchell
- Debbie Rider Humphrey
- Doyle Motley
- Judith Robinson Brambrick
- Linda Dearman Haley
- Peggy Bingham Schaffler
- Roselyn Gokey Kerschner
- Sandra Webb Stapp
- Sharon Barnett
- Amy Armstrong Scott
- Belinda Wood McCollough
- Debi Black
- Fred Foster
- Jerry Rodgers
- Marco Bennett
- Pam George Keith
- Reda Cox Pitts
- Sherry Williams Soliz
- Sylvia Ramey Arkano
- Bill Zuker
- James Collins
- Dolores May Storie
- Jeff Bourland
- Rebecca Dearman Gondos
- Andy Gower
- Becky Wood Steward
- Brad Townsend
- Iva Robinson Bingham
- Linda Trice Jones
- Mark Reaves
- Mickey Madden
- Roy Clark
- Sherry Couch Combs
- Nancy Seaton
- Leesa Reece Townsend
- Lucille Burns Tasetano
- Mary Abernathy Pugh
- Rita Coy Goodson
- Toni Hooser Whitehead
- Walter Rose
- Janette Elliot
- Brenda Wood
- Barbara Rutledge Hanus
- Cindy Asher
- Debbie Webb Collins
- Denise Hamilton Givens
- Gina Qualls Wylie
- Ginger Abernathy Hart
- Greg Hillerman
- Kim Martin Nootbaar
- Paula Jackson Beaver
- Rick O'Neal
- Sheryl Kingsbury Brown
- Susan A. Botkin Zunker
- Laurie Hulin
- Martha Townsend Pittman
- Daniel Washburn
- Debbie Cain Skillings
- Jimmy Greenlee
- Kelly Loveless
- Nancy Bridgewater Dunavan
- Ronda Shirey Stark
- Sheila Harlin Kring
- Vanessa Tefertiller Zimmermann
- Jerry McMahan
- Ronda Montgomery Fryar
- Alan Brady
- Brian Newby
- Craig Rodgers
- Kevin Reeves
- Lori Ross Mouse
- Mark Botkin
- Peggy Robinson Weber
- Toni Burch Dees in memory of Bill
- Burch
- David Brown
- David Qualls

- Melissa Geyer Watkins
- Brenda Pruitt Clark
- Curtis Huff in memory of Randy Huff and Virginia Stapp Huff
- Cynthia Kingsbury
- Dana Loveless Roberts
- Darla Lane Nordstrom in memory of
- Merle Gentry Buckmaster
- Debbie Barnes Martin
- Dorris M Reed
- Grant Gower
- Jay Sigman
- Marsha Townsend Seawright
- Mike Zuker
- Phyllis Trice Sharp
- Richard Belshe
- Sharon Jackson Bade
- Danna Davis Barron in memory of
- Carl and Carolyn White
- Terese Rider Oliver
- Kelley Bowen/Nail Curtis
- Laura Ayers
- Matthew Nix
- Fran Topping
- Jenna Kidney Sterling
- Jerry McLin
- Jodie Berndt Stockett
- Jonell Owen Beeton
- Matthew Nix
- Lisa Motley Osborn in memory of
- Jack Motley
- Mary Carter
- Pam Vickery Motley in memory of
- Neal Motley and Mayme Judy Cowden
- Patti Martin Lamle
- Paula Chamblin
- Sheila Stansell Perkins
- Sherrri Wittmann Sutterfield
- Susan Ely Storm
- Susan Newman Reid
- Tammy Stone Freeman
- Tony Hulin
- Wayne Haddox
- Karen Reeves Sparks
- Lawrence Stasyszen
- Tracy Johnson Gray
- Susie Colon Stewart
- Bobbie Botkin Plank
- Eric Knoles
- Kent Scott
- Lisa Kingsbury Exum
- Rae Lynn Anderson Koester
- Melissa Straughan Brueningesen
- Van Gillock
- Brandy Pipkin Detherage
- Danna Wood Higdon
- Denise Dossey Kulow
- Derek Melot
- Janice Coatney Wilson
- Jimmy Don Westervelt
- Jon Myers
- Julia Johnson Janzen
- Kevin Youngblood
- Mark Guinn
- Mike Belanger
- Samatha Talley Anderson
- Scott Tucker
- Shannon Pool
- Tony Wittmann
- Warren Nix
- Robyn Burns
- Regina Cannon
- Loretta Moudy Morris
- David Sisco
- Grant Southwell
- John Copeland
- Kimberly Farris Gillert
- Sherrri Sherrill Cantrell
- Brett VanMeter
- Dick Moore, Jr.
- Leslie Jenks Pope
- Julie Shankle
- Jesse Huey Brown
- Jeff Bourland
- Kim Barnett Baugh
- Connie Marsh Klemme
- Kelly Ives Coffman
- Lisa Lowe Watson
- Janae Tomlinson Gadberry
- Michael Wolfinbarger
- Mike Stever
- Sharla VanMeter Roche
- Bridget Sanders
- Chase Rutledge
- Alonzo Cannon
- Jason Melot
- Kelli Pope Burch

- Shelly Taylor Gregory
- Stephen Romberg
- Jason Block
- Jennifer Killian Storie
- Jenny Finch Ricker
- Amy Keel Brown
- Brooke Spicer Thompson
- Cynthia Larson McGaha
- Kacy Parker Kinsey
- Angela Harrell Atkins
- Brandi Mitchell Burks
- Clayton Grubbs
- Dawn Farris Chester
- Dru Tischer
- Stephanie Shirey Bryant
- Ben Parker
- Jeff Motley
- Karmyn Kolarik Reimer
- Mendy Parker Davis
- Jarrold Gentry
- Denis Taron
- Jill Higgins Newman
- Robyn Bourland Carey
- Rodney O'Dell
- Becki Richardson Powell
- Brandi O'Dell
- Mindi Myers Walker
- Natalie Walck Montoya
- Robby Kinsey
- Ellen Harwell
- Jason Motley
- Ryan VanMeter
- Kelly Keel Cabrerios
- Jana Wilson Johnson
- Christopher Azbell
- Gerald Curren
- James Pine
- Jason Spencer
- Stephanie Keegan-Moring
- Josh Goodson
- Robert Scott
- Clint McKnight
- April Marrs Orcutt
- Ashley Lawson Hill
- Allison Humphrey
- Cassie Scott
- Mary Bockhold Cross
- Crystal Burns Bodine
- Jenny O'Dell Countess
- Cassy Morse
- Cherie Trousdale Hinson
- Sara Moring Ledford
- April Miller Crockett
- B J Trousdale
- Hank Casey
- Jennifer Cummings Williams
- Jessica Whaley Utter
- Melissa Watson Whaley
- Nicole Jenks Sanchez
- Whitney Hutchinson Abel
- Andy Townsend
- Ashley Renee' Qualls
- Kayla VanDyke
- Chelsea Scott
- Emilie Lam Klingman
- Britney Wolf Honsinger
- Matt Goodson
- Jami Smith
- Danielle Jenks Kaskaske
- Corey Rodgers
- Carson Humphrey
- Joshua Goodson
- Jennifer Wynn Meyer
- Mark Whaley
- Nicholas Pope
- Emma Jessee LaChappell
- Susan Moring
- Sean Mallory
- Garrett Matlock
- Jessica Lindsey Gilbert
- Jessica O'Neal Carner
- Traci Damron
- Dalton Tucker
- Bobby "Trae" Trousdale
- Chloe Chester Roza
- Chase Chester
- Francie Beesley in memory of Paul Beesley
- Chasity Etchieson

Tecumseh High School Alumni Association is recognized as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization by the IRS. THS Alumni Association, P.O. Box 304, Tecumseh OK 74873



Craig McIntyre and Fran Topping, '81

TECUMSEH ALUMNI



REUNION TIME



2024-25 THS Alumni President Kacy Parker Kinsey, '90, and TPS Superintendent Robby Kinsey, '95



Linda Trice Jones (left), '75, and Carol Rice Deatherage, '68



From left: Merritt Roberts, '78, Irma Montgomery, '63, Jerry Bourland, '72



1975: Iva Robinson Bingham and Lynne Brightwell Young present 50-year pins to their classmates



1961: Dwight Wise and Gary Vanmeter



Carolyn Phelps Parks, '67



1988: Police Chief JR Kidney and Chase Rutledge



1976: from left: Mary Abernathy Pugh, Rita Coy Goodson, Melanie Deatherage Corter



Valorie Merkel Ferguson (left), Diana Bowen Buttram, Kay Akin Webb, all Class of 1975



Jim Sigman, '55, and Cheryl Sigman Baptiste, '75



Incoming THS Alumni President Craig Rodgers, '79, and Kiara Stallin, '25



Class of '90, from left: Jack Kieffer, Cody Rutledge Swinson, Bill Wolf, Melanne Smith Greenwood, Brooke Spicer Thompson, Kacy Parker Kinsey



Class of '66, from left: Thearlene Stanley Morris, Carrol Finch VanMeter, Jan White Parker, Eddy Parker, Trish Annanders



Our own brother-sister act: Chase Rutledge, '88, and Cody Rutledge Swinson, '90



1966: David Barrett, Eddy Parker



1951 graduates Bettycarol Willingham Koston and Sannie Deatherage



1979: Mary Thornton Bourland and Lori Ross Mouse



Bill Neighbors, '79



Brailin Wilborn Ake, '18, Brooke Spicer Thompson, '90, Jeff Thompson '89



1961: Barbara Rider Powers (left) and Dolores Wilson Coker



Brenda Scott Penson, '79, Billie Joyce Motley Westfall, '50, Donna Wilson Mayo, '71



Seniors who claimed their 2025 scholarships at the alumni banquet.

Seniors claim \$1,000 scholarships at banquet

Seniors receive \$1,000 scholarships at banquet In May 2025, 16 new graduates were named winners of Tecumseh High School Alumni Association scholarships. The \$1,000 awards are funded by donations honoring specific individuals, classes or organizations.

These seniors accepted the following scholarships:

- Jessi Hull – Bill Stewart Scholarship
- Dusti Ozment - Kenneth McMahan, Class of 1944 Scholarship

- Kynlee Donaghey – Charles and Thelma King, 1936 Scholarship
- Kaseon Pine – Tommy Cummings, Class of 1982 Scholarship
- Ashton Stott – Paul Beesley, Class of 1965
- Jenny Branson – Carly Beesley, Class of 2000 Scholarship
- Zant Shirey -- Linda Praytor Scholarship, Class of 1962
- Isaac Reimer – First Presbyterian Church
- Tristan Smith – Randy Humphrey

- Jaylee Myers –Jim Cooper, Class of 1959 Scholarship
- Kelan Bettelyoun – Class of 1979 Scholarship
- Aailyah Stargell – Class of 1966 Scholarship
- Isaiah Jordan – Class of 1975
- Kaydee Lewis – Class of 1975
- Hannah Stewart – The Alumni General Scholarship
- Samuel Williams – The Alumni Memorial Scholarship

Continued From B3

and never shied away from the battle. Tecumseh ended the season in Regionals and with experience and a little grit, you'll find an improved team next year.

BOYS BASKETBALL—Head Coach Bryant Edwards
The Savages put an experienced, talented and athletic basketball team on the floor. They fought through a tough schedule and found themselves on the short end of some close games. The Savages came close to making it to the Area Tournament but lost in the final game of the Regional Tournament and ended the season with a 15-13 record.

WRESTLING BOYS AND GIRLS—Head Coach Billydon Sigman—THS Class of '99

It was a banner year for Tecumseh Wrestling, especially for the Lady Savage grapplers. Tecumseh sent five wrestlers to the State Tournament with four ladies and one man making it to the big house. Kylei Gokey, a 2-time state qualifier, finished in 4th place at State. Also qualifying were Lexi Wiltshire at 100-pounds, Temperance Reddin at 105, Aliah Johnson at 135 and the lone Savage was Xzavier Kommer at 144-pounds. With that kind of success, this year and recently, the Savages and Lady Savages should continue to take wrestlers to State Tournaments.



Photo provided

Tecumseh senior Vivian Hayes is declared the winner of her match in the 105 weight division of the OSSAA Class 5A Girls Wrestling State Championship on March 1 at the State Fair Arena. Hayes is the first girls wrestling state champion at Tecumseh High School.

SPRING SPORTS

With spring sports still in the heat of the battles and the deadline for the alumni paper landing before playoffs, we'll have to propose who and what the Savages and Lady Savages might bring back to Tecumseh in the way of hardware.

BASEBALL—Head Coach Easton Marrs—THS Class of '15

The Savages started slow on the diamond losing the first five games of the season, but they have found some traction lately and have won 6 of the last 11 since the rough start. Tecumseh always fights a rough schedule but with the wins building they might be able to make a run in the playoffs.

SLOW PITCH SOFTBALL—Head Coach Perry Wilson

It's about a little over halfway through the season by deadline but the Lady Savages have their sights set on their 10th straight run to the State Tournament. Last year, Tecumseh made it to the State Tournament semifinals before ending the season. The Lady Savages are ranked 2nd in class

Press Box Views

DANNY CHAMBERS '77
SPORTS EDITOR



and driving toward the State Championship.

TRACK—Head Coach Kortney Ozment

The thin clads are off and running and have been to six meets as of this point and have returned with a good amount of hardware. Looking ahead, the Savages and Lady Savages Track is eyeballing some events making it to the State Meet. The team is hopeful to make it to State by both male and female throwing events.

Also gazing into the future, the jumpers and some of the runners are seeing their future at State.



Natasha Dunagan, Countywide & Sun

Tecumseh senior Jekhi Owens runs a relay race during the Tecumseh Track Meet on March 31.

TENNIS—Head Coach—Jennifer McKnight

Tennis is one of the spring sports that finished last year before the alumni paper came out and some shined on the court at the State Tournament. The #1 Doubles Jalee Meyers and Laycee Thoma took 3rd place at the State while Kyann Sells qualified at State in the #1 singles and the entire Lady Savage team qualified for State last year.

This year, the team has good numbers with 19 girls and 17 boys, including 3 senior girls and 3 senior boys, and Coach McKnight says the most players are sophomores. The girls placed first in the Tecumseh Tournament and have brought hardware from other tournaments. With a team loaded with underclassmen, there is potential for next year on the court.

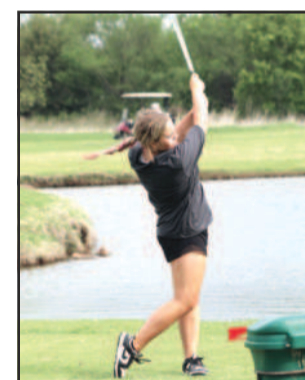
BOYS GOLF—Head Coach Chad Trahan—THS Class of '89

According to Coach Trahan, this is the best overall team for the Savages and the biggest team.

The team has 29 golfers on the team, and the best team is not the numbers of players but being able to put a solid team in tournaments. This year the Savages can do that, with enough capable players to hold their own in tournaments. So far this year, the Savages have placed 2nd in the Conference Tournament and took 3rd at Sulphur. The Savages and Lady Savages have found improvement on the course by adding golf in the fall and have helped by fund raising for the golf teams.

GIRLS GOLF—Head Coach Bill Grogan—THS Class of '69

The Lady Savages are down a little on players with a total of five with a couple of seniors and three sophomores. The good news is that you need only four to play in tournaments and they are all returning from last year. And they're actually pretty good, according to Coach Grogan as the Lady Savages have improved by 40 strokes on the season. The team took second place at Wewoka and held their own in other tournaments. Maddilyn Taron is likely to make it to Regionals as an individual, and the team has a good chance to make it to Regionals as a team.



Natasha Dunagan, Countywide & Sun

Tecumseh's Jazzy Lozier drives across a pond to the fifth hole of FireLake Golf Course during the Apr. 14 tournament.

Maddilyn Taron is likely to make it to Regionals as an individual, and the team has a good chance to make it to Regionals as a team.

USE VENMO or PAYPAL

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In Memoriam

Remembering Friends & Classmates

Terri Raney	1974	Mary Yvonne Zimmerman	1965
Linda Kay Detrick Martin	1963	Lisa Jordan	1984
Joseph Darren "Jody Stafford"	1981	Billie Joyce (Motley) Westfall	1950
Wanda Jeanne Gentry Bacher	1959	Helen Trostle New	1956
Linda Joye Spaugy	1962	"Robert ""Bob"" Shepherd"	1951
Bob Kingham	1970	Darlene Deloris Flowers	1961
Sharon Kay Tucker Myers	1962	Tommy Ramey	1965
Stanley Warren Beesley	1967	James Owen	1980
Wanda Lee (Ball) Stansell	1958	Judy Ann Burton Parsons	1962
Joseph Stasyszen	1972	Tawanna White	1975
Vanessa Rivers Alexander	1975	Charles Craig Foster	1972
Gregory Nelson Oglesby	1988	Richard Brown	1965
Ginger Lee Rogers West	1964	James Singletary	1958
Timothy Cannon	1968	Wayne Lee Jordan	1972
Richard Root	1984	Kayron West Pope	1964
Charlotte Kieffer Forrester	1962	Otho Montgomery	1956
Lisa Renee Kessinger	1983	Tammy Lorraine Fugett Bachelder	1977

Shared excellence leads to three distinct life journeys

Continued From B1 mark in her math classes. "Math is power," she used to say — a phrase Stephanie still repeats to her nephew. Susan, then added, "I spend a lot of time in spreadsheets," laughing at how prophetic Weir's motto turned out to be.

Three Sisters, Three Paths

Though they share a foundation, the sisters' adult lives diverged in striking ways.

Dr. Stephanie Keegan-Moring, Class of 1997

Stephanie's path led her to New York City, where she teaches voice at NYU, directs choirs, performs with the contemporary ensemble C4, and music-directs theater productions. "I've loved New York for a very long time," she said. "It was probably partially my father's fault — and the rest was my wife's." She and her wife, Kelli, divide their time between New York and Oklahoma, returning home for summers and holidays. "I'm at a pia-

no every day," she said. "Those early church experiences were more useful than I ever realized."

Sara Moring Ledford, Class of 2000

Sara earned two master's degrees from the prestigious Eastman School of Music before discovering that academia wasn't where she belonged. "I worked on my doctoral degree for a year and it wasn't a good fit," she said. At the same time, she was working in her first church job — and falling in love with ministry. Today she serves as director of traditional worship and choral director at First Presbyterian Church of Edmond, where she leads choirs, plans worship and teaches children's music. "I found my place in ministry instead of academia," she said. "And I haven't regretted it." In the last year she has been walking another path, that of young widow. Her husband, Danny Ledford, Class of 1978, passed away in Janu-

ary of last year. Their son, Perry, 10, came to check in with his mom occasionally during our visit.

Susan Moring, Class of 2008

Susan took a different route entirely. After college, she eventually found her way into the world of venture capital. Today she is a partner at Cortado Ventures in Oklahoma City, which invests in early stage technology companies. "It's like buying stock in a public company," she explained, "except we buy stock in private companies when they're very young and early stage." She laughs that she spends "a lot of time in spreadsheets," but her sisters insist she's also a gifted pianist, singer, and trombonist — talents she still uses for fun.

Reflecting on what Tecumseh gave them, the sisters didn't talk about awards or achievements. They talked about confidence, opportunity, and community.

"I'm thankful I had



From left, Stephanie, Sara, and Susan Moring

teachers who supported me doing a lot of things," Sara said. "That started there."

"Tecumseh gave me experience with a variety of things so I could make informed choices about where I wanted to go next. And, most importantly, my church helped shape my faith so that I understood success was not about achievement, but about honoring God with my

life"

Stephanie added, "Trust who you know yourself to be. Go see the world. Take who you are with you."

Susan's advice was simple: "Learn what's out there. Explore options. Understand how your interests translate into real-world careers."

Three sisters. Three valedictorians. Three very different lives. Yet

all of them trace their beginnings to the same places: a home filled with music, a school that encouraged curiosity and a community where stepping up was encouraged.

"I say Tecumseh is my hometown," Susan said. Stephanie and Sara nodded. After all these years, it still feels true.

Walck honors Beesley's life, friendship and legacy

Continued From B1 clips common on the evening news.

I remember in one letter, he emphasized that I did not want to go to Vietnam. The war had become very unpopular around the world and especially in America. Vietnam Veterans often led protest marches when they returned home. I remember him telling me that, "whatever you do, you do not want to come over here." That statement struck me. I realized Stanley was fighting a war he did not want to fight, but like so many other young soldiers, he was in a terrible predicament. His letter gave me a much clearer, firsthand perspective on the war.

Stanley returned home safely but he was not immune to the psychological and physiological stress of war. While in the jungle, he contracted malaria, which was common among soldiers. Also, he was exposed to Agent Orange, a strong herbicide and defoliant sprayed by helicopters to kill the dense jungle foliage. As it did for hundreds of thousands of others, it led to chronic health complications for him, including severe kidney damage. Sadly, kidney failure was the primary cause of his death.

A few weeks before

completing his twelve-month combat assignment, he returned to Fort Sill because of those health problems. Upon his discharge he returned home to Tecumseh, in Spring 1971. He accepted a football scholarship to Northeastern State University in Tahlequah that Fall and resumed his football and academic career for the next two years. He was the starting fullback, and Stanley's teammates chose him to be their captain.

Because of his love of sports, Stan followed his older brother's career path and became an educator and coach. He coached briefly at THS in the mid-1970s but then moved north and taught and coached at North Rock Creek School for more than 40 years.

Stanley started their football program. With his leadership and tireless work ethic, he spearheaded the drive and did considerable work to build the North Rock Creek football field. He was the first head coach and developed a mindset of excellence that continues today. His teams were successful and respected statewide. To honor Stanley's commitment and dedication the NRC stadium bears the name Stan Beesley Field.

After Stanley's discharge from the Army,

and his two years at Northeastern, our friendship grew stronger. We were both college students. I was at OBU studying history and playing basketball while he was at Northeastern, also majoring in history and playing football.

One of my best memories of him is of the summer of 1976. He asked me to drive him to New York City to take a flight to Paris so he could spend time away from the distractions here to hone his writing skills. Stanley was an intellectual and an avid reader and writer. He loved coaching and teaching, but his first love was writing. He felt he had to go to Paris to experience what so many of America's great writers had done after their war experiences.

He returned to Oklahoma to dedicate himself to teaching and coaching but also to writing. He published a successful book telling the stories of Oklahomans who served in Vietnam. The book is "Vietnam: The Heartland Remembers." I was honored when Stanley asked me to proofread before it was published. I would later create and teach a movie class at Seminole State College and use his book as a resource for teaching the Vietnam War. Stanley and other veterans were often guest speakers in my class.

He also wrote short stories and other books, including "Sweetwater Oklahoma," "Prairie Tails" and "The Last Man to Hit 400." He was a regular presence in the Tecumseh Alumni News.

Stanley continued to influence my life because the more I studied the Vietnam War, the more interested I became in the mistreatment of and disrespect that Vietnam veterans endured. Often TV shows and movies displayed them as losers, drug addicts or



Photo provided

Stanley Beesley at the dedication of Beesley Field at North Rock Creek.

criminals, but the vets I knew were strong, brave, and heroic, like Stanley.

After I retired from coaching, I returned to OU to work toward a doctorate. I decided to focus my research and area of study on Vietnam veterans. After input from Stanley and approval of my dissertation committee, I decided to focus on combat veterans who had no college before going into combat in Vietnam but earned a degree and became successful. Stanley proofread the dissertation and provided expert guidance.

Stanley Warren Beesley was a positive influ-

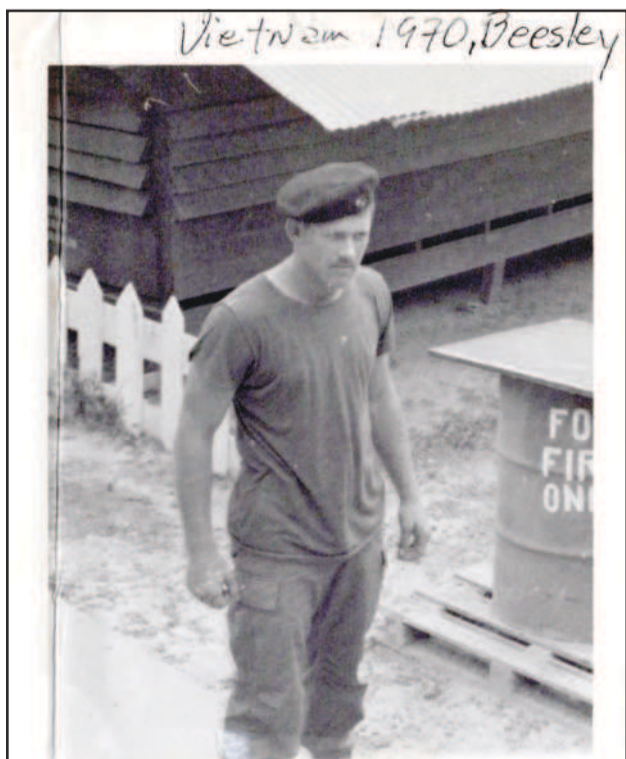
ence and role model for hundreds of students and friends. However, more than anything else, Stanley loved his family. Nothing meant more to him, and he often told me how lucky he was to have such an intelligent, beautiful, and loving wife.

Dr. Denise Beesley was also a professional educator. She became his constant caretaker for the years he was on dialysis and was by his side when he died.

Together, they were the proud parents of two beautiful daughters, Mariah and Carly. They had four grandchildren they loved and cherished, Dillon Danker, Maddox

Munn, Tristen Munn and Kadence Munn. He remained close to his brothers and sister and their children throughout his life. Paul (1965) and Martha (1968) were also THS graduates. His oldest brother, John Beesley, attended Cushing schools. He loved and respected his mother, Margaret, and father, Carl. His nieces and nephews loved and respected him.

Stanley Warren Beesley represented himself, his family and Tecumseh with pride. His influence on my life as well as so many others was positive and indelible. He made the world a better place.



2025 Tecumseh Alumni Class Reunions



Class of '70



Class of '75



Class of '65



Class of '80 Boys



Class of '80 Girls



Class of '85



Class of '90



Class of '95



Class of '00



Class of '15

Linda Capps: A life of service fueled by love

By Mary Carter, '81

When Linda Capps announced her retirement from the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, the news landed with the weight of an era ending. For nearly four decades, she has been one of the Nation's most trusted voices — a teacher, a mentor, a bridge-builder, and a leader whose influence reached far beyond the walls of any office.

But to understand her leadership, you have to start long before the titles.

Mrs. Capps was born Linda Moore, the youngest of seven children in a close-knit Harrah family. Those early years — big family suppers, hand-me-down bicycles, church on Sundays, and a house full of older siblings — shaped the listener and steady presence she later became.

One of those siblings, Marilyn Moore Clark, also found her way to Tecumseh, where she spent many years teaching at COJC. Mrs. Capps has often said how meaningful it was to have her sister nearby, both of

them serving the same community in their own ways. It was a quiet comfort, she once noted, "just knowing my sister is just across town."

Being the youngest taught Mrs. Capps to listen before speaking — a skill that later made her a natural teacher and a steady presence in tribal governance. "When you grow up in a big family," she said, "you learn early that you're not the center of the world. You learn to pay attention."

Those hardworking, humble Harrah roots followed her into every classroom she taught in and every meeting she chaired.

Before she ever stepped into tribal leadership, Mrs. Capps was a teacher, and she still talks about those years with unmistakable affection. "Teaching wasn't just a job — it was a calling," she has said. "Those kids changed me as much as I ever changed them."

Her colleagues remember her as the kind of educator who saw potential in ev-



Linda Capps

ery student, even the ones who didn't see it in themselves. That instinct — to lift others up — became the hallmark of her public service.

Mrs. Capps's leadership at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation spanned decades of growth, challenge, and transformation. She helped guide the Nation through expan-

sions in economic development, education, health services, and cultural preservation.

"I never set out to be anything special," she once said. "I just wanted to help people the way others helped me." For all her professional accomplishments, Mrs. Capps life has always been anchored by family. She married a guy from

McLoud, Roy Capps, whose name later would become synonymous with winning to Tecumseh basketball teams and their fans.

They raised three children — Kimberly, Brian and Aaron.

Sadly, Kimberly passed away in 2022. Mrs. Capps today speaks of her with a softness that reveals both grief and gratitude. "I still feel her with me," she has said. "You don't stop being a mother just because one of your children isn't here anymore." Kimberly had a daughter, who now has a daughter and a son. "They're a part of Kim that lives with me on a near-daily basis," Mrs. Capps said.

Her sons, Brian, a teacher, former baseball coach and athletic director in Byng, and Aaron, vice president of insurance services at BancFirst in Shawnee have given her a lively, ever-growing family tree. Mrs. Capps is grandmother to a bustling crew of grandchildren and great-grandchildren who keep her calendar full

and her heart fuller. "They're my joy," she likes to say. "Every one of them."

Ask Mrs. Capps what she's proudest of, and she won't list awards or accomplishments. She'll talk about people — the coworkers who became friends, the students who became leaders, the tribal citizens whose lives were improved by programs she helped build.

"If I've done anything worthwhile," she says, "it's because I had good people around me — family, coworkers, students, all of them."

Her retirement marks the close of a remarkable chapter, but not the end of her influence. The programs she shaped, the people she mentored, and the example she set will continue to guide the Nation for years to come.

And in true Linda Capps fashion, she sums it up simply: "Tecumseh became home because the people made it home."

Terri Raney, '74, U.N. agricultural economist, championed the role of women around the world

By Vicki Raney, '70

Terri Raney, a member of the Tecumseh High School Class of 1974, died Sept. 2, 2024, in Lima Peru.

She was the daughter of Lawrence E. Raney and Yvonne Brooks Raney, a beloved Tecumseh Public Schools educator, both of whom predeceased her. Her parents believed strongly in the value of education and expected excellence from their children.

Terri attended Oklahoma State University, where she earned a PhD in agricultural economics - international economic development. She was a senior economist at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in Rome and on the island of Trinidad. The FAO, established in 1945, leads international efforts to defeat hunger, achieve food security for all, and ensure regular access to high-quality food.

She had multiple publication leadership roles at FAO. For many years Terri served as editor in chief of the annual State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) report, the premier publication of FAO. She was the author of many scientific publications that have been cited thousands of times in academic and public policy research.

Terri championed the role of the millions of

women around the world who rely on agriculture for their livelihoods. Her research focused on innovation addressing sustainability, food insecurity and data accuracy to inform public policy decision making. (For more on Terri's work search 'terri raney FAO.')

Terri was an avid gardener, an accomplished sailor and loved to entertain. She and her husband, Jose, hosted many gatherings of family, friends and colleagues at their homes in Italy and the Caribbean, including the oh-so-memorable annual olive-picking party at their home in Rome. Terri and Jose loved to travel and visited dozens of countries for work and play.

Terri is survived by her husband, Jose Canepa, of Lima Peru; her siblings Larry Raney and his wife, Sherri, of Edmond and their children Caleb Raney of Edmond, Lauren Raney of Edmond and Rachel Raney of Grand Rapids Michigan; Steve Raney of Tecumseh and his children Josh Raney of Blanchard and Jacob Raney of Arlington, Texas; and Vicki Raney of Clear Lake City, Texas, and her daughter, Allison Ashford of Friendswood, Texas, and many great-nieces and nephews, who were her joy.

Terri followed her dreams and lived the life she wanted.

