



Crater Alumni Newsletter

Summer 2019 • Issue No. 71

ALUMNI FEATURE

CRATER FOUNDATION HONORS TOM SMURZYNSKI

This issue of The Crater Alumni Newsletter is pleased to present 1976 Crater graduate, Tom Smurzynski, who in his adult life has gone on to make a positive difference in the lives of many teenage boys. While at Crater, Tom was a busy young man with a full load of demanding courses, participation on the ski and track teams and part time work in a grocery store. He was such a valuable grocery clerk that, soon after graduation, he became a store manager for Wayne & Ron's Shop Rite store. His love for cars and an entrepreneurial spirit led him to lease his first automotive shop at age eighteen. His interest in cars eventually led him to Brammo Motorsports where he served as their service manager, final inspector and test driver for the Brammo Ariel Atom, a road-legal high-performance sports car that was made in Ashland, Oregon.



In 1988 he and his wife, Judy, became the owner operators of Unique Fabricating, an automotive restoration plant that also fabricates and assembles race cars. In addition he works with Tico Construction out of Redding, California, servicing water treatment plants when natural disasters happen, such as the devastating Paradise, CA fire last year. While Tom has had a very active and successful business career, his real passion is a program he and Judy and a small group of men founded called Walking Tall, a non-profit 501c3 ministry that teaches teen boys (7th-12th grade) hands-on skills. Through this program young men are served from a diverse southern Oregon community, including public, private, and home schools, the county juvenile department, behavioral and addiction treatment programs, homeless shelters, churches, fathers seeking direction in their son's lives as well as single mothers seeking help for their fatherless sons.

The Walking Tall program is assisted by many mentors who work side-by-side with their young charges, providing them hands-on skill opportunities such as automotive and small engine repair, welding, woodshop, carpentry, machining and more. If a young man has an interest in some skill, Tom and his crew will work hard to line the teen up with an appropriate mentor. A typical Walking Tall evening meeting begins with the all-important greeting which includes a firm handshake. Tom and the mentors are emphatic; these young men must first respect themselves and then the others around them. Since all teens like to eat, a homemade meal is a staple of a Walking Tall meeting followed by a group discussion where the young men

are encouraged to share their thoughts and struggles and then the hustle and bustle of working on projects begins. All mentees must pass safety tests and learn the requisite skills before using the power tools. Reflecting on this great program, Tom states, "The Walking Tall ministry thrives because of the mentors we have, and we are hopeful to get even more mentors to work with our kids."

Tom's partner and wife of almost 40 years, Judy, has been a constant in his life. They have two grown daughters, Monica Prins who lives in California and Mallory Hays of Medford. They have two grandsons, Peter (9) and Jackson (7) whom they love having visit for several weeks each summer. Prior to selling a cabin at Ten Mile Lake, Tom and Judy housed many teenagers from Crater High School for boatloads of fun. Tom and Judy enjoy traveling which usually includes a car show and/or a car race. Tom remembers

with fondness a bucket list opportunity, "I had an amazing opportunity to do some racing with my daughter, Mallory, and her partner, Derek. They built a race car sponsored by General Motors and we raced in the Grand-Am Cup series for several years."

Reflecting on his time at Crater, Tom relates, "I had some great teachers during my years in District #6, but I especially want to thank Mr. Underwood, Mr. Anderson, Mr. Teply, Mr. Ryerson, Mr Bachmeyer (recently deceased) and Mr. Summerfield who taught me valuable skills and respect which, hopefully, I am paying forward to today's generation. I have stayed friends with Mr. Underwood and Mr. Anderson, but it is still difficult for me to call them by their first names."

Tom Smurzynski is a Crater graduate who has gone on to have a very successful business career, but, even more, he is using his skills and Christian faith to make a difference in today's troubled world. We salute this good and faithful servant.

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WHERE

are
they

NOW?

1952 – 1959

TOMMY HOOKER -- (52) – lives in Springfield, Oregon, with his wife Mary. Tommy has retired after 30 years in law enforcement, 25 years with the Eugene Police Department and five years with the U.S. Marshals Service. After graduation he entered the U.S. Navy and worked four years with Naval Intelligence, both in Korea and the Pentagon Building in Washington D.C. Tommy and his wife, Mary of 57 years, have two children, a son Tommy Jr. and a daughter Terrie Leann, and two grandsons. Tommy now spends time with his hobby of lapidary. He specializes in making spheres from various types of rocks.

MARLENE ADDINGTON MURPHY – (52) -- lives in Central Point where she tells us is a great place for retirement. Marlene graduated from Crater High School in 1952 and ultimately taught school in District #6 teaching 8th grade Language Arts and Kindergarten. She and her late husband Rob, also a teacher in District #6 raised three children, all Crater High grads. She and Rob built homes in Central Point, Gold Hill, Trail and Eagle Point. After Rob's death, she built a "Grandma's Cottage" in the Twin Creeks subdivision in Central Point. Marlene loves to walk and swim.

1960 - 1969

JOYCE ROBERTS OWENS -- (63) – lives in Brookings, Oregon with her husband of 32 years, Jim. Joyce worked a few days a week at Sutter Coast Hospital as a registered nurse. Her husband is a retired Medford firefighter. They have six children and seven grandchildren throughout Oregon. They enjoy hiking, photography, traveling and gardening.

ROSETTA HIRANAGA – (67) – lives in Maui, Hawaii with her husband, Leighton. After Leighton's military service in Heidelberg, Germany and a year serving in Vietnam they returned to Corvallis to finish their education. Upon graduating from Oregon State University they both became teachers although Leighton made a career switch to a career in human resources. Rosetta spent most of her adult years being a stay-at-home mom, school volunteer, small home business owner, sales consultant and occasionally a substitute teacher. Since retiring to Maui they have traveled extensively throughout the world. Rosetta helps with local historic preservation, has written a book for their church and also helps promote literacy.. They have two grown children and two grandsons ages 12 and 9.

1970 - 1979

RHONDA BRITTON FORD -- (73) – lives in Medford with her husband, 1973 Crater High graduate, Mitch Ford. Rhonda has two grown children, daughter Satrina who lives in the Rogue Valley and son Kyle who lives in Denver, Colorado. Rhonda has worked in the banking business most of her professional life and currently works part-time for People's Bank in Central Point.

PATTY ELLIS MECUM -- (75) – lives in Medford with her husband, Cliff. They have two grown children, Jeremy and Kaylan. Patty is a Family Nurse Practitioner. She has great memory s of High

School football games and cruising "the gut". Great hamburgers at Cubbies and Jack's Drive-Up.

CATHY SANDERS SALMON – (73) – lives in Central Point with her husband Rick (67). Cathy worked for over thirty years at the School District office before retiring in 2014. Currently she has been elected to the Board of Directors for School District #6. They have a grown son and daughter and two grandchildren.

1980 - 89

MIKE RYERSON -- (83) – lives in Central Point and is the owner of Ryerson Concrete. In addition Mike is the owner of Homestead Pub & Restaurant in Rogue River. He has two grown children, Olivia, a Crater High graduate, who is a junior at Portland State University and Cole who is a 2019 Crater High graduate. Cole will be attending the University of Wyoming this fall majoring in engineering.

ROBIN DUSENBURY NEIDERMEYER -- (84) – lives in Central Point with her husband, Mike. They have two daughters, Hannah, 26 and Kati, 21 who is a junior at Portland State University. Robin is a stay at home mom while her husband Mike works for Timber Products.

1990 - 1999

BRETT DEYOUNG -- (92) – lives in Albany, Oregon with his wife, Margo and their children. Brett attended and graduated from George Fox University. He currently is the director of choirs at South Albany High School a position he has held for the past number of years.

RHONDA LAMSON SMITH - (99) – lives in Meridian, Idaho with her husband, Jared and their two children. Rhonda graduated from Colorado Christian College in the spring of 2003 with a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education. She was a member of the women's volleyball team for four years. She received a Master's Degree in Speech Language Pathology from Idaho State University in 2008. Rhonda currently works part time at St. Luke's Elks Children's Rehab as a speech/language Pathologist and as needed basis for a local nursing home doing speech therapy.

2000 - 2009

CASEY CLARK FULLER -- (06) – lives in Klamath Falls with her husband, Jonathan. Casey graduated from George Fox University with a degree in Bachelor's degree in Spanish and a Master's degree in Education. She was a high School Spanish teacher and then began work as a Cellular Sales Verizon Wireless Expert where she currently works.

OLIVIA CLARK MILLER– (08) – lives in Philadelphia, PA with her husband, Alex. Olivia graduated from George Fox University in 2012 with a BS in Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising and an Associate of Arts in Merchandise Marketing. She worked in Los Angeles and Portland and currently is an assistant web merchandiser with BHLDN corporate in Philadelphia.

CRATER HIGH 2019 VALEDICTORIANS

The Crater Foundation Newsletter is proud to introduce you to the 2019 Crater High School Valedictorians. We appreciate their accomplishments and look forward to seeing their dreams becoming reality. Left to right in the picture:



The Crater Academy of Health & Public Service is represented by Valedictorian **Dylan Kerr**. Dylan is the son of Adam and Paula Kerr. He carries a weighted 4.14 GPA and will enroll at Oregon State University where he will major in General Engineering.

The Crater Renaissance Academy is represented by Valedictorian **Ashley**

Lazaro. Ashley is the daughter of Marjorie and Norlito Lazaro but raised by grandparents Felicitas and Sabino Arquero. Ashley carries a 4.18 weighted GPA and will enroll at Southern Oregon University this fall where she plans to major in Nursing.

The Crater School of Business, Innovation & Sciences is represented by Valedictorian **Joshua Hearne**. Joshua is the son of Kevin and Janelle Hearne. He will enroll this fall at Cedarville University and will take with him a 4.06 weighted GPA. He plans to major in Computer Engineering.

Class Reunions

1954 - 65 year reunion - July 20th at the Crater Rock Museum.

Contact: Doreen Bradshaw – 541-664-5567.

1959 - 60 year reunion - June 22 - At the Meadows in Central Point.

Contact: Doug Davis at 503-666-6264 or dbdavis61@gmail.com

1969 - 50 Year reunion – Sept. 6,7,8

Contact: Debbie (Purdy) Hamilton (541)580-5482 hammy51@hotmail.com or Marley (Gordon) Sharpe (541)664-3581 sharpetm2@charter.net

1972 - 1976

'72-Roberta Great – bertacr8@cloud.com
'73 Mitch Ford – mford33victoria@outlook.com
'74 Debbie Saxbury – dlsaxbury@gmail.com
'75 Jakkwright1@gmail.com
'76 jeri.keeton@outlook.com

1979 - 40 Year reunion - Save The Date - June 29th & 30th

1989 - 30 Year reunion – no information

1999 - 20 year reunion - July 20th, 2019. Location at the Inn at the Commons in Medford. Check out the Crater Class of 99 Reunion Facebook page or email - lindsay.weseman@gmail.com

2009 - 10 Year reunion – no information



SPRING SPORTS SUMMARY 5A-3 MIDWESTERN LEAGUE

Crater is now playing in the 5A-3 Midwestern League. The league is comprised of Ashland, Churchill, Crater, Eagle Point, Marist, North Bend, North Eugene, Springfield and Thurston.

Baseball – Crater ended the regular season with a 13 – 13 record and 9 – 7 in league play. They qualified for the state playoffs and were defeated by Silverton 8 – 4 in the first round.

Softball – The Crater girls softball team finished the regular season with a 21 – 5 record and 16 – 0 as league champions. They hosted a first round state playoff game against La Salle Prep and defeated them 3 - 1. Unfortunately their season came to an end when second ranked Hillsboro defeated the Lady Comets 2 – 1. The Comet girls season record was 22 – 6.

Boys Track – placed 4th in the District Track and Field meet. They had four first place winners; Jantz Tostenson in the 3000 meter run, Cody Le Bel in the pole vault, Ryland McCullough in the 800 meter run and Chase Sherer in the high jump. They ended their season finishing 7th at the State Track & Field meet. Senior Cody Le Bel won the state meet in the pole vault and senior Jantz Tostenson was second in the 1500 a meter run and also second in the 3000 meter run.

Girls Track – the Crater girls place 7th in the District Track and Field meet but had no first place finishers. At the State Track & Field meet the Lady Comets finished 22nd with Gracen Hokanson placing 2nd in the girls pole vault.

Girls Golf - The girls golf team placed second in state golf tourney. They were led by Junior, Haley Brown who placed 4th overall and Senior, Caitlin O'Conner who placed 5th overall. This is the highest place a Crater golf team has ever finished at the state golf tourney.

Boys Golf – The boys golf team failed to qualify anyone for the state Tournament.

Crater Foundation Information

Web Site: craterfoundation.district6.org
E-mail: craterfoundation@district6.org
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/craterfoundation
Telephone: 541-494-6308
Mail address: Crater Foundation
P.O. Box 5172 Central Point, OR 97502

CRATER ALUMNI REGISTRATION

Name _____
 Address _____
 City/State Zip _____
 Phone _____
 E-Mail _____

Crater Grad. Yes No _____
 Year

Yearly \$10 Alumni Dues Enclosed _____
Additional Contributions _____

Please make checks payable to Crater Foundation and include information about yourself

Please return to: Wileen Bittle, Crater Alumni Coordinator
 P.O. Box 5172, Central Point, OR 97502
 (541)494-6308 FAX (541) 664-7589

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 Central Point, OR 97502

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CRATER HIGH FALL SPORTS HOME SCHEDULES

VARSITY HOME SCHEDULE

FOOTBALL

Sept. 13 Willamette
 20 Thurston
 Oct. 4 North Eugene
 16 Ashland
 Nov. 1 Churchill

VOLLEYBALL

Sept. 10 Churchill
 19 Eagle Point
 26 North Bend
 28 Thurston/Springfield
 Oct. 1 North Eugene
 8 Ashland
 15 Willamette

BOYS SOCCER

Aug. 29 Roseburg
 Sept 16 Hidden Valley
 28 North Eugene
 Oct. 1 Milo
 10 St. Mary's
 17 Eagle Point
 22 Ashland
 26 Thurston

GIRLS SOCCER

Sept. 3 Mazama
 12 Henley
 17 Phoenix
 28 North Eugene
 Oct. 15 Eagle Point
 23 Ashland
 26 Thurston

CROSS COUNTRY

Oct. 9 Max King Invitational

