



Crater Alumni Newsletter

Spring 2021 • Issue No. 76

ALUMNI FEATURE

BECKY (MOORE) SIMPSON'S ACTIVE LIFE CONTINUES

The **Crater Alumni Newsletter** is proud to present Becky (Moore) Simpson as its featured alumna of the spring issue. Becky was a 1979 Crater graduate and, besides being an honor student, she excelled in sports. She is proud of the fact that she was on the first girls' Crater basketball team coached by Lloyd Hoffine and the late Dave Love. While at Crater, she lettered in basketball, volleyball, and track. In track she set school, conference, and state records in the shot put. In addition to her busy athletic and academic schedule, she found time to be a member of the Crater marching band.

Upon graduation from Crater, she spent one year at the University of Oregon, but then her adventurous spirit found her heading to the mysteries of Alaska. "I spent a year at the top of the world in Utqiavik, Alaska where I melded into Inupiaq village life and learned what it meant to discover what 80 below zero feels like." When the darkness and the cold of Utqiavik became too much for Becky, she moved 730 miles south to the Anchorage area where she was to spend the next 22 years.

During Becky's total of 23 years in Alaska, her career focused on services to people with disabilities. This led to her receiving a degree in Disability Services from the University of Alaska. In addition, she opened two coffee houses in Anchorage in the mid-1990s, thus working both for her love of coffee and for people with disabilities. After her first marriage ended in 1998, Becky found her life partner, Rick Simpson. They married and blended their collective seven children into a thriving and active family. Becky remembers her years in Alaska with fondness. "I thoroughly enjoyed the great Alaskan outdoors through camping, fishing, and appreciating the abundance of wildlife and majestic scenery. I even continued to play city league sports until both knees had to be replaced in 2006." After many years in Alaska, in 2008 the Simpson family returned to Becky's roots in Central Point where Becky continued her service to people with disabilities when she



became the CEO of Pathway Enterprises, a non-profit that specializes in housing, education, behavioral support, and employment for people with disabilities. After a struggling beginning this non-profit has turned the corner and in 2014 was ranked 16 out of 100 Best Non-Profits to Work For. Becky, being at the helm of Pathway Enterprises is largely responsible for this turn around. Originally based in Ashland, Becky moved the headquarters to Medford and now has the company thriving in four southern Oregon counties. Even with a busy professional life, Becky, following the Moore family tradition, believes in giving back to her community. "I really enjoy being a part of the local business community. This includes being a member of the Central Point Chamber, the Central Point Rotary and serving as a board member of D.I.R.T. Our family are active supporters of the Crater Foundation and especially

enjoy lending our support to the Foundation scholarship program." If this is not enough, Becky also participates in the Pathway Enterprises Central Point "Adopt a Street" program by periodically helping clean Central Point's 10th Street. Reflecting on her Crater Years, Becky remembers, "I loved playing sports while at Crater, especially the comradery of teammates. I learned a lot from all of my activities, including discipline, hard work, humility, and compassion." The **Crater Alumni Newsletter** staff salute Becky Simpson as another Crater graduate of whom we can be proud.

I *Inside Features*

- ☀ **Teacher Feature**
- ☀ **Where Are They Now**
- ☀ **Crater Parking Lot**

WHERE

are
they

NOW?

1952 – 1959

JEAN MILLER HUNT (55) – lives in Gaston, Oregon with her husband, Taylor. They have six grandkids and four great grandkids. Jean retired after 43 years with U.S. Bancorp. They now manage a 15 acre Tree Farm in rural wine country near Gaston. She and her husband share interests in geology, rocks, minerals and related travels.

1960 – 1969

JAN PARKER EPPERSON (64) – Recently returned to the valley after 20 years living in Meridian, Idaho. Jan and her husband, Frank now live in Medford. They have two grown sons, Daren who lives in Meridian, Idaho and David who lives in Ashland and is a teacher at Crater High. They also have three grandchildren. Both retired, Jan from working as a secretary/aide in schools and Frank as an engineer with the railroad.

FRANK WHEELER (69) – lives in Red Bluff, California with his wife, Sue. After returning from the Army having spent time in Germany and Viet Nam, Frank returned home and stayed in the family business of logging. That took him many places in the northwest including Alaska. He then moved to Springfield and found and married his wife, Sue. They have two grown children and two grandkids. In his free time Frank enjoys fishing, especially deep sea, kayaking, concerts and the general outdoors.

RON THOMAS (69) – lives in Glide, Oregon with his wife, the former Michele Kennedy '69. Ron served in the Army in Viet Nam and upon his return was busy in the timber industry, the mining industry, Wildland fire fighting and many other exciting adventures. Michele was in office management and horse rescue. When they married they were both retired and focused on operating Res-Q Ranch horse rescue. They have rescued, rehabilitated and re-homed over 250 horses and donkeys over the last seventeen years. Their other passion is rock hounding and they spend a good deal of time out in deserted areas accomplishing that. They tell us their life is rich and full.

1970 – 1979

TERESA STRAUS KELLY (72) – lives in White City with her husband of 26 years, Scott. They have a daughter, Kayla and three grandkids. Both retired they are still working raising Hereford cattle. They are also involved doing Land Steward Activities trying to bring down the fire hazards.

DIANA DUNBAR NORRIS (75) – lives in Medford with her husband of 45 years, Frank. They have two grown sons, Clayton and John. They have owned their own excavation business now for 35 years. Diana has been a project Inspector and has worked as a highway and bridge inspector for the State of Oregon and also for a private engineering firm in Portland. They enjoy traveling and are huge NASCAR fans.

KATHY WICKS WISEMAN (79) – lives in Central Point with her husband, Jerry. They have three grown children and three grandchildren. Kathy works for Southern Oregon Neurosurgical & Spine Associates and Jerry is retired from Les Schwab. In their free time, Kathy loves to attend Zumba classes and they love camping and the outdoors.

1980 – 1989

KIMBERLY HARRIS ARKENS (84) – lives in Logandale, Nevada with her husband of 35 years, Dave. They have two grown children and three grandchildren. Kimberly works for Clark County Coroner's Office typing autopsy reports. They enjoy their rural farming community about an hour from Las Vegas, where they have an acre and space.

JACKIE DAVIS THORSNESS (85) - lives in Redmond, Oregon with her husband, Brian. They have three grown children, Kelly, Kyle and Kayla and two grandchildren, Brooklyn and Brayden. Jackie graduated from Oregon State University with a degree in Communications and an MBA. Jacki has worked in higher education her entire career and is currently at Oregon State University as the chief Financial Officer for the College of Agricultural Sciences. Brian is retired from OSU is now working on their property in Redmond, where they will be creating a lavender farm. They enjoy spending time outdoors and being with family and friends.

TONY VAN WEY (86) -- lives in Central Point and has three children Talli, Sophia and Ryder. Tony is an Engineer with Jackson County Fire District 3 where he has worked for more than 20 years. In his free time he loves motorcycling, gardening and traveling.

JAMIS BICKEL (89) – lives in Lakewood, California with his wife and two children, a 7 year old son and 11 year old daughter. Jamis works for U.S. Customs and Border Protection as a Management & Program Analyst and his wife is a lieutenant with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. They enjoy domestic and international travel, Asian and Latin cuisines, attending cultural and ethnic festivals, bike riding and spending quality time together.

1990 – 1999

JOHN PATTERSON (92) - lives in Eagle Point with his wife, Amber. John attended Southern Oregon University and worked for Medford Fire Department for several years. Currently he is the Fire Marshal for Jackson County Fire District 3, a position he has held for the past ten years. In their free time they enjoy family camping and motorcycling.

PETER ANHORN (94) – lives in Central Point with his wife, Jennifer. They have children, Payton a senior at Crater and Brooke Lyn Anhorn Wagner who graduated from Crater. They also have two grandchildren. Peter attended Southern Oregon University and is the General Manager and Vice President of Brotherton Pipeline Inc. and Jennifer works for Central Pipeline.

BRIAN BERG (98) – lives in Eagle Point with his wife, Alyssa. Recently married, Brian is a Sales Manager at Lithia Automotive in Medford where he has been employed for the past twenty years. In his free time Brian loves to play golf with his friends.

2000 – 2009

ANGELA BETTENBURG MACLAREN (05) – lives in Happy Valley, Oregon with her husband, Scott and their two children, Henry 3, and Avery 1. Angela received a degree from University of Oregon and now works for Adidas Corporate in the Portland Metro area and Scott is an attorney in the Portland area. In her free time Angela still plays softball and they enjoy traveling and attending Oregon football games.

KAYLA GRAHAM BARTON (05) – lives in Central Point with her husband, Jon (class of 2002.) They have two children Mira, 2 and Archer 1. Kayla obtained her undergraduate degree from the University of Oregon and lived in Arizona before moving back to Oregon. She currently works for Dutch Bros Corporate. They love going boating on the lake, camping, other outdoor activities and entertaining friends.

CODY CLARK (06) – lives in Eagle Point with his wife, Heather. Cody attended Idaho State where he played football on a scholarship. He is currently an Engineer with Jackson County Fire District 3 where he has been employed for the past twelve years. Recently married they are busy building their new home, but find time for their hobbies hunting, rafting and building their new home.

Teacher *feature*



The Teacher/Administrator Feature for this issue is on Rey Guevara a long-time teacher, coach and counselor in School District #6. Rey began his 24-year career in School District 6 at Crater High School in 1979 as the Career Counselor and coached football and wrestling coach. He continued in those roles at Crater until 1989 when he became the Counselor at Scenic Junior High/Middle School and where he continued to coach

football and wrestling. Rey retired in 2002.

Rey tells us that he had many wonderful experiences throughout the years, but two were special ones. "First, winning the first ever Oregon State Wrestling Championship in 1993 for Crater, made me proud to be a Comet. It was a big event for our District and for the Wrestling program. Second, in 1995 I was selected to be a presenter at the National Middle School Conference in New Orleans, highlighting Scenic Middle School. It was a very proud moment."

Rey states, "My Comet years were wonderful and left me with fond memories that I will never forget." "My Scenic years also were extreme-

ly rewarding, and the faculty was fantastic to work with. That faculty was committed to achieving an excellent educational environment for students. Some, but not all, of the educators who inspired me throughout the years were: Harvey Tonn, Larry Ryerson, Jay McRoberts, Dan Speasl, Candy Manary and Greg Haga. It was a pleasure to work with outstanding colleagues in a positive professional setting,"

In his retirement Rey volunteers for many valley organizations. For example, he enjoys volunteering at the Medford Library where he tells us "I see many former School District 6 students and teachers". He also volunteers for the Medford Food Project, helping stock the county's food banks and, as a Master Gardner he works at Master Gardener Clinics and at the Medford Growers Market.

Rey and his wife, Anne, have three grown children. Son, Greg, is a middle school Principal, daughter, Angela, is a flight attendant for Mesa Airlines and the youngest daughter, Molly, is a high school teacher. They are blessed with two wonderful grandchildren. All live in Colorado, where Rey and Anne visit often. In addition, Rey and Anne have had the opportunity to travel extensively throughout the United States and the world.

Rey will be remembered by students and faculty as a person with a great sense of humor. In addition, he was highly respect by his peers, students, and the athletes he worked with.

We applaud Rey as another in a long line of outstanding retired educators from School District #6 who have made a difference in countless young people's lives.

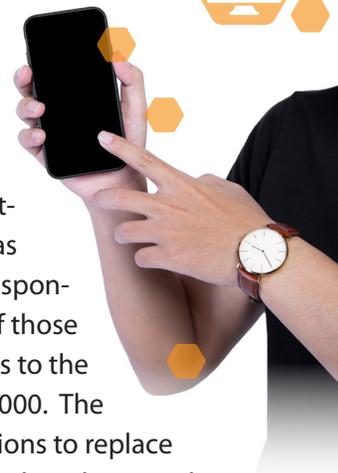


For the past 70 years, since Crater High School opened in 1951, the student parking lot has been a topic of discussion. For most Crater High graduates the parking lot will bring back memories both good and bad. However the condition of the parking facility has never changed for the better and has been a topic of laughter for years by students, community people and visitors attending Crater High events. In fact there were many names given to the parking lot and most were not positive. That has changed with the passage of the 2019 bond issue as the reconstruction of the student parking lot was included. Today, the parking lot is modern with paving, curbs, handicapped parking, bus parking for visiting teams, lights and landscaped with trees. It is indeed an attractive improvement to the high school and to the community and an addition that all can be proud of.



Virtual Scholarship Fundraiser

As a result of the Covid19 pandemic, the Crater Foundation found it necessary to cancel all fundraising events including the summer Wine Event and the annual Crater Foundation Dessert/ Auction. These were fundraising events for the **2021** graduating senior scholarships as well as other activities the Foundation sponsors and supports. The result of those cancellations was a revenue loss to the Foundation of more than \$150,000. The Foundation explored other options to replace the cancelled events and decided on the virtual **Crater Foundation 2021 Fundraiser** that allowed people to donate through our web site or by mailing a check. Our hope was to raise \$50,000 to help offset a portion of our fundraising losses. The virtual fundraiser event ended on February 12th, however it is hoped that Crater Foundation supporters and Alumni will still consider a contribution.



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

CRATER FOUNDATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT #6
300 Ash Street
Central Point, OR 97502

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MEDFORD OR
PERMIT NO. 125

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

•• Class Reunions ••

**Classes of 60, 61 and 62
September 17th and 18th 2021**

Contact: Karen Rhodes

ph. 541-499-9121 or Karenbrhodes@gmail.com



HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS

The COVID 19 virus has caused much confusion for high school athletics since this last spring resulting in the ending of all high school athletics in Oregon. The most recent schedules issued by the Oregon Schools Activities Association are as follows:

Football, Cross Country, Soccer and Volleyball
March 1st to April 10th.

Girl's Basketball, Boy's Basketball and Wrestling
May 10th to June 27th

Baseball, Softball, Track & Field and Golf
April 5th to May 23rd

Crater High athletics will consist of a reorganization of the conference for this year due to the COVID 19 virus. The conference will consist of Ashland, North Medford, South Medford, Eagle Point, Crater, Grants Pass and Roseburg.