

# TRIBAL TIMES

## Showcase of Touchet School Teachers

This Showcase of Touchet Teachers is the first of an ongoing series, in which the Touchet Educational Foundation will highlight teachers, administration, staff, and school board members, who are so critical to the educational success of Touchet students. In the next newsletter, we will introduce Touchet School's new Superintendent, Mrs. Susan Bell, Principal, Elissa Tinder and the new staff.



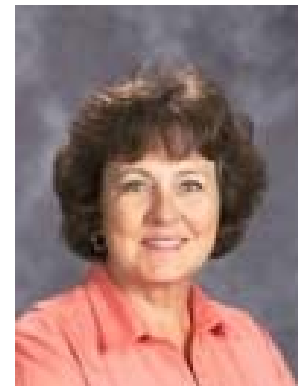
**Barbara Brown**  
Computers  
Business



**Merri Bussell**  
Social Studies



**Gary Dorman**  
Ag./Vocational



**Dana Dunning**  
Special Education

Together, Touchet teachers have three hundred thirty-eight years of teaching (not counting any new staff that have been hired this summer). Merri Bussell is the most senior teacher, with thirty-seven years of experience. Five of them graduated from Touchet High School (Barb Brown, Debbie Ortiz, Donnetta Elsasser, Missy McKeown, Sonny Elsasser). Six of them have taught their entire careers at Touchet (Cathy Plucker, Teri Lesmeister, Jackie Helm, Donnetta Elsasser, Guy Gregg, and Sonny Elsasser). Two of them taught here, relocated, and then returned to Touchet (Nancy Morgan-Bloch and Keylee Gaffrey). There are two sets of husbands and wives who both teach at Touchet (Donnetta and Sonny Elsasser, Debbie and Jorge Ortiz). Eleven of their children have graduated from Touchet High School, and fourteen of their children are presently attending Touchet Schools. They graduated from a range of colleges and universities including Washington State University, Eastern Washington State College, Eastern Washington University, University of Idaho, Whitman College, Whitworth University, and Western Washington State College. Over half of them have earned Masters of Education degrees.

*continued on page 5...*



**Guy Gregg**  
Middle and High  
School Science



**Jim Greene**  
PE  
Athletic Director



**Keylee Gaffrey**  
First Grade



**Donnetta Elsasser**  
Social Studies  
English



**Sonny Elsasser**  
Band  
Music Technology

Touchet Educational Foundation  
Dedicated to serving the youth of our community  
9 graduating classes...166 students... \$196,480 awarded in scholarships

# TRIBAL TIMES

www.toucheteducationalfoundation.com

## Contributors

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Touchet friends & families

**LETTERS:** *Tribal Times* invites letters on its content or on topics related to Touchet School. Letters for publication must be signed and may be edited for style, length, and clarity. Shorter letters are more likely to be published due to space limitations. Writers should include an address and daytime phone number.

Send all correspondence to:

*Tribal Times*

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Views expressed in the *Tribal Times* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect official policy of the Touchet Educational Foundation.

Thank you!

#### Mission Statement

To provide financial support for Touchet students in pursuit of Educational opportunities, and to encourage community support for higher education.

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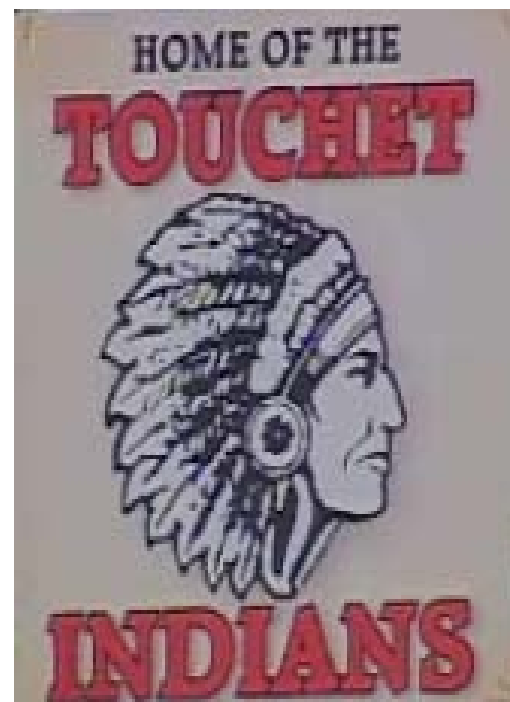
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## TEF Foundation

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The Touchet Educational Foundation apologizes for not acknowledging the donation from Kathryn Zebarth.

## TEF Senior Class Representatives

Each spring, the students in the junior class are invited to apply for a position as a TEF senior class representative for the upcoming school year. Their primary duties are to coordinate TEF sponsored activities and communicate with their classmates and senior parents. They are actively involved in organizing the Oktoberfiesta. Please meet the 2011-2012 TEF Senior Class Representatives.



My name is Addison Doering. I'm 17 years old and I am a senior this year. I have been a cheerleader for football and basketball season throughout my high school years.

This past year I went to state competition in FBLA. I have been involved in 4H and have shown my horse at the Walla Walla fair for the past 9 years. I held multiple different offices in 4H, including secretary and vice-president. I am also involved in FFA. This upcoming school year I am the ASB secretary. I am so excited to represent the TEF.



My name is Eric Hines I am 17 years old and I am a senior at Touchet. I play football, basketball, baseball and involved in FBLA, ASB, and science club. I am very excited to be starting my senior year and am honored to be a TEF Representative.



My name is Alex Sasser. I am 17 years old and I am a senior year at Touchet High School. I am involved in softball, cheerleading, FFA, FBLA, ASB, and science club. I am looking forward to my senior year and I'm excited to be a TEF Representative.

# OKTOBERFIESTA 2011

**8th annual fundraiser**



**Get Your  
Tickets Today**

**Contact  
Dave Reppe  
394-2972**

**Friday, October 7, 2011**

**6:00pm-9:00pm**

**TOUCHET GARDENA LIONS HALL**

**mexican dinner • raffle • hire a worker auction**

Proceeds support college scholarships for Touchet High School class of 2012.  
To obtain tickets contact a member of the Touchet senior class

# LETTERS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Dear Touchet Educational Foundation Board of Directors,  
I am writing this letter to thank every member of the Board as I further my education. I plan on attending Blue Mountain Community College in Pendleton, Oregon and I am looking at a degree in dental hygiene. Without your help I wouldn't know if I would have looked at such a high degree. After I am done with two years, I plan on enrolling on a college that has dental hygiene. I would personally like to thank every Board member for all the time they have put in to help all seniors of Touchet. Thank you for the merit scholarship and all the other scholarships that were awarded to my classmates.

*Sincerely, Rolando Flores, Class of 2011*

Dear Touchet Educational Foundation Board of Directors,  
I would like to thank you for your support. I know that you put in a lot of time and effort to serve the Touchet Community. It is because of your tireless work that so many benefit year after year. Your Board has been a great model for my life and I intend to serve others as you have chosen to do.

*Best regards, Rysom Coffell, Class of 2011*



Dear Touchet Educational Foundation  
I feel so fortunate to have been chosen as a recipient of the foundation scholarship. Thank you so much for your generosity in funding this scholarship. I will be a freshman from a small town where there is nothing to do other than playing sports and staying involved in extracurricular activities. I chose Walla Walla Community College to study nursing at because it has one of the best nursing programs around here. My goals and aspirations are getting the degree that I have always wanted. I have wanted this because I love helping people that need the help the most and who are ill. After I get my RN degree in nursing I plan on getting a job at a hospital or some type of nursing facility. I just want to thank you again for the scholarship you have provided for me to complete my dreams as a nurse.

*Sincerely, Stephanie Samuel, Class of 2011*

## CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS



The first continuing Education Scholarship is in memory of Eileen Collier, who graduated from Touchet High School in 1919. She left a contribution to the Touchet Educational Foundation in her will when she passed away at the age of 102. This year, we awarded **two** Eileen Collier scholarships, for \$1000 each. The first one is awarded to **Miguel Preciado**. Miguel graduated from Touchet High School in 2008, and will be a senior this fall at Gonzaga University in Spokane, majoring in business with a concentration in Law & Public Policy, and a minor in criminal justice. He expects to graduate spring 2012.

The second Eileen Collier Scholarship is awarded to **Shiloh Akari** who graduated from Touchet School in 2008. Shiloh is a senior at Washington State University Tri Cities majoring in elementary education with a minor in bilingual education. She also plans to graduate in May of next year. Shiloh wrote in her application, "I want to make a positive difference in the classroom and teach children something new every day, just as they teach me in return."



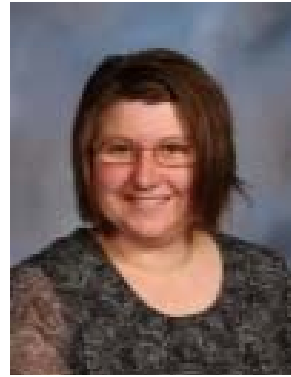
The Making a Difference Scholarship in memory of Katie Nolan is for \$1000, and has been started by her family to encourage others to follow Katie's example of service to others, offering hope and inspiration. Katie Nolan was born and raised in Touchet, and graduated from Touchet High School in 1998. She graduated from Philadelphia Biblical University in 2002. She was working on a Master's degree in social work at Portland State University when she died in a climbing accident on Mt Hood in December 2009. The recipient of the Making a Difference Scholarship in Memory of Katie Nolan was chosen by her family, and was awarded to **Jaci Hodnefield**.

Jaci graduated from Touchet High School in 2008 is currently a junior at Eastern Oregon University. She has just been accepted into the Oregon Health Science Universities School of Nursing. Jaci wrote, "Serving a greater purpose in my life is very important to me. I am fully dedicated to working hard, and learning the advanced knowledge and skills it takes to become a nurse. I want to make a difference in the lives of others."

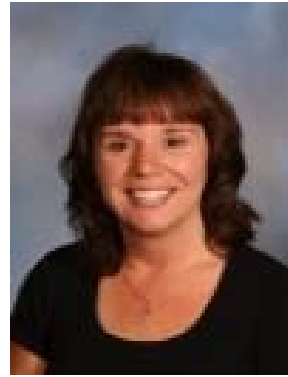
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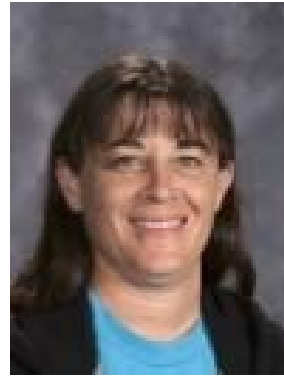
**Mary Hansen**  
High School Spanish



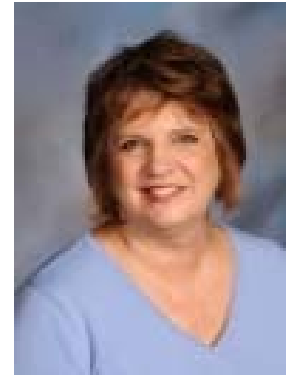
**Jackie Helm**  
Second Grade



**Teri Lesmeister**  
Third and Fourth  
Grade



**Malissa McKeown**  
PE  
Middle School Math



**Nancy Morgan-Bloch**  
Middle School

Teachers work as advisors to classes, clubs, and activities. They coach sports. They serve on various educational and school-related committees. They attend seminars and workshops. They train on new curriculum. They continue to learn and complete coursework. And, of course, they teach!

The teaching staff of Touchet Schools has undergone some changes over the past few years – five of our most experienced teachers have retired. Five doesn't sound like much, but it is 25% of our staff, and together they had more than 150 years of teaching experience! How a small rural school district fills this loss is truly a challenge, especially when one considers all the requirements of certification.

When the most senior of us graduated from college, we were awarded K-12 certificates, which meant we were certified to teach any subject, grades K-12. We selected regular majors and minors (elementary education, for instance, didn't exist). After graduation, we were required to pick up an additional forty-five credits, which certified us for the remainder of our careers. Three of us (Merri Bussell, Gary Dorman, Cathy Plucker) still have that K-12 certificate. This certificate was very helpful to small schools, because teachers could be assigned to any and all positions. For instance, Mrs. Towery's first assignment at Touchet was teaching German - she gradually took on the English courses. Mrs. Gary was hired to teach reading remediation - she eventually found herself the head of the math department.

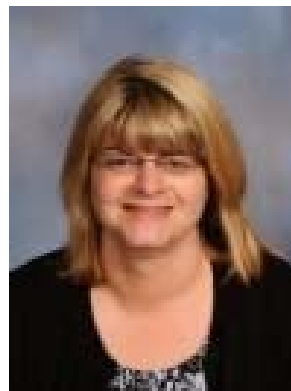
Over time, the teacher certification program changed. For awhile, graduating teachers were required to complete a Masters of Education program; however, that requirement was later dropped. The K-12 certificate no longer exists - graduating teachers today get a narrow band of certification (such as grades K-8, 6-8, 9-12), with notation of specific subjects they are certified to teach. This certificate requires that teachers return to college to pick up an additional fifteen credits every five years to keep certificates valid.

In addition, those teachers with vocational certification have to continue to earn credits in order to keep their vocational certification current as well. An additional certification program that is available is the National Board Certification. After a minimum of one year of study, teachers complete portfolios and undergo rigorous testing. Five of our teachers have attempted this program. Debbie Ortiz, Veronica Ogden, and Gary Dorman have been awarded National Board Certification.

*Submitted by Cathy Plucker*



**Veronica Ogden**  
Art  
Yearbook



**Debbie Ortiz**  
Middle School Social Studies  
Title I, Title II  
LAP



**Jorge Ortiz**  
Middle School Math  
Migrant Education  
Bilingual  
ESL



**Cathy Plucker**  
Fourth and Fifth  
Grade



**Kathie Warner**  
Kindergarten

## My Favorite Teacher...

As part of the scholarship application, the Touchet Educational Foundation asked the class of 2011 the following question: "In all of the years that you have attended Touchet School who was your favorite teacher? What experience did you have with this person that made that this experience special to you?"

The following are some of their responses. The rest will be in the Spring 2012 Newsletter



### ...Mr. Greene

In all the years that I have attended Touchet School, the number one teacher who ended up being my favorite was Mr. Greene. What has made him special to me is that he always encourages me with school and with life in general. I am inspired by him because of the type of person he is; honest, caring and respectful. No matter what, he is always happy and a good teacher.

**Danica Ollerman, THS class of 2011**



### ...Miss Anderson

Throughout my years at Touchet High School, the one teacher that ended up being my favorite is Miss Anderson. She was only here for one school year, but in that school she taught me more math than I have ever been taught. I loved her teaching style and her friendly nature when she was teaching a class. She spent endless hours before and after school to help her students with whatever they needed. Not only did she help me with my math, but she edited and proof read my eight page junior English final. We have kept in contact, and she took my senior graduation pictures for me at no cost. She is one of the most generous people I know.

**Courtney Downing, THS class of 2011**

My favorite teacher in my years here at Touchet would have to be Miss Anderson. She was the first math teacher that I ever had that helped me understand math a little bit more. She was always there for me. She was the teacher I looked forward to seeing every day and going to her class was what made my day a lot of the time. Miss. Anderson would get to school early in the morning to help me and would stay late at night to help other students as well. She taught me that life gets hard, but you just have to have faith in yourself and think, "I can handle this," and make something great of your life. I am lucky to have had her for a teacher, and she has made more of an impact on my life than anyone ever has. I would love to be half the person she is.

**Shelby Sewell, THS class of 2011**



### ... Mrs. Brown

Mrs. Brown has been my favorite teacher. She is always extremely attentive to anyone who needs her help, whether in her class or not. Mrs. Brown has a great personality; she never loses her temper and is always smiling. She is always fun to be around.

**Rebecca Thompson, THS class of 2011**

My favorite teacher is Mrs. Brown, because she is a very good teacher and nice to everyone. Mrs. Brown is a very generous person and swell to be with in class. She doesn't give you a hard time, but likes to joke around with us from time to time. When you're down she could cheer you up. Some of the things I have learned in Mrs. Brown's class are to be organized, the benefits of having a government and laws, and how to be wise with money.

**Merced Berumen, THS class of 2011.**



### ...Mrs. Elsasser

I appreciate Mrs. Elsasser's hard dedicated work for the students, and I have no idea where I would be without her guidance. She first was my favorite teacher in seventh grade when we had to do the Project Citizen. That was the first time our class had to do something so big and so significant. I felt very important working with her. She never gave me (or any other student) the answers to a problem. Rather, she would magically persuade the answer from our lips by asking us questions and giving us a different thought to chew on. Mrs. Elsasser taught me stand on my own two feet and to take initiative and to be a leader. She helped me channel my energy into academics.

**Emily Huesby, THS class of 2011**

## My Favorite Teacher...



### ...Mr. Elsassner

In all my years at Touchet, I would have to say that my music teacher, Sonny Elsassner would have to be the one who most inspired me. He has always been a friend that has been uplifting. He taught me how to play my saxophone well enough to be one of the top students in the band. I have taken his digital media class as well and he is always willing to learn as he teaches. We often get new programs to use and he shows some basics. Then he likes us to explore it and teach him something that he didn't know. He is a friend that I can rely on to offer advice or just a recommendation.

**James Riggs, THS class of 2011**

The instructor that has become my favorite teacher at Touchet High School would have to be Mr. Elsassner. I have had at least one of these classes nearly every year since the early days in elementary band. He has helped me develop my skills in music and digital film making, and continues to encourage me to broaden my knowledge in those areas. My experiences with him include Walla Walla Farmers Market, Middle and High School Mass Bands, and the winter and spring concerts at the school. But my most memorable experience would be traveling with the high school band to Seattle to visit the Experience Music Project museum and interactive center last year. We were able to see such items as guitars played by Jimmy Hendrix. We were also able to play and record ourselves in a full recording booth. The best part of the trip, however, was celebrating at the Hard Rock Café.

**Ian Loney, THS class of 2011**

Mr. Elsassner shares my love for music. He was one of the first few people I knew who had a passion for music and it was a relief for me to be in class with someone who shares a similar passion. He always had confidence in me and in all of us that have been in his classes. I consistently believed that I could play any music piece that he gave me to play, and I did. I am very grateful to him for having such persistent faith in me. I need someone to believe in me in order for me to have the confidence in myself that I need in order to accomplish a goal. Mr. E gave me that confidence.

**Emily Huesby, THS class of 2011**



### ...Mr. Gregg

My favorite teacher is Mr. Gregg. I have had the pleasure of being his student for 3 years, and in every class he has taught me exactly what he wanted to teach me. It is easy to understand his way of teaching because he doesn't try to complicate it, or if you don't understand it he will take his own time to help you understand it. I have always admired him as a teacher, but just as a person he is the best. I have never seen or heard him complain about anything ever. Last year I went on the AP Biology trip to the Oregon Coast, and there is where I really got to see who he is when he is not teaching. He is a great teacher, but an even better person. All I have for him is admiration.

**Matt Kates, THS class of 2011**

In all my years at Touchet High School, Mr. Gregg has been my favorite teacher. Science class was always a great learning experience. Mr. Gregg made learning fun and interesting; we were always using every minute of class to learn. Not only did Mr. Gregg teach me science but he taught me great study habits that I will continue to use. He is a great teacher but he is also a great person to go to for advice in school, rodeo, or personal matters. If I was ever confused about anything, Mr. Gregg was the go-to guy. He is a great mentor that always helped me see the good side of things and think positively. Mr. Gregg is an amazing asset to Touchet Schools.

**Carley Frazier, THS class of 2011**

The teacher that I feel is special to me is Mr. Gregg. He is the funniest, most caring teacher I have ever had through our my school years at Touchet. He makes class fun and enjoyable for all of us. I have learned more from him about life as well as science through out my school years.

**Taylor Jaspersen, THS class of 2011**

# CLASS OF 2011

*“Life is not about finding yourself, It’s about creating yourself.”*



BACK ROW

Ian Loney, Emily Huesby

THIRD ROW

Carley Frazier, Jacob Hodnefield, Tyler Casebier, Moises Venegas, Joshua Kraut, Merced Berumen, Shelby Sewell

SECOND ROW

J.P. Riggs, Rysom Coffell, Lauren Brashear, Dakota Jacobson, Danica Ollerman, Matt Kates, Joe Weber

FRONT ROW

Taylor Jaspersen, Stephanie Samuel, Rebecca Thompson, Rolando Flores, Courtney Downing, Hillary Intinarelli, Vera Krabes

The Touchet Educational Foundation awarded \$30,600 at the Touchet High School graduation held on June 11, 2011. This included the Continuing Education Scholarships that were highlighted on page 4. Each senior who submitted a completed application received a scholarship award. Founded in 2003, the Touchet Educational Foundation has awarded scholarships to 166 Touchet graduates for a total of \$196,480.



# CONGRATULATIONS!

## 2011 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



*Merced Berumen, Blue Mountain Community College*

TEF Merit Scholarship \$800



*Rysom Coffell, Prague College, Prague Czech Republic*

TEF Recognition Scholarship \$500  
TEF Merit Scholarship \$800



*Tyler Casebier, Eastern Washington University*

FFA Scholarship in Memory of Roy Kregger \$500  
FFA Scholarship in Memory of Ron Dunning, Jr. \$500  
TEF Merit Scholarship \$800



*Courtney Downing, Walla Walla Community College*

TEF Board of Directors Scholarship \$350  
TEF Merit Scholarship \$800





**Rolando Flores, Blue Mountain Community College**

TEF Merit Scholarship \$800



**Carley Frazier, Western Oklahoma State University**

Education Scholarship in Memory of Helen Durfee \$500  
TEF Recognition Scholarship \$500  
TEF Merit Scholarship \$800



**Jake Hodnefield, Walla Walla Community College**

TEF Recognition Scholarship \$500  
TEF Merit Scholarship \$800



**Emily Huesby, Ecola Bible College**

Friendship Scholarship in Memory of  
Robert McCubbins \$500  
FPL Energy Science Scholarship \$600  
TEF Merit Scholarship \$800



**Hillary Intinarelli, Washington State University**

Tri Community Homemakers Scholarship \$500  
TEF Recognition Scholarship \$500  
TEF Merit Scholarship \$800





**Taylor Jaspersen, Columbia Basin College**

TEF Merit Scholarship \$800



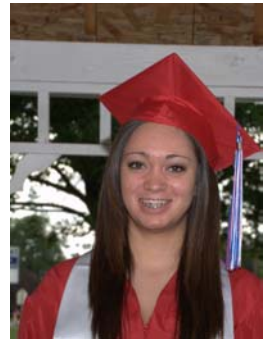
**Matt Kates, Blue Mountain Community College**

FFA Scholarship in Memory of Leon Mayberry \$500  
TEF Merit Scholarship \$800



**Ian Loney, Walla Walla Community College**

Alumni Scholarship \$500  
TEF Recognition Scholarship \$500  
TEF Merit Scholarship \$800



**Danica Ollerman, Walla Walla Community College**

TEF Merit Scholarship \$800



**JP Riggs, Valedictorian, Walla Walla Community College**

Touchet Gun Club Scholarship \$500  
Valedictorian Scholarship in Memory of  
Dale Cummins \$1000  
TEF Merit Scholarship \$800





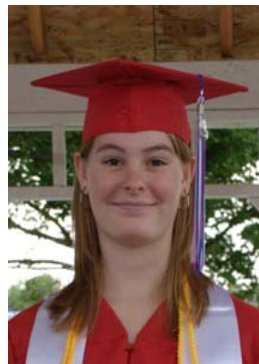
**Stephanie Samuel, Walla Walla Community College**

Medical Science Scholarship in Memory of Robert McCubbins \$500  
TEF Merit Scholarship \$800



**Shelby Sewell, Blue Mountain Community College**

FFA Scholarship in Memory of Brian Weber \$500  
TEF Merit Scholarship \$800



**Rebecca Thompson, Saluatorian, Spokane Community College**

Touchet Gun Club Scholarship \$500  
FPL Energy Science Scholarship \$600  
TEF Merit Scholarship \$800



**Moises Venegas, Spokane Community College**

TEF Merit Scholarship \$800



**Joseph Weber, Walla Walla Community College**

FFA Scholarship in Memory of Brain Weber \$500  
Athletic Scholarship presented by Pheasant Creek Golf Course \$500  
TEF Board of Directors Scholarship \$350  
TEF Merit Scholarship \$800

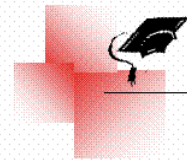


*Your financial support of  
Touchet Educational Foundation  
today paves the way to success for the  
next generation tomorrow.*

*And that success benefits all of us.*

*Your gift to support scholarships means a  
world of difference.*

*Thank you for your generosity.*



**TOUCHET EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION**

**PAVE THE WAY**

Reserve your place in history by purchasing a personalized brick with your name or the name of your business. This project will play an important role in expanding our scholarship opportunities. Give a brick in honor of graduation, birth of a child, anniversary or birthday.



4" x 8" Engraved Paver with a bronze plaque \$35.00  
4" x 8" Engraved Paver with a logo\* & bronze plaque \$45.00

High quality, uniquely designed concrete bricks which hold a commemorative bronze plaque.  
Deeply engraved letters to ensure readability and long life.  
Moisture resistant adhesive permanently attaches plaque to the paver.  
\*Contact Dave Reppe for help with specific design options

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First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**4" x 8" Bronze Plaque Inscription** You may use one, two or three lines for your message. Please print clearly one letter per square. Allow one square for a space between words or for punctuation marks. Each line will be centered on the plaque.


**4" x 8" Bronze Plaque Inscription With A Logo\*** You may use one, two or three lines for your message. Please print clearly one letter per square. Allow one square for a space between words or for punctuation marks. Each line will be centered on the plaque.




**TOUCHET EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION**

Your gift of any size can make a lasting and significant impact on Touchet students.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Please direct my contribution to the following area:

\_\_\_\_\_ Area of Greatest Need    \_\_\_\_\_ Endowment Fund    \_\_\_\_\_ Memorial

\_\_\_\_\_ In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to the Touchet Educational Foundation and mail this card to:

Touchet Educational Foundation  
PO Box 272  
Touchet, WA 99360

# TRACKING THE INDIANS



Perry Anderson  
1939

**Perry Anderson** moved to Touchet with his parents and four older siblings just in time to start the first grade in Touchet. He and eight classmates graduated in the THS class of 1939. On June 11, 2011, Perry was on hand to watch the first of his great grandchildren, Ian Loney, graduate from Touchet High School.

There have been a long line of Touchet graduates and attendees in the Anderson family. All but one of Perry's siblings graduated from Touchet. Perry married longtime friend and classmate, Josephine Brock in 1940, and all four of their children, including two spouses are Touchet alumni. Beverly Anderson Barnett, 1960; Sally Anderson Harpe and Lyle Harpe, 1961; Rich Anderson, 1963; and Shirley Anderson Schaeffer and Terry Schaeffer, 1965 and 1962. Out of nine grandchildren, four attended and graduated from Touchet. Doug Loney, 1980; Debbie Loney Smyth, 1985; Robert Schaeffer, 1985; Cathy Schaeffer, 1987. Out of thirteen great grandchildren, five attended Touchet Schools. Ian Loney, 2011 graduate; McKenzie Loney, 2014; Harlie Schaeffer, 2014; Jacob LaRoque, 2017; and Hayden Schaeffer, 2018.



Doug, Ian, Beverly, Shirley, Debbie,  
Cathy, McKenzie, Jacob, Perry

Perry and his wife, Jo, farmed in the Gardena area south of Touchet for over 40 years, and then retired in Walla Walla. Perry celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in August with his family. His recipe for staying young is to stay active. He loves to dance, he has golfed and bowled, enjoys walking and working outside in his yard, and especially celebrating any occasion. You might see him driving around the Touchet-Gardena area, checking to see what is going on, and remembering what the area was like when he started out farming. You may be able to take the boy out of the country, but you can't take the country out of the boy, and that's the way it is with Perry and Touchet .... You can take the man out of Touchet, but you can't take Touchet out of the man.



Ian and Perry



**Courtney Frazier** ('08) received her AA degree from Walla Walla Community College, and will be attending Walla Walla University this fall pursuing a degree in social work.



**Mindy Nolan** ('04) graduated from The University of Puget Sound Spring of 2011 with a Doctorate of Physical Therapy. "After graduation I moved to Salem and am employed by Providence doing geriatric rehab. Thank you so much for supporting me throughout my education. I really appreciate it!"



**Andrew Plucker** ('04), and West Point Graduate, was recently promoted to captain. Andrew is currently stationed in Colorado Springs, CO, and expects to be deployed to Afghanistan in the spring. He is engaged to Megan McLure, and they are planning a December 2011 wedding.



**Saul Martinez** graduated from Touchet High School in the class of 2009. He was a three sport athlete all four years of high school. He is currently enrolled at Walla Walla Community College, pursuing a Turf Management degree. He started in turf management when he was about 13 years old, working for Pheasant Creek Golf Course. After working there for a few summers, he moved to Walla Walla Veterans Memorial Golf Course, where he worked about two years. But what he really wanted to do was work in sports turf. That's when he got a hold of his cousin, Sergio Pedroza who is currently working for the Seattle Seahawks. He said he could assist Saul with an internship with the Tacoma Rainiers and he jumped on the opportunity; this was his chance to get into the sports turf. Now he is realizing his wish of working in sports turf management. Whenever he gets time off from the Tacoma Rainiers he heads over to the Seahawks practice facility and gives them a hand if they need it. He has also been up to the "Big leagues" a few times as well working for the Seattle Mariners. This internship has been very helpful and very fun. He sees himself being in the Bigs or working for a Pro football team in the near future, all of it made possible by the Turf Management Degree he is pursuing at Walla Walla Community College and his family's support!

# TRACKING THE INDIANS



**Natalie Durfee** ('06) graduated June 11 with a bachelor of science degree in Diagnostic Medical Sonography from Oregon Institute of Technology. I started working June 13th as a flex ultrasound tech at St. Luke's health system in the Boise area. I am studying for national ultrasound board exams to be a registered sonographer. I am living in Boise, enjoying getting to know the area and the community, exploring the city and the outdoors, hiking, camping, fishing, running, spending time at the surrounding rivers and lakes. I enjoy the fact that Boise is only 4 hrs from home so a weekend visit is easily done.



*Chris and Tami*

After graduating high school in 2001, **Chris Plucker** moved to Seattle and attended the University of Washington for four years. He graduated in 2005 with a BA in English and a minor in History. After completing his undergraduate degree, Chris returned to Touchet to work for Northwest Grain Growers. In January of 2006, he returned to Seattle to pursue his graduate degree in education. Later that year, Chris married Tami, a 2002 graduate of Walla Walla High School. In the spring of 2007, Chris graduated from UW with a Masters degree in Teaching. Chris and Tami were both hired during the summer of 2007 by the Walla Walla School District. They moved back to the area and have been teaching and living in Walla Walla since.

Chris currently teaches at Pioneer Middle School as a 7<sup>th</sup> grade Humanities and 7/8<sup>th</sup> grade Digital Media teacher. He also coaches Pioneer's Cross Country team in the fall. Tami works at Blue Ridge Elementary in the Special Education preschool program. They both enjoy their work with children and enjoy taking part in the lives of Walla Walla's youth.

In 2009, Chris took on the role as coordinator for Walla Walla's 4<sup>th</sup> of July in the Park celebration at Pioneer Park. He really enjoys this experience, as it has given him an opportunity to work with a variety of individuals in the community, including vendors, entertainers, city staff, and the Union Bulletin. Chris enjoys the challenge of putting the 4<sup>th</sup> of July in the Park celebration together and has learned a lot through the process.

This year, Chris announced his candidacy for a seat on the Walla Walla City Council. He will be on the ballot for November's general election, where he will be running against the incumbent for Position 6. Chris has long held an interest in becoming involved with local government, and is excited at the prospect of serving the citizens of Walla Walla.

Chris still holds Touchet near to his heart, and recalls his time at Touchet High fondly. He is thankful for the teachers and experiences he had while attending Touchet, and hopes that the current and future students will continue to enjoy the school and appreciate the experiences with which they are provided.

## Memorial Contributions Received In Memory of

Clifford Aichele	Ronald Leinbach, Sr
Sharyn Ames	Chuck Maiden
Sylvia Boule Baker	Robert McCubbins
Everett Brock	Dick McKay
Evelyn Carlton	Joe McKay
Janice Davis	Lavina Meyer
Richard Fulgham	Dick Monahan
Rae Harmon	Letty Mendoza Morrisette
Maxine Herman	Robin Peterson
Lorna Johnson	Dorothy Ryan
Dawn Kessler	Dorothy Sutherland
Ned Keyesen	Jerry Vaughn
Cleatis Lacy	Claire Wagoner
Eric Lamb	Louis Weaver

## IN MEMORIAM

### 1930s

Dorothy Anderson Sutherland ('33)  
Lavina Watson Meyer ('35)  
Raymond Munns ('35)

### 1940s

Warren Plucker ('41)

### 1950s

Jaye Evans ('53)

### 1970s

Letty Mendoza Morrisette ('73)

### Former Staff

Karen Hawkins Brown  
Lorna Johnson

**Karen Hawkins** started teaching 1st Grade at the Touchet Elementary School in 1977, and taught through 1981. Karen met Bob Brown (THS '72) when they were both employed at the Touchet School District. Karen and Bob were married on July 27, 1980.

They both continued to teach in Touchet until 1981, when they moved to Wenatchee. Karen spent her life teaching young children. Karen is survived by her husband Bob, and two grown children, Jeremy and Karissa.

TOUCHET EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION  
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## BOX HOLDER



### **Oktoberfiesta Glasses Available**

Please support the Touchet Educational Foundation by purchasing your limited edition pint glass for \$15.

These glasses will be available for sale at the entrance of the Touchet Gardena Lions Hall, Friday, October 7th beginning at 6:00pm.



**October 7, 2011**

**10:00 AM Homecoming Parade**

**3:00 PM Touchet Homecoming Football Game vs Colton** (game time subject to change)

**6:00 PM Oktoberfiesta at the Lions Hall**