



Huskie

Trails

The Official Newsletter of the Reno High School Alumni Association

President's Corner

Hello Huskies!

Well, fall is just around the corner and the school year has begun. What happened to the “olden” days of school starting AFTER Labor Day?? We’ve had a hot, smokey summer to say the least.

I don’t have a lot of news, unfortunately. There were only a few reunions scheduled this year. The class of 1951 recently had a very successful 70th reunion luncheon. The class of 1971 is having their 50th in September. Additional reunion information appears later in the newsletter.

Over the summer, the circle at Reno High School got a makeover. There are new curbs, new pavement and repairs to the sidewalks. Unfortunately, this made it difficult to access the Alumni Museum, and I want to apologize to any of you who might have been inconvenienced by this construction.

As we are all aware, COVID is still affecting our day-to-day lives. However, for now, we are keeping the museum open during our normal hours of Fridays 2pm - 5pm and Saturdays 10am - 2pm except holiday weekends. Please be prepared to wear a mask while in the building.

We have tentatively set the date for the All-Class Reunion. Save the date! **August 28, 2022.** Hopefully the third try will be the charm!! We will provide more information in early 2022.

Finally, our Annual RHSAA meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 1, 2021 at 5:00 pm at the Museum. We would really like to see some new faces at this meeting! At this meeting we do a review of the year-financial, events, membership, the good, and the bad. We still have three Trustee positions available and would really like to fill those, especially with the Picnic coming up. We meet once a month on the 4th Wednesday at 5 pm and take turns opening the Museum on Fridays and Saturdays. Generally, each person only covers one shift per month.

Included in this issue are articles on the principal’s graduation speech that was heartwarming, and a profile of notable alumni, Dick Stoddard, that was submitted by Pat Thomas, a previous member of our RHSAA board.

If you have a story or something interesting to share about your time at Reno High or about notable alumni, please submit your ideas, experience, or article to RHSAA at rhsaa@renohighalum.com attention: J.D. Schnabel. If you would like us to research a subject about RHS, let us know. Stay safe and healthy.

Kathy Wilcox
President

PRINCIPAL'S 2021 GRADUATION ADDRESS

On June 17, 2021, 234 Reno High seniors gathered on Foster Field to receive their diplomas in the first ever outdoor ceremony. The following is part of RHS Principal Kris Hackbusch's address:

Over this pandemic, life has slowed down a bit. Staying home in isolation for extended amounts of time was new for me as I am used to being to being busy all day, every day. I know that is the case for many of you too. It gave me time to read, work out, eat dinner with my family and oh yes...spend major quality time with my two loyal dogs, Lucy and Kona. Is it just me, or did our pets get spoiled during the pandemic? We were home more often. They got more attention and went on walks all the time. I have reflected for a while now, especially as we transition out of the pandemic. What will be the new normal? What will life be like? How should we move forward? Sometimes those difficult questions can be simply answered by observing a dog. There is a story I recently read, and I adapted it for all of you. There was no author listed and it is titled:

“Why dogs lives are shorter than humans?”

The author writes....Being a veterinarian, I had been called to examine a very sick ten-year-old Irish Wolfhound named Belker. The dog's owners, Ron, his wife Lisa, and their little boy Shane, were all very attached to Belker, and they were hoping for a miracle.

I examined Belker and found he was sadly dying of cancer. I told the family we couldn't do anything for Belker, the cancer had spread too rapidly, and I offered to perform the euthanasia procedure for the old dog at their home.

As we made arrangements, Ron and Lisa told me they thought it would be good for six-year-old Shane to observe the procedure. They felt as though Shane might learn something from the experience.

The next day, I felt the familiar catch in my throat as Belker's family surrounded him. Shane, the young boy, seemed so calm, petting the old dog for the last time. I wondered if he understood what was going on. Within a few minutes, Belker slipped peacefully away into doggy heaven.

The little boy seemed to accept Belker's transition without any difficulty or confusion. We sat together for a while after Belker's death, wondering aloud about the sad fact that dogs' lives are shorter than human lives. Shane, who had been listening quietly to our conversation, piped right up and stated profoundly, “I know why.”

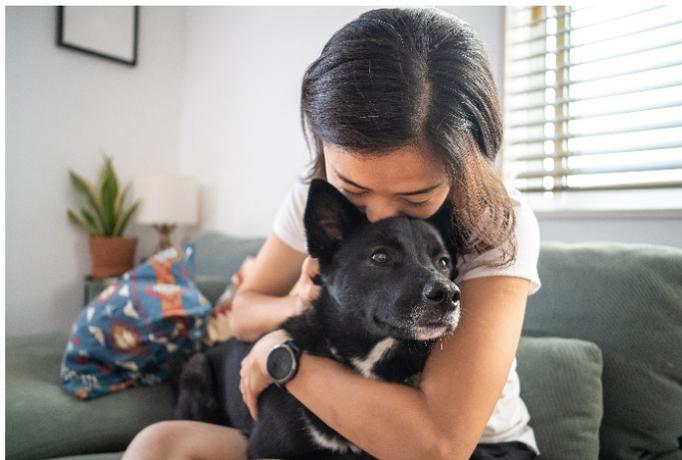
Startled, we all turned to him. What came out of his mouth next stunned me. I'd never heard a more comforting explanation and it has changed and shaped the way I try and live my life ever since.

He said, “People are born so that they can learn how to live a good life – like loving everybody all the time and being nice, right?” The six -year-old continued, “Well, dogs already know how to do that, so they don't have to stay for as long as we do.”

If we just try to live our lives like a dog, we are probably going to be in pretty good shape.

So here is some advice we can all learn from a dog:

1. Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joyride.
2. Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in your face to be pure Ecstasy.
3. Take naps...very important as I get older.
4. Stretch before rising.
5. Run, romp, and play daily.
6. Thrive on attention and enjoy peoples' company.
7. Avoid biting when a simple growl will do...we all need to apply that one from time to time.
8. On warm days, stop to lie on your back on the grass.
9. On hot days, drink lots of water and lie under a shady tree.
10. When you're happy, dance around and wag your entire body.
11. Delight in the simple joy of a long walk.
12. Be faithful and loyal.
13. Never pretend to be something you're not.
14. If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it.
15. When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by, and comfort them gently.



SOME FUNNIES

- Two things to make your day better – Don't watch the news and stay off the scales.
- This morning my son said his ear hurt and I said on the inside or outside, so he walks out the front door, comes back in and says both. Moments like this got me wondering if I'm saving too much for his college.
- Not to brag, but I just went into the other room and actually remembered why I went in there! It was the bathroom, but still....
- One minute you're 21 staying up all night drinking beer, eating pizza and doing sketchy stuff just for fun. THEN....in a blink of an eye you're 50, drinking water, eating salad and you can't do any sketchy stuff, because you pulled a muscle putting on your socks.
- When we're young, we sneak out of our house to go to parties. When we're old, we sneak out of parties to go home.



2021 GRADUATION CEREMONY



AROUND CAMPUS

1. Reno High is fully operational this school year with full in-person learning for all students. Masks are required indoors and on school buses. Masks will not be required outside or when students are eating. Athletes and coaches will have to undergo COVID-19 testing if not vaccinated. Football games and all other fall sports will be played without COVID restrictions. There will also be no limit to the number of spectators. Indoor games will require fans, including those who are vaccinated, to wear masks under the current directive.
2. The following Reno High students were named top athletes for Northern Nevada: Grayson Grinsell for baseball, Penelope Smerdon for cross country and track, Luke Hobson for swimming, Kylan LaGreca (singles) and Celeste Parker and Ella Burriss (doubles) in girls tennis, A.J. Avansino and Charlie Bradley (doubles) for boys tennis and Lina Strand for volleyball.
3. The Reno High baseball, cross country, swim, and tennis teams were the 2021 Northern Region champions.
4. The USA Today High School Sports award was given to Kylan LaGreca for being the tennis player of the year.

ALUMNI NEWS

1. Former Reno High Baseball standout **Garrett Gouldsmith** died after drowning in Donner Lake. After playing for Reno High for two years, Garrett finished playing baseball at Rio Rancho High in New Mexico then played college baseball at New Mexico and Washington State. While at Reno High, he earned all-state honors.
2. **Ben Stevenson**, class of 2013, earned a spot on the 13-man US Olympic water polo team. Water Polo is not a sanctioned sport in Nevada high school athletics, so Stevenson competed on a variety of club teams to get practice time. He played for Pacific and was as three-time All-American. The team was beaten by Croatia and ended up in sixth place at the Tokyo Olympic Games.
3. As a reminder, seniors (55+) can attend Reno High athletic events for free except for regional and state championship games.

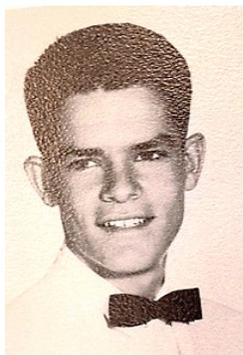
2021 CLASS REUNIONS

These are the reunions scheduled for the rest of 2021. If you are planning a class reunion in 2022, please notify Betty Jo Baker at 851-3203. It is best to schedule your reunion in conjunction with our All-Class reunion on August 28, 2022. If you want to know the name of your class representative, call the association office and leave a message at 775-825-2586 or email us at rhsaa@renohighalum.com.

Class of 1953 – September 17, 2021 contact Joanne Petre at 323-7770.

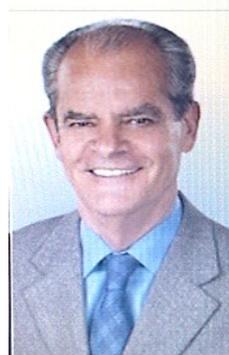
Class of 1971 – September 24-26, 2021, contact Ron Fuchs 1-865-203-8035 or Cindy Baker at 544-6458.

Class of 1980 - October 9, 2021, contact Shelly Marsh at 815-0505



DICK STODDARD

by Pat Thomas



A notable Reno High alumni, Dick Stoddard, graduated in 1965 and while in school participated in the French Club, Science Club, Track, Baseball and Bowling. Pat Thomas is a 1982 RHS graduate and was a friend to and worked with Dick at KOLO -TV channel 8. Pat was also a RHSAA board member.

You probably haven't seen much of Dick Stoddard lately, which may seem unusual, since he had been a regular presence on Reno's airwaves since the mid-60s.

Stoddard's most recent regular gig was as the weekend and fill-in guy on Reno's KOLO 8 News Now. He stopped that shortly after COVID-19 hit in March 2020 because of overall health concerns, though he was never diagnosed with the virus, and officially retired on December 10th of the same year.

I met Dick in 1985, when I was a weekend DJ at KRNO-FM, as was Dick. My favorite Stoddard Story is his dumpster-diving episode. Music in radio stations at the time was played on cartridges, similar to 8-track tapes, and the program director had just replaced the entire music library with new cartridges (or simply, carts) and thrown the old ones in the dumpster in our parking lot. Dick had a radio-type studio at his house so people at parties could pretend to be DJs, and he had a use for all those old carts. One night during my air shift, I stepped outside for a breath of fresh air and saw someone going through the dumpster. Turned out it was Dick. He wanted those carts!

I also used to help Dick file and organize his large record collection, something many long-time broadcasters amass. He still has, he says, about 8,500 45s, many of them radio promotional copies and many of them bought at Mirabelli's Music City. As for his albums, he gave them to Paul at Recycled Records years ago, so you may have some of Dick's old collection!

Dick was born in 1947 at Reno's St. Mary's hospital, where many RHS grads were born, to Bob Stoddard and Betty Stoddard, both mainstays of the Reno broadcasting scene. Betty Stoddard, who became Betty Stoddard-Muncie when she remarried after Bob's death, hosted a show on KOLO-TV. Bob had an extensive radio career, managing KOH-AM in the '40s, and moving on to own and operate KBET-AM 1340, which is where Dick got his start in radio as a DJ when he was 16. There, he says, he was allowed to play whatever he wanted, with no set playlist. At the same time, Dick was on-air at KNEV-FM.

Just a year later, the year the Beatles became superstars and took over AM radio, Dick moved over to Boss Radio KCBN-AM-1230. KCBN is likely the best known of Reno's heritage

AM top 40 stations, though it changed formats in the mid-eighties and has gone through several ownerships and format changes since.

In 1968, Dick began 18 months of active duty with the US Air Force, spending time in Japan during the Vietnam War, working air traffic control. But always the broadcaster, Dick also played top 40 hits on the Far East Network during his military stint.

He returned to Reno after that, going back on the air, where in one way, shape or form, he spent the next decades. He worked KCBN and sister station KRNO-FM, as well as the pre-KOZZ KGLR-FM, and in the mid- 80s joined the weekend staff of the fairly new KWNZ-FM, which became the top 40 FM standard in Reno for several years. After a brief foray in Dallas selling radio jingle packages to stations across the country, he was lured back to KWNZ to host the weekday morning show. Called The Breakfast Flakes, Dick was the host along with veteran local DJ Luann Travers.

Another professional endeavor was mobile music. Dick played music at wedding receptions and graduations for about 15 years before giving that up.

Of course, TV also came calling. KCRL, channel 4, the NBC affiliate, was looking for a weekend weatherman in 1987, and news director/anchor John Firpo liked Dick's broadcasting experience, though Dick had no weather expertise. He had gone to college, though he never graduated, studying engineering and business administration, even becoming the first student at UNR to build a 6' reflector telescope for the planetarium. He eventually went back to UNR, after already being on TV several years, taking classes in meteorology so he could be certified by the National Weather Association. At that point, he was 52 and older than the professors, he says.

He was at KCRL when it created the market's first daily morning newscast, at 6:30 a.m., and he was the full-time weatherman for that show, and he was there when the station changed hands and became KRNV.

In 1991, he moved over to KOLO to be the main nighttime weatherman, doing that for several years, then shifting to the weekend/fill-in-position until his retirement in 2020. In all, he did weather on Reno TV for 33 years, leading to a proclamation from the state of Nevada upon his retirement.

In 2012, Dick saw a doctor after noticing an uncontrollable shaking in his hands. He was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, a disintegration of the nervous system he has been able to control with medication, though it was and is still noticeable to the public. But in his words, he thinks he's doing "better than most" people dealing with Parkinson's.

In 2020, during the COVID pandemic, he had a heart attack and was hospitalized, and he has recovered, but then he had a seizure, the cause of which has not been determined. All that led to his decision to permanently step down from broadcasting. He says he is still able to drive, though maybe not for much longer, but golf, bowling, and tennis are off the table.

He still lives in Reno house he's owned for decades, spends much of his time now with daughter, Robin, and 6 year-year-old granddaughter, Serenity.

Dick is definitely a Reno one-of-a-kind, and if you see him about, make sure you say hello!

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