

Fall 2022

Vol. 1, Issue 2

2022-2023 School Year  
Fall Recap

Board Meetings

November 14<sup>th</sup>

December 12<sup>th</sup>

Calendar Events are  
updated here by SUSD  
Staff:

<http://www.sierrahighschoolalumni.com/district-calendar/>

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# SHS Alumni Association Newsletter

## Welcome!

The SHSAA is happy to present our 2<sup>nd</sup> Newsletter to all of you! We hope this gives you a glimpse into the amazing things happening at SHS.

## A Message from the SUSD Board President

Hello Sierra Community  
October continues to hold good news for Sierra Unified. Enrollment has remained high (1325), and attendance has improved over last year—more kids spending more time learning at school! Our schools continue in the busy fall mode with celebrations of California Native American Day and Homecoming taking place in the last couple of weeks. Both events were noteworthy for their high quality and levels of participation—lots of people having lots of fun! Of course, October also means Fresno Fair time, with many of our students participating through 4H and FFA. We wish them well as they get to show off and hopefully reap the rewards of many months of hard work.

The Sierra campus has hosted several new events this month: Clovis non-profit *Champions for Tomorrow* sponsored former New York Giants player Keith Davis as a motivational speaker for our students. The assembly was very well received as Mr Davis shared his messages of overcoming obstacles and making good choices. The students are also hosting a 9/11 Stair Climb, as part of a national movement honoring the fallen firefighters of 9/11. This event will be on October 14<sup>th</sup> from 9-11 at Franz Stadium. Finally, the Sierra campus will host an assembly educating the students on the dangers of fentanyl, which unfortunately is a serious problem in the Central Valley. Kudos to Sierra for bringing these important events to our students!

The Foothill campus is bustling with favorite October activities: Red Ribbon week, a PFA Food Truck and Trunk or Treat on the 18<sup>th</sup>, and the Halloween parade on Friday October 28<sup>th</sup>. Foothill has a revamped after-school program

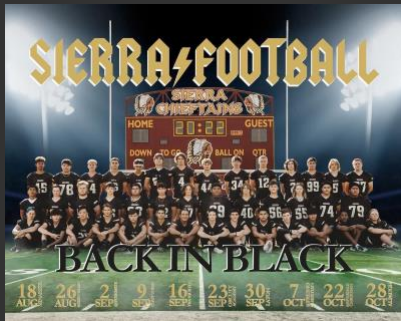
that offers daily homework help plus enrichment, with activities ranging from martial arts to gardening to digital journaling. The first 5-week session, themed “Math Boot Camp” seems to have been a resounding success, with students proudly wearing their camo t-shirts and dog tags for completing math skills in the program.

Alternative Ed is currently serving 50 families with preschoolers, and they are going on their first field trip to the pumpkin patch! Many people don’t realize that our co-op preschool is actually run as an adult-ed program, geared to model and practice parenting skills. This year, our district has received funding to start a state-sponsored preschool, which will be a 5-day-per-week program. Planning and discussions are underway regarding how, when, and where this will happen. A working group including parents is shaping the plan, which will come forward for community and board review in the coming months.

November is coming fast, and I know I don’t have to remind you (but I will) that means elections are coming too. I hope you will take some time to consider our six school board candidates for the three open spots during your vote. Thank you for your role in choosing our district’s leaders.

Respectfully,  
 Connie Schlaefer  
 President, Sierra Unified Board of Trustees

## Football



## Sports

### Football

On Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, the Sierra Chieftain Varsity Football Team secured their position in the Central Section 8-Man Division playoffs with a victory over Alpaugh. Their record, including a few 11-Man games, was 8-1. Under the direction of Head Coach Mark Stelling and his amazing coaching staff, this team has seen its numbers climb steadily in the last few years and has the most players it has seen in many. If the numbers keep climbing, there could be a chance of having a JV Team again.

At the Mountain Bowl this year the Chieftains also came out on top taking home the Trophy as seen in the bottom football picture.

Sierra won versus Laton during the first round of playoffs and will be playing Mammoth for the Semi-Final Game on November 10<sup>th</sup>! Let's go Chieftains!

## Volleyball

### Serving It Up: Volleyball Program Now Led by Alumni

*By Bryce Westlund*

This summer, the volleyball program had the biggest turnout for tryouts in recent years, thanks to the many efforts on behalf of the all-alumni staff.

Head Coach Ashley Jones, Class of 1996, oversees the whole program. Her coaching staff consisted entirely of alumni who played Volleyball all four years of their time at Sierra.

Jones, along with her staff, hosted a youth volleyball camp as a fundraiser. The camp introduces skills to participants and gets them excited to participate in the SHS volleyball program. The staff partnered with coaches from Foothill Elementary School, as well as Sierra Junior high.

The Lady Chieftain Varsity Volleyball team recently wrapped up their season, ending with a devastating loss to the Lady Knights of Bullard High school in the first round of playoffs. Despite this loss, the Chieftains held their heads high, focusing on all the lessons they learned throughout the season.

The Freshman/Sophomore team, led by Coach Bobie Begaye, finished the season undefeated. Begaye, Class of 2004, also coaches and runs the Girls' Basketball program and is a Physical Education teacher on campus, as well.

The Junior Varsity (JV) team finished their season 11-2 in the league. They participated in three tournaments, of which they placed very well, even coming away with a first place in the Hoover High School tournament. Coach Jacky Stoll (Class of 2012) attended Fresno Pacific University where she participated in track. She is currently teaching for the Sierra@Home online education program.

Varsity Lady Chiefs ended the season with a 27-10 overall record. The team was coached by Jones and assisted by Kelly Patton, Class of 2001, and Helena Esajian, Class of 1995. Esajian is also a Speech-Language Pathologist for the district.



Varsity Volleyball



JV Volleyball





The coaching staff and players enjoyed learning and growing with each other and are looking forward to next season.

Go Chieftains!

## Water Polo

### **Making Waves: Sierra Water Polo secures numerous victories**

*By SHSAA Member Kayla Cardoza*

You say “marco” and our Sierra Chieftains will definitely bring the water polo!

The Lady Chiefs Varsity Water Polo team, led by Head Coach Jessica Young, ended their regular season with a splashing 9-1 record. With these victories, they have taken first place in the North Yosemite League. The team consists of Seniors: Becca Thomure and Elaine Skierka; Juniors: Ella Ruland, Montana Bethel, Anna Brokman, Juliana Thiele and Lily Cardoza; Sophomore: Kailee Rose; and Freshmen: Mackinna Anderson and Taylor Stoops.

This team will be no fish out of water diving into their Division 3 Central Section playoffs as Skierka, Thiele, Cardoza and Brokman maintained outstanding goal records throughout the season. They were seated first in the Division, heading into playoffs.

The Boys Varsity Water Polo Team, led by Head Coach Matt Rothe, went 10-0, securing first place in the North Yosemite League. The team consists of Seniors: Evan Rinon, Matthew Skierka and Ryan Brockman; Juniors: Ryder Lee, Luke Sanchez-Boele and Landon Vanwagnen; Sophomores: Lake Mcquoid, Chayce Duerksen, Evyrn Kneeland, Micah Goodman and Isaiah Stewart; Freshmen: Rocco Warner, Marty Arthur, James Ward, Zackery Thiele, Troy Erdman and Zachary Lloyd.

Duerksen, Rinon, Sanchez-Boele, Mcquoid and Goodman maintained outstanding goal records throughout the season. Seated seventh in the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Central Section heading into playoffs.

What an incredible season for both Girls and Boys Water Polo.

### Girls Water Polo



### Boys Water Polo



## Cross Country



## Cross Country

Greetings to all SHS alumni and friends. Just hoping to catch you up with our Sierra High Cross Country team. We are almost finished with this season. I could not be prouder of this group of young runners. They have competed in 7 large meets, averaging 30 schools per meet. The largest meet had 90 schools. All 6 runners have placed themselves on Sierra's All-time Records list in 5 distance events in Cross Country. Sierra ran against 1074 competitors during this time. Our team placed as high as 1st and 3rd over the course of these events. We are very proud of this group of young runners. Thank you for your continued support of these students. League finals are next Tuesday, Nov. 8, at Woodward Park, Fresno.

Sincerely, Lee Kessler (Coach)

## Band



## Band

Our Sierra Band and Vocal Ensemble have been competing throughout California. They have won many titles and trophies throughout these competitions. At the Fresno State Choral Festival the Vocal Ensemble received a superior rating from the panel of judges. On Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> Band ended their season placing 3<sup>rd</sup> in Class D and receiving high marks for music at the Pismo Beach Band Review.

We are very proud of the SHS Music Department lead by SHS Alumni Carly Irvin.

## FFA



## Fresno Fair Highlights

Sierra FFA has many things to be proud of after their showing at the Big Fresno Fair!

Beef Highlights include: Russell Judd- Reserve Champion Senior Showmanship, Adieson Glass- Champion in Fresh/Soph Showmanship and Reserve Champion AOC Steer, Logan King- Reserve Champion Commercial Heifer.

Swine Highlights include: Hailey Witt- Light Crossbred Champion, Reserve FFA Champion and Reserve Supreme Champion Market hog and 1<sup>st</sup> Place Fresh/Soph Showmanship, Makayla McGrath- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Advanced Division Showmanship and 1<sup>st</sup> Place in Feeder Class, Adieson Glass- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Fresh/Soph Showmanship and 1<sup>st</sup> Place breeder hog.



Sheep Highlights: Rylee Osterberg- Champion Crossbred Market Lamb, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Hampshire Market Lamb, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Yearling Ewe, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Fresh/Soph Showmanship, Gabi Watt- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Market Lamb, Ariana Rodriguez- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Market Lamb, Luke Brown- 1<sup>st</sup> Place crossbred Market Lamb, Paige Beard- Championship natural Colored Market Lamb, Supreme Champion Ewe, FFA Reserve Champion Market Lamb, 1<sup>st</sup> Place Fresh/Soph Showmanship

## Contests

Sierra competed in a Welding competition at Yosemite High School in which 2 teams participated. The first team consisted of Skyler Stevens, Riley Smith, and Jackson Smith and they were awarded 1<sup>st</sup> Place and a brand-new Miller Mig Welder! The second team was Wyatt Gibson, Russell Judd, and Paige Beard who was awarded 4<sup>th</sup> Place and received a new gas welding torch.

## Historical Society Update

*By SHSAA Member Wes Qualls*

I thought that I would take the opportunity to tell you just a little of what has been going on at our local Eastern Fresno County Historical Society, located adjacent to campus. We are closely involved with the history of our schools and of course, our Sierra High alumni.

In the Spring, I led an evening presentation titled The Cowboys. In October, we followed with Cow-Camps and Cattle Drives, led by alumni Ben Kimbler. On both occasions, stories flowed from one family to the next. It ended up being a round table of local history with a lot of funny stories and an occasional tale of disappointment.

Quite a few of our alumni, especially in the early days, were either from ranching families or worked for ranching families. Everybody seems to enjoy seeing old friends and most hang around after to tell even more stories.

I am hoping that the Historical Society will do an evening in the Spring about the “family camps” in hydro-electric communities, as well as the Pine Logging, Byles and Jameison logging camps.

Any other ideas?

Come visit the museum Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. We are gearing up for our annual Christmas displays. For more information, visit <http://www.efchs.com/>.

## Contact Us

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## Thank you!

We hope this Newsletter gives you an idea of all the great things that are happening at Sierra High. We truly have an amazing community and school that cares deeply for the students. We wouldn't be where we are today without the foundation of our Alumni.

We look forward to connecting with all of you! If you didn't receive this newsletter directly from the [sierrahighschoolalumni100@gmail.com](mailto:sierrahighschoolalumni100@gmail.com) account, then we do not have your information! So please fill out the form [HERE](#) or email us your contact information at [sierrahighschoolalumni100@gmail.com](mailto:sierrahighschoolalumni100@gmail.com) or write us at SHSAA PO Box 624 Prather, CA 93651

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*Sincerely,*

*Dallas Costa – President; Class of 2008*

*Monica Renna – Vice President; Class of 1980*

*Shannon Ledbetter – Secretary; Class of 2001*

*Audra Falk – Treasurer; Class of 2011*

*Wade Kimbler – Correspondence Secretary; Class of 1981*

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