

# WHS to create alumni museum

By MIKE NEUMANN

The Independent

Woodstock High School is requesting items for display as part of a new WHS alumni museum, which could open as early as the end of this school year.

"We're trying to establish a greater alumni association," said Corey Tafoya, principal at WHS. The school hopes to unveil the museum during graduation weekend, he said, but plans are not concrete.

Until Woodstock North High School opened, WHS had used all available classroom space. With district high school students split between WHS and WNHS, a few classrooms opened up, providing school officials the opportunity to put them to new uses.

The museum will be located on the 300 level of WHS, in an older classroom Tafoya said was not as conducive to learning as other classrooms.

"We had to use it before, and now we don't," Tafoya said.

The school has some items it plans to display. Old photos, yearbooks dating back to the early 1900s and mementos such as old report cards are stored in a cabinet in the room.

"We have to go through the building," Tafoya said. "There are a lot of things we can display better."

An important part of the museum will be securing items from former graduates who are willing to donate or display them, Tafoya said. A request for items was posted on the school's Facebook page.

"We're looking for whatever Woodstock High School memorabilia people are willing to share," Tafoya said. He envisions old football helmets and letter jackets dotting the walls.

"It's our job to save whatever we can," Tafoya said. "It's meaningful to a

lot of people, but maybe not as meaningful when it's in someone's basement."

In addition to wall displays, a sitting area will be available for alumni to thumb through old yearbooks and photo albums.

Tafoya thanked retired longtime WHS staff members Ron Bendis and Gordie Tebo for helping undertake the museum project.

"They're really taking the bull by the horns on this," Tafoya said.

To make a donation, call Tafoya or assistant principal Jason Markey.

## 2010 graduation

WHS is again asking alumni to march during the graduation ceremonies Sunday, May 30. Because 2010 will be the final year with only one high school graduating class in Woodstock public schools, Tafoya said he wanted to do something special.

"It's just a fun acknowledgement of what WHS is in the community," Tafoya said.

The school honored former classes at its 2008 graduation ceremony the year before WNHS opened. At the event, alumni from as far back as the Class of 1933 participated in the event.

For information or to sign up, call Markey at 815-338-4370.

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*— Corey Tafoya,  
WHS principal*