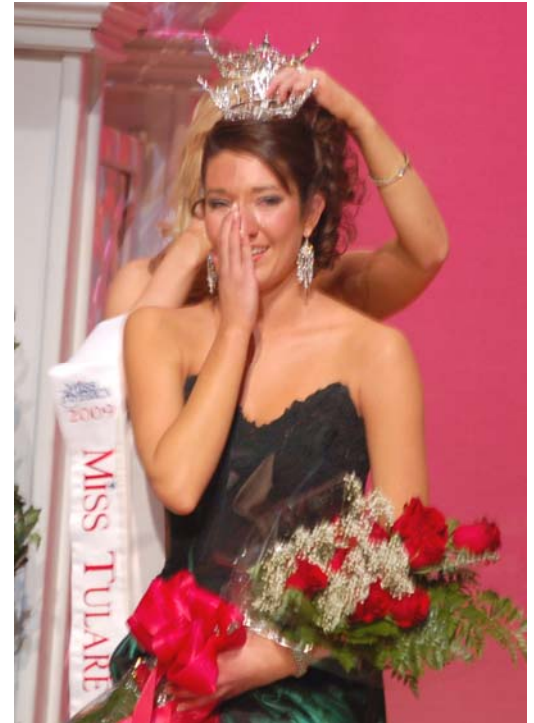


NEWLY CROWNED MISS TULARE COUNTY 2009... A PC STUDENT

For Porterville College student, **Sara Risvold**, when the crown was placed upon her head indicating she had been named Miss Tulare County, she experienced a gamut of emotions; extreme joy and happiness, gratitude to those who supported her and those who coached and taught her, and anticipation of the opportunities she would have in the next year of her reign to encourage others in her appearances. She reflected in an instant how fortunate she was to be selected as the winner of this prestigious pageant.

Sara attended Springville Elementary and graduated from Porterville High School. She was very active, playing on the water polo team, plus participating in drama, FFA, and 4-H. She has continued working as an adult leader for the



Springville 4-H Club and raises dairy goats for sale. *(As a matter of fact, she was just a few minutes late for our interview because one of her goats gave birth as she was about to leave.)*

For the competition, she was judged on talent, interviews, and community activity projects. Sara won first place in the talent contest with a monologue from Saint Joan of Arc. She was also voted Miss Congeniality among the 15 girls in the competition.

The rewards for the victory were outstanding, including a \$4000 scholarship, plus additional cash for the top talent performance and for Miss Congeniality win.

As for her future, she plans to attend PC another year, get her AA degree, and probably go to the Brooks Institute of Photography in Santa Barbara with her scholarship money. She wants to become a professional photographer and has a goal of doing it for National Geographic magazine. Her immediate future includes participation in the Miss California contest, for which she qualified with her win. That will be in Fresno in June and she is really looking forward to the week of meeting and competing with girls from all over the state. Contestants must have a community project and Sara chose to work on behalf of "Suicide Awareness Requires Action" (SARA) and speak about that to as many young students as possible. She will also do some work for Valley Children's Hospital and raise money for the Children's Miracle Network.

Sara said she chose to go to PC because she felt a need develop more maturity and she would be able to take more classes than she could into at a 4 year college. Because of the individual attention you get from the PC instructors, and smaller classes, she highly recommends 2 years of junior college for high school graduates.



TOP—Sara and her younger sister Hannah who was also a finalist who plans to attend PC next year.

RIGHT— Sara in costume for her competition presentation.

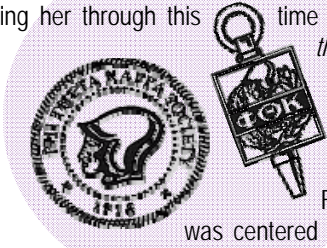
BOTTOM—Summer Loftis, Miss Tulare County 2008 and Sara.



“ALL STATE ACADEMIC TEAM..WOW! Who Me?”

Yes, you, **Lonette Pope**, have been named to the Phi Theta Kappa California All-State Academic team. When a 48 year mom with six children goes back to school after 27 years and accomplishes what you have is a story that needs to be told. It is amazing and inspirational to young and old alike.

Lonette and her family were living in Arizona in 1998 when she decided to move to the Porterville area to be closer to family members. She got a job, but it did not last too long and she decided that she needed to improve her job skills, especially in the use of computers. That led her to enroll in keyboarding and computer operation at Porterville College. After doing well in those classes, she decided that she would like to go ahead and get an AA degree, so she started taking general education and liberal studies courses. With her large family, she found it was extremely difficult to balance taking care of them and completing homework. She said she spent many hours well into the night working on assignments, along with overcoming test anxiety in the classroom. She credits some “tremendous” PC instructors who helped her through these trials. A most devastating tragedy intensified the difficulties when her 23 year old daughter became a murder victim in 2007. She had to take a break from classes because she could not maintain any kind of concentration to keep up the work. It was during this time that she received some real compassion from PC instructor, **Muriel Josten**, and others from the faculty that helped her fight through this unexpected difficult challenge. She responded by eventually making such good grades, she became a member and vice president of the PC PTK Honor Society chapter. She credits God and those PC friends for getting her through this time in her life. Josten stated, “Lonette had that spark you love to see when you look at the class...the one that says, “I get it...tell me more!” When she lost her daughter, I was devastated for her loss and tried to reach out and let her know the entire class was holding her in their hearts.”



She is now set on what she wants to do for a career. She loves working with young children and has worked as an intern in the Child Development Center for three semesters. She hopes to continue her schooling and major in early childhood education and become a teacher.

For her All-State competition, she had to write an essay and participate in community services. Her essay was centered on “National Domestic Violence Awareness”, and her community involvement included helping West Putnam School in a food bank and clothing drive as part of a PTK project. She is also active in her church, and has been a Cub Scout leader. The official presentation of her award will be made in Sacramento March 23. On that trip, she will meet with legislators from this area and have a tour of the Capitol. She will graduate from PC this spring and hopes to receive some scholarships to help pursue a Bachelors degree.



Riding With the Big Boys

When the Tour of California cycling race came through the Valley, **Dr. Ron Glahn**, Faculty Chair of the Porterville College Health, Physical Education and Recreation Division, got to suit up and ride with four local riders in the ceremonial race lap in Visalia prior to the start of the next stage of the major race. A further honor for him was being selected to ride in one of the “chase” cars on the trip to Paso Robles, giving him an up close and personal view of the international cycling stars in action.

Ron has been at PC for 30 years and served as Athletic Trainer, Director of the Fitness Center, and PE Instructor. He developed an interest in bicycle riding at an early age and has kept it up ever since. His first real long distance bicycle ride was from Los Angeles to Salina, Kansas. He and a friend took 13 days to complete that trip. They actually rode there to pick up a Model A Truck and it took them two days longer to drive it back than it did to make the trip on their bicycles. For many years, he has been competing in 100 mile Century Rides with the Southern Sierra Cyclists,

including what he calls “the most beautiful ride in the world” around Lake Tahoe. He was training for an 100 mile ride when he was involved in a crash while going 24 miles per hour resulting in a broken hip, pelvis, shoulder, and his helmet. That put him into the hospital for four weeks of complete bed rest and months of rehab, including underwater treadmill work followed by six weeks in a wheelchair. You might think that after all that, he would have given up riding a bicycle, but he has been training again and this time it will be for a 150 mile ride, for which he says he is in good shape and is looking forward to it. Meanwhile, Dr. Glahn is proud and honored to have been chosen as a participant rider in the Tour prelims and is happy to show off some photo's taken of him on his bike during the event.



Photo's were provided by students in the PC photography classes of **David Chamberlain**.

KCCD LEADERSHIP ACADEMY HOSTED BY PC



Chancellor Sandra Serrano chats with VP's Steve Schultz & Ann Beheler when they stopped by to greet the participants.

President Dr. Rosa Carlson, and Porterville College hosted the KCCD Leadership Academy seminar February 20th. Director, **Michelle Bresso**, opened the activities after a breakfast and some networking. The theme for the day was "Decision Making" and a strong group of presenters brought accolades from the participants for their lessons. Some of the sessions were "Process, Theories, Styles and Steps of Decision Making"; "Participatory Governance and Decision Making"; The decision that changed the nation - "Brown vs. Board of

Education"; "Arriving at Final Decisions"; and "Group Scenarios for Decision Making". Presenters were: Dr. Carlson; **Brent Calvin**, Dean of Business and Social Science (COS); **Michael Quinn**, Interim Vice Chancellor of Workforce and Educational Services (State Center Community College District); **Ms. Camille Tomlin**; **Gary Reed**, Member of the California Board of Governors; **John Corkins**, Member of the KCCD Board of Trustees; **Sandra Serrano**, Chancellor of the Kern Community College District; **Cindy DeLain**, Dean of Nursing, Allied Health, Physical Education & Athletics (COS).



Michelle Bresso; Rosa Carlson; Antonia Ecung, Dean Academic Affairs; Michael Quinn chat over breakfast and introductions.

"I REALIZED MY DREAM"



THE SEVEN SEA SERIES COLLECTION

For someone who was a ward of the Los Angeles County court for the first 16 years of her life, **Linda "Whitefeather" Spears** has become an inspirational example and advocate of a statement she has made, *"For those of you who are students of the arts, please know you can have your dreams....and realize them too."*

Linda's interest in creative arts came while living at the Volunteers of America Maude Booth Home For Boys and Girls in East LA. She was taught leather working, mosaic, copper engraving and many other crafts. She started painting at age seven and learned clay in a ceramics class at L.A. Valley College. She says she has always had a need to create, through drawing, painting, sculpting, wood, metal and jewelry fabrication, sewing and embroidery.

She finally realized her dream after 10 years working on the Seven Sea Series Collection. That is the show in the Porterville College Gallery which has totally enthralled visitors as they see the display of spectacular reproductions of what Linda calls sea urchins. People have a hard time realizing they are not items picked up on the beach because of their realistic look. Most of them were created in her own Springville studio, which her husband, John, and son, Chad, built for her. She also uses the building for classes in ceramics which she teaches.

Linda says she owes a debt of gratitude to Porterville College and the professors for the comprehensive instruction she had while a student on and off from 1988 to 2003. She lists those instructors: **Bob Mills** - Ceramics; **Tom Howell** - Sculpture; **Al Konder** - Jewelry; **Jacque Pennell-Meredith** - Ceramics; **Darryl Nelson** - Painting; **Ted Wise** - English; **Yosef Geshuri** - Philosophy, and **Carol Wilkins**, Counselor.

She says that she has been spiritually inspired over the years by Native American Holy men, and the name "Whitefeather" was given her by a Native American named "Running Wolf". It is her hope to get her show into some museums around the country and to use it as a teaching tool for young artists. It is certainly one of the most unique and professional displays of art to be seen anywhere.





Coach Vickie Dugan is in her 12th season as head softball coach for the Porterville College team. She spent six years as head coach at Oregon State University prior to coming here. Her coaching career began after an outstanding playing record in both volleyball and softball at Fort Hayes State University in Kansas. Coach Dugan was named one of



PC Lady Pirate Coaching Staff

Asst Coach Gracie Steidley; Head Coach Vickie Dugan; Asst Coach Sylvia Harral

TOP - Softball Sophomores: Candice Burns, Rachel Morris; Deidra Dale

BOTTOM - PC Pitcher: Jennifer Glidden

RIGHT - Top Hitter: Stevie Lopez



the
outstanding athletes in America while there. She graduated Magna Cum Laude with 2 degrees there and earned her Masters at Utah State. She calls her Pirate team this year a hard-working, versatile team but very short-handed in numbers. There are only 12 girls, and only one of them is a pitcher, the most important position on fast-pitch softball teams. That girl, **Jennifer Glidden**, even has to pitch double headers — and the schedule calls for a lot of them. Coach Dugan says Jennifer is a quality pitcher who will go on to a four-year college with scholarship help, but some pitching help would be very welcome here. Dugan says that the toughest thing about coaching at the junior college level is getting enough players, especially now that the tuition work waiver program is no longer allowed to recruit out-of-state players. To make matters even worse, one of her players suffered a broken finger in a game and is out for the rest of the season. Her roster this year has 6 local players: two from Nevada; two from New Mexico; one from Dallas, Texas; and one from Anchorage, Alaska. A highlight of this season so far was a victory over Bakersfield College in the COS tournament. Rain has caused cancellation of a number of games and a lot of practices, but the team looks forward to clear, sunny weather the rest of the conference season.



ALL CONFERENCE HONORS FOR PIRATES

Basketball coaches of the Central Valley Conference have chosen the All-Conference teams for men and women, and two Porterville College athletes earned first team honors. **Keith Villiamu** and **Rachel Harrison** made the all-star teams.

Villiamu - a sophomore forward, was the top Pirate scorer for men with a 17 point average. He made 55% of his field goal shots and hauled in 7 rebounds per game. His high game was a 26 point effort and he finished his junior college career with an impressive 21 points hitting 10 of 12 shots, including one three pointer.

Harrison - a three sport star for the Lady Pirates, led her team in scoring with 14.96 points per game. She hit 48% of her field goal attempts and 74% of her free throws. She also averaged 7 rebounds while making 42 steals for the year. She had a high

game of 25 points. Her other sports at PC are volleyball and softball. Other honors went to **Olga Velasquez** and **Chantal Crouzet** who were named to the women's second team. **Nate Brown** and **Alvin "Tiger" Wright** made the honorable mention team for men. **Troy Denton** and **Ryan Davis** are on the All-Defensive team.

The men finished their season in 4th place in the conference with a 5-7 record and an overall record of 9-19. The women ended up in 5th place at a 3-7 mark and an overall season of 11-19.

