Watsonville Woman’s Club launches scholarship

By TODD GUILD
OF THE REGISTER-PAJARONIAN

WATSONVILLE — Nearly one year after longtime Watsonville High School physical education teacher Louise Bilicich died, the Watsonville Woman’s Club has established a scholarship in her name.

The Louise Bilicich Memorial Scholarship already has 25 applicants for the $1,000 award, but club members are hoping that contributions from the community will help them offer it every year.

“We’d like to have a perpetual scholarship every year in her name,” said club member Alice Bankhead. “We thought it would be nice. She was a really well-known lady in town.”

Bilicich taught physical education at Watsonville High School for nearly four decades and remained deeply active in the community after her retirement. She died in September at 91.

Bilicich married WHS head custodian Louis Bilicich after the pair met at the school in 1945. Their marriage lasted more than 64 years.

She was inducted into the WHS Hall of Fame in 2013 as a Friend of the Wildcatz, the same year as her husband, who graduated from WHS in 1936.

The foundation, the philanthropic arm of the Watsonville Woman’s Club, gives out several other scholarships every year, in addition to college-bound high school students. This includes the Cabrillo College Foundation, the Santa Cruz County Music Teachers’ Association and Watsonville/Aptos Adult Education.

Last year, the organization gave out more than $14,000, Bankhead said.

Contributions can be sent to Susan Wayne at 708 Almond Drive, Watsonville, 95076. Checks should be made to Watsonville Woman’s Club Foundation, with Louise Bilicich Memorial Scholarship in the memo.