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Niswanger reaches Grammy Band status

MARGARET ADAMS

Staff Reporter

Within four days, Hailey Niswanger, junior, is going to be tearing it up on the red carpet with Rihanna and Young Jeezy. Niswanger auditioned for, and scored, one of two spots for alto saxophone in the distinguished Gibson/Baldwin Grammy Jazz Band. No big deal.

Niswanger plays a total of seven instruments: alto saxophone, soprano saxophone, clarinet, baritone saxophone, piano, accordion and most recently, the flute. She had to learn to play the flute specifically for a couple of songs for the Grammy gig.

"It's still really hard for me," Niswanger said of her newly acquired skill.

Niswanger practices her music between four and seven hours everyday and she loves it.

"Hailey is the most talented jazz saxophone player I've

ever had in all 25 years of teaching, without a doubt. She sounds like a pro," Jeff Cumpston, band teacher, said.

Grammy Band is made up of 18 high school students from all over the United States and Canada. The band plays at Grammy events, before and after the award ceremony. She will arrive in Los Angeles on Feb. 3 for rehearsals, performances (at The Catalina Bar and Grill...just the hottest jazz club in LA) and recording. The band will be producing a CD at Capitol Records (Snoop Dogg, Megadeath, MC Hammer, Télépopmusik and



Hailey Niswanger, junior, performs a solo on her alto saxophone at the American Music Program Benefit at Mt. Hood Community College held in January. The benefit was put on to raise money for the band to travel to New York City to perform at the International Association for Jazz Convention.

Photo submitted by Patti Niswanger

Ice Cube are signed with Capitol).

Feb. 11 is the big night—the 49th Annual Grammy Awards. Yes, she gets to walk the red carpet with the entire music industry; yes, she gets to sit among the entire music industry; no, she's not making ridiculous bank. Technically, she's not receiving any cash money. "It's basically just an honor," Niswanger said.

In the music industry, apparently honor means scholarships and acceptance letters. There are four different colleges (Berklee College of Music (Boston), The New School for Jazz and Contemporary

Music (Manhattan), University of Southern California and Manhattan School of Music) that sponsor the Grammy band and give out some two million dollars in scholarships to the young musicians in the band.

"I haven't even applied for colleges yet but I'm already getting accepted into top music schools," Niswanger said. She's been accepted to The New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music in Manhattan, but she is keeping her options open and looking at a variety of schools.

In February, Niswanger will only be in school for about nine days due to her arduous schedule. Three days after she returns from the Grammy's, she'll be performing around Portland with the All Northwest Honor Jazz Band. Then she's heading to Idaho for the Lionel Hampton competition with the Pacific Crest Jazz Orchestra.

Staff, student holiday donations increase

SYDNEY MACNAUGHTON

Staff Reporter

At least three charities benefited from the recent gifts donated by West Linn students and staff during the past two months. Toys and food were donated to needy families in Clackamas County, and formal dresses are being collected to make Prom dreams come true.

The Giving Tree toy drive ran from the end of Thanksgiving break to the last day before winter break. A tree in the library donated by Victoria Bechtold, senior, held ornaments that listed the holiday wishes of children. The Associative Student Body and Marlo Schwarz, adviser, has run

the drive at WLHS for five years.

The children that benefited from the toy drive reside at the Annie Ross House. It is the only shelter in Clackamas County that keeps families together, without separating the men from the women and children.

"There was a very generous showing of support from the student body," Schwarz said. "I am pleased to know that the students gave so much to families in need during the holiday season."

Schwarz estimated that people donated about five times as many toys as last year.

This drive mainly focused on toys for the children. There is a possibility that there will be other drives for the Annie Ross House later in the spring.

Abby's Closet helps teen women without a lot of money live their dreams and attend prom, or other formal dances. The dresses were collected from Dec. 11 - Jan. 26. As of Jan. 12, five dresses have been collected.

"A lot of girls go to Prom and Winter Ball at our school, and only wear their dress once. Instead of letting a nice dress sit in the closet, donate it so that other girls can have the same amount of fun as us," Denise

Griffith, senior and Abby's Closet coordinator, said.

Griffith decided to coordinate the drive because she wanted to get involved in a specific organization, and something that benefits people her age. A new coordinator is needed for next year. Contact Schwarz for more information.



Gifts are piled high with donations after students and staff made donations to The Giving Tree toy drive. Toys donated were given to homeless children living at the Annie Ross House.

Photo by Marlo Schwarz

End of school year extended

LEXI WELP

Staff Reporter

A blanket of white now and ice covered West Linn for three days, Jan. 16-18, and when combined with the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, gave students and staff a one day school week. Administrators then had to wrestle with how to meet state standards for school attendance and what to do about Finals Week which was to be held Jan. 30-Feb. 1. Administrators, based on scheduling conflicts, chose to keep the original Finals schedule causing concern from students who lost instruction and project time.

"I can't finish my website project on time because of the snow days. I'm really mad because it was something I really wanted to do and could only do it at school," Stephen Campa, freshman.

The school year was scheduled to end on Fri., June 15. To make up for the snow days, three days have been added on to the end of the year, extending it to June 20. Seniors do not have to make up any snow days at the end of the year, however.



Snow falls in the Senior Lot a week before the snow days, giving students a preview of what was coming. Luckily for these seniors, the snow days won't affect their last day of school. For the rest of the students, however, three days of school have been added at the end of the year.

Photo by Colton Reyes

The teacher work day that was supposed to be on June 18 has been moved to June 21.

"Every year, we plan for three school closure days that can be added to the end of the school year," said Roger Woehl, Superintendent. "We always hope that we don't have to use them, but this year our planning paid off when we needed it."