

School changes as staffers leave; new classes confirmed

NICHOLAS ARNTZ

co-Editor-in-Chief

With the 2008 year coming to a close, there are rumors about next year's new classes, which teachers are leaving, and who will replace them. There will be many changes to class offerings next year, and a possible change in how the school day looks regarding the number of classes available and when students can take them.

As a college-prep high school, some of the classes students would like to have available are not offered, such as Wood Shop and Home Economics. Being a college-prep high school means that the school only offers classes that are "geared around the 'college world,'" according to Kim Carlson, Assistant Principal.

"There is a real partnership of students and teachers when it comes to creating new classes. We shape our classes with the student's interests, along with new trends in colleges, business and careers. It's all about how we prepare our kids for the 21st century and the changing world around us," Carlson said.

Some of the new classes provided next year are sequels of current classes, such as Sculpture and Clay II, Graphic Arts II and Fiber Arts II. Advanced Placement European History, Children's Theatre and U.S. History are classes coming back on rotation. There are also classes that have been revised based on student input. For example, Advanced Novel Study, a one semester class, is now Advanced Literature Study, a senior elective which gives students a chance to find contemporary novels chosen by both students and teachers.

The new classes next year will be Digital Photography and Mandarin Chinese I, both of which "were created from where the economy is going and the future of business and world views," Carlson said.

Although there is interest among teachers and students to add the extra periods, there will be no conversion to a seven or eight period day. "This is really a district directed decision. West Linn cannot change by itself; all schools in the district need to be in agreement," Carlson said. "Although more periods would provide more choice for students, it would require more periods for teachers, which is hard on them. Plus, there needs to be a budget to hire more teachers to meet the demands of the new classes, not to mention extra classroom space, something which is scarce."

However, the administration is really trying to change how the day looks by offering new opportunities for students to take any extra classes they desire, without physically changing the regular class day.

"One new idea we are pursuing is having a 'Saturday Academy,' which would allow students to have a little 'wiggle room' in their schedule," Carlson said. "We never stop looking for new ways to teach, learn and progress. We are always changing, trying to make student voice more applicable to their learning environment," Carlson said.

Ten staff members will be leaving WLHS. From heading for Zimbabwe to following political campaigns, to retirement, staff members are planning their post WLHS futures.

Among those retiring

are Linda Jacobs, custodian, Kim Noah, principal, and Dick Ponting, Guidance Counselor. After 30 years as a part of the WLHS staff, Jacobs is looking forward to retirement, where she plans to do a little bit of substituting and spend time with her granddaughters. Noah and her husband are moving to San Diego, where he has taken a job as a superintendent. Ponting is planning to help his grandchildren move, and then relax for a while before considering other professional options.

Three teachers are searching for teaching positions next year. Jill Houck, English teacher, is hoping to work with at-risk students in alternative environments, such as McLaren Juvenile Detention Center. "I would like more cultural and socioeconomic diversity. I feel that I would have more of an impact in that situation," Houck said.

Jonathan Neumann, science teacher, will be looking for another teaching position near his house (or within biking distance). Besides natural/earth sciences, Neumann would like to teach social studies, his other area of expertise. Lael Shea, math teacher, is looking for another teaching position in at either a middle or high school level in the Portland metro area.

David Frick, social studies teacher, and his family have a very detailed plan for their future. "We are staying in Portland until Sept. 1, while my wife finishes work as a midwife. Then we are probably going to work on the Obama campaign for a couple of months in Colorado, a swing state, until the election. Then our hope is to move to Mexico for a year or so. My

wife wants to deliver babies; and I want to immerse myself in Spanish and to surf. Then the plan is to move back to the states in 2009 at some point, and settle in Boulder, Colo. I want to start another law practice with immigration being part of my client services," Frick said.

As for Stephanie D'Agostino, Health teacher, and David Ely, Math teacher, both will be going back to graduate school. D'Agostino

plans to attend grad school while searching for a full time job, while Ely will be attending Ohio State University to obtain his Ph.D in Computer Science.

Along with Lou Bailey, the incoming principal, 10 other staff members will be joining West Linn in the fall. The administration is currently interviewing for the unfilled positions. They hope to have the hiring completed by June 30.

Willamette Arts Festival seeks student artwork

SYDNEY MACNAUGHTON

Staff Reporter

The West Linn Arts Festival is celebrating its ninth year of great music, food, painting, sculpture and other forms of art. Formerly the Village of Willamette Arts Festival, the celebration will be on Sept. 13-14 and over 7,000 visitors are expected.

Now at a new location, Willamette Park, many award-winning artists will be featuring art to both appreciate and to purchase.

"Willamette Park is a hidden jewel in Clackamas County. It is one of the most beautiful parks in our state. Where the Willamette and Tualatin rivers meet is a great place to spend the day," Sharon Meeker, student art show coordinator, said.

A large tent is planned to house the over 60 entries from high school students that will be submitted in a variety of mediums. Over 100 juried artists, along with many community groups, will also be participating.

"These professional artists take their craft seriously and to the heart. We all need to support and show our appreciation for taking time to share with us," Meeker said.

Artists from throughout the northwest are required to meet strict criteria in order to be considered and eventually chosen, to be featured at the festival. Art submitted is juried by a panel of professionals for both quality and originality.

"We had a tremendous amount of applications for this year's festival and we could not be more pleased," Meeker said.

All of the participating artists have been asked to donate a piece of their artwork to be auctioned. The silent auction will take place both days of the festival, with the proceeds going to WLHS Arts Department. Last year, \$500 was donated. An additional

\$500 will be donated this year.

"The money will be used to purchase frames for the students artwork," Lynn Pass, art teacher, said.



Artwork by Arissa Peyton, senior, appears on the West Linn Arts Festival website. Students are encouraged to submit artwork to be displayed at the festival which will be held Sept. 13-14. Photo by Lynn Pass

Musicians will be featured throughout the weekend, including Retta Christie and the Smart Fellas, Pat O'Neal's Jazz Band, Lincoln's Beard, Roots Revival, Reggie Houston, and Mel Brown's B3 Organ Quintet. Brown has been labeled the 'Gentleman of Jazz', and has a career spanning over 40 years, including many local awards. WLHS musical and dance groups will also perform throughout the weekend.

Comprised of volunteers, the West Linn Arts Festival is a non-profit organization. Volunteers are always needed, and there are many jobs available that could help make the festival a success.

More information regarding the festival can be accessed at www.westlinnartsfestival.com. There is a page solely dedicated to student artwork.

Tanning, tacos, tasty treats: new shops in Willamette area set to open in July

CALLEY LATHROP

Staff Reporter

The Willamette Marketplace became a no-mans-land several years ago when the anchor tenant, Thriftway, went out of business. The Venture Corporation from California is attempting to revitalize the area with construction of a new facility to attract businesses including a bakery/deli, several restaurants, a bank, a tanning salon, a gym and several other artisan shops.

McMenamins, the pub and restaurant on the corner of the lot, has remained open during construction and is the only business that was not sold in 2007. Next to the McMenamins, Rose's Restaurant and Bakery will open its doors to the customers who have craved

their sweet pastries and scrumptious meals, but have had to drive to Portland to experience them. Parallel to the restaurants will be Silk Cleaners, a dry-cleaning establishment with several other locations in the metro area.

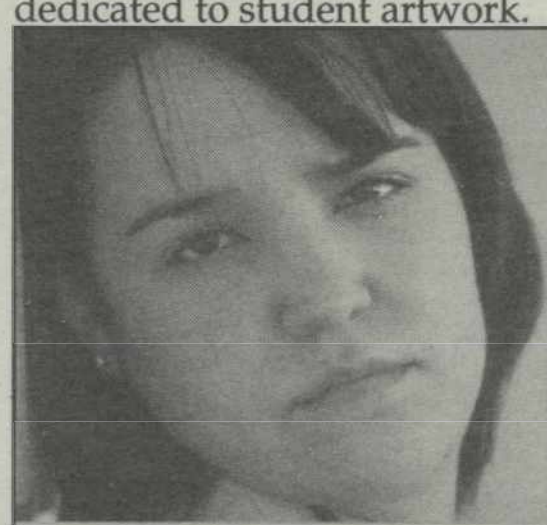
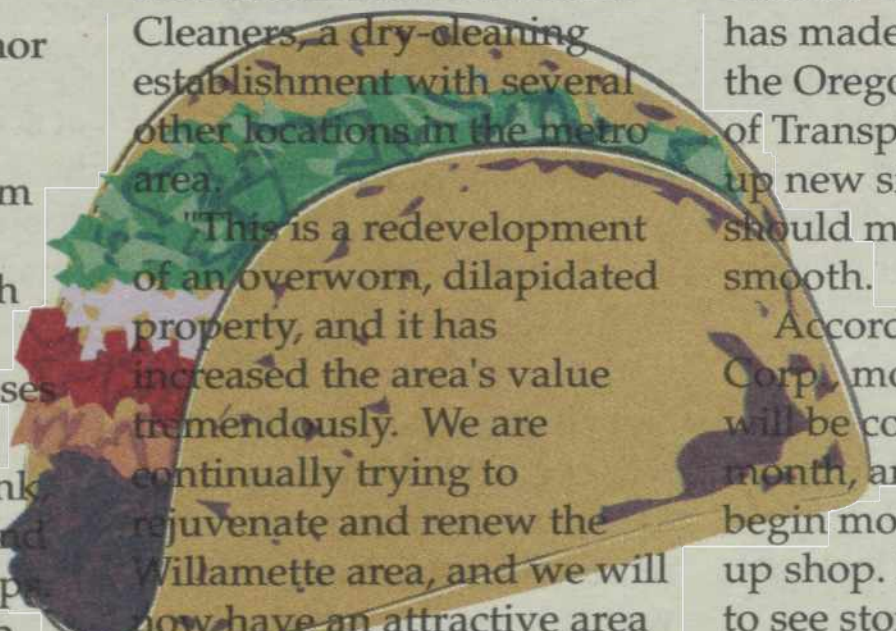
"This is a redevelopment of an overworn, dilapidated property, and it has increased the area's value tremendously. We are continually trying to rejuvenate and renew the Willamette area, and we will now have an attractive area in a place that previously stood vacant. On the whole, it will positively impact the community," Bryan Brown, West Linn Planning Director, said.

An issue that citizens are worried about is the increase of traffic flow through the

already congested 10th Street area and, specifically, the intersections. According to Brown, the city is working hard on that problem, and has made an agreement with the Oregon Department of Transportation to put up new signal lights that should make transitions smooth.

According to Venture Corp., most construction will be completed within the month, and businesses will begin moving in and setting up shop. Locals can expect to see stores opening in mid-July.

"I'm excited for these openings. There will finally be more places to eat closer to where I live, and the whole idea of the new stores and shops sounds pretty cool," Kendall Brooke, freshman, said.



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