

Marijuana! The taboo topic is brought to the surface as a 2010 act could legalize it in Oregon

— page 4

Older siblings can be hard to live up to...or not. Students share their sibling stories.

— page 8

Fall playoffs cap one of best seasons in the school's history.

— page 11

"Dancing at Lughnasa" receives rave reviews. Don't miss the hottest ticket in town!

— page 14

Joey Lecky, senior, dubbed Mr. WLHS in close competition; contestants raised over \$1,000 for local charities.

— page 16

Amplifier

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Gaulke, Varela named Three Rivers League Scholar/Athletes of the Year, in running for Oregon Scholar/Athlete of the Year

■ VALORIE WALLACE

Staff Reporter

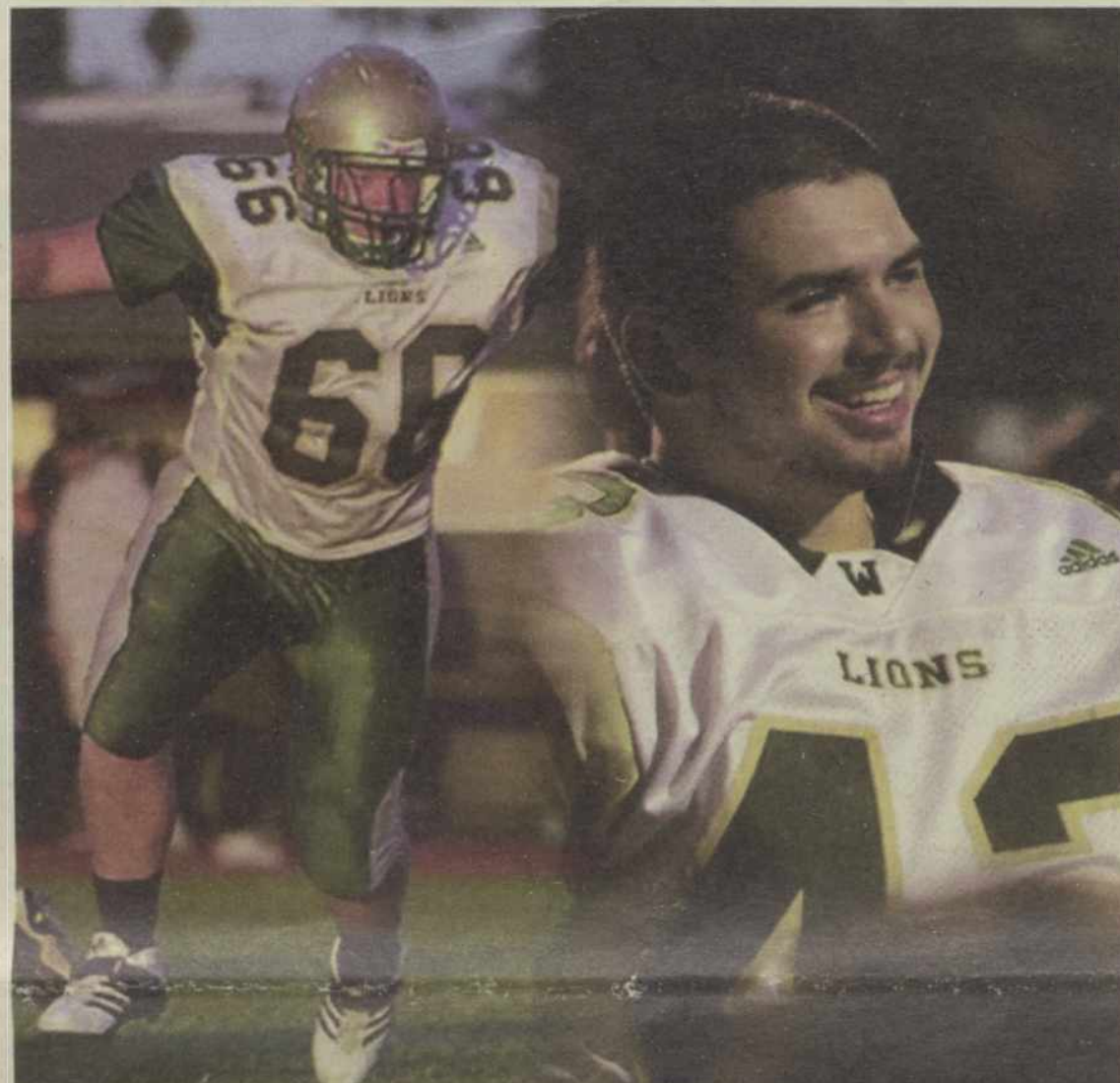
The end of the football season was marked by a close loss to Beaverton during the second round of playoffs. For their outstanding performance, multiple athletes have been recognized.

Mitch Gaulke and Nico Varela, seniors, were selected as Three Rivers League Scholar/Athletes of the Year. They will be honored at the National Football Foundation State of Oregon Scholar/Athlete banquet this month. To even qualify a team must be first or second in All League, be a senior and have outstanding academic standing. In addition to excellence in the classroom on the field, the winners have demonstrated leadership and community service.

"It's an honor to be recognized and it's a great opportunity," Varela said. He is being honored for his performance as outside linebacker this year. Varela has been playing football since sixth grade and has a 3.9 GPA. His community service includes serving as

an Outdoor School counselor for the middle schools last

over the West Coast. Gaulke and Varela will each receive



Gaulke and Varela were named Three Rivers League Scholar/Athletes of the Year and are in the running for the Oregon Scholar/Athlete award. Submitted by Tracie Krellwitz

year and has helped at the Chappell Football Youth Camp since his sophomore year.

Over 1,000 people will attend the banquet including many college coaches from all

a \$1000 scholarship (more if they win in their specific category) and are finalists for the State of Oregon Scholar/Athlete scholarship. They will sit at the head table at the banquet while a slide show

outlining their academic, athletic and leadership accomplishments is shown.

"It's exhilarating! I had a lot of fun playing with friends and training with my team," Gaulke said. He is being honored for his performance as center and defensive tackle. Gaulke has been playing football since third grade and has a 3.8 GPA. His community services includes helping at the West Linn Food Pantry last summer and volunteering at the Chappell Football Youth Camp since his freshman year.

In addition to the league winners, also recognized as Scholar/Athletes of the

National Football Foundation are seniors Bryce Baker and Josh Oltman.

"I am honored to be nominated for the academic athlete award. Even though I didn't win it's still something to look back on and be proud of," Baker said.

WLHS has had several student/athletes honored by the National Football Foundation in the past few years. The coaches and players are thankful for the encouragement from the counselors, teachers and community who helped to support them according to Ron Chappell, head coach.

Litter sparks concern for school environment

■ VALORIE WALLACE

Staff Reporter

Smashed sandwiches, jelly smeared across the concrete steps, crumbled chips sprinkled along the grass. This might be the first impression for visitors to WLHS. Each day at lunchtime students have been taking advantage of nice weather by eating outside—and then leaving their trash behind.

"It's the fact that students sometimes feel that it is other people's jobs to pick up after them when in fact it's their responsibility," Brian Bailey, Transition Specialist, said. He points to two main issues.

One issue is when people travel by the school. Seeing the school covered in trash and leftover food can leave a negative impression. According to Bailey, the concern is not only the front of the school, but with student trash strewn around the surrounding neighborhoods. When students leave garbage and unwanted food on the sidewalks, streets and parking lots, there are numerous complaints from neighbors and those who pass by.

The administration and staff reminds students frequently that treating the school right and picking up after themselves is a responsibility.

"Just having respect for your school is important—

leaving trash around just doesn't look right," Claude Koch, custodian, said. Koch has the job of picking up the trash on the front steps that students leave behind after lunch. The last two years have



been the worst he said.

In the past, the administration has had to shut down the front steps to student dining at lunch when too much litter was left behind each day. This year they have decided on a different approach. However, talking to students and encouraging them to stop hasn't made much of a difference. The problem is becoming continually worse.

The administration and custodians are asking for student awareness and respect for the school, the neighborhoods and the environment.

"I know it can be done because it has been done before with a little effort, choosing to do the right thing, and having respect for other people," Koch said.

Cell tower could lead to potential negative health effects

■ JENNIFER SITTON

Staff Reporter

The West Linn-Wilsonville School Board members voted that they would rather be safe than sorry when it comes to student safety. Recently, questions and debates have arisen throughout the West Linn-Wilsonville community as to whether the cell phone tower on the West Linn High School property brings in enough funds per month to offset potential health problems for students and staff. When the district bought the high school property ten years ago, the tower was already in place with a standing 30-year contract, but there is concern that the tower could have more negative effects than positive.

"The data is pretty much across the spectrum with some saying there is no danger, all the way to saying potentially very

dangerous to be in close proximity to a transmission tower for significant amounts of time. The fact



of the matter is that the data is inconclusive; there may be danger or it may be safe," Dale Hoogstraal, School Board Chair, said. Board members worry about the effects that the

electromagnetic emissions could have on the school's 1,580 students and the staff.

According to the American Cancer Society there is not enough information on this recent technology to determine if it is a health risk, but animal studies have found no traces of cancer. The School Board says it is "taking a cautious approach."

"I think they are making a mountain out of a molehill. They should wait and worry about it when it comes closer to when the contract expires," Alison Fieldhouse, sophomore, said.

"The annual payment (from the cell tower) is \$28,767, so \$2,397 per month," Hoogstraal said. Cingular Wireless owns the tower and uses it along with providers AT&T and T-Mobile.

Cell Tower Debate

continued on page 2