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WLHS takes silver award in nationwide competition

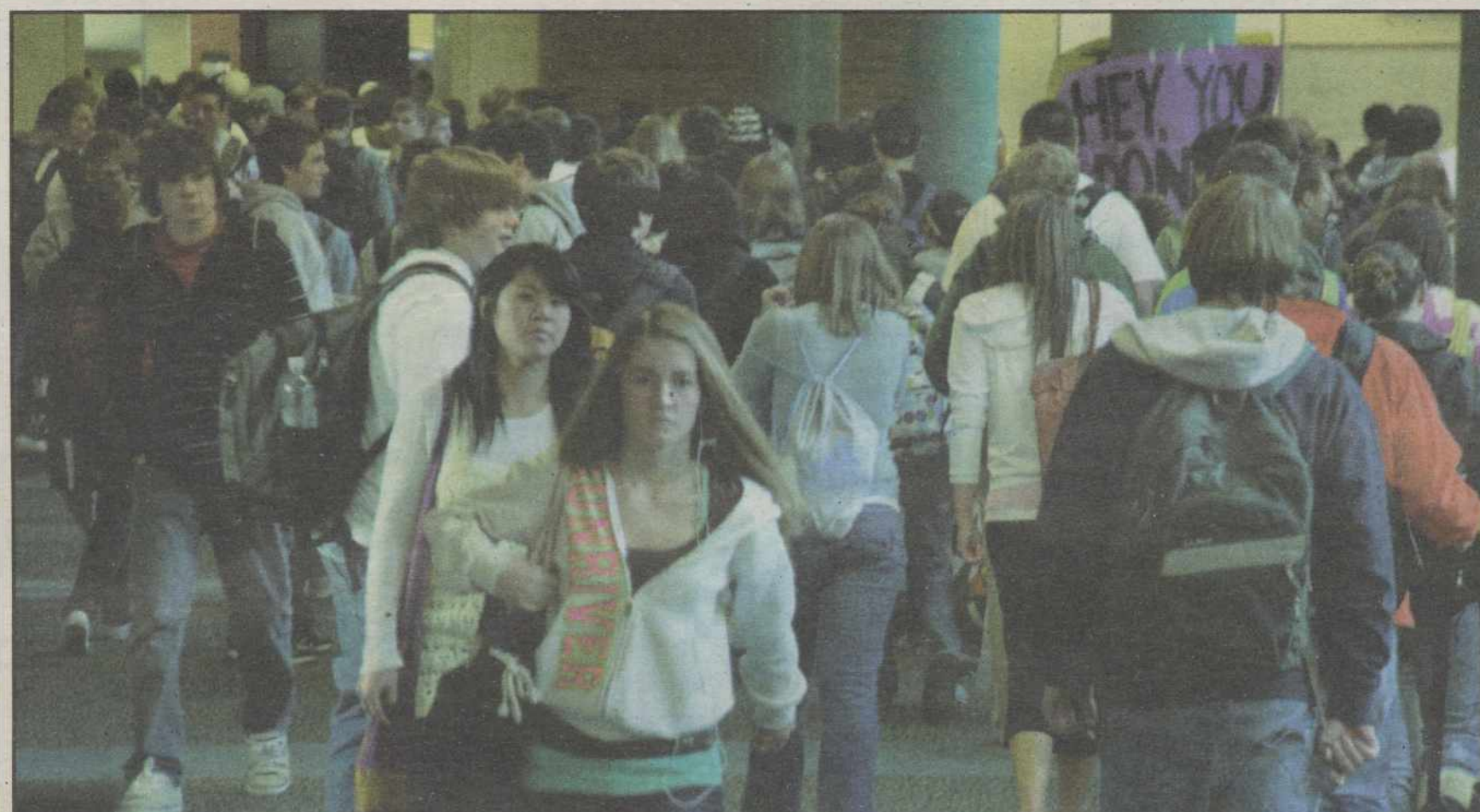
SYDNEY HONGO

Staff Reporter

West Linn High School received a silver medal award in the second annual edition of "U.S. News" Best High Schools. The nationwide competition awarded 100 out of 21,069 high schools throughout 48 states a gold medal award and an additional 504 high schools a silver medal.

"While test scores are by no means the only measures of a good school, they certainly are an indication that we're doing some things right," Todd Jones, Social Studies teacher, said.

The requirements were based on the college readiness index, number of AP tests taken, percentage of students passing AP exams and a participation index. To receive Silver or gold medal, the college readiness index needed



Students leave school after sixth period. Student performance based on the college readiness index, number of AP tests taken, percentage of students passing AP exams and a participation index resulted in a silver award for WLHS from U.S. News' Best High Schools.

Photo by Zack Mueller

to be over 20%. WLHS stands at 36.4%.

"This national rating does not take into consideration

other aspects of high quality schools, such as a school's co-curricular program, but there's no way to evaluate it

besides looking at the number of students involved in all programs offered after school," Lou Bailey, principal, said.

In Oregon, Corbett High School was awarded a gold medal. There were five silver medals awarded in addition to WLHS, to Arts & Communication High School, Lake Oswego Senior High School, Lincoln High School, School of Science & Technology and South Eugene

High School. There were 24 bronze medals awarded as well. Bronze medals were awarded to 1,321 high schools across America.

"The West Linn Wilsonville School district is blessed with a strong community that supports education and has a very strong culture for academic performance," Bailey said. "Our entire community supports our schools with financial resources to support our students."

"We have fun, considerate and motivated students who bring good attitudes and strong work ethics to the classroom," Jones said. West Linn is blessed with great administration, teachers, and parent support, according to Jones.

The environment most of West Linn's students have grown up with have high academic standards, and they have been taught that excellent academic performance is the norm since elementary school, according to Bailey.

"It's about program and expectations," Bailey said. "[And this award] shows good work in the community, and it is something to be proud of."

School hopes to open up opportunities with zero periods

MAX HAYS

Staff Reporter

With high graduation requirements and no room for error or flexibility in student schedules, West Linn High School administrators are looking into the possibility of adding a zero period before and after school.

"Right now we are tip-toeing through the process. My goal is to have something established by next year if everything falls in place," Lou Bailey, principal, said.

The reasoning behind adding periods to the day according to Bailey, is to open up more flexibility in student schedules so they can take more classes in order to get ahead. The students that have packed schedules filled with AP and honors classes don't have the opportunity to take fun electives.

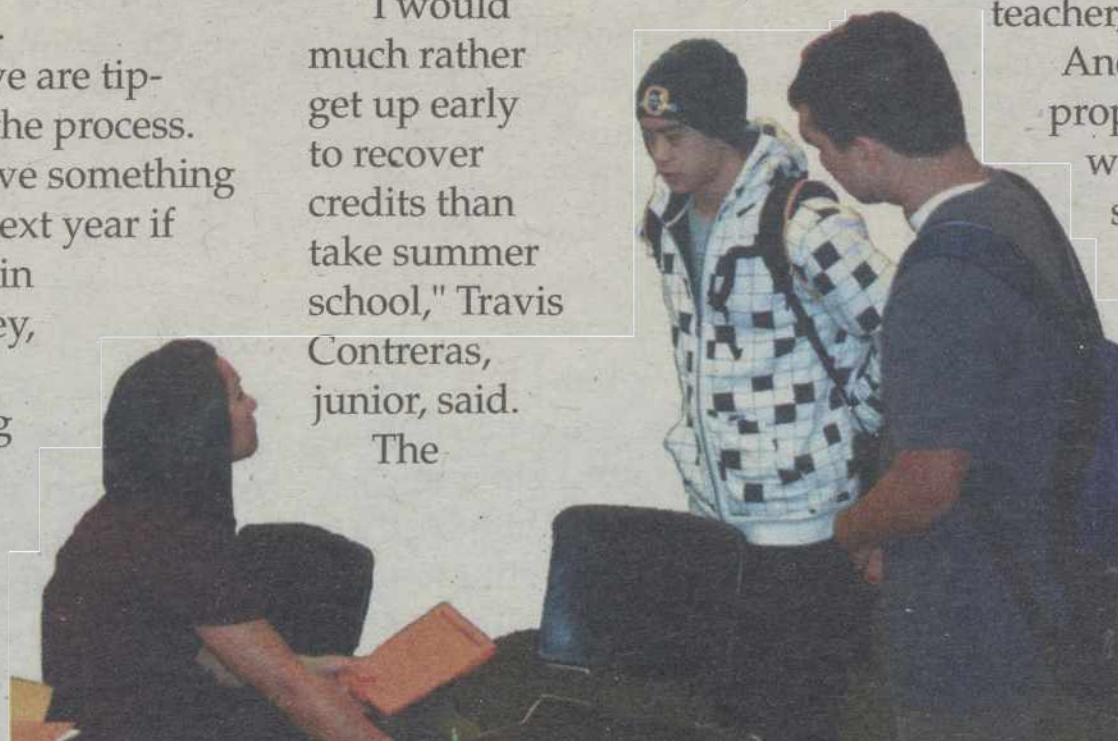
"I get here early anyway, so that way I would get to take an extra elective and leave early," Jakob Gardner, junior, said.

With this proposed

schedule, students would be able to move ahead with early classes and be able to take these electives. Students who have fallen behind can also take advantage of the zero periods by making up classes before or after school to recover credits.

"I would much rather get up early to recover credits than take summer school," Travis Contreras, junior, said.

The



Anthony Chay and Travis Held, sophomores, discuss schedule changes with Megan Runyon, Guidance Counselor, during Mini Arena on Jan. 12-13. This time next year, students could be applying for zero period classes, before or after school.

Photo by Zack Mueller

proposed schedule would basically be a expansion on early bird classes; but instead of just having a select few classes like Physical Education, there would be a wide variety of classes.

Cost is where the main problem lies. If the classes are not funded by the student enrollment fee, how will they be paid for? Another problem

lies in staffing and having teachers willing to arrive early or stay late to teach a class.

"I used to teach at a school that started at 7:25 and we were out of there by 1:50 so I would be all in for getting here early and helping kids,"

Steve Schramm, math teacher, said.

Another aspect of the proposed schedule would allow students flexibility in when they are able to arrive at school. They could come early and leave after fifth period so they can work or participate in anything else that interests them, or they can arrive late and leave after the later zero period.

Students also would have the option of taking more than six periods by taking an early class or a late class, or both if they decide to and wish to take extra electives.

"Our goal is to open up as many possibilities for students to earn extra credits and take as many classes as they can," Bailey said.

Foreign exchange student injured in nightclub shooting

JENNIFER SITTON

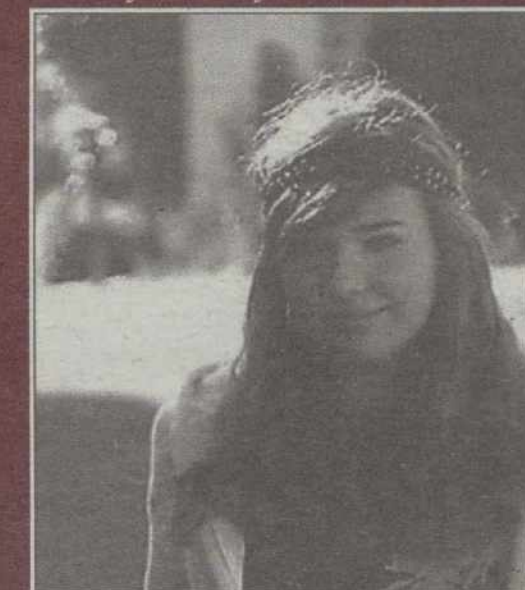
Staff Reporter

Anne-Sophie Rialland, junior, was injured in a shooting that took place Jan. 24, at an underage nightclub, The Zone. Rialland, a foreign exchange student visiting from France, sustained an upper leg wound from a bullet and is on crutches. According to her host family, she is doing well.

A sophomore from Clackamas High School and a Peruvian foreign exchange student died as a result of the gunfire, while another exchange student was in critical condition. The girl who was killed Saturday night was a good friend of Rialland's. The WLHS counseling offices continue to be open for any students who may

need to talk to someone about the events.

"The other exchange students have been frightened, but are mainly concerned for her safety. (They) need time



Anne-Sophie Rialland, french exchange student, was one of six survivors.

Photo by Hannah Zaayer

to process their feelings (about the shooting). Everyone is planning on staying for now," Michelle Olson, counselor, said.