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Amplifier

Published Since 1921

Official Student Publication of West Linn High School

January 2010 - Volume 98, Issue 4

Yearbook staff wins NSPA All American award

LEXI WELP & MARY WOOD

The Green and Gold Yearbook staff earned a prestigious All American award from the National Scholastic Press Association, one of the highest honors in the country for a school publication. They submitted the 2009 yearbook for judging in November, and received a score of 4,440 points out of 4,700, as well as four marks of distinction.

"It's quite an honor because they have an extensive grading section that judges refer to," Glenn Krake, Yearbook adviser, said.

Yearbooks submitted for this competition are evaluated on a very exhaustive scale, including areas like coverage and photography. Those who win the award are then published in a book that comes out at the end of the year.

The staff was praised for having a "surprising" amount of photographs, but was also given constructive criticism to help them improve the future volumes of the yearbook.

"In some ways, it's a tool," Krake said. One piece of advice they were given was to include more male students on the staff to provide more coverage, and they're encouraging more people to become involved.

While they are glad to be in the competition to compare their work to that of

other yearbook staffs, they're striving to make the yearbook outstanding in competition, but also something students will enjoy.

"It is really great knowing that all our hard work and determination paid off; and it drives us to make the next book as great as the last," Carly Feke, co-Photo Editor, said.

Even though they won this award, the competition isn't completely over for them. All American Award-winners are invited to a special ceremony in April where the NSPA will announce the finalists for a special Pacemaker award, which is only given to 25-30 school yearbooks annually in the United States.

"I think we found a good balance of a book that people enjoy reading and still does well in competitions," Krake said. Krake hopes this award will help people recognize the yearbook staff more.

"Sometimes students don't appreciate the hard work that goes into producing a book," Krake said. The staff often comes in to work outside of class time and dedicates countless hours to creating a quality yearbook.

"There would be assignments we would have to finish that would take two weeks," Natalie Snyder, co-Editor-in-chief, said. "We would dedicate our time before school, after school, and on the weekends."

This year, the staff plans on meeting a March deadline instead of producing the usual

fall yearbook. The books should be out by the end of the school year, and a supplement

that can be taped into the book covering spring events will be available in the fall.



Photo by Carrie Guy

The Green and Gold yearbook staff won a prestigious All American award from the National Scholastic Press Association. They scored 4,440 points out of 4,700 and earned four marks of distinction.

WLHS earns national recognition for excellence—again

CHRISANN KIM

For the second year in a row, WLHS earned a Silver award from "U.S. News and World Report" placing us in the top 561 high schools in the nation. Overall, over 21,000 high schools were evaluated for "America's Best High Schools" honors.

"I am thrilled for our students, teachers and our community. This is an

outstanding recognition for others outside of our community to know that we are an outstanding school. The award is about the hard work our teachers and students put in on a daily basis," Lou Bailey, principal, said.

Only nine other high schools in Oregon earned the Silver award. Awards were based on performance expectations, performance of

less-advantaged students, and college preparation.

"This award validates the hard work our teachers dedicate themselves to do for and with our students," Bailey said. "We have won the Silver award now two years in a row, which indicates great consistency within our school's academic program."

Silver Award

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New server creates initial headaches, but expected to be beneficial

GUNNAR WOLFE

Despite recent technical difficulties with the computers, the new server upgrade will be beneficial in the long run according to Curtis Nelson, West Linn-Wilsonville School District Director of Information Services.

"The server is faster, higher capacity, centrally located in an 'always on' environment. As it settles into place, this will make the entire end-user experience better," Nelson said.

Over the past month, the network has, at times, malfunctioned or been very slow. This is due to a change in servers over winter break. The server is where all files are kept, and it is not an easy task

to transfer such a large amount of files.

There have been some problems with the changeover,

but the change in servers had to be made, as there were only four gigabytes of space left in the old server. The old server

was out of space and out of warranty.

The new server is used for the entire district, rather than each school having an individual server. This will make things easier, according to Nelson, as all the files are now located in the same place.

Although in the long-run it will be an improvement, there are still bugs that need to be worked out as the computers have yet to function 100% properly. This has caused frustration and headaches for many students and teachers. It has been even more problematic because the school relies so heavily on computers.

"Sometimes you have days where you really need to quickly finish work and you have to try computer after computer to see if it works,"

Amanda Rucker, junior, said. "It's hard to get anything done."

There have been problems with students and staff not being able to access files, drives appearing in different places for different users, and at one point, students having access to all other students' files.

The district technology staff has been working countless hours to make this transition as smooth as possible.

"With technology, there will always be problems and bugs that need to be worked out," Angie Hammond, WLHS Technology Department Chair, said. "The entire staff worked through the summer and winter break to get this technology to work. It wasn't easy."



Photo by Libby Kara

Over winter break, the district switched over to a new central server housed at school district headquarters. Each section of the server has a greater capacity than the old server at WLHS which had less than four gigabytes of space left prior to the transfer.