

# Faculty band brings hoedown

Three teachers from Clackamas play in bluegrass group

**C.J. Ciaramella**

Feature Editor

Ever wonder what the instructors at Clackamas do in their spare time? Well, for three of the faculty members this includes getting together and playing old-time bluegrass.

Their band is called No Strings Attached, a local group composed of Dave and Judy Arter, Bob Misley, Loren Ford, and Susan Wilks. Dave Arter and Misley are both science instructors, and Ford is a Psychology teacher.

No Strings Attached could be well described as bluegrass with a twist. Misley calls the group a "bluegrass novelty band" and explains the material as "some funny songs and some crazy songs."

"Our roots are bluegrass, but we don't just do traditional bluegrass," explained Dave Arter, who performs rhythm guitar, as well as harmony and lead vocals for the group.

"We're always looking for obscure music that we find in old trunks," said Misley.

No Strings Attached will be busy this summer, playing at many fairs and festivals. Their next upcoming gig will be on June 18 at the Hoffman House restaurant in Molalla.

"We've played there twice, and they want us back for some reason," said Arter.

The group is still settling in with their new lineup, which includes recently added members Misley and Wilks, but the band has been around for over a

decade.

"I was one of the original members," said Arter. "I've been in the band 15 years. Actually, it's going to be 16 this summer."

The group's genesis came about here at Clackamas, in fact.

"The way we started out, Judy and I took a music class called Country, Folk and Bluegrass," said Arter. "The instructor of that class was Bob Misley."

With the class as an inspiration, the Arters started out as a bass and banjo duet, expanding to a full band as the years went on. However, the catalyst for their creation was not yet a part of the lineup.

"Bob Misley, in the meantime, had moved away from bluegrass," Arter said. "He was playing surf rock."

Fast forward to when personal changes left slots for a banjo and bass player open. The band became whole again with the entrance of Misley, as well as Wilks.

"We had one female bass player from the Portland area respond [to a wanted ad], Susan Wilks, and she was perfect," said Arter.

Since then, No Strings Attached has been working steadily on new songs and preparing for the summer season.

"We practice once a week," said Arter. "We're to the point where we have about two sets of material."

But the question remains: what's it like playing in a band with one's fellow faculty members?

"It's a kick," said Arter. "Bob and Loren are both naturally entertaining. They're riots."

Misley reiterated the sentiment.

"Now we've got this history, this wonderful kind of comradery," he said. "It's a crazy picture we've got going. You're not going to fall asleep during our



No Strings Attached is (left to right) Loren Ford, Susan Wilks, Dave Arter, Bob Misley and Judy Arter. The band is playing a show on June 18 at the Hoffman House in Molalla.

*"It's a crazy picture we've got going. You're not going to fall asleep at our show"*

Bob Misley  
Science instructor

show."

Of course, any student who's had Arter, Ford or Misley as a teacher would have little trouble believing such a statement.

For more information about No Strings Attached and their upcoming gigs, visit their website at <http://www.nsagrass.com>.

*Upcoming shows*

**June 18:** Hoffman House, Molalla

**July 10:** Portland Spirit  
[www.portlandspirit.com](http://www.portlandspirit.com)

**August 19:** Squaw Mountain Ranch Music Festival  
[www.squawmt.com](http://www.squawmt.com)

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"We have an open door policy. Parents are always welcome," Kemp said. "One of the strong points of our center is that we're like a family. We have long-term staff and long-term relationships with families. Children I took care of 11 years ago are coming in and asking me if they can volun-

teer."

The focus in the classrooms at the YMCA is on developmental learning. The building also has a Headstart program with a Spanish-speaking classroom.

"We are always trying to improve, always striving to provide the most beneficial atmosphere possible" Kemp said. Other features include Spanish-speaking caregivers,

security cameras for safety and identification checks upon entrance. The building is also in the process of acquiring security doors.

"The one problem is that we have a very slow moving wait list," Kemp said.

Parents interested in enrolling a child in the YMCA at the college can contact Susan Kemp at (503) 657-9795.



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