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While Wheeler got an early start in the field, Moore and Fonzeca were pushed into a trial by fire their sophomore years.

"I've always wanted to be part of music, but I never found the one thing I enjoyed doing. When I took the recording arts class that's when I thought, 'I found it," said Moore.

While Wheeler spends much of his time in the sound room of the Ken Collins theatre, Fonzeca and Moore can often be found on the other side of the school recording audio and musical per-

PARKS.

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board stuff would be taken

care of in the process. It's not

like you're eliminating some-

thing and starting over. The

big thing is it stabilizes the

Parsons agreed that would

be a big advantage. Currently,

funding."

formances from an isolation booth.

"I came in with nothing but knowing choir music. I didn't know the software and I barely knew how to hold a mic," said Fonzeca, who now works a sound board and mixing software with ninja-like skill.

That's not to say that the trio haven't had setbacks along the way.

"We lost one of the first recordings we ever did because we didn't save it correctly, but you need to fail so you can learn better. We've failed a lot, but we've succeeded so much more by learning from our mistakes and becoming better," said Moore.

They're also passing on what they've learned to the

up-and-comers in the program, or as Moore likes to call them, "the minions."

"We knew some basic things because of theatre, but it was like being a baby in the deep end of the pool," said Zena Greenawald.

"We started with the theatre, but we really sort of discovered all the other stuff after starting there," added Faith Zamora.

For fellow minion Rose Nason, getting involved with the recording arts program was as much a matter of practicality as expanding her horizons.

"I just wanted to have more knowledge of all of it. That way if I end up some place where no one knows anything I can come in to it and start

the work, even if we have to branch out from there," Nason said.

Taking on the role of teaching what they've learned has added new dimensions for the three seniors.

"Since we have a recording arts and engineering class, we've all had to take a crash course in how video cameras work and how the editing works. We have to learn it and immediately turn around and teach it," said Wheeler.

While they get their names in the production credits for most of their works, Fonzeca and Moore said the pet projects, which are often small individual recordings, are their favorites.

"My favorite part is coaching people to get ready to

record. Juan and I will find someone whose voice we really like and we think has potential and then we'll slowly build them up into the studio," said Moore.

Part of that coaching draws on their own experiences as members of the school choir, explained Fonzeca.

"Choir has definitely helped because we can pick out when someone is playing or singing something wrong. Being able to do that is a huge part of getting good recordings," he said.

Both Moore and Fonzeca are planning to attend Clackamas Community College to study recording arts; it's one of the few places that offers the degree as a major in Oregon.

They've both already trav-

eled up to take a tour of the program and liked what they found.

"It felt like home because some of the problems are the same ones that we have here," Fonzeca said.

Wheeler has no intention of pursuing it as a career. It started as a hobby and he expects it to stay that way while he pursues a career in law enforcement.

Still, he relishes watching the audience during a theatre performance.

"When I'm doing live stuff, I get satisfaction from seeing people enjoying the performance and taking something away. I like having a small part of that. I was able to contribute to someone else's day," Wheeler said.

money for parks comes from the same fund as other city services, with parks often getting low priority.

"It does stabilize funding," Parsons said. "It will continually get the funding. We're building this humongous park at Keizer Rapids and we want to expand it, but we can't (with current funding). Ten years from now, are we still going to have that same thing?

You just don't know." Parks Board member Richard Walsh noted a task force was formed several years to look at the idea of forming a library district, so some of that information gathered could be relevant.

"When parks funding is mixed in with water funding and a water main blows out, there's no question where your money goes," Walsh said.

"The money pretty much goes everywhere but parks when water, sewer and police use the same funds. The real advantage (of a separate district) for parks is for funding to be separate from that."

Parsons cautioned this isn't an overnight solution.

'You would need a couple of work sessions to talk about the process and what the first steps are," she said. "It might take a couple of years to come to fruition. It's a huge project." Hager felt that might be optimistic.

"It's going to be more like five years," he said. "We're going in the right direction in exploring this. I want to see stabilized funding for our parks. Part of our work will be to continue to have good relations with the council. They want to have good parks too, so we're not at odds. These are all things that can be worked out.

"The only challenge is presenting this to the public to show they are the beneficiaries of stabilized funding for the parks," Hager added. "Parks are going to deteriorate. We saw that on the Parks Tour. We need stabilized funding for it. The long-term results are to our benefit."

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