

Teachers from 1A

Jocelyn Cain has been standing up in front of the classroom for 13 years. Teaching runs in her family; her dad was a high school math teacher. Her whole family is from Mapleton.

Cain will be teaching Special Education for the entire elementary

school, along with second-grade core reading and math.

"In Special Education, you get to see students' individual growth throughout the years," she said. "You get to build a relationship with them."

Jessica Nelson will be teaching a slew of subjects for the district, including art for every grade, middle school drama, high school com-



Mapleton
Jocelyn Cain



Mapleton
Molly Dooley



Mapleton
Jessica Nelson



Mapleton
Nancy Reade



Mapleton
Juline Walker



Siuslaw Elementary
From left: Wendy Moore, Christi Riggs and Chelsey Stemberg



Siuslaw High School
From left: Bruce Morganti, Melanie Goeddel, Tom Shinn and Ryan Roach

position, world cultures for high school and a "partridge in a pear tree," she said.

"Art is a human endeavor, like language," Nelson explained. "It's a wonderful way to express yourself, and we live in a world that uses visual communication a lot."

Molly Dooley teaches Social Studies. A first year teacher who used to live in Drain, Ore., she said that starting her career is "exciting, a little nerve-wracking and I'm ready to go."

"Social studies shows up in everyday life," Dooley said. "Especially with history. It's not just in the past. It connects with today. History is happening now, and it's important to understand that so we know what's going on in the world."

Juline Walker is teaching middle school and high school Spanish, seventh-grade math, ninth- and tenth-grade language arts and careers. She's a local, and acted as a substitute teacher at Mapleton and a Spanish teacher at Siuslaw High School for the past four years.

Walker said, "I think that being able to communicate with someone in their first language is a really amazing way to honor that person

and to respect their background and upbringing."

Heading over to Florence, six new teachers are joining the Siuslaw School District faculty ranks this year, as well as a new assistant principal.

Garth Gerot has been education students for 14 years before coming to Siuslaw High School as the assistant principal.

This isn't his first go-around in the position, having been principal at Willamette Leadership Academy in Springfield. He has teaching experience as well, passing on language arts to students and career and college readiness for six through 12th grades.

"I really want to make the students' current learning relevant to their long-term goals and prepare them to take that next step to whatever it may be," Gerot said. "I want to help set them up so they can really follow their passion and put that positive energy into what they are doing."

Bruce Morganti will be teaching music, drama and everything in between. He has an extremely long career in teaching, having taught in Arizona and Hawaii.

"It's the communication and

imaginative skills that drama gives students that makes them more prepared for work and living," he said. "These skills translate into real life."

Tom Shinn is a graduate of Roseburg High School and went to Western Oregon University. He'll be teaching Social Studies along with teaching kids how to properly throw a proper curveball as the baseball coach.

English and Language Arts teacher Melanie Goeddel is joining the ranks after graduating from the University of Montana, Missoula, with an emphasis in English. Her honors thesis project was on improving classroom literacy instruction, taking English beyond just rote by incorporating speaking, listening and computer literacies.

"I want to make students excited about language," she said.

Ryan Roach is taking his first crack at the head of the class after being an educational assistant for three years with the Siuslaw District. He'll be a Special Education Resource Teacher focusing on Social Studies and English Language Arts.

What's important to Roach? "Building a respectful and inclu-

sive relationship with parents and students, and a classroom community for my students so they have a place to learn in a well-curated environment," he said.

Chelsey Stemberg is jumping into the teaching waters for the first time, looking to shape the minds of fourth-graders at Siuslaw Elementary School.

She's not new the community, having grown up in Florence and graduated from Siuslaw High School.

"I want to give back to the community that gave back to me," she said.

Wendy Moore has been working with students for 17 years. She'll be working with the Title I children in fourth- and fifth-grades.

"I hope to improve my students' reading scores and therefore instill confidence in them," Moore said.

Finally, Christi Riggs, a 20-year veteran of the teaching world, got right to the point.

"I'm just going to say, the reason I'm a teacher is because I want to make sure they love to learn and can become lifelong learners," she said.

Riggs will be teaching fifth-grade.

Departments from 1A

"We had an area that was protected by two volunteer fire departments, but they did not have insurance protection and they were not able to collect tax dollars. What this is going to do is bring another \$20,000 into their budget and they are going to get

additional volunteers, so they are going to strengthen their fire departments' budget, their personnel and their firefighters, who will now have insurance coverage when they respond to a call," Langborg said.

Another important element of this increased cooperation between departments will be in the training offered to the Upriver fire fighters, secured through a new grant obtained by Siuslaw Valley.

Lyndsey said, "Jim (Langborg)

got the grant going and then added us. We will get ongoing training for six years and we also get five 'turnouts' a year for three years, which is very significant because new turnouts cost about \$3,500.

"The support that Siuslaw Valley has been giving us is a big change from what it was in the past. We will be much better prepared to respond to emergencies here and to assist on calls in other areas."

Danny Morgan, assistant chief

of the Deadwood District, emphasized the importance of this training to the citizens he protects every day.

"With this help from Siuslaw Valley, we were able to take Emergency Responder Classes (EMR), which are not quite training for EMTs but better than just a first aid class," Morgan said. "There were four of us from my station that took the class, so now we have licensed EMRs. So we are branching out from fire calls, and we can do more for our community than before."

Morgan also points out the time factor involved in responding to medical emergencies.

"Previously, we would show up and tell people that the ambulance was on the way and you are looking at a half hour drive, or longer, depending on how busy they were," he said. "Now, we can administer oxygen, take vitals and update the EMTs with accurate information and let them know what to expect."

Langborg said, "We want to do everything we can to help them with training or equipment or nozzles. Whatever we can do to help them protect their community. Also, we may need them some day, and we want to make sure that what we got coming is solid."

When asked to summarize the changes on the horizon for the upriver fire departments, Lyndsey said, "This connects us all now. We were never really connected to Siuslaw Valley a whole lot because our previous administration didn't want their help. They thought Siuslaw was trying to take us over. Now, we are working closely with Siuslaw, and Jim's been really helpful in getting this all going."

Lyndsey said he believes the new mutual support model envisioned by Langborg is one that will benefit not just the first responders who are risking their lives to protect the public, but also provide an improved service to their respective communities.

"Being connected to Siuslaw Valley has been big. They are our support group. They have more knowledge about fire than we do and I can call them for advice about different things," he said. "It's much more of a team now, not just us, but the whole valley."

More information on the October public forums will be available soon.

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