

The TigerScot

News:

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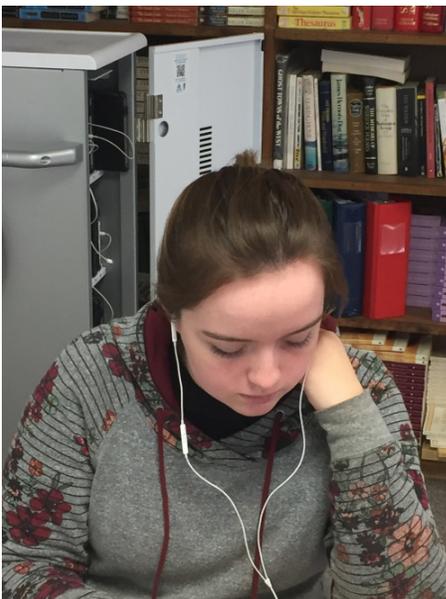
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The Value of Music

By Matthew Shafer

Music provides so many great benefits for people. For example, it helps people to de-stress and become less anxious. Another benefit of listening to music is that it helps people to fall asleep. According to an article written on WebMD, music that has a 60 beat per minute rhythm helps people fall asleep. When a person falls asleep, their heart rate is about 60 beats a minute. Authors at WebMD also report that listening to music can help motivate people when exercising because instead of focusing on being tired it shifts the focus to the beat of the song.

Listening to music lifts people's mood and it helps people in pain get relief because the music takes your mind off of the pain. Music is also great to listen to when in downtime because it's entertaining and it helps to pass the time. Music makes many attributions to people's health so go out and listen to some more music.



Tenley Alderson listens to music. Photo by Matthew Shafer

People like to listen to different music for different reasons. For example, when asked what type of music Lawson Denny likes and why he said, "I listen to rock because my parents exposed me to it. I listen to music all the time." Raven Hunter said, "I listen to all music besides country. I listen to it because it relaxes me and helps me get through the day without lashing out at people and crying." Brittany McGill said that she listens to "Mostly country music because I enjoy it." Khai Roberson said, "I listen to all kinds of music except for country. However I have specific tastes in EDM because every time you listen the music takes you to a different place. It's kinda like traveling the world without ever leaving your room." Lexi Verkis said "I listen to country and pop because I like the beats and rhythms of the songs in these genres."

All these people like different songs for different reasons. Try to listen to some different music. The results may be surprising.

GEM Theater is Progressing

By Megan Phillips

If you drive down main street, you may notice the old theatre that once had spent many years in abandonment, now bustling with new energy and renovation. The Gem Theatre has been redesigned and is being remodeled, and will hopefully open soon since completion is dependent on money.

Rob McIntyre, music teacher and long-time community member, and the person who envisioned the project, has been working on restoring the theatre to its former glory, and his goal is to make it even greater than what it was before. The theatre will feature movies, a Hodaka Motorcycle Museum in the Star Saloon, and a Wurlitzer organ- largest of one of five of its kind in the Pacific Northwest, which is a

whole orchestra in one instrument. The stage will be used for concerts for the WMHS band that McIntyre teaches, and he looks forward not having to perform these in the high school gymnasium anymore; they'll also be used for theater and other kinds of performances, and of course, movies.

In an interview with McIntyre, he reveals "The theatre kind of represents everything that I've worked on in life. I've worked on old cars, buildings, and historical projects where I've once lived." Now, he is working on a project with quite a bit of history behind it as well. The Gem began showing its first movies in 1901; few theatres are left in Oregon now-a-days, originating from this time period. The theatre featured concerts and silent movies. Older people performed music on the organ for these movies, music that was played by emigrants coming down the Oregon Trail, while movie reels were changed. The theatre closed during the Great Depression, where it didn't reopen until 1938. It ran for another thirty years, then finally closed in 1968. Then, the theatre and its potential was recognized by McIntyre and a core group of like-minded people. There are many people who have helped in some capacity over the last ten years. Their work and time is appreciated.

In the interview with McIntyre, he hopes that the Gem "will bring back some activities that we can't currently have now because there is no place to host them, and that it will help downtown Athena financially from all of the closing businesses." He hopes that some of these activities could be dances and school activities, as well as community ones.



The main floor of the GEM Theater, where the concessions area will be. Photo by Megan Phillips

Schools in Athena and Helix Combine for Some Activities

Opinion By Keree Graves

Helix is a small town located 15 minutes away from Athena; they have a small number of kids, but enough to do their own school activities. Should Helix be coming to our school and combining with TigerScots for certain events?

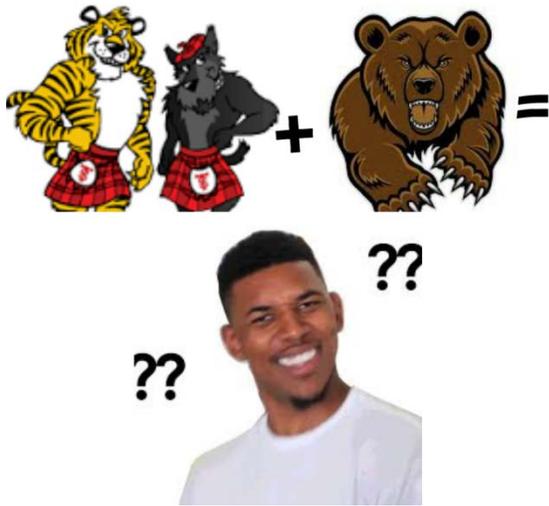
While Helix kids come to some of the dances we have, like Prom, they also come to Athena to do softball, which has caused some contention.

So why is it that the softball team joins with Helix, but the baseball team refuses to? The move for softball makes the girls move up to a 3A division instead of staying at 2A because of the amount of kids on the team.

Moving up a division is tough because bigger schools have a wider variety of children, or young adults, to choose from than smaller schools. It also means playing teams that we've never seen before as a little school, and it makes for longer days when traveling.

If the boys at Helix have enough to make a baseball team, they should be combining with the TigerScots baseball team as well.

With everything at hand Helix might make something better for us, like helping our softball team get the win. Helix will probably be a part of our school for years to come, but they should do so for all teams, not some.



Should High School Students be Taking College Classes?

By Bryce Thul

College tuitions are rising constantly and that leaves families wondering how they're going to pay for their kid to attend college. With college classes offered in high school that seems to be the answer for some families. However, are college classes right for high schoolers to be taking? Here at WMHS college classes (AP) are offered through Eastern Promise and dual credit is given by some teachers. We take these classes because it gives students opportunities to get credits toward their college career in the future. There are a couple of cons to taking these classes though.

For example, they cost money to take. Depending on how many credits the class offers, this is how much it'll cost. Another con is that the classes ask a lot more of students, which leaves them sleep deprived from all the homework and that could result in their grades slipping.

Benefits include getting prepared for the way college classes work, and also earning the credits for college.

The talk here at school about the AP classes isn't super positive. The students think that the AP courses ask too much of them. That is because most of the students can't handle the workload. The AP classes give students so much work that they lose their social life. They feel stressed enough with all their other classes, and with all their homework they start to realize they have no social life anymore.

According to an article in the "Orlando Sentinel", students are being pushed to take these hard AP classes because counselors want their students to get into good colleges. However, what if students don't want to go to college? They shouldn't feel forced to take rigorous classes they have no desire to be in.

Students have a lot of stress in school already, and sometimes that extra stress is past the limit for students. When asked if the workload for an AP class is too hard, Mr. Olson said that some students are able to handle the work and for others it's too much. "The courses being taken by the high schoolers are beneficial for the kids because it gives them an understanding about how college really works." He also stated, "It's good that kids take the AP courses in their younger years of high school because it gives them more possibilities."

Colleges ask specifically for credits students earned in high school. That's why students feel pressured to take college classes. The classes are so demanding that the students

who take them are too worried about their work in that class to focus on the other classes they have.

Maybe a solution to this problem could be teachers corresponding with each other to figure out what days they'll give homework. That solution could give students the chance to finish homework in a certain class on a certain day.

Another solution would be to limit the number of credits a student can earn each semester. That way they have a little more time to spend doing something other than homework.

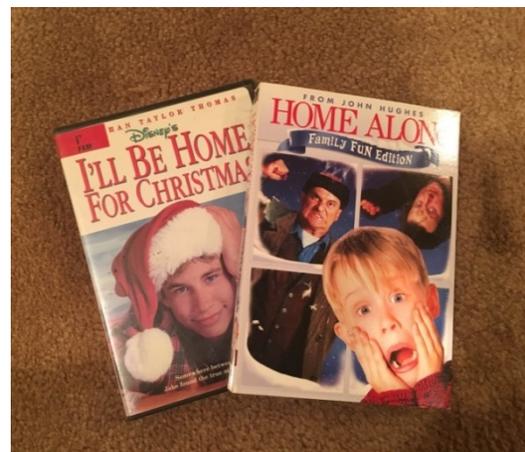
Best Christmas Movies, as decided by the students at WMHS

By Tenley Alderson

One of the first things that comes to mind when thinking of the holiday season is Christmas movies. Along with opening presents and a warm Christmas dinner, movies are one of the most enjoyable parts of the holiday season. Like movies of any other season, they bring people together, but there's something about a warm cup of cocoa and the soft movie music filtering through the air that really brings out the Christmas spirit in many people. There are many Christmas movies that are considered "staples," such as *Elf* or *The Christmas Story*, but which one is the best? After polling the students of WMHS, these are the results.

The options given to students were *The Christmas Story*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, *Elf*, *Home Alone*, *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*, and another space for an option that wasn't listed. Of the 151 students surveyed, 38 chose *Elf* as their favorite, making it the winner. Next, it's *Home Alone*, with 26 students deciding that's the best. Nineteen other students voted

"other," with a variety including *Bad Santa* and *Home Alone 2*. One movie in the other section was quite popular, *The Polar Express*, with 16 votes. Another two movies were popular in the other section: *The Nightmare Before Christmas* with 13 votes; and *Edward Scissorhands* with 11, tying with *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*. The last three places were close: *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* received 9 votes; *The Christmas Story* came in with 6; and lastly, *It's A Wonderful Life* finished with a grand total of 2. It's pretty apparent from this poll that people enjoy quite a variety of Christmas movies, but with so many to choose from besides this list, it's not a surprise.



Some of our favorite movies, just in time for Christmas! Photo by Tenley Alderson

Christmas movies have, for a long time, been a huge part of the traditional holiday season in American culture. Many times, Christmas movies bring people together in a positive, pleasant way. It's relaxing with a soft blanket and a crackling fire, with a happy Christmas movie illuminating the room. For many people, it's probably one of the greatest parts of Christmas. Without a doubt, these films will continue to be a big part of holiday traditions for years to come.

Chess Club Alive and Well at WMHS

By Adie Olson

The chess club is making a comeback this year at Weston McEwen High School.

Mr. Olson is the advisor and they meet in his classroom during lunch. Mr. Olson says that they are all great kids and, are getting better at chess. But what about those people that know nothing about chess—what's the game about?

When playing chess, each player is given 8 pawns, 2 knights, 2 bishops, 2 rooks, 1 king, and 1 queen. Each piece has a specific way in which it moves. But the main goal of the game is to take down the king.

Due to popular belief, people think that chess is hard to play. In reality, it is really it is extremely fun and easy to play.

It's one of those games where the player has to look ahead, because every move has a reaction and it could either be beneficial or disastrous.

Playing chess requires a lot of thinking and brain power and it also helps with problem-solving skills, because a lot of the time it's important for the player to navigate a sticky situation, in order to stay in the game.

There are many great chess players in this world including Grand Champions, men and women who have mastered the game of chess.



What's your best move in the game of chess?

Photo by Adie Olson

In general, chess is a great game that everyone should play. If you're looking for a great time, join chess club.

The Peanuts cartoon was originated by cartoonist Charles Shultz. Destiny has used the Peanuts characters but created her own storyline in this cartoon.

If you would like to draw a cartoon and submit it to the TigerScot News, please do! We'd love to showcase your art!



Peanut Comic Strip

NHS Service Projects Begin

By Sami Ford

Philanthropy is a staple part of being in National Honor Society (NHS), and the members are now getting ready make their community service projects a reality.

As a rule, all members are required to actively head one service project a year or they will be depinned and booted out of NHS. The project must be at least 15 hours of work and beneficial for the public as a whole. They aren't limited to NHS, however, as these can also be counted as a milestone project.

Plans are already being made and the students are soon going to start working. Mary Bagdon and Adrienne Olson, both juniors at Weston McEwen High School, are going to clean up the concrete area behind the tennis court by making new benches and setting up drought resistant flowerbeds. "I want people that are coming into Athena to look at the tennis court and think, "Wow, that looks really nice." Says Bagdon.

Christina Swafford, a junior, and Emmaline Irvine, a senior, are setting up a Backpack for Kids Program. This will help children that may not have enough money for materials to acquire new school supplies.

The annual Blood Drive has already come to pass. The fall drive was held Monday November 7th at the High School, headed by Ali Schroeder, a senior. The spring drive will be headed by Garrett Shell and Hannah McIntyre, both juniors, with the date to be determined.

Martin Wenzel-Schenck, Kyndahl Manning, and Michael Shafer, all seniors, will work to replace the recycling bins in all the schools.

Ryan Schmidtgall, Kellen Fairchild, Hayden Scott, seniors, and Alyssa Finifrock, a junior, will put on a spaghetti feed. The proceeds will be given to a charitable

organization that will soon be determined. "I hope to raise a lot of money for Leukemia because it's something important to all of us." Says Finifrock.

Hunter Sater and Bailey Hilmick, seniors, will write a grant and eventually purchase a new sound system for the baseball and softball teams to use at the high school.

Maddi Muilenburg and Sierra Scheibner, juniors, will write a grant to purchase a new water fountain for use in the high school commons.

Samantha Ford, a junior, will be taking the 24/7 youth group to clean up the Blue Mountain Humane Society and make the environment cleaner and safer for the animals.

Rob Davison, a junior, will start up the FOAL (friends of Adams library) Program where he will volunteer his time to take care of the big project that the Library puts on at the end of the year.

Many fun projects are in the making and are going to make our community as a whole a better place! We can all look forward to the wonderful improvements that will come for our small town!



Sierra Scheibner, Maddi Muilenburg and Mrs. McIntyre brainstorm ideas for their annual service project. Photo by Sami Ford