

The TigerScot News:

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Cliff Taylor, New Shop Teacher at Weston Junior High and WMHS

By Sami Ford

In the fall of 2016, Weston McEwen High School hired Cliff Taylor as the new woodshop teacher.



Currently residing in Walla Walla, when asked if the commute to both Athena and Weston was hard, the 60-year-old replied, "No, I actually enjoy it. It allows me to review my subjects in the mornings and

take the back half of the day to relax. There are beautiful sunrises in the mornings." He starts his days at the high school, and after lunch, he commutes to the middle school.

Graduating from Kamiakin High School in 1975, Taylor went on to earn his Associate's (AA) degree from Columbia Basin CC and would later earn his Bachelor's degree in education from Southern Illinois University.

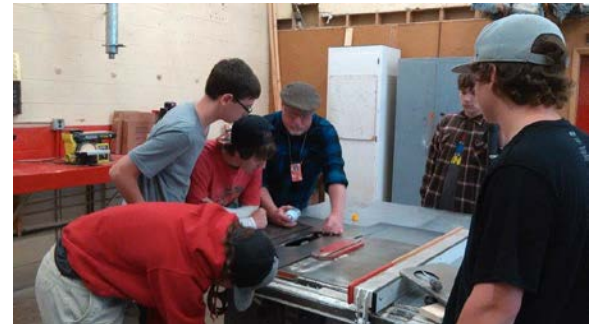
Taylor has led a very fulfilling life before coming to our small school. He worked for the Navy for 26 years, with 13 of those years spent as a hard hat deep sea diver construction worker. After that, he worked for Target Property Development as the manager, building and renovating Target stores. He then went on to be

a substitute teacher at the Walla Walla School District.

Taylor has many new plans to help reinvent the wood shop class. "[I want to] change the culture of the industrial arts to be a safer and more conducive learning process and manufacturing." He also would like to update the technology, including a, "C&C Router to complement our 3D printer."

When not at school, Taylor likes to spend his free time with his wife and daughter. "I like watching my daughter perform, she's the captain of the cheer squad. I like to go to her games and then hold bonfires for her and her friends." He also spends much of his time riding horses in the mountains and improving his property.

The Athena Weston School District is glad to have you!



At left, a picture of Mr. Taylor. Above: The shop class looks on as Mr. Taylor instructs.

Photo by Sami Ford

Muslim Women Should Be Allowed To Wear What They Want

By Matthew Shafer

Many Muslims believe that women should be covered up at all times even at the beach, so oftentimes, Muslim women will wear burkas. Lately, in order to enjoy the outdoors and

swimming, Muslim women may choose to wear burkinis.

Muslims want women to cover up because it is the law and part of their religion. A burkini is made out of swimming material instead of the cotton or polyester which is used to make burkas. A burkini covers the whole body except for the face, hands, and feet. There is a built in hood to cover the head and hair.

In Muslim-populated areas it would be normal to see women at the beach wearing burkinis. However, parts of France have banned burkinis. They have banned the burkinis because of the recent high-profile terrorist attacks that have happened in France in the last two years.

France had no right to ban the burkinis. Megan Phillips said, "I think Muslim women should be able to wear burkinis because it's not hurting anybody." When asked if Muslim women should be able to wear burkinis, Mrs Brown said, "Yes." France is stereotyping Muslims. Not every Muslim women wearing a burkini is planning a terrorist attack.

Recently, France has removed the ban on the burkinis. The court says that it violates people's rights. The court is absolutely right on removing this ban. It is a clear violation of their rights. It's part of their religion, and while some view the burka as a way to oppress, perhaps those who wear the burka do not. Society would not force a Catholic to cast down their cross, so why would they force Muslim women to wear a burka or a burkini?

The Benefits of a 4-Day School Week

By Adie Olson

Weston McEwen High school has always had a five-day school week, even though many other schools in the county have four-day weeks. Examples of these schools are Pilot Rock, Stanfield, and Umatilla.

This is an injustice to the people who go to this school. People may disagree because students are, supposedly, getting more instruction time. But that's not how most kids think; they would rather be sleeping in and hanging out with friends. And to the students, this is really unfair.

Of course there are downsides to having a four-day week, but the good does outweigh the bad.

One down side would be that we would most likely get a longer school day. An example of this would be that Enterprise has a four-day week but they go until 3:37. This extended time could be an inconvenience for the people who do sports because later practice means athletes are getting home later. But even with the longer school day students are getting more time off.

If we followed Enterprises system, 148 minutes would be added to the four days of school. But without Friday there's an additional 272 minutes of personal time, which can be used for spending time with friends and family, completing homework, or doing community service. Personal time is also really important because students have the chance to figure out their other goals outside of school.

Another plus side to having a four-day week is students have more time for homework. If teachers really pile on the homework, it can be hard to do all in two days. And no one wants to spend all weekend doing homework. Just because we're teenagers, doesn't mean we don't have personal lives. Having that extra day could help students' grades because they have the opportunity to get all of their homework done, if they choose.

According to Forbes Magazine, "A 4-day week increases productivity because when there is less time to waste, you work more." This could be true for students at WM—time

spent at school would be better used because it would be precious.

The four-day week is just a better system that all schools should adopt.

Theft Increases in Communities

By Tenley Alderson

One wouldn't normally think that little Athena, Adams or Weston would have many troubles. However, these towns have had some problems lately, specifically with theft. During late summer, the number of Facebook posts from community members regarding theft rose a concerning amount. It's certainly not easy to tell why this crime rate is increasing, but it's not a great way to maintain peace and security within the community.

In focusing on Athena, while theft in this small town might be hard to believe, theft in rural areas isn't all that uncommon. It's not unusual for people to be comfortable leaving bikes out and cars unlocked. But that is adding to the problems.

Reports of theft have left our community has triggered a variety of responses. "I'm not surprised. People will always want to take what's not theirs and prey on careless people, even in a small town," Tessa Irvine, a lifelong Athena resident, says. A new member of the community, Kendra Zink, says, "I am a little bit surprised that people are stealing, especially from cars and garages."

While there's no sense in letting go of the comfortable environment there is in Athena, Weston and Adams, it would be wiser to make a few changes to ensure safety within our community. Anymore, it's not logical to leave

valuable things out at night, especially if it's in an open yard. Locking cars, garages, and especially homes anytime it's nighttime or there's no one home would definitely decrease the chances of theft. Every town has its flaws, but with a little bit of effort, Athena, Weston and Adams can continue to be the welcoming small communities they've always been.



Leaving valuable things such as a bike or skateboard out without a second thought for what might happen to them is exactly why things get stolen. Photo by Tenley Alderson

Sports Updates

Volleyball

The varsity volleyball team played East Linn Christian Academy on Saturday and won. The next game will be against Bonanza on Friday afternoon in Redmond.



Cross Country

Districts were on Friday, October 28. Hayden Scott placed 1st in districts—he will be going to State this Saturday at Lane Community College.

Football

The football team played their last home game on Friday, October 28, 2016 @ 7 p.m., where they won against Culver. The team is finished for the season! Good job team!

Cheerleading

On Friday, October 28, 2016, Emmaline Irvine and Johanna Albert, cheerleaders, hosted a cheer camp. The school looks forward to the cheerleaders pumping up the basketball players!



From left: Andrew Gambill, Weston Phillips, Blair Rudolph, Dylan Cain, Hadden Ball and Anthony Flores Photo by Robert McLean

Dress Code Unfair to Students

By Eboni McAllister

Over the years, the administration at WMHS has been slowly restricting students' dress code. As of now, the rules say that tank tops must be at least two to three fingers wide, skirts must be past the fingertips, no short shorts, no sleeveless shirts, and no bro tanks, for example. The handbook dress code rules state that if the dress or grooming of the student is inappropriate the school will require the student to change their clothing. But how would you feel if you or a friend got dress-coded for wearing shorts that weren't long enough, but another person was wearing something similar but didn't get dress-coded for it? Last year this seemed to be happening a lot, according to students.

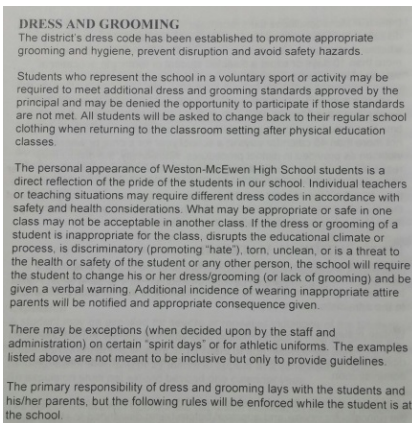
Keree Graves had some opinions on how she felt about the dress code. She said, "I really don't think it's fair, I feel as if the dress-code is more lenient towards the guys." Graves also remarked, "I remember one time I got dress-coded because some of my shoulder was showing, it's not fair that females can't wear tank-tops but males can."

If WMHS is to have a school dress code then it needs to apply to all students. Rollie Marshall stated, "The staff members give input and help make the dress code, we also look and see what the dress codes are for other schools. Do I think that the dress code is applied equally? Well I would hope so." Marshall also believes that the middle school has a committee that addresses the dress-code every once in a while to bring the dress code more in-line. Marshall doesn't believe the dress code has become stricter over the years.

The question is whether a person's clothing represents freedom of speech and if those freedoms are applied at school. Some schools enforce a dress code due to gang violence while other schools may feel the need to enforce a dress code so that students can achieve higher test scores as well as keeping students from having distractions. Many schools also feel the need to enforce a dress-code to help with the families who receive low income and can't afford the trendy clothes.

Our dress code policy isn't that bad compared to some other schools around the U.S. Athena-Weston school district doesn't have school uniforms, thankfully. But while there are many reasons why a dress-code is applied, no one can argue that it must be applied fairly.

There are several solutions on how to make the dress code fairer. One is that the administration totally ban tank top, skirts and shorts instead of making the rule "past fingertips" because it is difficult to try and figure out if everybody's skirts and tank tops are a certain width and length.



A picture of a page from the student handbook concerning dress codes.

Photo by Eboni McAllister

sent to the office, change, and then if they refuse, punished. A way to do this is that people in first period would be looked at and sent home to change. But EVERYONE would do it.

Dress-codes are a hot topic. But they are part of the world we live in.

Administration could make the dress code apply to all students especially with the consequences of not following the dress code. If two students are wearing inappropriate clothing for school then both students need to get dress-coded,