

# The TigerScot

## News:

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## Honor Band Members Perform in Concert in MF

By Megan Phillips

On the 7th and 8th of November, students from the Weston McEwen High School band took a trip to Milton-Freewater to participate in a gathering of select students to play four pieces of college level music. Seven students from WMHS played in honor band at Mac-High: Ashley Swafford- baritone, Gavin Smith- bass clarinet, Amanda Kidd- flute, Kamryn Dalrymple- alto saxophone, Cody Caldwell- alto saxophone, Megan Phillips- trumpet, and Lawson Denny- bari saxophone.

Over 100 band students participated from several schools and played “At the Strongholds of En Gedi”, “Chant and Jubilo”, “The Liberty Bell”, and “Sweet Low, Sweet Chariot”.

Gavin Smith and Amanda Kidd were asked for their thoughts on their honor band experience. Smith shares that he “Had a lot of fun playing in a band made up of different band members from different schools,” and Kidd believes that the experience has enhanced her musical knowledge. They both agreed that one of their favorite parts about it was socializing with other students, and their own bandmates.

Kidd is somewhat disappointed that this will have been her first and last time participating in it, but both Kidd and Smith agree that they really enjoyed honor band, and would definitely do it again if given the opportunity.



*From left to right: Rob McIntyre, Director, Gavin Smith, Ashley Swafford, Megan Phillips, Lawson Denny, Cody Caldwell; seated: Kamryn Dalrymple, Amanda Kidd  
Photo by Krysta Calvert*

## Apple vs. Android: Which is the Better Buy?

By Erykah Barahona

You walk into a store, conflicted on which phone to get. Which is the better phone: Apple or Android? There many reasons why one is better than the other. Here are how the two compare, specifically the newest versions of each.

According the article “10 Reasons Why an Android Phone Is Better Than an Apple”, and my own research, here's the pros and cons. **Choices:** Unlike Apple there is a wide range of phones to choose from. The most popular is the galaxy collection, but there are others such as the LG 5 and the HTC 10. With there being many different options you could pick and choose the perfect phone. **Customizing:** Androids have a huge advantage when it customizing to make the owner’s ideal phone. There are many features about Androids that

are interchangeable such as the keyboard. They also have widgets that could save space.

#### Androids:

- **Simplicity:** They are simple making it easy for customizing and to maneuver. "Androids are much simpler and I've had one all of my life. It would be too complicated to change to an iPhone", says Sophomore Lexi.
- **More Memory:** With Androids the backs pop off and microSD cards can be added for extra memory space. iPhones expect customers to upgrade if they want more space, but more and cheaper price you can purchase memory cards.



Android vs. Apple—which one do you prefer?

*Photo by Erykah Barahona*

- **Battery:** Where the back pops off lies within the changeable battery. Is your phone going slow? Replace the battery and no need to buy a new phone. Way easier than Apple. **Durability:** Like you may have heard, iPhones are flimsy compared to Android. Unlike Apple phones, most aren't made of bendable aluminum.
- **Universal Chargers:** If your chargers broken that's okay. Around the house is probably an Android charger that fits your cellphone since most of the chargers are the same size.
- **Style:** Another very factor is look; they are important. Some may disagree saying the design is boring, but they tend to look more professional.

According to authors of "9 Reasons Why iPhones Are Better Than Androids Phones" and "5 Things the iPhone Does Better Than the Android" iPhones outperform androids.

#### iPhones:

- **Camera:** Apple is notorious for their great pixel and quality.
- **Apps:** All of the best app are provided first on the App Store, rather than the Google Play Store. Therefore giving iPhone users the advantage of better apps that cannot be accessed on Androids.
- **Supports Other Devices:** You may think the new updates on current iPhones are available on older generations, but yes they are! Which is the amazing if you don't want to upgrade phones, but want the newest IOS update.
- **Software Updates:** Due to their many and fast updates they are unable to fix

bugs and further advance the technology.

- **Style:** Though Android's may look more professional, iPhones have a unique, sleek design. Making them unlike any other phone.

When it comes down to the hardware of the Samsung Galaxy Edge and the iPhone 7, this is the most debatable. In various websites one says the hardware is better than the other.

Both of these articles may be biased, but it all comes down to personal preference. Pick the phone that fits you perfectly, but pick wisely.

## Baseball Season Just Around the Corner

By Dylan Cain

After this year's 2016 football season, most would expect basketball to be the next commitment. Not for some! Baseball players will start batting practice as soon as January!

Coach Thacker, head baseball coach, plans on having pitching and catching practice in February, as well as coach's meetings, and strength exercises.

This year's team is expected to be proficient in batting, and will see what it takes to be a winning team. Thacker said, "I expect a good returning group, we may end up with some close losses but that's not what it's about. I also see a solid District Title for this team".

Last year's baseball team had four seniors starting, leaving it up to the underclassmen to fill many spots. Coach Thacker plans on opening up the weight room for the players starting

February. Good luck baseball players! Your school supports you!



Lance Thacker, graduated senior and Brett Speed, junior, eye home plate. *Photo by*

## A History of Christmas

By Matthew Shafer

Christmas was great with an abundance of Christmas trees and holiday cheer, but why do we celebrate this holiday and put up Christmas trees with presents underneath?

Christmas is celebrated because it marks Jesus Christ's birth. There are many traditions that come with this holiday. For example, people put up trees and decorate them with presents underneath.

Amy Willis wrote an article about Christmas trees. She said we have Christmas trees because the Christians adapted putting up trees from the Pagans, who would decorate their homes with evergreen leaves. At first, the Christians were hesitant to put trees up but then there was a rumor that said after Jesus was born, trees would shake off all the snow and ice off their branches. After they heard this they were willing to put the trees up.

Putting up Christmas trees isn't the only Christmas tradition. Some people have their own traditions they perform on Christmas. For example, Brandon Hostetler, sophomore, said, "We make chocolate dough and we roll it in

powder sugar and we make cookies out of it.” Hostetler also said that his favorite thing about Christmas is “making the cookies. I love the cookies, they are delicious after they're done.” Giving presents is another tradition that people participate in.

Present giving and receiving is a common tradition during the Christmas holiday. We give others presents because when the wise men heard of Jesus's birth they went to him and give him presents.



A reminder of Christmas cheer. *Photo by Matthew Shafer*

For many though, Santa Claus is a name familiar with Christmas. According to the website “The History Of Christmas”, Santa was originally a saint from a church. His name was Nicholas. On Christmas Nicholas would give presents to children. However, he didn't want people to see

him delivering the presents so he would drop the presents off after the children fell asleep.

Over the years Santa slowly evolved into the modern Santa, a jolly old man who delivers presents on Christmas in his flying reindeer-driven sleigh. Christmas is a wonderful holiday with lots of traditions that gives us a chance to be joyful and kind to one another.

While our Christmas celebrations are over for this year, we can still all keep the feeling of Christmas in our daily lives.

## Is it Time for a Year-Round School Year?

Opinion by Adie Olson

Weston McEwen High School has always donned a summer vacation that's three months long. Summer vacation is the classic break between this year and the next year. But maybe it's time for the vacation to get a face lift.

Year-round school is an alternative to having that big break in the summertime, and there could be an option to split summer break in half and provide a six-week break in the winter. That would allow there to be less of a gap so students wouldn't forget everything they previously learned.

With a large three-month break like summer, most students forget everything that they learned the previous year. And that causes students to be behind in their school work from the very start of the year. This lack is not good because students should start out the year swinging so they have enough momentum for the rest of the year.

When students are behind that means their teachers have to reteach them what they already learned, and that gets the whole

class off track, and when students are only in a classroom for a short 50 minutes there is no time to waste on old material. Amanda Kidd, senior, said, “We should have year-round school because I forgot almost everything in the summer, and summer can get very boring at the end.” Mrs. McIntyre, English teacher, also likes the idea of a year-round school. “While I love my break, there’s too much information lost while kids are off. They aren’t reading or doing math over the break. They’re being kids...which is what they should be doing. But I’m not sure that too much time off is really helping students.”

Ally Mann, junior, attended a year-round school in Tucson. “I like going in this system because the summer’s in Tucson was too short. The school year is not as chopped up here as it was in Arizona.” Parker Munck, junior, also disagrees with the idea of year-round school. “I use the summer to get a job to try to pay for college, and with little breaks, it’s harder to make money.”

The year-round school system has pros and cons. What would best fit our community?

## **Pow-Wow at WMHS**

By Morgan Dean

In mid-November, a pow- wow was held at WMHS in the gym. The periods were changed to 7,6,5 to make time. According to Lucus Areallenas, sophomore and one of the drumming performers and a former TigerScot, before the pow –wow in Athena, they held pow-wows at Washington, Sherwood, and the Pendleton Early Learning Center that same day, so dancers, drummers and singers were tired but did a great job. Other than high school students, the middle school and elementary school came as well.



Members of the Cayuse, Umatilla and Walla Walla tribes sit in the drumming circle at a pow-wow in November. *Photo by Erykah Barahona*

During the dancing, some of the dancers went up and asked some of the audience, such as Katie Vescio, sophomore, and Brendan Dearing, senior, to join them. While there were students on their phones, other students were enjoying it a lot.

Pow-wow are Native American celebration opportunities where dancers, drummers and singers commemorate births, deaths, marriages, and naming ceremonies. Tyree Burke, sophomore, has been to and participated in many pow-wows. “I get to see

my family so pow-wows are very important in my culture," she said.

## *A History of the Salem Witch Trials*

By Tenley Alderson

Witchcraft was the talk of the town of Salem Village, Massachusetts and nearby cities during 17th century Colonial America. In fact, the controversy of witchcraft was shaking the core of many nations between the 15th and 18th centuries. While the Salem Witch Trials aren't actually the only recorded cases of witchcraft in American history, they are certainly the most notorious. With around twenty executions, these trials were one of the more outstanding events of mass hysteria in America.

It began in February 1692, a nine-year-old girl named Betty Parris and her eleven-year-old cousin, Abigail Williams, began to have fits that were "beyond the power of epileptic fits or natural disease," according to the Wikipedia article on the Salem Witch Trials. The girls would scream, throw things, crawl around furniture, and contort their bodies in strange ways, according to a former minister of Salem Village, Rev. Deodat Lawson. Not long after, several more girls began to exhibit similar behaviors. According to Wikipedia, three women were soon accused of practicing witchcraft on these girls: Sarah Good, a beggar with a poor reputation and a tendency to "torment and scorn [children]

instead of lead them towards the path of salvation"; Sarah Osbourne, who rarely attended church meetings and married an indentured servant; and Tituba, a black or Indian slave who was likely targeted because of her ethnic difference and the allegations against her that claimed she would draw young girls with stories of enchantment. These three women were evident outcasts, and these accusations started a chain of accusations that totalled to over 200 accusations.



The Salem Witch Trials were, in a simple sense, baseless accusations against outcasts that had fatal conclusions. *Photo taken from the Internet*

Many people were imprisoned between February 1692 and May 1693, some who were released before being tried and others who died in prison. Around 20, however, were executed. Contrary to popular belief, no one was burned at the stake during the Salem Witch Trials. Instead, nineteen people were hanged and one was pressed due to his resistance to plead. According to a timeline presented by the University of Missouri, a year after his arrival in May of

1693, governor of the colony William Phipps pardons the remaining prisoners under witchcraft charges. However, the timeline shows that it isn't until 1711 that the colony passes a bill that returns the rights to those accused and restitutes 600 pounds their families.

This event of mass hysteria is referenced often in modern media, including in the new film *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*, and almost entirely in a negative sense. It's been over 300 years since the bizarre trials and such a thing would be a shock to see in modern America. Even so, the Salem Witch Trials are still an interesting occurrence that continues to interest those in this modern era.

In June of 2016, members of the Weston McEwen Pipes, Drums and Military Band toured Salem, MA and saw several historic sites that were connected with the Salem Witch Trials. Perhaps most interestingly, the band sat through a mock trial in which actors portrayed various real people who were accused and did the accusing during one of the trials. The audience heard and watched the story and evidence unfold and then had to decide whether or not the accused was guilty. The band voted the accused was innocent, although there were some who voted for her guilt. "I was surprised by the evidence there was based on superstition," says Christina Swafford, junior. "Today, I would have thought this was wrong, but in those days, I may have found her guilty."



An innocent, pleading for her life. *Photo taken from the Internet*

### **Calendar:**

Saturday, January 14: National "Dress up your pet" Day

Tuesday, February 7: "Send a card to a Friend" Day

Sunday, March 19: National "Corn Dog" Day

Monday, April 17: National "Blah, blah, blah" Day

Thursday, May 4: National "Star Wars" Day

Wednesday, June 7: National "Chocolate Ice Cream" Day

