

# The TigerScot

## News:

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## “Tampon Tax” is a Serious Issue

Opinion By Keree Graves

Did you know that women get taxed every day for a necessity that is simply uncontrollable? Women walk into the store to buy a product they need to stop a very undesirable problem that cannot be controlled. A feminine tax is an unnecessary tax that unfairly targets women; tampons, pads and liners are not things that women want but need. Men are different as they do not have a menstrual cycle. In fact, what do men “need” that are like maxi pads and tampons?



*For many women, paying extra for a medical necessity is like throwing money down the toilet! Photo by Keree Graves*

Authors on "Fusion.net" wrote that five states out of 50 in the United States do not tax tampons, while the other 45 don't have a sales tax or don't consider the product a necessity. Though many states have discussed banning the

taxation of pads and tampons, such as California, the tax still exists—perhaps it's because women spend 20 million dollars annually on menstrual products. Then again, California does not tax necessity products such as food and medicine because those items are considered a luxury.

According to Alli Maloney, author of “Which States Will Slash the Tampon Tax Next,” taxation of women’s products happen every day such as the "pink tax" when women are paying a 7% difference on the same products a man is. If a man walked into a store and saw deodorant was 3\$ more than the same product marketed toward women, how would they feel? Matthew Shafer, a man, feels that that kind of targeting wouldn't make sense. “It would be confusing,” he said. Hayden Scott also doesn't agree with the differences in pricing. “I would ask why the product is more—is it because of different ingredients? I'd want to know.” Hunter Sater was more philosophical and said that he doesn't buy his own deodorant, but if he did, he'd buy girl's deodorant if it were cheaper.

Taxation on women’s necessary products is not right and as strong, independent individuals, men and women, it's time to take a stand and be rid of this unacceptable act.

## Vending Machines Needed @ WMHS

By Morgan Dean

Weston McEwen already has beverage machines in the commons, but unfortunately, there are no food vending machines. But there should be a vending machine for many reasons. First, the school

would benefit from the extra money they'd earn. Other schools have them including Helix and Pendleton; it's natural for there to be food offered along with drinks. Students and staff often need a snack to get them through the day and sometimes, a kid isn't hungry when breakfast is served, but they may be starving later in the morning or afternoon. Sometimes eating in the morning can make a person feel nauseous and so they need a snack later.

Recently, the high school got their breakfast break back, but classmates can still be complaining about being hungry in the halls. The new superintendent is concerned that kids eat—so give them access to choices they like and will eat. Install a vending machine in the high school commons!

## **Profile of Cody Washburn: Going Strong after a Rough Year**

By Krysta Calvert

There are always stories about people who survive those car crashes which should have been fatal. And, there are other stories about people beating cancer. But, what if those two stories actually happened in one person's life? Well, it's not a "what if" question anymore because that did happen to Cody Washburn. The young man, who just turned 18, is like a lot of teenagers: just trying to get through high school. He has lived in the Athena area for a big portion of his life, and his life suddenly changed dramatically at the beginning of his junior year of high school in this series of unfortunate events.

He contracted whooping cough from June through September of 2015. As he was getting

better from that, he got in his car crash on September 27, 2015. He was taken in a helicopter to a hospital in Seattle, where he would have surgery to put pins into his pelvis which he had shattered in his car crash. It was in November of 2015, he got the pins taken out of his pelvis, but he still had open wounds where the pins were previously, which made him more prone to infection.

Unfortunately, he did get an infection called MRSA. In the process of being treated, the doctors found another infection...Osteomyelitis. Now that is a pretty large word, and it basically means he had a bone infection at his pin sites, an extremely rare bone infection at that. But, nonetheless, he was treated, and he was on the mend... or so the doctors thought.

Cody was doing all right until about January, 2016, when he went to Seattle for a check-up with the doctors there. They were just going to check and make sure everything was healing well from his car crash. They found something unexpected though. The doctors found that he had low blood platelets. This could mean a lot of things but there was one thing that everyone hoped and prayed he didn't have, unfortunately he ended up having it--Leukemia.

*Cody Washburn, senior, is on the mend after a tough year. Photo by Krysta Calvert*



Cody was diagnosed with Leukemia in March of 2016. He had to go through MRIs, many blood tests, too many IVs to count, and a lot of other people's blood, also known as blood transfusions, because his blood platelets kept dropping. He underwent chemotherapy and radiation, and they found a cord blood donor for his blood transplant.

He said that it was a very tough process to go through, but he was grateful to have people around him who loved him. And in August of 2016, he was diagnosed as cancer free! He is now in the recovery stages, and is trying his very best to become stronger.

Soon, he will return to school full time!

## **Showering at School Not a Necessity Opinion by Erykah Barahona**

Showering is a necessity in private life, but is it in school? Students at many schools are forced to participate in showering after PE or else it'll affect their grade. Their grades shouldn't be impacted as to whether they are able to keep their body clean; it is all about participation. According to WMHS PE teacher Jeff Griggs, the idea of cleansing is spot on with health and physical health. But the idea needs to be revisited. Now we have our first opportunity to look at it with the bond that was just recently passed.

If students want to shower, this should be their choice. A student's personal hygiene should be their own responsibility. Showering can be uncomfortable, which Griggs agrees with, especially to those who have trouble displaying their body. With the new transgender issues emerging that's just additionally uncomfortable.

Having a shower supervisor is also uncomfortable. It would be better if they waited

outside the door, but instead they watch students. For Griggs, in the past, student monitors were a temporary solution to checking whether students took showers, but after a while, things got out of hand when female students got in a fight in the locker room. Now, more often than not, an adult watches that students shower. However, students want a sense of privacy, but with supervision they aren't getting that. Yet, without a supervisor fights and such could occur. Another solution to this problem could be adding shower curtains or stalls, which Griggs has been asking for.

Cleansing is a good concept, but mandatory showering isn't. If you are able to contain your body odor, showering after P.E can be a time waster. However, as Griggs mentioned, cleansing after P.E and in general is necessary.

The best solution is to have shower curtains installed. Shower so other classmate's don't smell your stench. Only shower when it's absolutely needed to protect your fellow peer's noses and your reputation. Remember, people aren't always able to smell themselves. Be sure to get another opinion. Then privacy can be kept but people won't stink either.

Showering isn't a big deal, but when it comes to being forced to shower, it becomes a problem, one, however, that can be fixed.

## **Creepy Clowns Went Too Far By Bryce Thul**

As almost everyone knows by now, creepy clowns were running the streets in cities around the United States. The clowns took their "happy and spunky" description to a whole new level. Their actions stirred up controversy across the U.S.

According to a New York Times article, "There could be another motive for the clowns, besides scaring people; it could be a need for people to feel connected to a

news event that had garnered national headlines." No one quite understands their motives and that's a problem. Why would people want to dress like a clown and deliberately scare others in this manner that has made national news headlines?

Not only were there been numerous police reports about clown sightings, schools went into lockdowns! An elementary school in Arkansas went into lockdown when a parent called the school and told them they had seen a clown walking on the school premises. Children and even adults have started to fear for their well-being while going out and about. They aren't sure when or where they could run into one of the creepy clowns.

The sightings first happened in South Carolina. However, they didn't stop there. Reporters in 40 states wrote stories about creepy clowns.

For Halloween there was some talk that parents weren't letting their kids dress up as a clown because of this epidemic.

The clowns have started a chaotic outbreak that has got everyone's attention. However, for the last few weeks the sightings have diminished. Perhaps the clowns are starting to figure out they aren't wanted.



Even though the news about clowns has died down, there are still questions about why people would go to such lengths to land on the news?  
*A creepy clown or Shaw Broncheau?*

*Photo by Bryce Thul*

## Sports Updates

By Dylan Cain and Staff

**Cross Country:** Hayden Scott earned 6<sup>th</sup> place in the state 1A, 2A, 3A state championship in the state Cross Country meet which was held on Saturday, November 5 at Lane Community College in Eugene, Oregon. Scott, a senior, was running against several of his nemesis, including Tim Stevens from Union, Josh Miner from East Linn Christian, and Hassan Ibrahim from Jefferson High School. "I felt really good during the warm up and I felt great throughout the race until about the last mile," Scott says. "The last mile I had a stitch in my side and it was painful. The lead pack kinda moved ahead and I finished about 15 seconds behind them."

Scott is an awesome runner and has a distinguished record. He is going right into off-season training for track and field as he has both 1500 and 800 titles to defend. He will be running against Alex Gruffinder and Tim Stevens, both of Union, and he is looking forward to the competition. Great job!



*Hayden doesn't just run—he is a certified pilot as well. Photo by Paul Scott*

**Volleyball:** The TigerScot volleyball team won the 2A State championship against Imbler on Saturday, November 5 in Redmond. Chelsea Quaempts, junior and varsity libero, says that winning, “Hasn’t sunk in yet! It’s unbelievable, but I’m happy. It feels great!” She also says, “Bless up!”

Sarah Finifrock, senior, felt fantastic. “I was thinking about the fact that I love my teammates because we’re all so close and that there really was no better way to end our season.” Finifrock would like to go to college and continue playing volleyball; if she doesn’t play on a college team, she’ll play intermural.

For Alyssa Finifrock, junior, and Sarah’s younger sister, the win doesn’t feel real yet. “It felt like a dream,” she says with a big grin. “I’ve been asked what I’m going to do without Sarah next year,” Alyssa says as the tears come. It’s an emotional question that makes her cry. Sarah gives her younger sister a hug, and some assurance that she’ll continue to do well. “I am excited to see the team we have next year and how far we can go. I know that the returners and the coaches will continue to be close. It’s great to be part of something like that,” Alyssa said.

Sarah says that a plus is that she wouldn’t have been able to know some of the girls if they hadn’t played volleyball together—it’s brought them all closer together.

The team traveled to Redmond on Thursday, a six-hour drive in a bus. Upon arrival, the team checked in, then had dinner and a movie. The next morning



*The 2016 2A State Championship Winners!  
Photo by Ami Muilenburg*

found the team bonding and then they made their way to Ridgeview High School where they went on to beat Bonanza in the first three sets, then Culver in five sets. On Saturday, the day crept by slowly, but eventually the team won against Imbler in three sets. Wowsers!

This is the first time WM has won a state championship since 2010. The team is coached by Shawn White and Deb Sheard.

## **The Origins of Halloween**

By Keres Graves

Growing up as a kid, one day a year, parents would dress their children up as ghosts, ghouls, or maybe even princesses. Parents would then take their children to knock on strangers’ doors asking for candy, but have people ever wondered why? Two thousand years ago, there was an ancient civilization called the Celts; the region of where they

are from is now Ireland, the United Kingdom, and northern France.



*Image taken from the Internet*

The following information was taken from an article on *History.com*: The Celts celebrated the “Samhain” on October 31st of every year. On November 1st they rejoiced for this was the beginning of a new year. On this day, it marked the end of summer, and the dark, cold winter upcoming; this day also was associated with human death. Celebrating “Samhain” on the day before what they thought was the new year to come, boundaries between life and death were blurred. The Celts believed that having the dead return would make it easier for their priests to see the future. To start the event the priests would create a tremendous bonfire, where they would burn crops and have animal sacrifices, to appease the gods.

Animal heads and skins were their costumes; attempting to predict each other fortunes was their way of entertainment. When the celebration was over and the sun rises to the next day, the Celts would relight the fire, as a symbol to protect them during the long winter.

In the nineteenth century, America was flooded with immigrants; millions of these new immigrants were Irish fleeing the potato famine in 1846. With the tradition being in Ireland, the Irish were happy to celebrate. Adapting this ancient Irish tradition, the Americans began to dress up, and go door to door asking for candy. This then became a well-known tradition of treat or tricking.

Halloween is only one way that American's celebrate their own remembrances of their dead. There are many other holidays that other ethnic groups rejoice their loved ones who have passed. But Halloween is certainly a scary and fun way to celebrate every 31<sup>st</sup> of October!

## **The Many Benefits of Art**

Opinion By Erykah Barahona

Do students, especially the ones at Weston McEwen High School, need an arts education? Many school arts curriculums are being cut due to decreased funding or perceived unimportance of the courses. Though it does have many beneficial skills, the fine arts program is very unappreciated compared to athletics. Every high school student talks highly of sports, but what about art?

Fine arts have many benefits for the brain. While it's enhancing one's capability of learning, it is also fun! You don't have to be great at art, drama, writing, or music to give it a try. That's the best part! It's a learning process that



you'll learn along the way as you continue to practice. As they say, practice makes perfect.  
*Starry Nights by Vincent van Gogh*

The art program is incredibly crucial to student's learning. Fine arts are the building blocks to one's creative learning and thinking. Lauren Martin, the author of article about the benefits of arts, gives ten great reasons as to why art is important, and I've included some too.

One obvious thing that art encourages us to do is to be creative. That is a key factor and one of the most important skills of learning art. It's also helps us become more determined and show perseverance. Being able to work on our art allows us to be more focused on what we are working on.

According to the Martin, visual and decision making skills is another important skill that it provides. Hands-on learning (working with clay, painting, using an instrument) is great for visual learning. Fine arts is not needed in the real world or solve any problems some may say, but in fact Mrs. Pridgen, an art teacher who has been teaching art for 26 years, believes otherwise, saying, "Art makes our critical thinking skills stronger. Art creates new challenges for those who are already considered successful."

On the other hand, do schools really need a fine arts curriculum? School's main focus is the academics and core classes, such as a math, English, and science. Electives courses are often not and probably never will be considered as important as the core courses. Perhaps that should be reconsidered however.

Additionally is it worth the money? "Budgeting is limiting to what we can use," says Pridgen. Schools do need to use their budget on priorities. Pridgen also provided another positive idea, which was that art allows students to relax and get away from classic book learning for a period.

Some may think that is creating time for students to slack off. Personally, as a creative person who looks forward to coming to art class

every day, I disagree with that idea. It's allows myself and others to use their creativity.

Of course, there will always be those who don't get the same feeling as I do and could use those classes just to mess around. But in the end, fine arts are a program schools need. The question is will they continue be cut from our academics no matter how beneficial they are?