

The TigerScot

News:

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Therapy Dog Needed

By Samantha Ford

Dogs are amazing in many different ways, but can they be helpful in a classroom setting?

According to Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff, author of the article *Why Man's Best Friend Is Man's Best Friend*, just being around dogs has been linked to lowered stress levels, blood pressure and they promote interaction. With a time when almost all high school students are stressed about exams or papers, simply having an animal close could help them calm down and focus in. They give the students a sense of calm and happiness that usually wouldn't be associated with school.

In a poll taken by 156 students at Weston McEwen High School, 94% said they would enjoy having a dog in the classroom and 92% said they believed having a dog in the classroom would lower stress levels in students.

Having dogs around could also help students with ADHD that can't sit still or have to be moving in some way. It would be a good outlet for them to pet an animal instead of constantly fidgeting and disrupting someone else's concentration. "I haven't done a lot of research on that, but what I have done, it seems to have some benefit with special needs," says Rollie Marshall, Principal at Weston McEwen High School.

It could also help out with students that have depression or social anxiety by promoting a topic of conversation and mutual interest with others. If they have something that can keep a conversation going, it would assist in making friends and could develop peer relations.

There would be bumps in the road, and it might be hard to get all the details worked out, but I believe it could be achieved with

hard work and dedication to bettering the school. "If we ever went down this road, there would be a plan and we would need to test drive it.

The school's not going to take care of it [the dog], I can tell you that. Again, there would have to be a plan in place. At this point, by law, I believe any service dog we do have we would have to make allowances for," stated Marshall.



Weston McEwen Homecoming News

By Erykah Barahona

It doesn't seem too long ago that the 2016-17 school year has just started, but Homecoming and its events are already here. Annually, the high schoolers of WMHS celebrate Homecoming with plenty of sporting, dress up events, games and contests that are organized by ASB. For those who aren't aware, the major events include the noise parade, the bonfire, the Homecoming game, and the Homecoming dance.

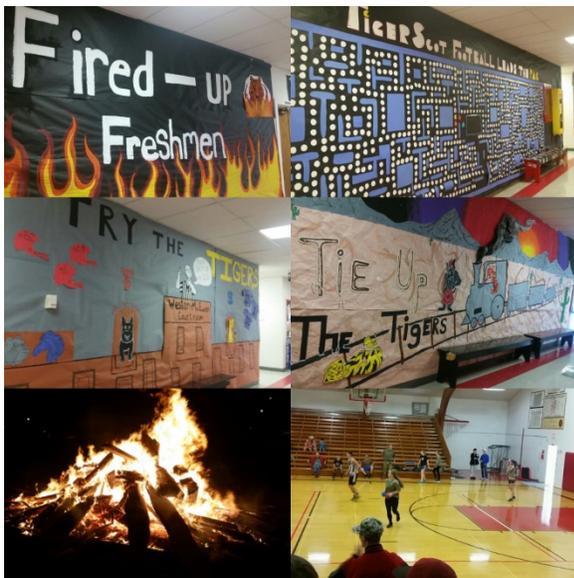
Many activities will occur starting on October 3rd through October 8, 2016.

Throughout the hallways, decorations by each class have been finished—seniors won that competition. Also, the majority of students and faculty will be participating in

dress up days. What about the other traditional events?

Bed races were set up by the freshmen and the seniors won the event. Buff-puff was manned by the seniors and the seniors won. Powder-puff was the responsibility of the sophomores and juniors and sophomores won. The noise parade was headed by juniors and the freshmen won.

Unfortunately, this year, there will be no lip sync battle with Mr. DeYoe's special appearance. However, due to a last minute decision, there will be an intense game of dodgeball. Classes battled it out and the juniors and seniors lost to the freshmen and sophomores. Friday was the final dodgeball game and the SOPHOMORES won!



A collage of pictures showing WMHS's Homecoming 2016 week. Photo by Erykah Barahona

Something new is here! As usual there will be homecoming princesses, but now there will be princes as well. The princess and prince for freshmen Marcelino Barrera and Kendra Zink, sophomores are Keree Graves and Dylan Cain, juniors are Madelin Muilenburg and Mitchell Young and seniors are Sydney Peal, Ali Schroeder, Ryan Schmidtgall and James West. Winners

were Queen Sydney Peal and King James West.

The upcoming Friday Homecoming football game isn't like any other game. As usual, the TigerScots face off against the Standfield Tigers in hopes of winning the special night. Unfortunately, WMHS didn't win, but played hard.

The Homecoming dance was Saturday, October 8th at Memorial Hall in Weston, as it was the previous year. According to Hannah McIntyre and Cody Caldwell, the DJs at the dance were, "Da bomb diggity!"

There was so much happening here at Weston McEwen in such a little amount of time. Hopefully, no one missed out on all of the fun!

What is This Water Bottle Madness? By Morgan Dean

Plenty of internet trends are surfacing as other trends begin to die down. Bottle Flipping is the current fad as of right now. In order to bottle flip simply flip a bottle and try to land it on its bottom. As with many other mainstream popular memes, it'll die out eventually. These trends usually only last for about a few months.

Mike Senatore, 18, of Charlotte, North Carolina was the creator of the famous bottle flip. He made this a summer trend after a video of him flipping a bottle at his high school talent show went viral. Mike is now considered a famous meme, and joins other members such as Damn Daniel and Alex from Target.

Throughout WMHS, students can be seen bottle flipping on classroom tables, on top of the hallway lockers, and some have even

managed to get them on top of the roof. It's even advancing to where water jugs are being flipped. What's so interesting about trying to land a bottle on its bottom or cap? It may be absolutely pointless, but it's addicting.

School Security Top Priority in Bond Spending

By Marcus Hungerford

In the Athena Weston School District, a bond, which was approved in May of 2016, to increase school security and maintenance is being set into motion. While the voters approved 8 million dollars, according to Rollie Marshall, Principal at WMHS, only around 6 million dollars, after taxes, is able to be spent on the schools. The good news: this bond will be used to upgrade the security, maintenance, and a few major repairs.

Marshall said, "Normal maintenance isn't able to fix the bigger repairs. The state for the first time ever has matched the bond." This means the school can now get the major repairs it has been in need of. These security and maintenance issues were decided upon from the community and the school board.

To start with, the security issues will be resolved. The entrances will all have electronic locks that may have an automatic lock system that syncs with the class times; this system will also be used at the middle school and the elementary schools. There also may be cards that can be used during class times to let students use the restroom through the side door instead of going all the way around to the front. Another security problem that will be fixed is that seven more cameras will be added around the school.

The schools will also have some much-needed maintenance and repairs done.

The biggest of the maintenance issues will be the gym roof. The gym roof will be completely redone and a restroom will be added where the cheer closet is. The addition of the bathroom helps with the security of the school because it will help keep people from roaming the halls during games and other gym activities. Another repair being done will be the tennis court. There are still ideas being decided upon currently for the court. These are only a few priorities for the money. The concerning part may be the time frame for all of this.

All of these issues have to be resolved by the end of 2018. That's two years to do all these improvements and repairs. It can be done but some may take some extra time depending on if something goes wrong or another issue arises. There are many other repairs and security concerns that are left but these are a few of the ones the community and school board decided were the priority.

World-renowned Evangelistic Speaker, BMX Bikers Coming to Athena, Oregon

By Krysta Calvert

Not many extravagant events happen in Athena, Weston, or the surrounding towns. The only events the small towns really have are Hodaka Days, Caledonian Days, Pioneer Days, a carnival every now and then, and Wheat Stock. But, finally something big is actually going to happen for our small towns.

On October 14-15, 2016, at Weston McEwen High School, Luis Palau and a BMX demo will be coming to our very own little Athena, Oregon!

Luis Palau, 81, is a world-renowned evangelistic speaker; this means he is a Missionary, seeking to help people find their way to the Lord. However, that is not the only thing he does as a missionary. He also wants to help individuals become more accepting and happy with who they are. Palau has been doing this type of ministry for fifty plus years, and is still going strong!

Palau has another person who travels with him as well. His name is Vic Murphy. "Murphy shares the gospel and is a world-renowned pro and pioneer BMX biker." (The Outreach Team.) He will be traveling all the way from San Diego, California to come to Athena with Palau to share the gospel and entertain the public. This event is something that these small towns in Eastern Oregon may never see again; they're taking advantage of this, and spreading the news so people from all the small towns will know about it. There is even a banner on Main Street in Athena, right next to One Stop, talking about this event. But the advertising doesn't have to stop there.

Others can help spread the news too! Tell your friends, family members and neighbors



about this event! It is for all ages, so anyone is welcome to attend.

Kidnapping: A Family's Worst Nightmare

By Destiny Warkentin

Have you ever lived your biggest fear? According to a Daily News article, written by David Boroff, a 13-year-old girl and her mother lived theirs on June 8, 2016 in Hernando, Florida.

30-year-old Craig Bonello was caught on camera footage taken from a local Dollar General, attempting to kidnap the girl in broad daylight. The footage, shows the mom and her daughter walking through the store when suddenly Bonello grabbed her and started dragging her through the store by her hair to the exit. This terrifying situation made the mom jump into action trying to cling to her daughter in attempt to save her, Luckily she succeeded with the help of the clerk and a nearby police officer.

This all happened in broad daylight, right in front of the girl's mother and the store clerk. This is a terrifying event. While many, however, often think that the places they live seem safe, there is still the danger of losing a loved one or getting kidnapped anywhere.

This all happened in Florida, all the way across the USA, so we shouldn't be too concerned with kidnapping taking place here, especially since there are not very many local kidnappings happening, or anyone in our small towns that would try to kidnap someone. But thinking this way can be dangerous.

Undersheriff Jim Littlefield, said that while there haven't been any recent kidnappings, "There was an attempted kidnapping, last

year. A 16-year-old-girl reported some guys in a Honda trying getting her to get in their car; we tried looking for this vehicle but we weren't successful. Luckily, the girl wasn't hurt."



The Weston City Police Department is ready to help! Photo by Destiny Warkentin

Littlefield explained some ways to stay safe if in public alone. "Travel with more than one person, stay in well-lit areas if it's dark, let someone know where you are and that you are walking alone, go into an open store if you feel like you're being followed and let someone working know what's going on. If you are in a situation when something does happen, and they get too close or get their hands on you be as loud as you possibly can to get someone's attention." Remember this next time you're alone; it just might save your life.

New Bond Ensures School Upgrades

By Morgan Dean

In November 2005, there was a ten-year bond to help improve the elementary, middle and high school. The renovations included an upgraded lighting system at the elementary school, air conditioning and heating units at the middle school, and a double classroom modular and more. The bond however expired in June 2016, so the school was in dire need of a new one.

On a ballot the district put out in May of 2016, the bond passed, with 77% support, providing four million dollars to the school. In addition, the state matched the \$4 million bond to make it eight million, a rare opportunity. The school district was one of only six other districts in the state to have matching funds.

According to input, the areas that need advancing include school and student safety, maintenance, energy saving, buses, and technology.

The schools need improvements in the security department due to ageing. The security changes that will take place are front door modifications, improved smoke and fire alarm systems, fences at the middle and high school, and outdoor lighting within parking lots. While security is a major priority, the bond will also provide enough for maintenance.

There are many maintenance areas that need upgrades. At the elementary school improvements include roofing and removing skylights, air conditioning, and walk in freezer. At the middle school roofing of the shop, gym, and modulares will happen. Also, Weston Middle School will get a wheelchair ramp as well. The high school will get the most renovations. The gym walls, ceiling, and tennis court will be fixed, the modular and gym roofs will be replaced. The greenhouse, locker rooms, and band room will be fixed. Bathrooms in the gym foyer and air conditioning will also be installed.

The other portion of the bond funds will provide for bus replacements energy savings, and technology. Since the old buses had too many miles, the school will be replacing those with newer ones. As for

energy saving, the middle will get interior lights and heating system.



Weston McEwen High School's gym shows evidence of water damage.

Photo by Morgan Dean

The elementary school will get their windows replaced. Not much is going to be upgraded with technology, but these improvements are important. Technology that'll be fixed include cable upgrade system, digital access control systems and additional cameras. Finally, throughout the district, the concrete walkways will be replaced.

Syria In a World of Hurt

By Dylan Cain

The Syrian ceasefire of September 9, in the city of Aleppo, continues to crumble due to Syrian aggression. March 15, 2011 is the date of the start of a horrible tragedy that will impact how Syria works in the future.

Ever since that date, the men, women, and children of Syria have been experiencing a constant war with their government. Not only has the country been darkened with grief, but the people too.

Several weeks ago, the U.S. has agreed to a ceasefire with Russia, making time for debate to resolve problems, with less violence and killing. As of now the ceasefire is still in effect. Sadly it continues to crack down due to Syrian military. Russia seems to want the U.S. to be involved to fight the "Islamic State Group". Well this time the U.S. is involved. For the past five years, the media has flooded the world with news of tragedies from Syria, and what it's like living there on a day-to-day basis.

In all obviousness, the ceasefire technically isn't really a ceasefire.

War-torn Syria.

Photo from Internet



Syrian forces continue to rebel on American and Russian Forces. When are we going to actually do something progressive about this? If our government makes the daring decision to be involved in this conflict, wouldn't you think something would have been done? It's something to say something about it, but it's another to do something about it. In my opinion, I personally think we should have ground forces finding terrorists, or any ISIS affiliated groups, and take them out. What is the rationale for U.S. policy in Syria? Why has the White House continued to draw on the tool of covert military aid despite its shoddy track record?

American involvement in Syria comes in two main flavors. The first is a limited covert operation to support moderate rebels in their quest to unseat Assad. The second is an overt military campaign to combat ISIL. Deliberations over what the United States

ought to do militarily in Syria began as early as 2012. The first rebels trained, funded, and armed by the CIA, a small “50-man cell” of fighters were reported to have arrived in the fall of 2013, a few months after Obama gave the green light. Shouldn't we already have an impact? Is four years not enough to resolve any problems? The U.S. should be acting already, not wasting money.

So what is your opinion on Colin Kaepernick sitting down during the singing of the national anthem? Write us and let us know!

Colin Kaepernick's Risky Move

By Andrew Gambill

What do you think about Colin Kaepernick sitting down during the singing of the national anthem?

I think his actions are very wrong because not only are there people who served our country to give him the choice to sit down, but there are people who are serving our country right in front of him. He is showing them a lot of disrespect.



I think if he doesn't want to stand during the national anthem, he shouldn't have the freedom to sit down because people fought for the freedom he has. There are other countries out there that don't have freedom at all. He should not be playing in the NFL because people fought for our freedom and he's sitting down after people have died and risked their lives