



Mickey Biggs
 Managing Editor/
 Columnist

Recently, the local news stated that Willows is suffering economically in conjunction with the rest of the country. This was expected considering the welfare of the country directly influences all Americans. Therefore the super Wal-Mart should have a positive effect on our town, yes? I don't think so.

The in-coming super Wal-Mart will only add to the "stop-and-go" feeling that has infested our country. The businesses lining I-5 are all fast-food stores and hotels, not providing any reason to stay and enjoy what we do have in Willows.

The Mouse Hole: Gene's Rant

"Success is getting what you want. Happiness is wanting what you get." –Dale Carnegie

With everything being provided by large companies, small businesses continue to suffer. Why is it that Americans choose to purchase items from a general corporation instead of supporting their fellow country-men in their ventures? Willows' downtown alone should be enough of a wake-up call. Downtown Willows had been the bustling center of town, and now it is less than a ghost of its former state.

Willows began as a pit-stop for traveling cattle-herders who referred to this land as "The Willows". Daniel Zumwalt saw more potential in the land. He sold a section of his land to a train company to bring people to the area to start a town. His plan succeeded until the Million Dollar Fire.

That, however, is a different story. Zumwalt's success is being disestablished by the businesses riddling the west side of town. Our town is reverting to the very tips of its roots, as a refueling station and nothing more.

I have seen in my grandparents' yearbooks how many small businesses there were in downtown that supported the high school. Walking down Sycamore Street and highway 99 now brings sorrow as I see the many old buildings that used to attract many Willowites. I do not believe our town needs any improvements from large corporations looking for profit. I believe our town needs businesses with people who care for their fellow townsmen and the welfare of our town.



Gene Smith
 Executive Director/
 Columnist

Do your work. During my freshman year, I did not do as much work as I should have, and I regret making that decision. As you get farther into school, you will realize that what you are doing now pretty much sets your future. It becomes more difficult because you did not take the time to learn the required subject matter and will have to retake several classes.

If you do not do well during your years here at WHS, your future, and what you want to do in that future, could be set at a standstill. Another thing you should also do is *respect your teachers/elders* here at WHS.

During my freshman year,

This advice is for 2015 freshman class. "Do as I say, but not as I did".

I also did not listen as well as I should have. Whenever a teacher asked me to do something or told me what an assignment was, it would go in one ear and out the other. If you do not establish a good relationship with your teachers, things can start heading south very quickly.

If you have a good relationship with your teachers it will be a lot easier to succeed in class. The teacher can help you get work if you were gone, getting more help during class, and they will know your learning style a little bit more. They know how to help you when it comes to things that are more difficult and things you do not understand.

So what I am trying to say is work hard, respect your teachers and elders, and you will have a great high school experience. It can be a lot of work but in the long run it will be worth it. Do as I say, not as I did. *Go Honkers!*



Damian Chanthapaseuth
 Columnist

Throughout our high school years, there have been many opinions and statements about the way students dress while attending school. Girls are known for their tiny strapped blouses, short tops, and short-shorts; and boys are known for their t-shirts that play on words, advertise alcoholic beverage, or has a humorous saying.

However, the authors of school policy are forgetting one major factor: the right of self expression. The students in education should be able to have the right to wear what they wish as it

Order in the Court!

"Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves, and, under a just God, cannot retain it."
 -Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865)

is an individual's form of expression. All students of Willows Unified School District, should have more freedom in our choice of clothing as long as it is not torn and tattered or revealing a person's body in an inappropriate way.

In a 1969 court case Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District case, the Supreme Court ruled that public school officials could not limit student expression unless they could prove it was a distraction to the learning environment.

I have to ask, "How are these screened printed shirts stopping the learning process?"

Many teachers at WHS constantly tell students to go to the bathroom to change their shirts or to turn them inside out. Several other teachers have mentioned that they did not

notice the writing or drawing on a t-shirt. It did not stop them from teaching and giving assignments to students. If a shirt's design is so distracting or offensive to the teachers and to other students, then the person should be made to turn it inside out or put on another shirt.

T-shirts, such as Sierra Nevada's brand of shirts and jackets, are created in good taste and with a clean professional looking design. It is clothing designs like these that the school policy needs to address and use the guidelines of the Supreme Court's Tinker v. Des Moines decision.

Self expression is a right that we all share through our art, music and through the clothes we wear. However, are our educational leaders forgetting why we wear these types of clothes? It is stating a person's style. Freedom of Expression!

The Reversing Mirror



Rebekah Allen
 Columnist

Suicide, is it really the easy way out? Every time I hear this word, my thoughts go back to the teens that chose to go down this path. Why would they do this? There are many reasons, such as abusive parents, drugs, the death of a family member, and the list goes on. Is it really the right choice to make? I have come to the conclusion that it is not because once the person is gone, we are left wondering why then did it.

For the people that believe that suicide is the easy way out or the right choice, I suggest you continue to read this article. Whether you agree with me or not, I believe that suicide is a coward's way out. I say this because as soon as they decide to do it, they have basically given up on trying and therefore are taking the coward's way out. Suicide is a horrible and selfish way to

die. Do people who commit suicide know how it affects their friends and families?

Recently there was a young man, Tyler, who committed suicide by jumping off the George Washington Bridge. What caused him to jump was the fact that he was being teased and bothered about a video that his friend had posted on the internet. When someone commits suicide we are left wondering. How could we have changed it? How could we have made a difference in that person's life so that they did not have to be left with that last as a resort? These may be the thoughts that run through the mind of a mother or father, a best friend or even a person that just saw them walk down the hallway a few times. It sure made Tyler's friends wonder what they could have done to help him.

When it comes to suicide, there is a lot to be said and heard. From those who have seen it and dealt with it; it affects every one of us even if we barely know the person. It is not the only way out. There are people that are willing to help, but it is the choice of the suicidal person to go and ask for that help. Hopefully they ask.

We The People



Makayla Chacon
 Columnist

I was very flattered when I was asked to be a junior columnist for *The Honker* newspaper. I accepted the offer with great gratitude, and I know for a fact that this year in newspaper is going to be astonishing. Since I am a columnist, I was asked to create a tag name for myself and I came up with, *We the People*. I chose that tag name because I am apart of today's youth, and I have learned that today's youth is more important than the world leads on.

The word, *people*, is not always just including adults. Adolescents have as much say as adults, and it is up to us to change ourselves and prepare ourselves for the future. We must change and prepare the youth for the future instead of trying to change and prepare the future for our youth. Even

"We look forward to the time when the power of love will replace the love of power. Then our world know love, peace, and happiness" – William Ellery Channing

though, I am currently fifteen years of age, I have been preparing myself for what the world has to offer.

I have been thinking about what I would like to do with my life because the possibilities are endless. In order to be prepared for the world, we must always do our best and care about others. We should not push others down to put ourselves on top. Being on top is not always everything it is cracked up to be; it is about how you get there that counts.

"Growing up is never easy. You hold on to things that were. You wonder what is to come. But at night, I think we knew it was time to let go of what had been, and look ahead to what would be, other days, new days and days to come. The thing is, we did not have to hate each other for getting older. We just had to forgive ourselves... for growing up."
 ~The Wonder Years Quotes (American Television Series)



McKenzie Butler
 Columnist

Many cheerleaders get irritated when anyone says that cheerleading is not a sport. Whether it is a teacher, a football player, friends, or a sibling all cheerleaders want people to know that being a cheerleader really does make them an athlete. Sure, cheerleaders do not run all the time, tackle people, kick soccer balls, hit baseballs or shoot basketballs, but cheerleaders do shout, jump, dance, cheer and perform stunts.

Dictionary.com defines a sport as "An athletic activity

Alive And Well Cheerleading IS a Sport

that requires physical prowess or skill and often a competitive nature".

Cheerleading definitely fulfills this criteria. The first part of the definition is "an athletic activity requiring skill or prowess," which cheerleaders must have. Their team formation as they perform flips, tumbles, and tosses are hard to pull off. It takes strength, balance, and dexterity to complete these tricks. The audience usually looks at a cheerleader based on their looks, and not their athleticism.

The second part of the definition says, "Often a competitive nature." People who go to cheer competitions know how competitive girls and sometime guys can be. I do not know if anyone has tried

to toss another person in the air and have them flip while they are landing in someone else's arms, but it is not as easy as it looks.

I think if dancing and gymnastics is a sport, cheerleading should also be considered a sport. Cheerleaders do just as much as dancers and gymnasts, if not more. Many people think cheerleading is easy. Truth is it is not; cheerleaders have to have upper body strength, loud voices, dancing skill, flexibility and aerial acrobatics ability. I think all the people who think it is so easy to cheerlead should go out for the cheerleading team, walk a mile in our shoes then tell us it is easy and not a sport. This is why I think cheerleading should be considered a sport.