

CODE: 'a lot of the language impacted females more'

(Continued from Page A1) can now wear dresses that are above our knees. It just allows girls to feel a little more comfortable. People used to be scared to wear certain clothing, but now we don't have to be nearly as worried," Martinez said.

The guidelines of the dress code apply to, not only school days, but also any school-related events or activities, such as graduation ceremonies and school dances.

The prior dress code specifically stated that students could not wear clothing that "compromises modesty," and included items such as tank tops, halter tops, tube tops, muscle shirts, backless tops/dresses or see-through attire as examples of "immodest clothing."

Shorts and skirts that do not cover the mid-thigh area were also prohibited by the prior dress code — fashion holes in pants that were above the mid-thigh were also not allowed.

"The groups that it was most targeted on was women and female students. And a lot of the language impacted females more," said McNary junior Jordan Danner.

Danner, however, wasn't the only one who felt strongly about the prior dress code.

Back in June, a group of SKSD students and adults spoke at a board meeting about how the dress code was being applied in a way that disproportionately impacts females. But what they didn't know was that the District leadership team — made up of principals, assistant principals and department heads — was already working on an updated dress code, based on guidelines from the National Organization of Women, a feminist group with 550 chapters throughout the country.

"Our last dress code hadn't been updated in six years, and it was time to take a look at it," said Lillian Govus, the director of community relations and communications with SKSD. "We are optimistic that this will, indeed, help create a better learning environment for our students. It's fairly simple — you learn better when you're comfortable."

Danner also added: "Are there some things I personally don't agree with? Yes, but overall, the language works. There needs to be something people can agree on through all walks of life that come to a public school, and I think this code does a good job of maintaining that balance."

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The lack of specie diversity is directly linked to human activities such as the removal of shrubs and trees on the banks and the use of pesticides and fertilizers.

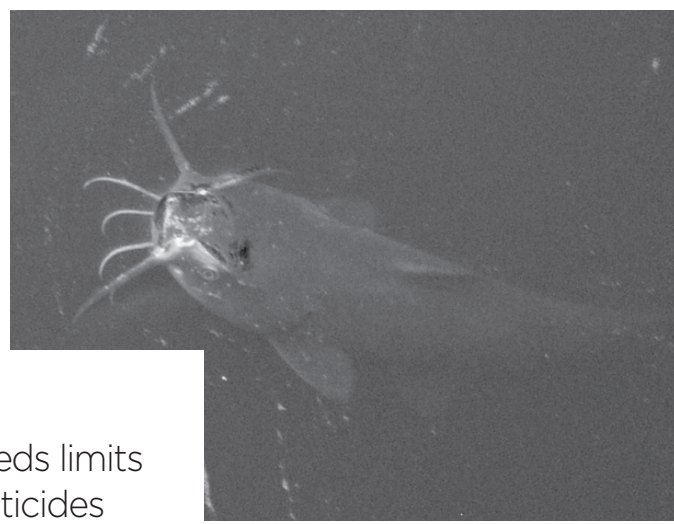
"(Claggett Creek) does not have enough oxygen to support spawning. It exceeds limits for pesticides and it has high levels of E.Coli, meaning it is not safe for water contact recreation," Sagmiller said.

In addition to landscaping, a dam has been constructed across part of the creek in a residential area downstream of Claggett Creek.

"Whoever constructed this concrete structure was likely looking to make a pond of sorts in the back of their property. I don't believe they set out to cause damage," Sagmiller explained.

Along with decreasing the water quality, the dam can also catch debris, which can cause flooding.

However, there is some hope



KEIZERTIMES/Lauren Murphy
A catfish is spotted coming to the surface in Claggett Creek.

"It exceeds limits for pesticides and it has high levels of E.Coli, meaning it is not safe for water contact recreation."

— Elizabeth Sagmiller, Keizer Environmental and Technical Division Manager

for the damaged waterway. "There are pockets of the stream throughout Keizer that are in fairly good shape. You'll find those where building isn't appropriate due to flooding issues," Sagmiller said.

Currently, there is no plan to restore the whole stream, but plans are in place to restore specific areas.

"In Keizer, I think that a

useful way to gauge success is to monitor the use of the site by plants and animals that didn't utilize the area before restoration. This was the case after our restoration work at Ben Miller Family Park," Sagmiller said.

As time goes on, the city will be able to test the progress of the stream by comparing tests on water quality from before and after restoration projects.

"Claggett Creek was once a healthy waterway that would have been a very scenic little stream. It can be again if we respect the value it brings to the community," Sagmiller said.



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The Adventure Machine's purpose is spreading smiles, but that wasn't precisely what Fletcher intended. She bought the van intending for it to be a way to travel to shows with her screen-printing business, Planet 9 Co. She then discovered that some of similar vans turned into rentals for camping trips. The more successful ones had themes and that is where the homage to The Mystery Machine began.

"I thought the Mystery Machine was fun and colorful and people would love to go camping in it," Fletcher said.

A hiccup in the path to making that a reality gave her time to reconsider the investment, and she opted to keep it for mostly business use.

"There are things about it that wouldn't work well for camping. The seats are too high and there are no windows in the rear," she said.

She's recently traveled to Hempfest in Seattle with The Adventure Machine as her booth.

"My vision is to, eventually, have a place to mail out online orders and travel as much as I can," Fletcher said.

In the meantime, Fletcher said there are as many drawbacks as there are benefits to cruising around in such a unique vehicle.

"It encourages me to ride my bike to the grocery store a little more often," she said. "On the other hand, if I ever disappear, people will know whether or not they've seen my car."

Fletcher brought The Adventure Machine into the world as much for herself as anyone else — she needed it after retiring from a job where she felt miserable most days — but it's become a physical manifestation of the way she's approaching her life now.

"I wanted to do something completely unlike what I was doing, and I wanted to do something without a lot of rules that made people happy. I'm not done with the joy that I want to put in the world," she said.

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By Charles Preston

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