

Alief Taylor's The Den



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Passion and soul lead to excellence

Sable Wilson
REPORTER

Waking up early in the morning to plan lessons everyday gets a little hard. But the passion of teaching and putting your heart and soul into it makes it lovely.

put my heart and soul into this profession every single day," said Kim Coggin. "I know that I have worked really hard

to receive this honor. But I also know that there are countless unsung and unrecognized teachers of the year in this building as well."

One of the greatest honors for an inspiring teacher is being chosen Teacher of the Year by peers. But Coggin had her eye on the prize long before her colleagues selected her.

"When I first started teaching, one of my goals was to become teacher of the year within the first five years. I thought that by just having a dream

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in my mind, I would motivate myself to shine, even on the tough days," she said.

Coggin admits she learns a lot from her students.

"I learned to not take everything so seriously; my students taught me how to look at the world in a way that brings laughter to me," she explained. "I enjoy life more, because of them."

Miss Coggin is not the only person who is happy and thrilled about her achievement.

"She is a dedicated, thoughtful, and responsible person and she is a great role model to students and peers," added Assistant Principal

Kathleen Jameson. "We are fortunate to have her on our campus as she is a positive person."

Students say the way Coggin's teaches is anything but boring.

"I think it's great that she made Teacher of the Year because the way she teaches isn't boring and it makes us the students interact with the whole class, which then causes work to be done," said Tony So, a junior and one of Coggin's students.



Photo by Kim Molezyk

Teacher-of-the-Year Kim Coggin dresses in "Lord of the Flies" regalia to captivate her English students. Coggin has also been named a finalist for the Alief Teacher of the Year.

Better to pay with cash than jail time

Sable Wilson
REPORTER

Some teens think shoplifting is not that big of a deal, even if the item costs a dollar or less. Yet when teens get caught, they think differently, regretting and wishing go back in time to think it over.

Many teens witness or are involved in shoplifting everywhere they go.

"I was at the mall when I saw two teenage girls stealing from the store. I saw one girl putting shirts into her bag while the other friend watched her back," said Rodneya Nixon, a sophomore.

Why do teens shoplift so much? There can be many reasons.

"I think they steal because they don't have the money to purchase the item, and they just got to have it or because they are pressured from friends and just want to fit in with the crowd and not be an outcast," said Rashell Calloway, a junior.

Well, if one asks a police officer, they'll say stealing is wrong. Always.

"A theft is a theft no matter the