

WEST WORD

September 9, 2013

www.greeleyschools.org/westword

Volume XLVI No. 1

New IB Coordinator excited for opportunity

By **Mason Barnes**
Staff Writer

Students aren't the only ones held to high expectations while in the IB program. The staff personnel and coordinators are also held to high expectations. New IB coordinator Mr. Fred Drake, who replaced past coordinator Amy Tuttle, said the program is still expected to exceed those expectations.

Drake comes from a high-stakes learning

environment, as he attended Princeton University, but will not try to make sweeping change immediately as he begins his new position at West. "I have heard great things about IB here in the past," he said, while acknowledging some parts of the program may be tweaked a bit.

Drake thinks everything can be improved even if it's in the slightest ways. However, those changes must come while keeping the program's history in mind. "I just want to keep consistent with the past and keep consistent with all the requirements. Also,

any changes would have to go through the school and teaching staff," Drake said.

One imperfection of Greeley West's current program is a time element. Drake thinks he (as coordinator) and the school can improve the program by making it more flexible to the student's schedules.

"IB sometimes won't let students play varsity sports because of time. I would like to let these students get more of the full high school experience," Drake explained.

The program can bring a lot of stress to students

and flexibility would help relieve a lot of the pressure on their shoulders. The amount of time these students spend on their IB work takes a lot of sacrifice. But overall the IB program has nothing to worry about with Drake at the head of the table. He is more than capable of putting the IB program at the heights it's expected to be.

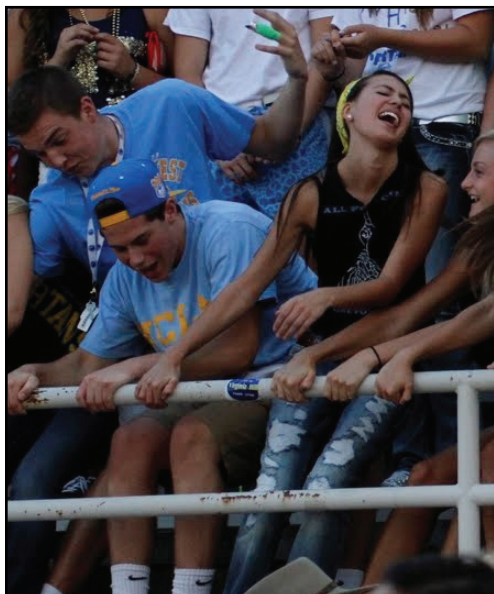


Drake



Sirena Barker/West Word

Greeley West students celebrate their school spirit at the football game last Friday. The fun didn't stop, regardless of the score, as students cheered, yelled, and carried on like crazy teenagers.



Spirit returns

First football game demonstrates pride

By **Chris Campbell**
Staff Writer

According to the giant, rowdy crowd at the West football game on Friday, student spirit is on its way up at Greeley West.

From cheers, to chants, to rushing the field, the crowd was spirited about the game, whether its team won or lost.

In a group ranging from freshman to seniors, the spectators at the West vs. Monarch game yelled and screamed for the entire duration.

Jaylin Piacenza, a sophomore at West, was just as surprised as anyone about the rampant school spirit West students displayed this weekend, saying, "It was a really great experience; the seniors did an amazing job leading the crowd and keeping up the spirit during the game."

Among the seniors leading cheers was Mikaela Lehnert, who brought her own special enthusiasm to the crowd. From the B-R-A chant to the orange peel dance. She said, "There was lots of energy, everyone was involved!"

Even the administrators chipped in when it came to leading the crowd. Ms. Shelli Robins, the school principal, participated in the Boom Team's tradition of push-ups according to the score, doing a whopping 23 push-ups. Although Spartan football players lost the game, there was still a sense of victory and school pride. Indeed, it would seem that the long lost Spartan school spirit has been found.



Piacenza

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Crash course: be careful in parking lot

By America Monje
Staff Writer

On the first week of school, there were seven Greeley West High School students involved in four different car accidents.

Junior Alicia Whitely was involved in a crash on Thursday August 15th when she was stopped at a stop light turning on to 35th Avenue. The person in front of her put the car in reverse and backed up into her.

The person in front of Whitely had a car full of people after only having her license for three weeks. "People should become more experienced drivers before getting behind the wheel of a car full

of distractions," said Whitely.

Unfortunately, that wasn't the only car accident. There was another on Wednesday August 21, involving Ellie Davidson. She was trying to find a parking spot, when another Greeley West student "came out of nowhere" and hit her.

Considering it was private property, no one was given a ticket, but the blame was split 50/50 because Davidson was going the wrong way and the person was speeding in the parking lot. Luckily no one was injured.

There are several ways to prevent car accidents. People tend to get into car accidents because of distractions. New drivers should be sure to wait

before giving people rides, because often that causes distractions.

Texting and driving is something that is very common as well, and when commercials say "It can wait" they mean it!

Studies show that both female and male drivers from ages 16-19 have the highest annual crash and violation rate. Having a license may be great, but teenage drivers, statistically, are reckless, and if they start by simply getting rid of distractions while driving, they can prevent future accidents, and form good driving habits. In the future, students may not be so lucky to not have serious injuries in our Spartan family.

SPARTAN STAR

Throughout the 2013-14 school year, West Word will be recognizing outstanding students at Greeley West.

Kylee Jackson Senior



Kylee Jackson is a perfect example of a true Spartan. She is a first year student at Greeley West, yet she has already made friends due to her bright smile and amiable personality.

Kylee is a member of the Poms, the elite and nationally competitive dance team at West. Kylee has been dancing since she was two, and joining the Poms has only fueled her passion for dance. After high school, she would love to be on a college dance team, and has aspirations to someday be a dance instructor, or even open her own dance studio.

Kylee's life isn't all about dance, however. Sometimes, she likes to escape from the rush of it all. She loves to go boating with her family whenever she can. Being on the water provides peace that is hard to come by in the hectic, every-day life of a teenager.

Despite the craziness, Kylee manages to excel in everything she does.

-Addison Vergara

Early release causes change in schedule

By Alie Olivas
Staff Writer

Why is the school schedule so different this year? Why are students in some classes for two hours and others for only 50 minutes? Why is the school day 30 minutes longer?

Athletic Director Mr. Jeff Cranson had the answers. Greeley West's days are longer due to the fact that there is early release every Monday. The 30 minutes added on to the days are to make up for the lost time. After students leave on Mondays at 1:45, teachers are hard at work in meetings trying to better the school system.

Since students' days are lengthier, it forces class periods to be extended. Most kids, and some teachers, are in agreement that trying to sit and focus in a classroom for 102 minutes is very challenging to do. Psychologists have conducted studies that prove too long of a class period can be detrimental to student's learning.

However, counselor Marlene Rich thinks otherwise. She believes that with longer days and class periods, students will become more prepared for the real world. Her opinion on the topic is that high school students have the ability to focus for that extended amount of time.



Senior Kris Harris takes a breather in the gym during his weights class last week.

Sirena Barker/
West Word

Spartacus is sweating

Hot temperatures keep building uncomfortable

By Alie Olivas
Staff Writer

With temperatures outside reaching the high-90s, Greeley West is extremely hot this year. Looking around the school, you see people fanning themselves, sweating, and gulping down tons of water.

West has air-conditioning, just not throughout the building, Athletic Director Mr. Jeff Cranson, confirmed. Cranson said that the district is poor, and that they have to prioritize where the money goes - new air conditioning is not a priority.

Students complain of being overly tired, having headaches, and simply being incapable of concentrating in the sizzling classrooms.

Volleyball players interviewed for this story said that the heat is worse than any they can remember. They are suffering headaches and other symptoms of dehydration due to the extreme heat.

Hot temperatures have led to cancellations, most notably two weeks ago in Poudre School District, where some schools have no air conditioning at all.

WEST WORD

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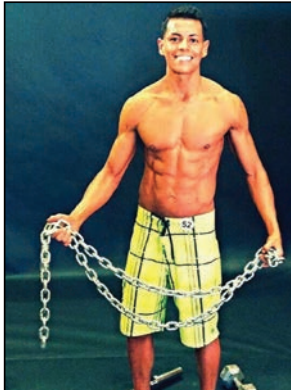
Addison Vergara

West Word is a publication of the Greeley West newspaper production class. It is published bi-weekly. Visit West Word online at www.greeleyschools.org/westword for bonus content and a color PDF edition viewable on your tablet.

Body-building competitions ahead for graduate

West grad Victor Jaymz Garza poses for a body building promotional photo.

Photo courtesy of Garza family.



By Alex Garcia
Staff Writer

Most graduates from Greeley West don't always look the same after a few years.

Victor Jaymz Garza, an alumnus from Greeley West, graduated in 2007, has completely changed his interests and his looks. After graduating from high school, Garza pursued a career as a barber. He attended one of two barber schools in Colorado, The Emily Griffith school of Barbers.

Garza has made being a barber his career for the last eight years working at Roosters, and recently moved to his own space at Work Out West.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Victor Jaymz Garza

Garza became extremely interested in the weight lifting/body building hobby too. It has completely

transformed his body and mind set from how it was when he graduated in May of 2007. He has been lifting for a total of three years, and has begun to compete in physique competitions in Northern Colorado.

He recently competed in his first competition, The Warrior Classic, and came close to placing, but slightly missed the cut. He is looking into making his hobby into a lifestyle and competing more often to see where he stands up against other

physique competitors.

When asked why lifting is so important to him, Garza responded, "It builds character and makes me mentally stronger and a better individual."

Garza has two physique competitions coming up in the near future which will kick start his career as a physique competitor. Garza also said that, "Lifting is mostly mental, if you can overcome it mentally, you can overcome it physically."

Victor Jaymz Garza is far from the person he was in high school and is just one example of great Greeley West Alumni. It goes to show how much one changes after high school.

Look for a new "Where Are They Now" feature in each issue of the *West Word* this year.

Frosh invasion successful

By Jake Firkins
Staff Writer

This year's freshman invasion was a big success. The number of freshman that went was record setting, with 431 freshmen attending the orientation.

The Link Crew members and teachers had a day full of fun planned out for the freshmen, and the freshmen and link crew members had a good time getting to know their peers, and the school itself.

Most all freshmen dressed up in costumes. There were a wide variety of costumes displayed at the invasion; mummies, zoo animals and even a safari crew. And of course, there was an enormous group sporting the Spartan colors.

"It was a success for it being Mr. (David) Cowan's first time," said Justin Miller, a member of Link

Crew. His group participated well for the most part, except for when language barriers hindered the group. His group was the one dressed with the school spirit. "It was fun," he said.

Kelsey Davidson, another member of Link Crew, also had a good time at the freshman invasion.

Her group dressed in the safari theme. The link crew members were the safari hunters and the freshmen were the safari animals.

She said while the whole thing seemed unorganized it was still enjoyable for most. She also said that her group participated well and that they were good kids.

Layton Shipp, a freshman that went to the invasion, said it went pretty well. He was in a group that dressed as iPods. He said that it was pretty fun.



Shipp

Seniors forced to take sixth class

By Michael Caro
Staff Writer

This year at Greeley West High School and all other District 6 high schools have received, once again, another schedule change. Senior students are required to take at least six classes this year. Seniors in the past have been able to take as many classes as they want. So why the sudden change?

This year's schedule is much longer than last year. Classes start at 7:15 and end at 3:15. That's eight hours of school. Last year's schedule had classes at 7:30 to 2:55. That's a total of seven hours and twenty-five minutes. If you compare this year's schedule and lasts years the student seniors are taking an extra 35 minutes of school.

Seniors are required to take six classes this year

for seat time. A student must have a certain amount of seat time in school to be considered a full time student and to receive funding from the district.

Due to the seat time in class, students must sit in class longer to meet both district and school requirements.

Most teachers and district board members believe that the six classes are helpful for the senior's future. Mr. Jeff Cranson, the Athletic Director, explained that, "The six required classes will be helpful and help the student be prepared to take their education to the next level."

Cranson believed that the previous requirements were not preparing students for college.



Cranson

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'New energy' encompasses counseling office

By Ezekial Rodriguez
Staff Writer

Greeley West students found a bunch of new faces in the counseling office as they returned from summer break and wanted to make a schedule change.

West had just one returning counselor, Mr. David Cowan. With all new counselors, it seemed the first few weeks of school were more hectic.

The new counselors are Marlene Rich (A-E), Kelly Stephens (F-L), and Rebecca Hensley (M-Ri). Cowan is in charge of students with the last name Ro-Z.

The counselors are very excited for the 2013-2014 year at West. They are well prepared and well aware of what the school year has to offer.

"I'm excited about getting settled into the Spartan family

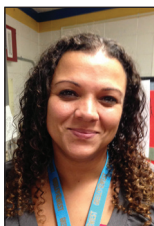
and helping students achieve lifetime success," Rich said.

Stephens echoed that sentiment by saying, "I'm excited to help students."

Molly Rains, the counseling secretary who works most frequently with the counselors is excited by the big changes in the office. "I love the new energy and the team work my co-workers have to offer," Rains said.

Despite that energy, some students miss their old counselor. Junior Riley Spight was concerned about the upperclassmen and their future goals. "Getting all new counselors is like starting completely over for the seniors," Spight said.

Spight personally missed his old counselor Sarah Johnson. "Mrs. Johnson was a nice lady," Spight added.



Rich



Stephens



Hensley



Cowan



Sirena Barker/West Word

Counselor Rebecca Hensley helps a student last week at Greeley West. Counselors have been busy this year fixing students' schedules.

Club fair presents students with chance to leave legacy

By Tara Lazos Trevino
Staff Writer

As the second official week of school got going, focus turned toward the social aspect of education. This was evidenced by the second annual club fair.

Athletic Director Mr. Jeff Cranson created the event last year to help club leaders and sponsors make a connection to new students. He explained, "It was nice to have senior officers help freshman to get involved and know the school better."

After two years, Cranson has some wishes for future fairs. He would like for the club fair to be relocated and be more organized for future Spartans.

The past two years, the club fair has been held in the entrance and patio of the school during lunch, and he thinks it is a little cramped for kids to get to and back from lunch.

One positive about its location was that it gives those who weren't really looking to be in a club to

look and see what all the clubs are about and get more information.

The club fair helps fellow peers get involved within the school and the community. Research has shown that kids who get involved more with their school are more likely to graduate.

Cranson said, "The point of the club fair is to get a few kids excited and get their friends excited as well. The first day was pretty successful and had many sign ups. The second day was a little slow."

Cranson is looking forward to the years to come. With time club fair will continue to grow and more students will get involved.

Students were excited about the opportunity to recruit new students.

"Club fair brought us a lot of potential students. It was nice to see a lot of the underclassmen come out and participate in their school," Mason Sedlacek from student council said.



Cranson

Greeley West senior Alexis Badial explains her club at the Activities Fair last week in the commons. The Activities Fair was an opportunity for club leaders to persuade students to join.



Tara Lazos Trevino/
West Word

Morning announcements move to podcasts

By Isaiah Maes
Staff Writer

Greeley West students have been deprived of their daily morning announcements and students believe it was not a very well thought out choice. Many students at West say they are not willing to go out of their daily schedules and routines to listen to a podcast.

This change - among many changes to start the year - has been one to debate about. Is it a good thing, allowing for students to not waste class time? Or is it a bad thing, causing students to work a little harder and make time to listen to the podcasts?

Schedules in the past have added five minutes to second-hour classes each day, allowing students to listen to the announcements after the Pledge of Allegiance.

However, not many people listened to them a majority of the time. It was a time for students to talk and finish homework.

"I couldn't hear over the disruptiveness of students; otherwise I would love the announcements."

- Dylan Guiliano, junior

Junior Dylan Guiliano said, "I couldn't hear over the disruptiveness of other students; otherwise I would love the announcements."

The benefits of the new podcast announcements

from the students view aren't many. Junior Nikki Harris, said, "Nobody is going to go online and listen to the announcements."

Another disadvantage for students currently, comes in the formatting of the podcast. Students can't select their desired announcement because they are not labeled specifically. Instead, they are titled "announcement 1," "announcement 2," etc.

The best advantage of the new podcasts is if a student happened to have an off block during announcements or miss what was said, they can easily find the time during lunch or after school to look it up on the website.

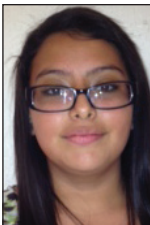
Student numbers force locker partners

By Merall Sherif
Staff Writer

Greeley West students returned to school with a new policy on lockers that have them feeling a bit more cramped. Administrators decided to return to the policy of forced locker-partners for the school year.

Students carry a lot of materials to get them through the day, and sports equipment and books of two people is a tight fit. According to the office, the rule was brought on by the overwhelming amount of students and huge class sizes. West is over capacity and there aren't enough lockers for students; there are hundreds more bodies in fact.

However, there are some students involved in the school's programs that earn the privilege of having a locker to themselves. Greeley West student council officers, Poms, cheerleaders and special needs students all have a solo locker option. Spartan Evelyn Tellez said, "It's positive because more people have lockers and you can share with your best friend. At least I have somewhere to store my stuff."



Tellez



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Greeley West student Elliel Lujan purchases a "Leave a Legacy" shirt before school last week. Students have the opportunity to order a variety of spirit gear to start the new school year

Edgar Lopez/West Word



Spirit shirts selling swiftly

By Edgar Lopez
Staff Writer

Last year, bright yellow spots lit up the halls and the student sections at sporting events were a yellow sea of the popular "fan" shirts. These fluorescent shirts were a big hit in the 2012-2013 school year being sold to anyone who wanted one and being quite successful.

Due to the success and popularity of the spirit wear, the prideful demand has been carried on to this year with a different and new look.

Senior Vince Dominguez said, "I didn't get a fan shirt last year but I definitely want one this year." He explained, "I'll blend in more with the school spirit and feel like part of the family." In contrast

from the past year, students have a couple options in what they want to wear with a "pride" shirt being sold and the "Leave a Legacy" shirt being sold by the business department and DECA.

The new spirit wear has not yet hit the halls of Greeley West making the success unknown and not being able to see whether they match last year's popularity. Therefore sellers are getting the word out and making order forms available to all students.

As students are trying to get these order forms in as soon as possible to be able to wear to

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Tunisian gets acquainted

By Eric Seeley
Staff Writer

Mayssa Barhaumi is a foreign exchange student from Tunisia, North Africa.

In picking the United States as her host country, she had a certain criteria when deciding where to go. Barhaumi wanted a place that was peaceful, that is green, and very relaxing. Greeley fit the bill.

Her favorite class here at Greeley West is psychology. She enjoys Mr. Don Wagner's teaching style, and she is learning about things that she has never even heard of.

She is involved in many clubs: French Club, Yoga Club, Key Club, and Student Council. She plans on taking a trip down to Denver in September, so she can get that big city experience.

Her favorite part about the U.S.A is the freedom it provides.

Barhaumi is anxious to experience snow. In Tunisia they only get flurries.

What she misses most from home is the food. In Tunisia they use a lot more spices in their cooking.



Barhaumi



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STUCO wants best Homecoming week ever

By Chris Campbell
Staff Writer

Student council has put more effort than usual into the schedule and the number of events for Homecoming week this year. The Homecoming Dance, scheduled for September 21st, and the week leading up to Homecoming promises to be busy.

From an assembly on September 13th to the many lunch activities and theme days and even an outdoor movie, it might be hard to keep up with all the events going on.

The lunch activities include a teacher pie smash for \$1, a hot dog eating contest, and a tug of war. Participating in any of these activities gets the student entered in a raffle contest for a gift card.

On Saturday the 14th, student council will be hosting an outdoor movie night in the practice fields for free from 8:30-11:30. Every single day for Homecoming week will be themed, and the class with the most participants wins a free breakfast for the whole class. Next week's themes will include Bad Hair and Fashion Day, Twin Day, College Apparel Day, and Pajama day.

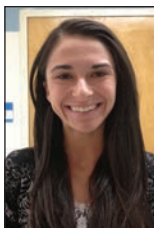
Student council is also trying to encourage students to attend some of the other competitions throughout the week as well. On Monday the 16th, there is a boys soccer game, and on Thursday night there is a girls volleyball match.

The night before the Homecoming dance is the Homecoming football game, where the Homecoming King and Queen (and their court) will be announced at halftime.

For the Homecoming dance, Student Council will have carriage rides for couples for \$10, as well as an all new DJ.

Student Council is very excited about the number of events they are hosting this year, but as Courtney Packard, Student Council President, said, "It takes student participation to make all these things fun!"

So grab a twin day for twin day, bring a blanket for the movie, and prepare for Homecoming Week!



Packard



Lauren Miller/West Word

Greeley West cheerleaders use routine time to help teammate Taelor Shaffer ask her boyfriend to Homecoming on Friday, August 30th.

Creative questioning

West students find dates in unique, public ways

By Lauren Miller
Staff Writer

Every year students come up with new, exciting ways to ask partners to Homecoming and this year is no exception. Everyone is curious as to who will ask them or who they want to ask to homecoming; it is definitely an exciting time for high school students at Greeley West.

Sophomore, Keegan Wilcox asked sophomore Ellery Sedlacek to Homecoming one morning before school. As Sedlacek was leaving her gated community, a poster on the gate stopped her on the way to school. The poster read "Ellery would you..." Curious Sedlacek continued on her way to school after first taking a picture with the poster.

After arriving at school and going to her zero hour class, she found Keegan waiting for her with flowers and coffee. "It was a complete surprise and an adorable way to start off my day," said Sedlacek.

At the first home football game of the year, cheerleader Taelor Shaffer asked her boyfriend Brandon Brewer to homecoming. As the wild crowd watched the cheerleaders stunt, "Brandon Homecoming Please?" was written on four different posters they held high on the sidelines.

Every year ideas seem to get more and more elaborate. Just a few short weeks away at Greeley West, students are anxiously awaiting this exciting event.

Calendar of Events

Next week will be a packed schedule of events as Greeley West celebrates Homecoming. Here's a schedule to help sort out all of the after-school events and spirit days, beginning with this week's assembly and outdoor movie.

Friday - Assembly
Saturday - Outdoor Movie
Sept 16 - Twin Day, Boys Soccer Game
Sept 17 - Pajama Day
Sept 18 - Bad Hair/Fashion Day
Sept 19 - Collegiate Day
Girls Volleyball
Sept 20 - Homecoming Football Game
Sept 21 - Homecoming Dance

Budget expands for better celebration

By Staff Reports

Money makes things happen and this year's Homecoming celebration will be no different.

The budget for this year's dance and the festivities that surround it were increased from \$800 to \$1800.

The money came from student council fundraising activities from last year.

The increase in fundraising will allow STUCO to create a better dance that would leave Spartans with a positive memory from Fall of 2013.

What should students expect with the better budget? Big things. There will be a new DJ, a horse carriage for couples to ride in and a canopy to dance under.

Homecoming's dance will take place in the gym.

Homecoming royalty selection goes high tech

By Merall Sherif
Staff Writer

This year, Greeley West is changing up the Homecoming royalty voting system. To get more kids to nominate and vote for candidates for royalty, student council is bringing in technological voting via text-in vote.

The first step is nominating students, which can be done this week in the lobby. Students can participate by dropping nomination suggestions in a box through Friday.

Nominations will be announced Friday the 13th at the Homecoming assembly. Voting for the announced candidates via text-in poll will be accepted during the assembly. Voting for candidates will also be set up with four class boxes in the lobby during lunch.

A student council representative will be at each class box to accept and count the votes. "There will be somebody from student council guarding the boxes while they are out," senior STUCO officer Aaron Zimola said.

Royalty will be announced at the Homecoming game, on Friday the 20th.

Athlete drug tests aren't likely soon

Drugs are a growing problem in high school. More and more students are exposed to drugs every day. Drug and alcohol abuse is the leading cause of death for people between the ages of 15-24. Every day a student is affected by drugs in some shape or form.

Should student athletes be tested for drugs? This is a growing question in all high schools today. Most teachers, coaches and parents would agree that drugs are a problem for student athletes. Taking a drug test is not a big deal if students don't

have anything to hide. Students who disagree with the drug testing are more likely to participate in drug use.



Michael Caro
Editorial

Also, student athletes who get caught with drugs get a Minor in Possession (MIPs) by Law Enforcement officials. MIPs make the school and coaches look bad.

Students like this give the school a bad reputation. MIPs affect the athlete because they aren't allowed to participate with the team for three games or 3 weeks.

On the other side, drug testing for student

athletes will become expensive. Who will fund the program?

There are about 500 students who participate in sports throughout the year and testing all athletes will become too expensive. With the District's Budget, a drug testing program seems impossible. Also, there are many ways a student athlete can cheat on the test. Many students are creative and will figure out clever ways to cheat on the test.

Drugs will always be around especially in high school. There are many ways to prevent drug use with student athletes but it may never be stopped. There are ways to prevent athletes from using drugs but they remain too costly to put into place.

Lunch period isn't long enough for drivers

Lunchtime, being only 45 minutes long, is not an adequate amount of time for students to get lunch and be back to school on time for class. I understand that students come to school to learn and that they need as much time in the classroom as possible, but shortening lunch was not a wise way to address this issue.

The district already changed our bell schedule



Tonya Schiestel
Editorial

so that we start 15 minutes earlier and end 15 minutes later than last year. The least they could do is give students an hour lunch every day.

A few of the many downfalls to 45 minute lunches are that students rush to get to their destination by speeding, making them a hazard not only to themselves but also to the people around them. There have already

been at least four car accidents this school year involving Greeley West students, two of which occurred during lunch time.

There also seems to be a huge increase in the amount of tardies this year, especially to fifth block. Students stroll in late to class every day because they don't have enough time to drive back to the school and walk to class after picking up their lunch.

With an extra 15 minutes added to lunchtime, all of these issues could be resolved.

Students are sweat-wet by education

Our school is very hot this year. Not only is it hot outside but it is even hotter in our school! Students walking into classrooms are constantly complaining about how hot it is in the school.

When having over 30 students, the classrooms get hot! The temperature in the school varies. We as students feel

that the office and counseling office are the only places in the school that is actually air conditioned.

Not only is the school hot, but our gym is hot. Sports like volleyball and boys and girls basketball practice in there at night and leave drenched in sweat. It's almost like practicing outside in the summer.



Sirena Barker
Editorial

SWEET TWEETS

Josh Molina @mjsouthpark
@GWWestWord I'm up way too early for the #firstdayofschool #senior #classof2014

Jooooo @JolynnBarger
@GWWestWord You should write an article about how all of the other districts such as Windsor, Milliken, and Johnstown all got iPads but ours!

Sylvia Rizo @Giselle_44
The only school computers that work are the library ones, why even bother with the laptops?
@GWWestWord

Emily Smith @Emmy_Marie
@GWWestWord @JolynnBarger our art department got iPads

Dianna Rowe @drowe3752
@GWWestWord it was a fine day! The new long days seem to drag on, but it's good to be back at school to see all my friends everyday.

Marion, Joel @marion_joel_13
@GWWestWord How's the newspaper staff looking? need a new toaster for photos?

Sylvia Rizo @Giselle_44
@GWWestWord Does anyone else hold their breath when they walk to the trainers to get water while the football players are in there!?

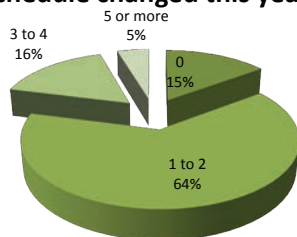
SkyelerSmith @skyeness06
@GWWestWord If it were any hotter in the gym everyone would pass out including myself and it would all smell like armpits and I'd cry.

Mason Sedlacek @_mountainfrog
@GWWestWord Dancing the night away. Senior year homecoming. #hardinsuit

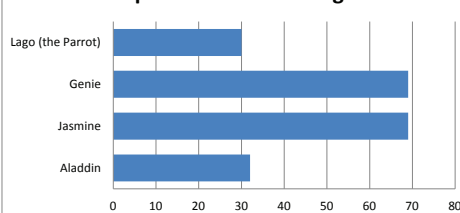
Tweet @GWWestWord to share your opinions via social media. You may find your tweet right here every two weeks.

Spartan Pulse

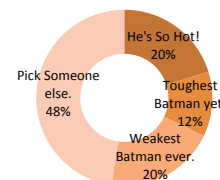
How many times have you had your schedule changed this year?



What Aladdin character would you dress up as for Homecoming week?



What do you think of reports Ben Affleck will be the next Batman?



Join LULAC, help increase involvement

Each year is a new beginning, but new beginnings also result in losses. Here at Greeley West, what is being lost is the amount of students who participate in clubs and activities. This has resulted in some clubs disappearing, as well as not helping out in the community as often.

Many students think that clubs are for nerds but they are really not. Clubs are just like a sport but without working out; mostly you just give back to the community.

Last year there was a great club which we still have this year called LULAC (League of United Latin American Citizens) that did great things to help Greeley West show their colors.

In 2012-2013, LULAC did varieties of activities through the school year. On Cinco de Mayo, they performed a Mexican dance (El Folclórico). The club incorporated cultural dances and looked so professional. Throughout the day, there was more activities like the fashion show, culture food, etc.

There are plenty of other clubs at West other than LULAC and you can discover them by asking teachers, looking in your planner, or by listening for announcements about when the next meeting is. Regardless of club, be involved!



Karla Ramirez
Guest Editorial

Ready to be a new state?

Is North Colorado going to be the 51st state? Many people in Weld County, Logan County, Morgan County and many other counties say that if North Colorado secedes from Colorado, it will bring in more money and revenue due to separate taxes. It will create more jobs, thus bringing down the unemployment rate, and it can bring more funding to the board of education. How will this affect the students of District 6? The schools would have enough money to pay for new text books, expenses, and computer software will be updated so students have the capability to do different assignments and learn in different classes. Schools can get the chance to expand if they are overcrowded, that way classrooms are more efficient.

Along with the benefits to this "Colorado split",

it will also have some sort of negative impact to the public. For example, the people that live in the "split zone" would have to buy different license plates and registration for their cars, because they wouldn't live in Colorado anymore. According to the *Tribune*, Greeley will be the capitol of this new state, and the vote will be on the ballot to elect a new governor.

If "North Colorado" as it might be called, secedes away from Colorado, it will be the first state that was created by another state in the 21 century. The last successful splitting of a state happened in the early 1860s, when West Virginia split away from Virginia. It was one of the most successful attempts to break a state. Another example of a state that successfully split would be the separation of the Dakotas, which happened in 1889.



Alex Garica
Editorial

Seniors' 6th class causes conflict

This year at Greeley West High School, senior students are required to take at least six classes. In previous years, senior students have been able to take as many classes as they want. The school district has required this because they receive funding from each full time student. For a student to pass as a full time student, they must have a minimum amount of seat time in the school. With the new schedule, the constraints for the amount of seat time are different from years past.

Senior students should be able to take as many classes as they want. For one reason, students may

need to continue working throughout the school year. If that is the case, they may need fewer classes in order to take on more hours. For most seniors, they have to pay for their own insurance and gas money for their cars. Instead of sitting through a class that is not necessary for graduation, they could be earning money. Another reason why seniors should be able to choose how many classes they take is because they have earned

it. With the district's graduation requirements, most students only need one or two classes going into their senior year.



Brandon Holmes
Editorial

Pick up the pride, frosh

I remember being an incoming freshman; although I was nervous to go to a new school, I was excited. I knew Greeley West High School was the best in town! The students at West were committed, which made it a place to be, not only for academics, but also for athletics. My fellow "frosh" were also aware of this fact. We had extreme pride in our school and we displayed it; we didn't stop at being extremely loud at pep rallies, and we got involved with our school. Joining clubs, playing sports; we were making a difference.

This type of pride used to be quite common at West. However, with each new incoming class, school spirit is dwindling. Underclassman display lackluster effort to be a true Spartan. At West today, it is rare to find a fair amount of freshmen or sophomores at a sporting event. The lack of pride is more apparent at pep rallies, where the freshman and sophomore sections find it extremely hard to cheer, and even more difficult to participate in the school song.

Some may argue that incoming classes haven't had enough time to acclimate to the school to have true spirit. However, a person of true character will attempt to improve that which they are associated with. Young students at West will remain here for four years, so they might as well try to improve and liven up the place they spend a majority of their time.



Addison Vergara
Editorial

WEST WORD Editorial Policy

Letters To The Editor

All submissions are subject to editing to conform to *West Word* style. Limit one letter to every issue (every two weeks). Typically, letters will be published in the order they are received, space allowing. Please specify if the letter includes time-sensitive material. *West Word* will not publish letters that are vague, are dominated by secondary sources, or are personal attacks on any individual. You must include facts not commonly known; originality is required. Provide your full name, grade, and phone number which will be used for verification purposes only. *Letters may not be anonymous.* Please bring letters to Dave Falter in room 306.

Guest Editorials

Occasionally, members of the Greeley West community (students, faculty, parents and volunteers) will be asked by the *West Word* to write a guest editorial or column for the paper on a topic chosen by the editorialist and approved by the *West Word*. These articles will be edited only for spelling, semantics, and grammatical errors. *West Word* will notify the author of these changes prior to the editorial or column appearing in print.

@GWWestword Twitter

Students, staff, and the Greeley West community can tweet

their comments, opinions, and ideas to the official Twitter page for inclusion in the *West Word*. Tweets must follow the same guidelines as the more traditional letter to the editor. Follow the *West Word* at @GWWestWord on Twitter for links to current issues, retweets about the West community, and hashtag topics throughout the year.

Legal Disclaimer

Opinions expressed on the Viewpoints pages are those of the editorialist and are not those of the *West Word*, Greeley West High School, District 6, or its faculty and staff.

Brandon Torrez: Ski bum, family man

By Addison Vergara
Staff Writer

Brandon Torrez is one of the more outgoing teachers at Greeley West. He teaches advanced placement statistics as well as college algebra, and many students enjoy his teaching techniques and his majestic soul patch.

However, students know little about his past and his life away from school today.

Mr. Torrez attended Greeley West in the

eighties, graduating in 1989. He was a three-sport athlete, playing football basketball, and running track; basketball was his main endeavor. After high school, he went to a variety of schools. He attended the University of Northern Colorado, then Fort Lewis College, and finally ended up at the University of Colorado-Boulder, where he obtained a business degree.

"CU was the school I always wanted to attend, but I didn't have the opportunity to until after

going to school at Fort Lewis," Torrez explained.

When he was 26, he returned to Greeley where he received a degree in mathematics, and began to teach at West in 1998.

Today, Torrez is all about family. He has four sons: Isaiah, Aaron, Eli, and Isaac. Torrez loves doing a variety of things with his boys, including backyard football and pick-up basketball games. They also enjoy hiking and biking.

He says his favorite thing to do, though, is ski, describing himself as a "ski bum." He is passing that trait onto his boys as well. "The boys have known how to ski since they could walk," Torrez said.

Torrez also has a loving wife of over two years now. She is an educator just like Torrez, teaching science at Frontier Academy.



Torrez

TCAP successes

One of Greeley West's biggest objectives is to increase the TCAP scores. Last year, Greeley West increased tremendously in math, as well as reading and writing.

In math, the 9th grade students went from 40% proficient to 58%. In 10th grade, scores went from 45% to 63%.

In total, Greeley West went from 43% to 61% in math, which is an 18% increase. Writing went from 41% to 52%, and reading went from 44% to 53%.

The scores are still a little lower than the faculty would like, but they exceed the state average, which is very beneficial for Greeley West.

TCAP has been a huge part of the school and will continue to be in the years to come.

TCAP success came after sweeping changes to the administration of the test last year. In addition to teachers working hard and students taking the test seriously, scores led all public schools in Greeley.

--Garrett Hays

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FASHION TRENDS: Mixing colors

As school is starting up again, signs of fall are becoming more and more apparent; this of course means the stores are stocking up with all the newest fashions of the season. Already, in the halls of Greeley West there have been some changes in how students are dressing.

This season is all about mixing colors to create a fresh, young look. According to Pantone Color Corporation, the color of the year is Emerald green. You will notice this color pop up more and more in stores this season. Other colors this fall include Acai purple, Samba red and vivacious pink.

No matter what your style is, you can incorporate these colors into your everyday wardrobe and express yourself in your own unique way.

Lauren Miller
Fashion Expert



Lauren Miller/West Word

Had this been in color, you would see Ms. Ali Bellinghausen's flair for fashion.

Elysium keeps audiences captive

Science fiction lovers want lots of fighting, suspense, and futuristic problems to fulfill their summer movie desires.

Elysium, the newest Matt Damon-led motion picture, hits all the criteria necessary for a science fiction blockbuster.

In the movie, main character Max is played by Damon. Max is a hard worker who creates robots that help human society on earth in the service industry. Think in terms of factory workers and police officers being replaced by these robots and you have Max's job down pat.

Riley Mincic
Movie Review



Max is injured on the job and is given five days to live. He seeks out help from friends and finds an opportunity awaits him on this planet called "Elysium," a perfect society in space, that has the only cure for him and other wealthy people.

The story is pretty serious stuff, but director Neill Blomkamp mixes in some slight humor here and there to take the tension out of the audience. If you're looking for a movie that would make for a fun

family night or date night, this is probably not it.

Blomkamp made another great science fiction film called *District 9* which resembles *Elysium* in many ways. This new film in particular keeps you on the edge of your seat wanting to keep watching. An intriguing ending leaves the audience wondering what happened to the people who were actually close to Max.

Max becomes a hero when he chooses to save others rather than himself.

Elysium proves that a perfect society cannot exist, even in the movies. In fact, viewers leave the movie appreciating our own society much more after experiencing this future world.

West students start metal band out of orchestra

By Brandon Holmes
Staff Writer

A few members from the Greeley West orchestra have decided to step their game up and take their skills to the next level. Casey Fowler, guitarist, created a heavy metal band with other Greeley West students.

Fowler and his band played at the Back to School Bar-B-Q in the Greeley West parking lot earlier this year. Their band is currently in the process of coming up with a name as well as finding a lead

singer. In fact, they plan on finding a lead singer before they play another gig.

Along with lead guitarist Fowler, Ori Bitton plays the rhythm guitar, Austin LaVelle plays the bass guitar, and Sam Schuch, former Greeley west graduate, plays the drums. With their jean jackets and aviator glasses, these young rebels jam out to heavy metal. "Heavy metal isn't just a genre of music; it is a way of life," Fowler said.

The band currently plays cover songs of Avenged Sevenfold and Bullet For My Valentine, but after

they pick up a lead singer, they hope to write original songs of their own. Although their songs are considered heavy metal, some also require a violin. When this occurs, they call upon violinist Aaron Zimola to fill in that role.

Don't look for these band members to drop out of school to pursue their dream anytime soon. Although they may come across as young, rebellious teenagers, they are very successful in the classroom as well.

Freshman's First Day by Ariell Martinez



Kicking it into gear

Soccer team starts season with more confidence

By Jenaea Padilla & Eric Seeley
Staff Writer

The Greeley West boys' soccer team failed to beat Denver South Thursday, August 29th. It was a close game, but they failed to come out on top with a score of 2-1. The only goal came in the second half when Taw Tuh Wah Moo snuck one past Denver South's goal keeper.

Senior Captain, Tyler Roth is confident that this year's team will be better than previous years. There are four returning seniors, and the rest of the team is a mix of sophomores and juniors. This year's team is more aggressive and an overall better team. They have a bond with each other that they haven't had in a couple years.

"I'm proud of the way the team never gave up throughout the entire game," said Roth. Sophomore, Zack Bitton, is confident in this year's team and is determined to make it to playoffs. Roth is confident that the games that were close last year, the team will come out on top this year. Roth and the team believe that the little mistakes and not being able to close out the game is what cost them. That is the area of the game that they need to improve.

The soccer team hopes that there will be more students support in upcoming games. That would give them an advantage over their opponents. With the support of the Greeley West student section this will give them more motivation during their games. The boys' soccer team endured another tough competitor on Thursday night, finishing in a tie with Douglas County.



Jenaea Padilla/West Word

Seniors Chris Colin above, and Martin Ramirez, right, demonstrate their incredible athleticism at their soccer game against Denver South on August 29. West also tied Douglas County on Thursday.



Softball off to strong start

By Anna Eisenberg
Staff Writer

The softball team at Greeley West has dominated in the first two games they've played. "We have very high expectations this year for the team," said head coach Don Wagner. He is almost sure they will have a spot in the play offs this season. Even though the girls have only played a couple games, it is clear that the team works well together and is striving for the very best.

Based on the two games they've played this season, the softball team will go far. The first game was against Central. Central vs. West games are always a



Wagner

big deal to the schools. Yet, the Spartans beat the Wildcats, on August 22, by a score of 21-0. The second game was against Prairie View, on August 27. West beat them with a score of 6-5. Wagner, though, said something unexpected "Our biggest opponent will be ourselves. If we can do our best, we can beat anybody".

The softball girls work as a team. Wagner states that there are no star players but two team leaders, the only seniors on the team this year. Working as a team is important to the game, and they're doing just that.

West played in a tournament this weekend and results were unavailable.

BMI testing in PE classes

By Alex Garcia
Staff Writer

Gym students at Greeley West got the chance to experience a new form of health technology on August 30th.

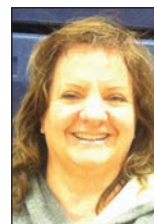
During 4th and 5th block, students in Mrs. Marna Abbott's Field and Court class got the chance to have their BMI tested alongside with their muscle percentage and fat percentage.

Abbott's daughter, Janae Naber, who works for Right Fitness Program, volunteered to give students at West the experience and information about her program. The program works for athletes

from the high school level to the college level.

Right Fitness Program is a program for athletes of all ages. The equipment she used is the same she uses on collegiate athletes who are looking to better themselves for the sport in which they participate. The test gave students their exact body fat percentage and muscle percentage, and with this information they were able to discover their basic metabolism rate.

The test took 30 seconds while the student stood on a small platform with their arms out stretched in front of them holding a bar which was connected to the platform they were standing on.



Abbott

Volleyball team falls in 1st match

By Eric Seeley
Staff Writer

The Greeley West volleyball team fell short on Tuesday night to Prairie View High School.

The Spartans were led by their only two returning varsity players, Kayla Uyemura and Nakiya Myrant-Mijares. The Lady Spartans lost in three straight games, 25-20, 25-23, 25-23.

The Spartans were having trouble getting the ball over the net. Prairie View used their height to their advantage by accumulating numerous blocks throughout the night. Senior captain Abbie Polland said, "We made great plays, but it was the little things that hurt us in the end."

"The team just has a lot of nerves, and it was a good game to get rid of it," said captain Uyemura.

Throughout the night the Spartans would get an early lead, but then Prairie View would rally to beat West. It was only a non-league game, so it only goes against their overall record.

Uyemura was proud of the way the team played and never gave up. There were moments that the team could have folded, but they didn't. They kept playing with passion.

"We played scrappy at the end, but it was just too late," says Uyemura.

Polland was proud that the team supported each other throughout the game and never gave up on each other. The Spartans have only Uyemura and Myrant-Mijares who have varsity experience. The other girls were on JV last year. The varsity squad even has two freshmen.



Sirena Barker/West Word

Russell Fink prepares for a volley against Greeley Central.

Tennis loses

The Greeley West tennis team suffered a disappointing loss against Greeley Central in their first match of the year, 6-1.

Russell Fink, senior, played doubles with Riley Mincic and had a tough loss against Greeley Central players Patrick Ryan and Joseph Martinez.

The score was 6-1 and 6-0.

Fink stated that he would be facing a tough doubles team and they would have to work hard to beat them.

- Staff Reports

Football drops opener

By Tonya Schiestel
Staff Writer

The Greeley West football team suffered a tough loss against Monarch last Friday night at their home opener at District 6 Stadium.

The boys fought hard but couldn't put enough points on the board to take down the Coyotes. The boys knew going into the game that it wasn't going to be easy, considering Monarch won the 4A state title last year.

Before the game, coach Jason Renouf stated, "It's going to be tough, but our goal is to battle them for all four quarters."

The Spartans did battle but they started off slowly, which ultimately hurt them in the end. They picked up the pace early in the second half with a touchdown by junior Zuriel Moran, and another touchdown by junior Alex

DeLaCroix.

Sophomore AJ Lopez also had an outstanding game, stepping up as quarter back late in the fourth quarter. "I was really excited when coach put me in and I knew I needed to make something good happen for the team," Lopez said.

He did exactly that by running the ball in for a touchdown putting another six points on the board for the Spartans.

This wasn't enough to put them ahead of the Coyotes and they ended the game 41-23. The boys did some great things during the game and Coach Renouf was very proud of their efforts.

They fought hard until the end and they are really excited for what the rest of the season has to offer.

Results from Saturday's game were unavailable at press time.



Physical Ed Students of the Month



Mr. Hanson

Zac Bitton

Amagia Scott

Mr. Stieb

Alexis Badial

Paul Dennis-Lopez

Ms. Abbott

Korie Mapes

Brandon Shevela



Charley Barnes
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What?

Directions: Match each Spartan pictured with their row of answers to find out who said **WHAT**.

- WHAT is your favorite place to eat?
- WHAT is the best part of Greeley West?
- WHAT is your dream vacation location?
- WHAT is your dream college?
- WHAT is your most embarrassing moment?
- WHAT celebrity do you want to meet?



Russell Fink
Class of 2014

A

- Texas Roadhouse
- Diversity
- Hawaii
- University of Hawaii
- Backing into a car at the football fundraiser
- Drew Barrymore



Tynnette Lowe
Class of 2015

B

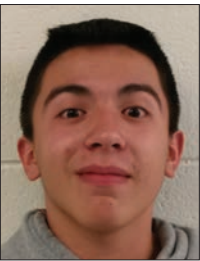
- Hu Hot
- Tennis team
- Jamaica
- CSU
- Being interviewed for the school newspaper
- Oprah Winfrey



Alex Silva
Class of 2016

C

- Subway
- Sports
- Spain
- CSU
- Getting pantsed at recess
- Kendrick Lamar



Josh Hernandez
Class of 2017

D

- Taco Bell
- My homeboys
- Hawaii
- Arizona State
- Losing state wrestling
- Wiz Khalifa

Across

- 1- Fortitude
5- Destiny
8- Drew on
12- Western pact
13- Jazzy Chick
15- ___ breve
16- Quickly, quickly
17- Without a break
18- Repose
19- Squirt gun
22- PBS benefactor
23- Lock opener
24- Not fearful
26- Attitude
29- More strange
31- Where It's at
32- Second king of Israel
34- Violinist Zimbalist
36- Hula hoops?
38- Garr and Hatcher
40- Ike's ex
41- Ran without moving
43- Label anew
45- Microwave
46- Restaurant
48- Whine
50- Biblical pronoun
51- Lilt syllable

Down

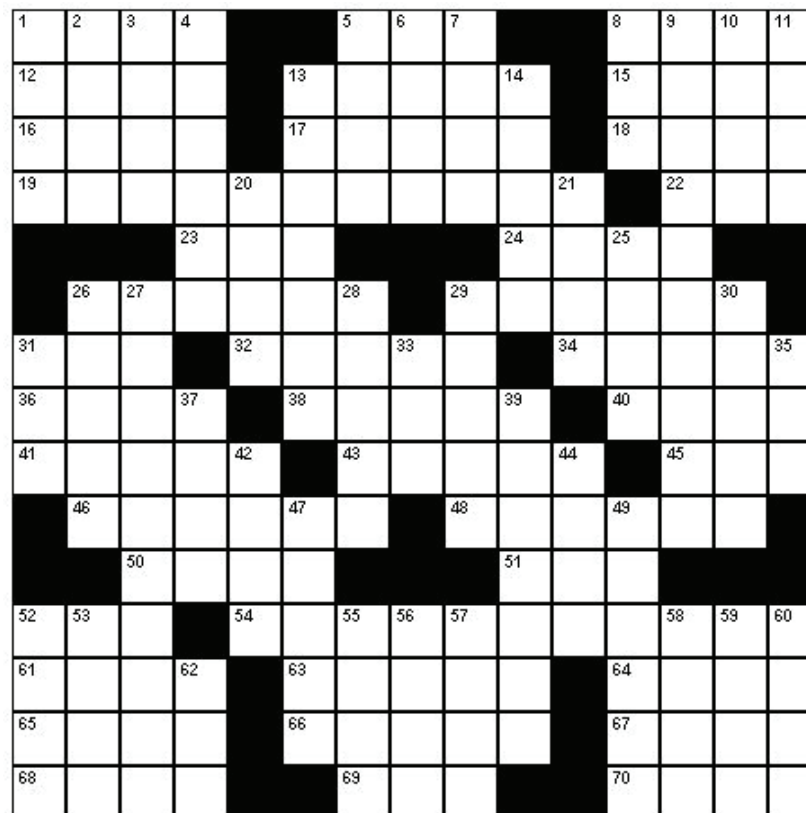
- 52- Beer
54- Rogue
61- Distinctive quality
63- Like a ___ bricks
64- Actress Turner
65- Lukas of "Witness"
66- Make ___ for oneself
67- Islamic chieftain
68- Remain sullen
69- Feeling of self-importance
70- Pull abruptly

Down

- 1- Chew on
- Tabula ___
3- Let's just leave ___ that
4- Capital of Kansas
5- Actress Anderson
6- Mine finds
7- Camp sight
8- Nasser's org.
9- Make slender
10- Otherwise
11- Group of individual facts
13- Mimic
14- Pueblo material
20- Tear

Across

- 21- Anecdotal knowledge
25- Hoist
26- Kid leather
27- Having three sides
28- Each partner
29- Prepares for publication
30- Kidney-related
31- New Haven collegian
33- Strong feeling of anger
35- Chart
37- Clockmaker Thomas
39- Capital of New Mexico
42- Antlered animal
44- Female child
47- Gaucho's rope
49- Depression between hills
52- Contented sighs
53- Hawaiian outdoor feast
55- Corn bread
56- Glitch
57- Singer Perry
58- ___ Camera
59- Getting ___ years
60- Stool pigeon: var.
62- Invite

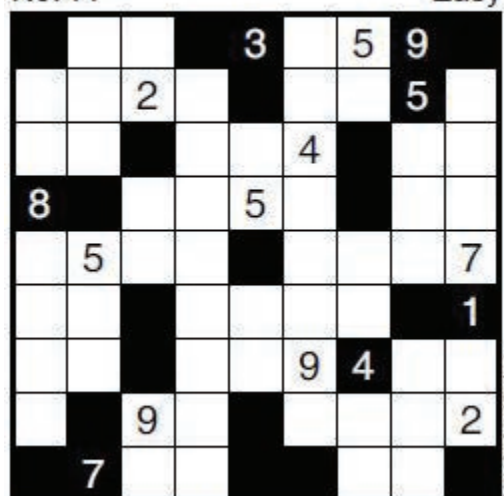


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STR8TS

No. 77

Easy



You can find more help, tips and hints at www.str8ts.com

Previous solution - Medium

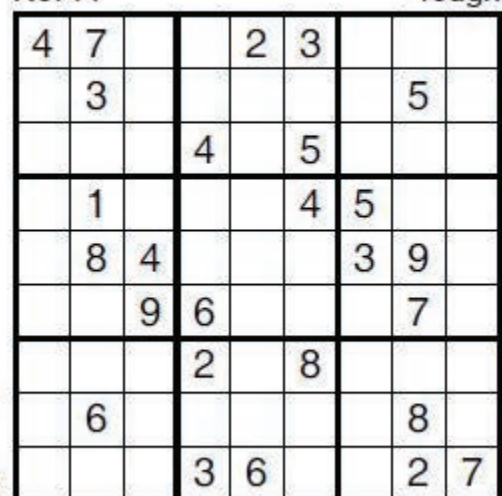


How to beat Str8ts -
Like Sudoku, no single number can repeat in any row or column. But... rows and columns are divided by black squares into compartments. These need to be filled in with numbers that complete a 'straight'. A straight is a set of numbers with no gaps but can be in any order, eg [4,2,3,5]. Clues in black cells remove that number as an option in that row and column, and are not part of any straight. Glance at the solution to see how 'straights' are formed.

SUDOKU

No. 77

Tough



The solutions will be published here in the next issue.

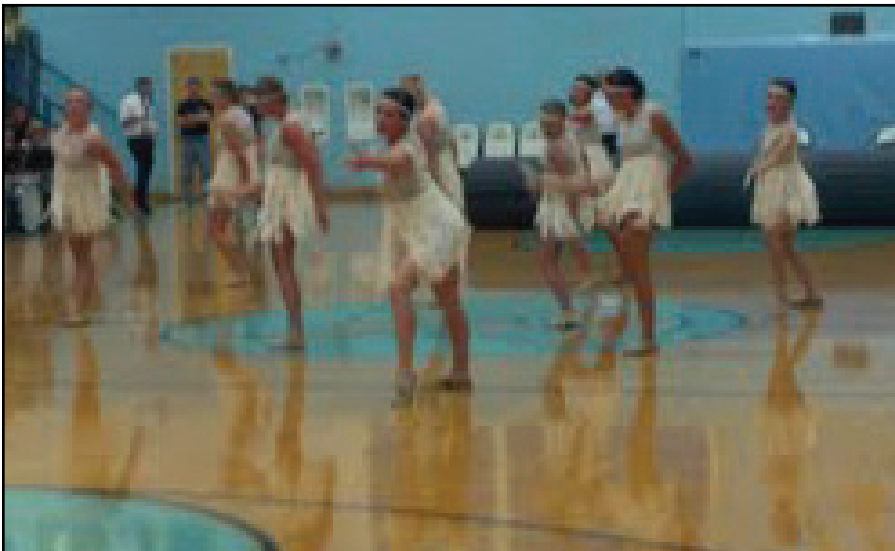
Previous solution - Medium



To complete Sudoku, fill the board by entering numbers 1 to 9 such that each row, column and 3x3 box contains every number uniquely.

For many strategies, hints and tips, visit www.sudokuwiki.org

If you like Str8ts check out our books, iPhone/iPad Apps and much more on our store.



Sirena Barker/West Word

The Greeley West Poms team entertains the student body at the opening day assembly. The Poms have been busy to start the year: working on their routine and participating in Dancing with the Teachers. Results from Dancing with the Teachers were not available at press time.

**From
Long Day, Page 3**

When asked what she thought of the six required classes for seniors, Ms. Shelli Robins explained that, “It will help the students stay on track.”

She continued to explain that seniors can take concurrent enrollment and earn college credits before leaving high school.

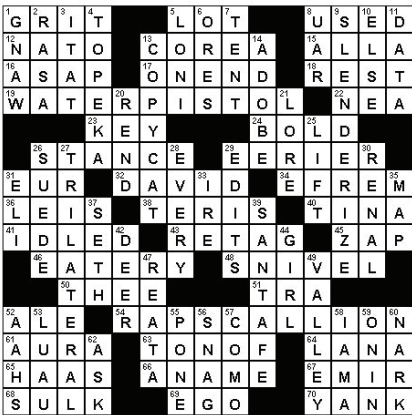
But if you ask most seniors at Greeley West, they’ll tell you that they’re not to happy about this. Justin Miller, a senior, explained that, “six classes is the most annoying thing that has ever happened.”

Miller technically needs four classes to graduate. The two extra classes he has to take this year are just a, “waste of my time.”

**From
T-Shirts, Page 6**

the approaching sporting events, competition has emerged due to the demand. Sellers are doing their best to advertise and market these products giving each other a run for their money.

This healthy competition and desired product brings a spark of pride to the school along with a competitive nature. This vibe is beneficial to the




school and provides a deeper essence to school spirit. The spirit wear is a gateway to filling up the stands and generating the inner school pride.

Not only do students get to represent their school by wearing these shirts but they even represent themselves with the customized name on the back. This allows students to express themselves with their desired nicknames making them feel a personal sentiment with their pride.



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Greeley West HS	SAT	Nov. 9-Dec. 14	8:00 AM-2:30 PM
St. John’s Church, Greeley	M, TH-SAT	Dec. 23, Dec. 26-Dec. 28	8:00AM-4:00 PM
St. John’s Church, Greeley	M, TH-SAT	Dec. 30, Jan. 2-Jan. 4	8:00AM-4:00 PM

Check out our complete schedule at: www.anshordriving.com