

THE ROAD TO RECOVERY

C. Burzell

Late afternoon, on Sunday, November 19, at La Fiesta Mexican Restaurant, GCHS student Elizabeth Perez was getting ready to go home after working the afternoon shift when she heard a cook ask for help from the back. The cook needed help lifting a heavy pot of hot oil, when they lifted the pot it became too heavy for Liz's grasp and slipped out of her hands, effectively spilling the oil all over her legs and the floor. This caused Liz to slip and fall, so the grease coated the back of her legs as well as the front. She then had to crawl to her boss's office, where they called 911. Liz was admitted into Northern Colorado Medical Center that night with third and second degree burns from the waist down.

Perez has been staying in the Burn Unit at NCMC since her accident where she has had constant care, support, and love. When asked how her experience with the hospital has been, she replied, "My experience with the hospital has been amazing. They made me feel welcome and did whatever they could to keep me comfortable during my stay." She also stated that she had a great connection with her nurses. Perez has had to have constant physical therapy to regain her ability to walk normal, and the recovery process only started with that. It will take approximately a year and a half for her to fully recover and heal her wounds, and she has a great support system to help her in this time. Her family has been very supportive, and has helped her out as much as possible with anything she's needed.

Moving forward, she wants to take a summer course at Aims Community College to become a certified nurse's assistant, after which transferring to UNC for their nursing program. Perez wants to be a burn nurse and hopes to one day work in the very same burn unit she was admitted in. When asked how this experience changed her, Perez answered, "This experience has changed my perspective in life, actually. I now know how, in the blink of an eye, life can change you. I now appreciate everything in life because it can take a turn in less than a second. I believe it's made me stronger as well." We wish Liz a quick recovery and hope she gets well soon.



Photo Credits: Gorgeous Artistry

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THE DREADED FINALS SCHEDULE

J. Doss

The end of the semester is approaching fast, and it's about time to break out those flashcards and review guides because finals will be here before you know it. For most students, finals are truly dreaded because of all the stress and long study hours that come with them. But this year's finals may become more overwhelming because of how they are scheduled. On December 18, students will have finals in periods 1, 3, 5, and 7 this is a lot to study for all at once because most classes will use that last week to wrap up the last unit for the semester. On December 15, students will only have an hour of review in each class period, and at the end are given a study guide packet that is due the same day as finals. For most colleges, if students have four to five finals in a day they allow them to reschedule because they believe that is a lot to handle and study for. How can we expect for students to do their best if we overwhelm them by giving them so much to study for? This pressure just gets added because there are three more classes the next day.

Another issue with this semester's final schedule is having to go seminar at the very end of Tuesday. It only seems to make sense for those who need to take a final they missed out on or the last ditch effort to boost your grades. English teacher, Lisa McGee, acknowledged that having seminar first thing on Monday would have also benefited students because it would have been another chance to study. But we are stuck with this finals schedule, so study hard and don't get overwhelmed because winter break will be well worth sitting through finals.

LAST MINUTE GIFT IDEAS

J. Gallegos

The arrival of Christmas morning is slowly approaching and many are thinking about getting that perfect gift for family and friends. Are you ready? Have you purchased everything on your Christmas list yet? If you answered yes to the questions above, well congratulations to you. If you answered no, don't you worry your pretty little head, I'm here to provide a few last minute gift ideas for you. When it comes to finding a perfect gift you shouldn't stress at all, easier said than done, but really finding a gift is a piece of cake.

You can get anything from a fuzzy pair of socks to perfume and lotion to a gift card to that loved one's favorite store or you can even go deeper and make a handmade gift, anything from a photo album to a Christmas basket. I had the chance to speak to Grant Rivera, a senior here at Central who had this to say about the special month of gift giving, "As lame as it may sound, if I'm in need of a last minute gift my first reaction is a gift card to target. They're quick, don't need to be wrapped, and I mean, who doesn't want free money to spend at Target?" I went on to ask Rivera if he believes if handmade gifts are better than purchasing one and he replied with, "That's always a hard question, I guess it really depends if the present is something sentimental and has meaning to it then yeah, I'll definitely take the handmade gift. However, please don't be that annoying relative that sends you handmade scarves and gloves. I'm sure it's a ton of effort and will most likely never be used." I definitely have to agree with Rivera on this one, handmade gifts would make a perfect gift no matter if it's to that special someone or to family members. Handmade gifts have so much more meaning to it than purchasing one, it comes from the heart. Whatever it may be, remember the month of December is not always about the gifts, it's about family. Cherish the moments yet to come and make it a holiday to remember. Happy Holidays and the best of luck to you and your search of the perfect gift!



Happy Holidays!

WILDCATS WISH MR. FINCH THE BEST

F. Pozos

Many opportunities will come our way and sometimes, will change the way we live our life. Finch, one of our amazing English teachers and head coach of the GCHS volleyball team, will be leaving Greeley Central High School after the end of this semester. Finch has been an amazing role model for everyone in the building, but sadly it is time for him to go. Finch's departure, while sad for us Wildcats, is due to a really exciting opportunity for his wife who received a promotion for her dream job. The promotion means that she will be relocated to another town, and in fact probably another state. Finch would love to stay in the GCHS family, but also wants to support his wonderful wife in her dream job.

Of the the many things Finch listed that he will be missing in the castle, he included; all the amazing bonds he's made with students, staff, the rich history of this school, and being able to coach one of the best volleyball teams around. Finch has been at Greeley central for six years, starting in 2011, and has won dance offs and lead pep-assemblies throughout his time with us. Finch said, "I have more Wildcat gear than I do regular clothes and I look good in orange, so I believe in the saying, "once a Wildcat, always a Wildcat'." In the end, Finch has spent wonderful years teaching at Greeley Central High School and is proud he got the chance to be the head coach for volleyball. Finch's, not final, but last words to us are, "I want to

thank everyone here for the memories and fun times you gave me. My dream was to teach here until my teaching career ended, but new doors will be opened for everyone. This is hard, but remember, "once a Wildcat, always a Wildcat'." We all hope for the best for Finch and his new adventure.



Photos from: GCHS Facebook and L. McGee

SEMESTER TWO SCHEDULE CHANGES

L. Duran

With the end of the first semester rapidly approaching, it is very important to continue to work hard in your classes as the second semester is right around the corner. Time after time, the week following the return from Christmas break students are seen flooding into counselor's office worried about changing their schedules to something of their liking. In an effort to avoid this issue, you frequently hear a reminder over the intercom that there will be no schedule changes made during second semester and that you must schedule an appointment now to change your schedule. It is very easy to schedule an appointment with your counselor if you are one of the many that are in the need for a schedule change, one way that you can schedule an appointment is by simply going to the office and filling out a schedule change sheet. Another way you can schedule an appointment if you don't have much free time to go to the office is by going to the school website. Click on the counselors tab and you will be introduced to a page where you can easily see your grades counselors and set an appointment. One thing to remember before you go in and actually have the face to face talk with your counselor you need to know what classes you need and already a rough idea of what you want your schedule to look like.



HOLIDAY STRESS

J. Gallegos



When thinking about the month of December we can all agree on it being a very, very stressful month. Not only are we getting closer to Christmas, but being high school students means we have finals slowly approaching and let's be honest, we all hate finals week. Though it is getting rough, we must stay positive and work hard to ace these final exams. If you are the type of person who does not know how to cope with stress like myself, I will provide three tips on how to kick stresses butt. Tip number one, plan ahead; creating an action plan can help to relieve stress. Write down all of the things you need to do so that you can prioritize the things that are most important. Tip number two, put yourself first. Get enough sleep and eat a good meal. By taking care of yourself, it will improve your mood, and make it easier for you to take care of others. Tip number three, don't be afraid to say "no" to obligations that you know will cause you heartache and disappointment.

I had the chance to speak to Shanise Garcia, a senior here at Greeley Central, who I know felt this holiday stress probably more than anyone this year. Garcia explains, "What stresses me most is having assignments due at once, and having to take the time to do them all, but over the years I found activities such as drawing and dancing that have helped me cope with my stress." If you are someone who is stressed out and don't know how to handle it please remember these three tips or pick up a new hobby. Keep working hard wildcats, study for finals, and do well in class, we are almost done with the very hectic month of December and soon Christmas will be on its way!

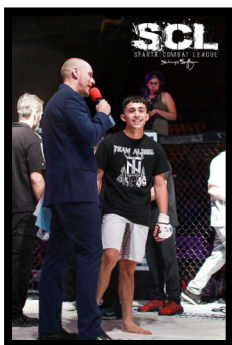
Photo Credit: Google Images



ZEKE'S OCTAGON DEBUT

E. Hernandez

Zeke Alirez, GCHS senior, is better known for his dominating performance on the wrestling mat, has entered into a new athletic arena. November 18, Alirez stepped into the octagon at the Denver Coliseum to take on his first opponent, who was older than him. It's not like boxing is completely new to Alirez, as a kid he took part in boxing classes but never had the experience of going against an opponent with a couple hundred of people watching. The previous two months for Alirez were tough, he trained like never before with his brother and trainers. Once it was time to fight, he wasted no time as he held his opponent to "submission victory" with a rear naked choke in the first round. After the match, Alirez



shared, "when the ref held my hand up I was so pumped. Better yet, to put on a show in front of friends and family felt amazing. Honestly, I felt like I had accomplished a big goal," however, the infamous Central wrestler was quick to shift gears and continued, "but now it's time to get my hand raised on a Saturday night at the Pepsi Center and get that state title I've been urging for." Alirez is highly motivated for his final wrestling season as a Wildcat and we hope he finds victory on the mat the way he did in the boxing ring. Good luck to whoever tries to stop Alirez; he's on a mission to win a state title.

Photo Credits: Alex Buffer



UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATERS

A. Autobee

Chances are you might get invited to a ugly Christmas sweater party and you should be prepared. What used to be considered tacky and ugly is now fun and trendy because it's a way of looking cute without having to try too hard. It is a fun and new family party idea and it'll make for some good pictures. Senior, Tania Saldivar, whose family is having a ugly Christmas sweater party, gives some advice on where to find one, "I went to Target, Rue21, TJ Maxx, and finally I had some success at Walmart I payed 20 dollars and I still have plans to add stuff to it." The start of the uprising ugly Christmas sweaters started to appear when celebrities started to release their own versions of what they consider to be an ugly Christmas sweater. And since then, they've begun to be the "big" trend.



Photo Credit: Google Images

WINTER BREAK IDEAS

B. Yackey

As crazy as the holiday season might be, it's easy to let the break slip away without having fun. Even though you might think you're grown up, you are never too old to do the basics of Christmas. A great way to start Winter break is to round up the family and decorate, whether that is decorating the Christmas tree or the house or even your baked goods, there is fun in decorating. "My favorite thing to do during Christmas break is to pick out a Christmas tree with my family and decorate it while drinking hot chocolate and listening to Christmas music," said junior, Anna Rutledge. There is no better way to get in the holiday spirit than baking, everyone loves the Christmas treats. If that isn't for you, there are many more things to do such as making gifts, shopping, movies and anything else you may want. Don't let your winter break slip away, go and do something fun!

FINALS PREP

D. Wells

Finals are less than three weeks away, are you prepared? If not, you can always look into a few study tips. This year, GCHS has given all students seminar to study and prepare for tests, and better yourself as a student, take advantage of this opportunity and use it! If you're nervous about a certain final, ask that teacher to request you during the seminar block so you can work one-on-one to help make sure you ace the test! Make sure that over the next couple weeks you go over your notes, you study, you complete study guides, and you work towards being successful during finals week. It's arguably the most important week of the semester. Just remember to be prepared, use seminar, and study, and you will succeed.

BIG BALLERS IN LITTLE CHINA

T. Menard

If you know basketball you know the now famous Ball family. There's the dad, Lavar, a very supportive and active-on-social-media, kind of father; Lonzo, the starting point-guard for the Los Angeles Lakers, and the youngest son; Lamelo, a junior in high school who once dropped 92 points in a game. But the middle brother, LiAngelo, who played for UCLA has made recent news.



as

Just days before the season's opening game against Georgia Tech in Shanghai, Ball and two other students, Cody Riley and Jalen Hill, admitted to shoplifting sunglasses from a Louis Vuitton store near their hotel in Hangzhou. This, of course, was a very serious issue stealing items at high price in China can result in big consequences. Stealing items ranging in prices of 1,000 to 2,500 yuan (\$150 to \$350) could result in up to 6 months in jail time or a fine. Items stolen ranging from 7,000 to 10,000 yuan (\$1,050 to \$1,510) has a much worse consequence. The guilty party can face two to three years in jail according to Chinese law. The sunglasses in question were valued at \$435 to \$1,990.

The three players were arrested and held in custody until the situation could be resolved. Lavar was approached numerous times to comment on the incident and kept dodging the press. Finally he spoke up to reporters from ESPN saying, "I'm going to wait until I get some more intel on what's going on, and then I can tell you what's up," Ball then continued saying, "He'll be fine. He'll be fine. Everybody making it a big deal. It ain't that big of a deal." Ball, Riley, and Hill were released after a couple hours in Hangzhou Police custody. The boys then were told to remain in their luxury hotel until all legal business was taken care of. They were not able to compete in the opening game against Georgia Tech.

The UCLA team then remained to practice that Wednesday before going to Shanghai Disneyland. The exhibition game UCLA played November 1 against Cal. State was taken as a win of 111-80 with Ball dropping 11 points, five assists, and three steals in 16 minutes. Riley had eight points, five rebounds, and three assists in 18 minutes. Hill did not play in the game. This says a lot about our country as well as China that this situation was able to be resolved peacefully and without negativity from either side.

Ball has since left UCLA to pursue other means of his basketball career.

BRINGING SEXUAL ASSAULT TO LIGHT

A. Morales

According to US Department of Justice, sexual assault is defined as: "any type of sexual contact or behavior that occurs without the explicit consent of the recipient."

Evidently, a handful of Hollywood stars are arrogant of the meaning. Stars like Kevin Spacey, Russell Simmons, Matt Lauer, Harvey Weinstein, and James Toback have all been accused of sexual assault or sexual misconduct. As of October 2017, many women have come forward after being silenced victims of sexual assault or harassment by many "important people". Sexual assault is a touchy subject for many and it either makes them uncomfortable to hear or uncomfortable to remember. Many men and women think the subject of sexual assault or sexual harassment is and should stay "taboo" or "risque" but that just isn't right. Fortunately, some victims, in light of being belittled by the "hierarchy" have taken action. In fact, the "#MeToo" movement, started by actress, Alyssa Milano, was written to speak a thousand words. It all started on twitter, an app not too outdated but not the hottest icon on your phone. Milano is a victim of sexual misconduct and being kept quiet by fear. It looks like the only ones being thrown under the bus are the successful businessmen America looked up to. Do "the big guys" think they can do whatever they want? Were these women "asking for it"? Or is this only a long list of allegations the media was waiting to see?



HANUKKAH

M. Diaz



Hanukkah is approaching and not many people are aware what this holiday is, or who celebrates it. Hanukkah this year starts Tuesday, December 12th and will continue till Wednesday, December 20th. Hanukkah is a Jewish holiday and is celebrated to remember defeating the Syrians and reviving the Temple of Jerusalem. Hanukkah is celebrated for eight days to mark the eight days the oil burned. People celebrate Hanukkah by lighting candles on a menorah each night, one more candle is lit. When speaking to GCHS student Tyrone Lujan he stated, a lot of people call Hanukkah a “Jewish Christmas” but that’s not the case and Jewish people actually take offense to calling it that with that it just proves how not many people know about Hanukkah or who celebrates it or even the origination.



Photo Credits: Google Images

NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS

A. Mcfall

New Year’s Resolutions started as a tradition that was most common in the western hemisphere, people made promises to resolve an undesired trait or behavior that they have, to accomplish a personal goal or just improve their life in general. The Babylonians made promises to their gods at the beginning of each year that they would bring borrowed items and pay their debts, they began each year by making promises to the god Janus, who is named after the month January. For early Christians the first day of the new year became a traditional occasion for reflecting on one’s past mistakes and taking the correct measures to do better in the new year. New Year’s Resolutions today are not quite the same as they use to be. Instead of the people making promises to the gods, most people just make resolution to themselves, and focus mainly on self improvement.

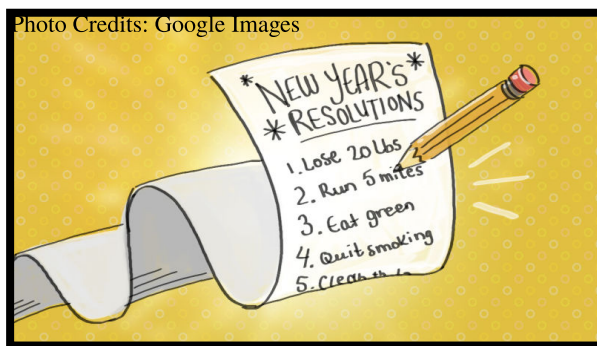


Photo Credits: Google Images

As many as 45% of Americans say they make new year’s resolutions, but only 8% of them are actually successful in achieving their goals. In my point of view these resolutions are to give people a sense that all of their mistakes, trials and tribulations that they experienced that past year can be altered to help them become better people and for them to progress from the point in life that they are in to something bigger and better. Without action there will be no change or any progress so if you have a new year’s resolution, don’t just speak it into existence actually put the effort and strive to become a person not only for yourself but for the world



Athlete of the Week

Imani Kory has been playing basketball since she was in fifth grade. Her favorite thing about the girls basketball team is the chemistry between the girls and how they are bonded and support each other. Basketball is her main stress reliever; enjoying the contact and the competition in the game. She plans to play basketball in college and study in automotive. Her favorite memory about basketball was the time when the Coach was stressed out and some team members, including her, ran out of the gym, they then all ran back in and hugged Coach.



Artist of the Week

Greta Krombholz is a talented actress involved in the Arts Magnet Program where her emphasis is theater. She has been interested in theater ever since her school Chappelow k-8 Arts Magnet School had plays and musicals. Her sister Emma and her brother Holden's involvement in theater also encouraged her involvement in the world of acting. Her first ever show was a Christmas show in third or second grade. Her favorite show is Romeo and Juliet where she played Juliet. Krombholz thinks it important to have many aspects of theater, she has been involved in the tech areas, she was casted as chorus in Cinderella and has been a lead in a play. After high school she hopes to become a teacher or professor that teaches English or psychology.



Club of the Week

DECA is a business and marketing club that is an international association that includes high schools and college level students to compete in different business events. In Greeley Central Hunter Miller is the President and Ebony Montanez is the Vice President of DECA. There are approximately seventeen people that participate, the district competition was on October 31 at the Union Colony Civic Center, Hunter, who competes in Finance Literacy was first in his division and is going to state which is held at the Broadmoor in Colorado Springs. Karah Whiddon is the advisor of this group and F.B.L.A., she also teaches business and marketing classes.



Student of the Week

Ethan Aragon is involved in the Arts Magnet program here at Central, his emphasis being in drawing. He mentioned his favorite teachers here are Mrs. Murphy, a science teacher, and Mrs. LeFebre, a social studies teacher. On his free time he listens to Baroque, a classical music artist. His favorite artist would be Mozart and the song *Regina Angelorum*. He also enjoys building Legos, he likes to build pirate ships out of them and different models with building blocks. Drawing and reading is also a huge part of his life, *Alice in Wonderland: Through the Looking Glass* and *City of Ember* are his two favorite books. He plans to go to college at UNC to study art or biology.

THE UNHAPPIEST TIME OF YEAR

J. Doss

“It’s the most wonderful time of the year”.... Well maybe for the kids. Christmas time can be extremely stressful and overwhelming for parents. As kids grow up they add more and more items to their lists, and when it come to preteens and teens they usually ask for some expensive electronic or gaming console that is way more than what parents can afford.

Radio host, Tommy Carrera, reported a survey taken by kids that showed, “When kids give their parents a wish list it’s not meant to be suggestion in other words the kid wants everything on their lists.” and further explained that, “According to this survey $\frac{2}{3}$ of kids expect everything on their lists and on an average 58% of parents try to accomplish this.” Parents do a lot to make their kids happy and they try to give them a childhood and a Christmas they probably didn’t have. But in doing so we are creating a very selfish and entitled generation.

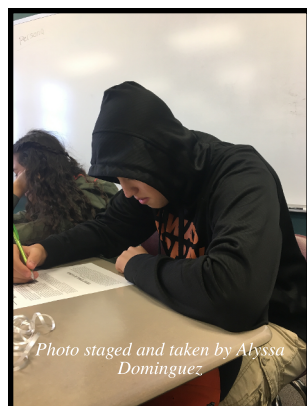
Christmas is not about the number and quality of gifts you receive. I feel that kids really don’t know how lucky they are to be even receiving any kind of gift at all. There are tons of families that can’t even afford to have a Christmas. Statistics have shown that 12% of parents will take out a huge payday loan and 9% will take from their retirement fund just to get kids what they want. 2016 was so bad that parents are still trying to pay back the debt they owe from last year while. It’s nice to give a child something they have always wanted but there is no need to go overboard, Christmas is a holiday that should teach kids appreciation not want.



Photo Credit: Google Images

HOODIES SHOULD BE ALLOWED

E. Hernandez



Do you ever have trouble getting focused at school? Wearing a hoodie during class could be the answer. Yes, wearing a hood in a school building is ban for “safety reasons” supposedly it’s difficult to identify the person with a hood on. Teachers complain about them too much, even when the student is on task doing their school work. For example outside the classroom, there is a NBA star named Carmelo Anthony and he’s known for wearing a hoodie while practicing or shooting around. During this time he is completely on a different level, he is one hundred percent focused. He even has a nickname as Hoodie Melo. For me I am more focused in a classroom when I have my hoodie on, I tend to work for a longer period of time and get the majority of my work done. If it gets the job done for the student and the teacher, let it be. This may not be for everyone as everyone has different ways of being focused. The goal in high school is to graduate and in order to graduate you must complete your work in the classroom. In other words, “If it ain’t broken, don’t fix it.”

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2017-2018 WRESTLING SPORTS SEASON

L. Duran

Here at the Castle, we are very lucky to have a great sports programs. One of Central's highest ranking teams has always been the wrestling team. Year after year our wrestlers bring back 1st place trophies and many of our amazing wrestlers have been eligible for the state multiple times. We are always known for taking home the "W" Senior, Josh Nira, says "It's because we have such a tough wrestling room so we make each other tougher and better." Becoming tougher and stronger everyday the team predicts nothing but good news, good times and lots of wins in the words of Junior, Anthony Alirez, "We're gonna take it this year, State Champs." Many Central students take notice of the success of the wrestling team and wonder why they are so good. Junior, Adrian Salinas, says "It's because of the great bonds, coaches, communication and love for the sport that pushes us to become better every day." It is pretty much certain that this year many of the wrestlers will be able to participate with many of the other elite competitors around the state and bring back one more state title. Our wrestlers pride themselves for being able to do a sport that highlights their own athleticism rather than overall as a team and wish for all of the wildcat families will support them throughout the challenge that is this years wrestling season.

BRONCOS LOSS STREAK

D. Wells

The Denver Broncos have definitely made some interesting decisions this season. From exploding in the preseason, to a now seven week losing streak, some coaching and playing decisions are at fault. This season is our first year with coach Vance Joseph former CU Boulder football player. Based on the performance of the team throughout the pre-season many fans and organization member thought this would be an easy transition. However, after losing to the Giants, the Broncos haven't stopped losing. After releasing T.J. Ward and resigning Brock Osweiler, many other questionable decisions have been made. This is the Broncos worst season on record since Josh McDaniels was the head coach from 2009-2010. The Broncos are currently sitting in last place in the AFC West and it's doubtful they will leave that spot.

Von Miller



Photo Credits: Google Images

Vance Joseph



Photo Credits: Google Images

THE HISTORY OF SANTA

S. Fuentes

December is finally here! December means Christmas shopping, holiday traditions, and most importantly, family. Although it may be a very exciting and crazy month for some, many don't even know where the holiday, Christmas, came from or how Santa even came into existence. Christmas is a sacred holiday and a worldwide "cultural commercial phenomenon". People share myths and stories to get into the holiday spirit. Everyone celebrates the holidays differently, for example, some celebrate this holiday the night before, December 24th known as Christmas Eve, others wake up early Christmas day to open up presents. Christmas day has been a holiday since 1870 and it came with many traditions for some, for example, exchanging gifts, decorating Christmas trees, attending church, sharing meals with family and friends and, of course, waiting for Santa Claus to arrive while everyone is asleep.



Credits: Google Images

It's a good thing to know what you celebrate and where it originates from, it also can help some questions about the holiday, for example, did you know Santa Claus can be traced back hundreds of years to a monk named St. Nicholas. He was admired by many for his kindness, it has been said that he gave away all his inherited wealth and traveled helping the poor and sick. His popularity spread all around and was known as the protector of sailors and children. He was celebrated on the day of his death, December 6th. That day was also known as a lucky day to make big purchases and to even get married. Even after his death he managed to maintain a good reputation and a popular saint in Europe. I think it's clear to say Santa Claus is real.

THE BEST CHRISTMAS MOVIES

T. Menard

It's that time of year again where the snow begins to fall, the roads become too dangerous to drive on, and the only safe thing to do is stay in at home and put on some of the best movies of the Christmas season. But what makes those movies so good and so fitting to the holiday season? Rotten Tomatoes, the nationally famous T.V. and movie rating company, laid out the top 25 highest rated Christmas movies. The top ten being: 10. *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, 9. *A Christmas Story*, 8. *Arthur Christmas*, 7. *Die Hard*, 6. *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, 5. *How The Grinch Stole Christmas* (1967), 4. *The Shop Around The Corner*, 3. *Holiday Inn*, 2. *Miracle on 34th Street*, 1. *It's A Wonderful Life*.



Photo Credits: Google Images

It is important to note that these movies received a score of at least 92% 'Fresh' according to the website, the top 6 all were at 100% or more. All these movies provide a different look at how a Christmas, or holiday movie is presented, whether it is through tragedy like in part of *It's A Wonderful Life*, or through intense, awesome, and classic action sequences like in *Die Hard* (Yes it is a Christmas movie, whatever people are saying that it isn't have clearly never watched it. Bruce Willis, the main actor, goes down a chimney for crying out loud! Well it's an air duct but it still counts). No matter what, these movies are timeless and are a staple in the success of holiday season films. So sit tight in your house, turn on that fire, or fake one if you don't have one, kick it with your friends and family, and just enjoy the spirit of the holiday the way it is meant to be enjoyed, visually.

❧ A SIA CHRISTMAS ❧

A. Rotter

Hundreds of Christmas albums have been released through the years, most featuring the same songs we know and love. This year, Sia decided to do something different and release a new Christmas album with all new songs. Debuting November 17, 2017, she released her album *Everybody it's Christmas*. Her first Christmas album is comprised of the songs: *Santa's coming for us*, *Ho Ho Ho*, *Every Day is Christmas*, *Candy Cane Lane*, *Puppies are Forever*, *Underneath the Christmas Lights*, *Snowman*, *Sunshine*, *Snowflake*, and *Underneath the Mistletoe*. So far, the album has gotten mixed reactions from critics. Most have complained of how repetitive it feels after a few listens. This album very much sounds like Sia's other works. Her catchy lyrics and pop beats create a new feeling Christmas album. Christmas songs have followed the same formula for years and this new take is definitely a new change. The fan reaction for this album has been strong. This is usual for Sia's releases. In my opinion, this album was a much needed refreshing take on Christmas music. The choice to write all new songs makes the album feel brand new, but still familiar. It covers the same Christmas topics but in a original way. This album feels like it will last the test of time and be enjoyed during Christmas for many years to come.



Photo Credits: Google Images

THE NUTCRACKER

L. Contreras

If you are looking for something to do with your family, friends, or significant other, then attending the *Nutcracker* ballet will be the perfect fit. It's about a young girl who helps a nutcracker who later becomes her prince charming. This ballet has many different versions because worldwide producers make their own version of this fantasy story. It will be playing December 8-10. On December 8th and 9th the ballet will begin at seven p.m. and on December 10th it will begin around two in the afternoon.



New York City Ballet's Version of the *Nutcracker*

Photo Credits: Google Images

You can purchase tickets online or pay at the entrances, adults will cost twenty-four dollars, seniors will cost nineteen and youth as well as students will be charged fourteen, although children of ages three and under will not be able to attend because this can cause a distraction for other people who are trying to enjoy the ballet. This ballet will occur at the Union Colony Civic Center, located at 701 10th Ave Greeley, Co. The nutcracker has been around for years is always very successful during December because it follows the holiday spirit. The dancers are from the Northern Colorado studios, the CDTS is directed by Russell Guyer, and there will also be the Greeley Children's Corale involved. Overall, this is the perfect event to go to during Christmas whether you're going alone or going with your family.

JOURNALIST OF THE WEEK: CARLY BURZELL

M. Dreiling



Carly Burzell has been an outstanding student here in the newspaper staff, her writing has been excellent. She always goes above and beyond having her articles be unique and the final products of her articles are always top notch in every issue, she produces articles that are always relevant and nicely formatted. Carly has been on the front page three times with her amazing pieces, this issue, she is the front page with her article about Elizabeth Hernandez

Burzell also lead the newspaper with her articles on D.A.C.A. and the fall play, *Romeo and Juliet*. Her choices of topics always puts her ahead of the group and what she produces makes the article even better. Carly has written about political topics all the way to a haunted house review. She more than deserves this week's journalist of the week. The editors want to thank Carly for having stunning articles here in the Highlight.

STAFF OF THE WEEK: NEAL FINCH

M. Dreiling

Mr Finch has been a beloved, cherished teacher here at Greeley Central and we are all heartbroken to see him go. Finch says the most special thing about Central is how comfortable it is here either when interacting with students, teachers and administrators. There are expectations being laid back. His favorite memories here are the 2016 opening year assembly where he and Mr. Miller wore slim suits and rocked out their presentation in style. A close second memory would be his first year coaching the volleyball team, they won their first game against West breaking their seven year streak. He enjoys coaching the girl's Volleyball team, he looks forward going into the gym and interacting with the team everyday and the relationships made from it. Fun Fact: when Mr. Finch chose to be a teacher, a huge factor for that movement was that he could coach a sports team and be in the world of developing athletes. Mr. Finch hopes that one day he can return to Central and pick up where he left off, he can't imagine being anywhere else and having the same feeling and same excitement when coming to work everyday. His last words to the students at Central is "life is about developing relationships and so cherish relationships that you get a chance to have each and everyday."

