



- GREELEY CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL -

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1263: A NEW RECORD

E. Matier

In 2015, a hopeful freshman appeared in Jim Baggot Gymnasium for her first high school basketball try-out. Four years later, that same girl, Naomi Hidalgo, has solidified her legacy at Greeley Central High School as one of the most dominate basketball players the school has ever seen. On November 11, 2019, in a game against cross- town rival Northridge High school, Hidalgo broke Greeley Central's all-time boys and girls scoring record. The previous record was set by Tad Boyle, current coach of the CU boys basketball team, in 1981 and stood for 38 years.

There was an immense amount of anticipation going into this game. Fans made signs in support of Hidalgo reading: "Fear #24." The stands were full of fans counting down from 22 waiting in anticipation for the record breaking shot. On both sidelines, you saw a reporter from multiple different news medias including *9news* and *The Greeley Tribune*.

Despite everyone in the crowd and on the bench counting down how many shots left until she broke the record, Hidalgo herself, was not concerned with the record. Hidalgo said the she was only at the game to play basketball, she was not worried about the record. It wasn't until the third quarter when Coach Sheets called a timeout and told Hidalgo that she was only four points away from breaking the record that Hidalgo felt the weight of the moment.

The record setting shot came on a free throw in the fourth quarter of the game and the crowd was well aware of what was on the line. Immediately after Hidalgo netted her 1,263rd career point, a time-out was called, and fans of Greeley Central as well as players from the female basketball team flooded the court and congratulated Hidalgo. After the game, Hidalgo said "It's great people are realizing my accomplishment, but I don't like the attention." Hidalgo more than deserves the attention in the media though. She is undoubtedly one of, if not, the best basketball player in Central's long history, and will continue to make a name for herself while playing basketball for South Dakota School of Mines next year.



Credit: Greeley Central's Facebook

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MY EXCHANGE YEAR IN THE U.S.A

Guest Writer: M. Abdullah Gill

My name is Muhammad Abdullah Gill and I am an exchange student from Pakistan. I came through a program called the Youth Exchange and Study (YES). About 1 million students applied for this program from Pakistan and 77 were selected, including me.

I arrived in the U.S on August 10, 2018 in Washington D.C. As soon as I stepped on the this land, I was so excited for this amazing experience as well as nervous about living all alone with a stranger more than 7,500 miles away from my home and family. After D.C, I started my journey to Greeley, Colorado because that is where I was placed. In Greeley, I met the lady I was going to live with for next 10 months, we are supposed to call them “host parents” so I call her my host mom and she lives all alone.

She and I get along really well and she takes care of me like her son so much so that I started calling her Mom. My experience in Colorado has been really amazing so far. The best thing is the food, especially Mexican Food. I have tried tacos, burritos, and enchiladas. Then I tried nachos, mac and cheese, and all other cheese foods and a ton of different dressings and dips. I don’t know how am I going to live without this stuff when I go back to Pakistan.

Photo Credit: Madeleine Dreiling



Photo Credit: Madeleine Dreiling

It is so delightful to watch snow fall from sky for the first time, and then having snow in the backyard of my house is just crazy. I went to the Rocky Mountains in Autumn and saw those beautiful yellow trees and then I went tubing over there which was so much exciting. As well as strenuous hiking on the mountains towards the stunning and chilly waterfall was the best thing we did in the mountains.

In the fall, I enrolled at Greeley Central and on the first day I made a lot of friends. The teachers are so friendly and caring, my first semester was really wonderful and it just couldn’t be better. I have also learned about other sports like American football and baseball. I do not miss my family a lot because I have another family in U.S now and I am really going to miss them. My very first Halloween, very first Thanksgiving, and then my very first Christmas were unforgettable experiences. I hope to tell you guys more about my culture and learn most of your culture too.

During the rest of my time here in the Greeley and the U.S, I am looking forward to making a lot more friends and having many more exciting experiences.

THE CIRCUS COMES TO CENTRAL

S. Rotter

On January 11, a mob of anxious thespians crowded around the musical cast list to see what roles they got in the upcoming musical, *Barnum*. As it turns out, most of these thespians were not disappointed as Mr. Humphrey, the director created a diverse cast list that works to the strengths of the actors. The show *Barnum* highlights fun and interesting roles for the actors to portray. Savana Long, a freshman thespian, seems to think the same thing saying, “Mr. Humphrey did a good job picking a show that works to our strengths and has a lot of diversity.” Long was cast as “The Blue Singer;” though a supporting role, Long stresses the fact that you don't need to be a lead to make an impact on the show.

Brian Davis, who is very prominent in the show, also had some input saying, “The cast list looks great! I'm very pleased and feel like the cast is going to have a great time.” Davis, though only a junior, has already made a big mark on the thespian troupe being named the lead in every musical while attending GCHS. For this production, he was named the lead once again playing the part of Barnum. Despite his success in landing the lead, Davis didn't audition for any role specifically and had no preference of who he got casted as. Just based off the castings, this might be one of the best shows that Central has ever put on, highlighting talented and diverse actors while keeping a fun atmosphere. Mark your calendars and go see *Barnum* showing March 28-30 and April 4-6.



Credit:Thespian Troupe 657

FUTURE TEACHERS IN THE TEACHER CADET PROGRAM

E. Voigt

This year, the Teacher Cadet Program was introduced here at Greeley Central, taught by Mrs. Thomas. Teacher Cadet is a college level class that introduces hard-working students interested in pursuing the field of education as a career to teaching. There are some requirements you must meet before you take this class. Students must be a junior or senior and must have at least a 3.0 GPA. You also must submit an application with an essay to Mrs. Thomas and be accepted into the program.

Mrs. Thomas said, “The biggest benefit of Teacher Cadet is getting first-hand experience in a classroom. That’s the best way to learn.” In Teacher Cadet, you get 35 field hours helping a teacher in a classroom at a school of your choice to get experience. You also get to teach two lessons in your classroom. Senior Mazlyn Freier said, “My favorite part of this class is the community. I like everyone in the class.” Teacher Cadet is currently a small class of 9 students, so everyone is pretty close.

This semester, The Teacher Exploration class was introduced at Central as well. This class is a little different from Teacher Cadet as Teacher Exploration is only one semester and less work. If you are interested in teaching, apply to Teacher Cadet and UNC is holding a fair for students interested in education with different workshops on February 22nd!

PUTTING IN THE EXTRA EFFORT: AFTER SCHOOL TUTORING

B. Mena Rodriguez

Greeley Central offers after school tutoring, students from the University of Northern Colorado, Mr. Davis, and Mrs. Rowell come to help Greeley Central students with assignments, homework, or any classwork. They offer help in english, math, science, and any content being lectured in class. Some students do not get the one on one help they need in class and leave class “feeling” confused, which is why tutoring is so helpful.

Kevin Landeros a junior at Greeley Central High School, said, “I believe that after school tutoring is a good way to get help, since in some classes they are fast paced.” Not all class content seems easy, we all need help and after school tutoring is always a great option. Mr. Davis, one of the after school tutors said, “I enjoy after school tutoring, when a student comes in dedicated for me to sit down with them and explain step by step, and to see the student “Ah-ha moment” of understanding completes my day.” Greeley Central students, if you are struggling in one of your classes, take this opportunity to get some great help!

GREELEY CENTRAL’S EXCELLENCE ON DISPLAY

G. Oliva

On January 18, 2018, GCHS students and staff gathered in Jim Baggot Gymnasium for the 2018-2019 Excellence Assembly. Freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors all gathered to experience their first or maybe their last Excellence Assembly at Greeley Central.

As usual, Mr. Miller hosted this year’s assembly joined by Ms. Hughes, and their performance brought joy and smiles to all students and staff. As Mr. Miller started, he introduced seniors Alexis Hernandez, Taylor Henderson, and Emily Nolin from Thespian Troupe 657. Hernandez and Henderson illustrated the rival battle between the Greeley Central High School Wildcats, and Greeley West High School Spartans through an inspiring performance.

Next, the GCHS staff band, the Centrallas showed off their musical skills with a playful performance which got everybody to clap and sing along. As the crowd got quiet, Mr. Rohnke was brought out to share his Pride, Class, and Dignity at Greeley Central. He provided encouraging words to the GCHS community.

Following Mr. Rhonke, the GCHS dance team performed in front of all of their peers and teachers. Matching in all black costumes, but with colored hats representing each grade, they performed to Kanye West, Cardi B, and Lil Wayne. I ask senior Stephani Willis, what she had to do to prepare for the assembly. "How I prepare for dances is getting a good night sleep, eating a good breakfast, and telling myself out loud ‘I can do this.’"

Finally, as the assembly was coming to an end, students who got 3.5-4.0 GPA, AP students and outstanding athletes, were shown love for their hard work and accomplishment. As students were named, the GCHS crowd applauded and cheered for each student.



WELCOMING IMMIGRANT NEWCOMERS TO THE CASTLE

R. Embaye



Greeley Central High School has seen a significant increase in students from Central America, Asia, and the African Continent. Northern Colorado's agricultural and ranching industries, attract adult immigrants because of high paying job opportunities at companies such as JBS and Cargill. With the arrival of adult immigrants to Weld County, come their children. Many immigrant students also arrive in Greeley as unaccompanied minors which adds a dynamic cultural shift of Greeley Evans School District 6.

I researched the immigration dynamics of the city of Greeley and specifically Greeley Central High School, since 2010. According to the Greeley Tribune's article "Analysis: Diversity gains within Greeley-Evans School District 6 have not been shared equally among schools," the research shows that as far back as the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and as recently as a 2015 U.S National Assessment of Educational Programs, that white students and minority students greatly enhanced the diversity and learning within the high school academic learning

environment.

Ms. Laura Degroote, a Greeley Central HS ESL teacher, agreed to sit down with me and discuss diversity within the high school setting.

R.E: Do you think more immigrants are coming to Greeley?

L.D: We are receiving quite a few. My oral A class has grown tremendously since the beginning of the year. I think people are coming to Greeley in particular because there are jobs and they have family here. And I think in general newcomers feel welcomed at Greeley Central. And I think we can provide them with a good quality education. Generally, they like it here.

R.E: How and with whom are they coming here with?

L.D: Some of the students come on their own actually, some of our Central Americans travel to leave their countries, such as Guatemala on their own. They are classified as unaccompanied minors, and they have to stay in a detention center for a bit until they are placed with family living in the USA. They ask for asylum here in the United States. Some students have come as refugees from Africa and Asia.

R.E: What can the Greeley Central students do to help those newcomers?

L.D: One thing cool we are doing this year is we have a culture club and part of the culture club is to be mentors for the newcomers. When we get new student we assign mentors to that student, so that the mentor helps orient the student, giving them a tour of the school, making sure have everything they needed such as ID, lockers, and taking them to lunch. And we do a lot of tutoring after school. Students volunteer to help the newcomers.

R.E: What are your thoughts on the newcomers?

L.D: Well... I love teaching newcomers, I get great satisfaction seeing the progress they make, there are students who are highly motivated, they come from families who are appreciative of education, and they show me that appreciation. It could be challenging because I have students of different levels, different academic needs. I learn a lot from my students. They teach me a lot about perseverance, they teach me a lot about their culture and their language. I think I have a great job.

In the final analysis, the GCHS education and learning is greatly enhanced for the immigrant students, the American born students, teachers, staff, and faculty, because each person is exposed to several cultures daily.

Although, I am a reporter for the GCHS newspaper, I am also a proud young women from the horn of East Africa, and believe that the good thing is that GCHS is comprised of several Hispanic, Asian, And Africans students, which makes all students feel welcome, their socialization skills more rounded, and based on diversity, student learning increases at all levels. What this says is that these win-win learning opportunities will continue to increase for years to come.

CENTRAL GIRLS TRUMP WEST

E. Matier

Coming out of an outstanding 56-9 win, the Greeley Central Girls Basketball team was ready to steamroll into Greeley West High School to attempt to win one of the most highly anticipated games of the season. Central, ranked 2nd in 4A state, has found early success so far this season. Led by senior Naomi Hidalgo, the Wildcats (14-1) were ready to slay the Spartans (5-11). The stands were full of both Greeley West and Greeley Central fans ready for the match-up.



Credit: Greeley Central's Facebook

Last December, Central topped West in the Gojo's Round Robin Tournament. Since that tournament, Central has gone undefeated. Fans from both teams were excited for the rematch. From the first tip, Central dominated the game. At the end of the first quarter Central led the game 8-5 and carried that momentum into halftime leading 16-14. After the Half-Court Shot Competition that channel 104.7 hosted during half time, both sides of the stadium were pumped to see what the rest of the game had in store. Despite their lead, the Cats did not let up any pressure and continued to drive towards the hoop. At the end of the 3rd quarter Central led 28-22, and after an intense 4th quarter where the cats put up 16 points, the game ended with a 44-35 wildcat victory.

COLORADO AVALANCHE IN THE 18-19 ALL-STAR GAME

T. Menard

Credit: DenverPost.com

On January 26, the Colorado Avalanche will send their three best players to the 2019 NHL All-Star Tournament. The players are: Left-Wing Mikko Rantannen, Right-Wing Gabriel Landeskog, and center Nathan MacKinnon who is the Central Division captain. For MacKinnon this will be his 3rd appearance as an All-Star, but this is the first time All-Star appearance for Rantannen and Landeskog. These players earned their spot on Central Division team for their exceptional level of play this season. At this point in the season, the Colorado Avalanche are 22-20-8 and are in 18th place in the league and are tied for 7th place in the Western Conference. The way an NHL All-Star game works, players for the game are chosen by the NHL committee for a spot on the team. Fans however get their part in choosing players as they get to choose the captain of each divisional team.



The tournament is a 3-on-3 with 3 skaters and 1 goalie on each side. There are three 20-minute games that will ultimately decide on a winner. The winning team receives a \$1 million prize divided amongst the team. The three Avalanche, representing Colorado, will have goalies Devan Dubnyck and Pekka Rinne to help them out. Hopefully, this boost in confidence will help the players give the rest of their team enough confidence to finish the season strong and hopefully make the playoffs.

CENTRAL BOYS TAKE A LOSS AGAINST WEST

K. Hale

Our boys basketball team played at Greeley West High School on Saturday, January 19th, and lost. This was a big surprise to many since Central beat West in a tournament last month. Central was leading at halftime and during the second half, the game went downhill for the Wildcats. Arnulfo Munguia, a varsity senior, said: "Being up [at the half] gave us so much confidence," but it was not enough for the win. The Wildcat boys did not take to this loss very well but they know what they have to do. "It was heartbreaking, [but] we can't spend too much time reflecting on that loss. We have two more big games this week and we have to get straight back to work. We have to clear our minds of that loss and get ready for the next game. It was a tough loss, but we have to be ready for this week," said Munguia. The ending score of the game was 46 to 39, resulting in Central's 4th loss this season. "We all really wanted [to win] but now we just gotta bounce back and get the next one," said Spencer Conway, another varsity senior. The Wildcats put this game behind them as they prepare to take on Thompson Valley and Skyline in the upcoming week.

Credit: Greeley Central Facebook



UNIFIED BASKETBALL SET FOR VICTORIOUS SEASON

I. Gifford

The Unified Team at the Castle is the Special Olympics basketball team that works to bring individuals with disabilities together through teamwork, friendship, and gives the opportunity to be a part of something that focuses on the importance of working together. In February of 2017, Greeley Central Unified team took first and second place in their Special Olympics tournament. Two of our wildcats, Lexee Sherman-Sutton and Maddie Frederick-Law are involved in the club Best Buddies.

Best Buddies and Unified Team both focus on the importance of equal opportunity for all students, no matter their ability. The girls are both highly passionate about being helpful students. They both were able to discover the Unified Team through the club. Frederick-Law described them in one word as "Admirable".

When Sherman-Sutton was asked the same question she responded with, "Inspiring". She also described her experience with Unified Team as extremely positive and a "passion of hers". The teammates all radiate positivity and perseverance. The team has more exciting games coming this year and we can not wait to see what is in store for them.

Credit: Unified Team supporter Rosane





Athlete of the the Week

Ethan Rumman is a junior who is a multi-sport athlete at Central. He enjoys playing tennis where he mostly plays singles, and some doubles. In baseball, he plays second base and played outfield on a traveling team over the summer. While playing sports, he has maintained an impressive 4.0 GPA.



Artist of the Week

Jace Shackley is a freshman at Central who is heavily involved in the Arts Magnet Program. He is involved in every aspect of the arts from marching band, to drawing, to even acting. In the Arts Magnet Program, he has an emphasis in drawing. Shackley said, "my favorite drawing style is pen and paper." He was cast in *Barnum* and is looking forward to the experience, "so far it's been really fun. I'm a clown. I'm excited for the show."



Club of the Week

AVID Club is a club for any student who is a member of one of the four AVID classes at Central. The club is meant to unite the separate AVID elective classes and help build a sense of community between them. This club organizes and complete community service projects and makes dinner for the teachers during parent teacher conferences. They meet every other Friday in Mrs. Kirby's room.



Student of the Week

Jazz Jensen is a Junior at Central who has an Visual Arts emphasis in the Arts Magnet Program. She is also taking AP Gov, AP Lang and Comp, and College Algebra. She is also involved in many clubs such as Safe Club, AVID Club, and Poetry Club. She also participates in sports too, she is a member of the Color Guard. While playing a vital role at Central, she also maintains a 3.5 GPA.

FRAT CULTURE: DANGEROUS FOR GREELEY

A. Minner

The University of Northern Colorado has been a large center for the activities and business around Greeley. Most of it comes from the downtown life being a center for the students to hang out, another large portion has to do with the fraternity houses. The frat houses have been in downtown for quite some time, but some people think that the culture and activities they partake in are hurting Greeley. There are many things that go into the Greek culture surrounding fraternities with some positive and some negative.

When a large amount of people hear the term “frat,” they instantly think of excessive partying and drinking. This, in my experience, is quite over exaggerated. Yes, obviously they do those things. Its college. Pretty much all the kids do it now and again, but the extent to which people brand the Greek life is quite inaccurate. So is Greek culture toxic? Many of the frats are in some hot water when it comes to hazing. In the South, there are countless cases where students have actually died during the pledge stage. Events like this are completely unacceptable and must have major form. Many colleges are taking necessary steps to make sure things like this do not happen, but it still happens at larger colleges.

Personally, I believe that you shouldn't accuse everyone because of a few people. Stereotypes are usually believed over actual experiences when it comes to the culture. A lot of bad stuff has happened though which I can understand why people are cautious. In October, over 5 women told police officers that they were drugged by University Hill at CU Boulder (*The Denver Post*.) Things like this are disgusting and completely unacceptable, but I think when you accuse one person, that should not ruin it for everyone else. Someone who lives instantly writing off a whole organization or group of people because of a few bad eggs is incredibly ignorant.

World and Greeley News

GCHS STUDENTS AND STAFF SHOW OFF THEIR SPIRIT

E. Glynn

Spirit week is known around all District 6 schools. It is a week where students and staff dress up to a corresponding theme which is decided by student council. Spirit Week hypes up the school for either a game, or homecoming. However, not everyone does spirit week, Brandon Molina, an 11th grader said “No I don’t participate in spirit week, I don’t go to the games so I don’t want to dress up.” Greeley Central is a big enough school, that if some students don’t participate it doesn’t matter because there is either more or the same number of other students who do. Brian Kirby, a junior said “I’ve been to one class where no one dresses up, but then my other classes everyone is dressed up.” The problem with spirit week is some themes can be used more than once. Jersey day was used last year and is being used again, which is boring because there are other themes that can be addressed. Kirby said “The themes this year are boring because like two of them have been used.” Spirit week needs to have a new awakening, more people should want to dress up and have fun and support our school. Instead we just don’t care anymore because the themes are boring. I suggest that we have students and staff come up with different themes and then vote on the ones they want or don’t want. Not have just a certain number of students decide what we think would be fun.



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NEW GOVERNOR, JARED POLIS MAKES HISTORY

S. Aldridge

On November 6th, Jared Polis became the first gay and Jewish governor in the United States. About 53.4% of Coloradans voted for Polis. Seven days ago, Polis was sworn in as the 43rd governor of Colorado. Many have strong opinions about having an openly gay governor, some agree and some disagree; but many could share the same idea that he is “a qualified governor” or “a thoughtful educated person.”, says Mr. Burch; a social studies teacher at Greeley Central. Regardless, of his sexual preference, Star Freirose, a member of LGBTQ, explains how great it is to have a voice for the community. Freirose says, “I think it’s amazing to let people like us have a voice.” There are multiple changes that we can make to make Colorado better. This varies from the budget to the infrastructure and the importance of public education. Polis wants to end the underinvestment in schools, and lower class sizes to benefit teachers and students. Burch expresses he would like to see “how Polis will manage the budget and better vision in growth of public education.” Since, our governor has identified himself as gay, the LGBTQ community is getting more attention. Freirose expresses, “I want the inclusiveness of our diversity in our communities to increase. No matter who they are.”

FEELING THE EFFECTS OF THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

E. Voigt

The second shutdown in 2018 of the United States Federal government began on December 22nd, and at the time of this article, is currently ongoing.. This shutdown began after president Donald Trump and the Representatives of the Democratic party could not come to an agreement on federal funding for a wall on the US southern border. Trump requested 5.7 billion dollars to be added to federal spending that the Democrats opposed. This shutdown means that 800,000 federal workers are affected by having to work without pay, or being on temporary leave.

This shutdown has affected many people including teachers at Greeley Central. Math teacher Mr. Stark said, “It’s affected my son because he can’t work and isn’t getting paid because he’s a National Park ranger.” History teacher Mrs. LeFebre stated, “I was unable to reserve a camping spot this summer due to the shutdown of National Parks.” College students and our Wildcats seniors who are preparing for college are also affected by the stalling of Federal Student Aid. Students are unable to access IRS data like tax transcripts and might not be able to meet deadlines. Hopefully this shutdown will end soon. LeFebre said, “I thought it would end sometime this week, but now I think it might last longer.” People all over America have been affected and there is hope that they can soon recover.



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