

## World View

# Afghanistan Falls

By Sean Rotter



**Over the past couple of days, the world has watched as chaos has descended on the city of Kabul, but how did we get here?**

For the past 20 sum odd years, the region of Afghanistan has been the center of unparalleled political unrest. Since the attacks on September 11th, 2001, the United States has had a vice-like grip on Afghanistan, working tirelessly to push back and defeat the Taliban. Over the long and strenuous campaign, the U.S slowly dwindled the Taliban's forces to almost nothing, gaining control over the country and opening up freedoms to women, Christians, and people in the LGBTQI+ community. But support from the U.S citizens started to dwindle, alongside the mounting political pressure to stop wasting

American lives for what was beginning to be a useless campaign. This eventually accumulated in president Donald J. Trump formulating a deal with the Taliban allowing for a formal withdrawal from the country, which was heavily conditional. The set date for the full withdrawal to be completed was May 2021, between this time period the country saw a transition from Donald Trump to Joe Biden as President of the United States.

When this date approached for the Biden administration Biden announced that the U.S troops would withdraw unconditionally, thus scrapping Donald Trump's withdrawal plan. Upon this announcement, Taliban forces launched an offensive quickly advancing ahead of a disjointed and collapsing Afghan military. Throughout the summer, the Taliban quickly pushed through Afghanistan with little to no resistance, region after region fell but the United States was still not confident a complete collapse was inevitable. This was until the Taliban invaded the capital city of Kabul which also fell with little to no resistance, the same day the president of Afghanistan, Ashraf Ghani, fled the country. Now that the country is being controlled by the Taliban, the freedoms unlocked under U.S. occupation have been all but revoked. Women are no longer allowed to attend school as it is against the Taliban law. People in the LGBTQI+ community are in imminent danger as the sentence if they are discovered is death. Amongst the other atrocities, ethnic cleansing is expected to begin and Christians are actively being hunted down and persecuted. Because of this,

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"Coming Up Next"

Air Quality Crisis

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COVID's Impact on AP Students

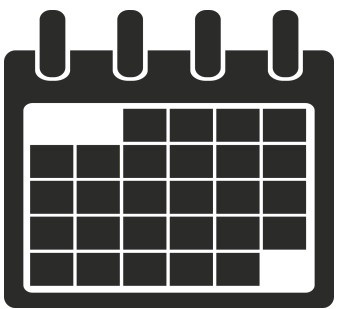
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# World View

## What exactly is going on?



# COMING SOON TO THE CASTLE

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people have been clambering to escape the country and the U.S has been overwhelmed with this mass of people attempting to leave with them. This was seen at the Kabul airport when thousands of people rushed the airport to leave on evacuation flights, the world was shocked as they witnessed children hanging on the side of planes out of desperation then falling to their death. Despite how desperate the people have been to escape, the U.S. has ensured that anyone who wants to get out will get out, and the evacuation has been ongoing since the fall of Kabul. But the light at the end of the tunnel is slowly shrinking as the Taliban have recently announced that they will no longer allow Afghans to leave the country, only Americans.

At this point, the situation seems very bleak and it doesn't seem like the international community is going to do anything to help, all we can do is hope that the Afghan people stay safe. We will continue to update you as the situation continues.

"All we can do is hope that the Afghan people stay safe."



**LABOR DAY/NO SCHOOL**  
**- SEP 6, 2021**

**POWDER PUFF GAME**  
**- SEP 13, 2021**

**HOMECOMING WEEK BEGINS**  
**- SEP 13, 2021**

**HOMECOMING PARADE**  
**BEGINS 1:30 PM**  
**- SEP 17, 2021**

**HOMECOMING GAME**  
**- SEP 17, 2021 7PM**

**HOMECOMING DANCE**  
**- SEP 18, 2021 8PM**

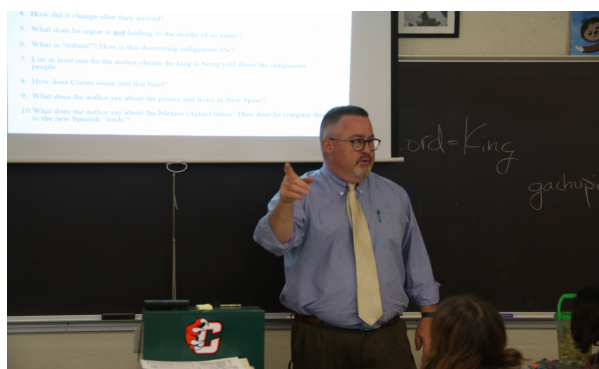
# AP Students Receive Less Credits for Presumably Harder Classes

AP credits have become a confusing issue since the chains of the COVID-19 pandemic impacted student's "reality"

Preston Roser

While it is arguable whether AP classes are more difficult than base classes, it is generally accepted that AP classes involve a larger workload and more strenuous assignments. Then why would AP students during the Spring 2021 semester receive less credits than students who didn't take AP classes? During the 2020 school year, semesters changed to quarters and people would receive more credits for taking additional classes. However, students who took AP classes during the third quarter would end up receiving less credits than students who didn't. The reasoning behind this was that AP classes were rushed during the first two quarters and the classes needed to be extended semester long. This proceeded to take up the additional two classes that students were supposed to take during the third quarter. Students such as Freli Ndayishimiye, a senior and non-AP student, stated that he had 21 credits at the beginning of senior year while Amber Hudgins, a senior and AP student, only had 18.5 credits. This is being compared to the 19-20 credit average that most seniors have as of the start of their senior year. Amber was not given the opportunity to receive as many credits as the other students in her grade were, even though she has been an all AP student and has focused on "higher level" classes throughout her high school career. Seeing as the school administration let students vote on how school would be done last year, there should have been more thought put into how the students would feel and how the credit situation would work. Staff members and faculty may argue that this issue isn't relevant considering students received 4 credits the first semester and 3 the second semester, which overall made up the 7 credits which students make during a semester based school year. However, this is based around the fact that students took 8 classes the first semester and didn't take off blocks.

Students who took 4 AP classes and took no off blocks would have also received only 6 credits during the whole school year. While this may not be a problem that all AP students share (or even consider), it is still an issue which must be addressed in order for students to be given the credit they deserve. A possible solution to this problem was suggested by Mrs. Martinez, when she said that counselors could possibly replace the absent credits that AP students had with elective credits, which seniors are known to be lacking. Students who took AP classes did the same amount of work for less credits, and deserve to receive the credits they earned.



Mr. Tom Frasier provides stimulating instruction to his AP Language & Composition students.

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@ lunch  
Room 304

Comic series coming soon!



Introducing:  
Hector the Spectre



# Colorado's Air Quality Issues

California Fires Blow Smoke Into Western States  
Chloe Forsyth

Denver’s air quality has again been ranked among the worst in the world.

The lack of rainfall in the California summer has caused atrocious wildfires in the Sierra Nevada mountains, but California isn’t the only state affected by these wildfires. Western states such as Colorado, Wyoming, Nevada, etc. have been affected as well. California’s fires have blown smoke into the western states, causing very poor air quality and hazy skies. The smoggy air can especially affect unhealthy groups, but even the CDPHE has warned that the air quality can impact healthy adults. It’s recommended to wear a mask to protect yourself from breathing in the murky air. The Denver News encourages citizens to reschedule outside activities such as hiking, bike rides, and attending outdoor events in Colorado.

Coloradans, and even tourists from nearby states, have enjoyed taking trips to the Rocky Mountains to see Colorado’s national parks such as the Great Sand Dunes, Garden of the Gods, or Maroon Bells, and to see beautiful mountain views, but these parks aren’t what they used to be.

The hazy skies and air has littered itself in the mountains, including national parks. The EPA, Environmental Protection Agency, requires every state to ensure a plan that will convey natural visibility which will be up to 200 miles on a clear day in the Rocky Mountains by 2064. The Colorado state air pollution control officials missed the deadline to submit a regional haze reduction plan to the EPA. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment officials had a meeting where they proposed a future pollution plan. The officials plan is to cut 3,986 tons per year, by 2028.

But why are the western states so prone to wildfires? Why have there been so many wildfires in the U.S. recently? The frequent droughts, invasive grasses, and the suppression of natural wildfires, has caused outbreaks in wildfires. Climate change can even be considered as another variable in wildfires. The lack of rainfall in the western state’s summers allows everything to act as kindling, especially the invasive grasses. In the 1980s-90’s, small wildfires in the mountains were quickly subdued, Makes sense right?



Actually, wildfires are natural and are nature's way of clearing out the dead forests and starting fresh. Now, wildfires come in bigger waves due to being suppressed.

There’s no doubt about it, Colorado’s smokey summer months might become the new normal. Raining ash on labor day last year, and having the worst air quality in the world this year.

## "How To" Be a Freshman

These Helpful Tips Will Get Your Year Started on the Right Foot

Becoming a freshman isn’t the easiest thing for everyone. Sometimes you just need a little boost with tips or motivation to get out there and have a great first year. Therefore, here are some tips to have a great beginning to a freshman year.

**Tip #1: Always be open to clubs or sports.** Trying something new and out of your comfort zone is always a good way to get engaged and meet new people. It is a better way to build your communication skills.

**Tip #2: If you see classes you already know and understand pretty well, then maybe it would be a better approach to try different classes.** New classes mean more opportunities to have new experiences and find new people. The teachers are always accepting if you aren’t at first good at something. They can always help you if you get stuck, and perhaps you may even be really good at the subject without even knowing it.

**Tip #3: Staying organized is a key trait in high school.** You always want to make sure you are ready to hand in or take out whatever you may need in a class. It is always easier to stay caught up than to try to catch up later on.

**Tip #4: Your counselors are always going to be there to listen and help you** with whatever you may need. Whether it is changing a class, taking a short break from class, or talking about your day.

**Tip #5: Lockers are a great way to keep your stuff safe, organized, and manageable.** They come in handy if you can’t seem to remember to bring your notebooks or textbooks with you.





Greeley Central's extra curricular activities are back and filled with excitement.

From a 2020 season with four games, to a new season with up to 10 or more.

Central's fall sports are off to early success with the softball team winning the championship at the Platte Valley tournament, along with the football team preparing for their first win of the 2021 season.

The softball team, led by Mr. Miller, is currently 5-5 on the season, the team has just won a big tournament against some very tough teams. This leads us to Central's football team who plays cross town rival Northridge tonight. We interviewed the team captain, Yahir Chairez Salazar, who had some great commentary on the state of the team. The senior captain was very confident about the team's improvement from the previous years, and declared "WE ARE GOING TO TAKE BACK GREELEY."

Along with football and softball, Wildcat volleyball had a great turnout for their fall tryouts, and for the first time in years are fielding several full teams. The volleyball team plays again at home on September 7 against Centaurus.

For the first time since the spring season of 2020, there are no limits on spectators, so we are expecting the gymnasium to be filled with fans and excitement.



# FALL SPORTS RETURN TO GREELEY CENTRAL

Daniel Santillan & Freli Ndayishimiye

A rough start for boys varsity soccer, who were defeated by Thompson Valley in their first game. The soccer team took this loss seriously, and it showed when they played against Frederick High School the very next game and defeated them 6-1.

Our cross country squad had many racers who raced fantastically and beat their own personal records. These fall season sports are looking like they are going to have successful seasons and something parents, students and fans are looking forward to!



## Cat's Clubs

Macey Wampler

Everybody needs a place where they feel like they belong, and at Greeley Central our teachers and student body works hard to be all-inclusive with many varying clubs and groups.

One of our clubs returning to the castle is the Gender and Sexuality Alliance Club. This club is a judgemental-free environment for members of LGBTQ+, allied classmates, and peers. For more information or questions just pay Ms.Longnecker a visit in room 205! Key Club is another place to become a team with other individuals at GCHS. Key Club does activities such as community service, volunteering at the Weld County Food Bank, kind letters to teachers, and central cares leaves.

This is a great opportunity to help serve others and it can boost your resume with community service hours. Another great club you can join in order to give back to your community is Green Cats run by the one and only Mock Murphy. Green Cats is our environmental club here at Central. Their goal is to "Make Greeley Central and the surrounding community a more sustainable place." So if you want to give your community a hand talk to Mock in room 153!

Last, but certainly not least, Best Buddies is starting up at The Castle again. Their objection is the inclusion of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Best buddies is a great place to create friendships with students who you may not normally get the chance to bond with! If you're interested in learning more about other clubs here at Greeley Central go to the GCHS website. No matter which club you decide to join, know there's a place at Central for you!



# Four Corners

## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Noah Trujillo is a sophomore Wildcat football and baseball player. His favorite athlete is “The GOAT” Tom Brady, and he loves sports because you become part of a family and learn great life lessons. His goal for this fall is to go to the playoffs and bring home a championship with his teammates.

## TEACHER OF THE WEEK



Ms. Carlson-Tooker describes herself as friendly, patient, and open minded. She teaches English 10, Creative Writing, and AVID. One thing you may not know about Ms. Carlson Tooker is that she is an ordained minister and has officiated three weddings.

## ARTIST OF THE WEEK



Grace Garza is a 17 year old senior who loves music and is a ballet dancer. She loves all of the art magnet classes offered here and has met a lot of nice people in the program. Dance block specifically is her favorite.

## STUDENT OF THE WEEK



Icela Miranda Chavez is described by her teachers as a hard worker in and out of the classroom. This year, Icela is assisting language learners who are in underclassman english classes. Icela cheers, participates in LULAC, and is involved in tennis as a player for the girls team and manager for the boys team.