

Greeley Central High School

The Highlight

Issue 5

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On the Brink of War

Tensions escalate amongst Russia's military build-up along Ukrainian border

By: Sean Rotter

Ever since the dissolvment of the Soviet Union in 1991, Eastern Europe has been the subject to large amounts of political unrest. As countries left the former communist state, the borders were dramatically pushed back and their influence on the region began to slowly but surely diminish. This was then punctuated by the formation of NATO, a defensive treaty between the United States, Canada and a majority of European nations. This coalition of western powers has made considerable advancements in power over the past decade and has been pushing into Eastern Europe and on Russia's border. The straw that broke the camel's back was Ukraine's strategic and political ties to this coalition. Russia simply could not allow the western powers to take control of such a vital buffer and asset.

Despite attempts of diplomacy from NATO and Ukraine, Russia's actions are those with the indication and intention to invoke war. Continuous movement and deployment of Kremlin troops to Belarus and the Ukrainian-Russia border, war seems evident in the coming days. In preparation, America has deployed 1,700 US troops to the southeastern border of Poland and Russia.



Denmark is also sending a frigate to the Baltic Sea and is sending four F-16 fighter jets to Lithuania to reinforce allied deterrence and defense. An invasion could be imminent and Russia's first target would most likely be in the first 48 hours. Hopefully, NATO military presence is enough to dissuade Russian troops but all we can do is wait and see.

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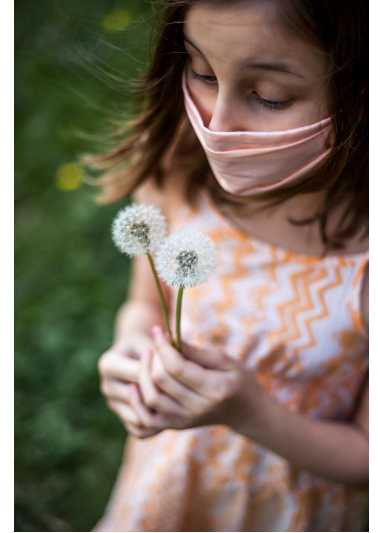
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School Board Mask Mandate

The school district 6 board of education has updated their mask mandate, implementing new COVID restrictions based on positivity rates.

By: Kaitlyn Romero

The District 6 Board of Education has created many modifications for a new mask policy that help satisfy many of the city's doubts. This issue began with Covid rates rising in the Greeley-Evans area. Many parents have gained a creeping fear that Covid will strike at schools where their kids attend. Schools all around town have dropped the mask mandate as things are starting to clear up. As Covid-19 creates an appearance in our community, many of the head District 6 leaders have been collaborating to hopefully originate a plan that will help us overcome our fears. After days of planning, board member Kyle Bentley proposed that masks should be required once covid reaches a 5%+ positivity rate in the building. Once this percentage has proven to the school that masks should come into action, a mask will be required for everyone for a total of five days. This mandate will go into effect on February 7th in all PreK-8 schools. As many community members were concerned about this grade selection, many of the board members clarified that high schoolers were eligible to receive a vaccine, meaning their worries were not too focused on highschoolers. District 6 superintendent Deirdre Pilch had to make many clarifications as to why the school board has been doing things this way. During a 4 hour meeting, Pilch stated, "We're not seeing anything in the data (now) that masks are making a difference." Pilch explained that many of the kids at risk were usually in 8th grade and under. The board of education clearly stated that their goal was to simply "flatten the trajectory and keep kids in schools." With these new solutions, we hope to see a positive outcome.



Tuskegee Airmen Fly High Above the Standards for Their Time

Tuskegee Airmen become first African American Air Squadron to fly in WWII

By: Sage Sathe

For decades before the second world war, Military Aviation was a white majority field, however, as a pressure for desegregation and a need for service members in the treacherous war effort against the Axis powers, The Tuskegee Airmen were created. In September of 1940, Congress passed the Selective Service Act, which enabled African-Americans to enlist in any of the Armed Forces. Later that same day, the War Department announced that the Civil Aeronautics Authority (CAA), in collaboration with the US army, would begin training "Colored Personnel" for the Army Air Corps. In late March of 1941, Chief C. Alfred Anderson, the chief instructor pilot of Tuskegee Institute, piloted an aircraft with First Lady Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt who was a Rosenwald Fund trustee who helped gain financial support for construction of Moton Field at Tuskegee. On July 19th, 1941, 12 first-class aviation cadets partook in preflight training at Tuskegee institute. Only five graduated to advanced training in January of 1942 and their main training aircraft was the P-40. A month later, the 100th pursuit squadron was activated at Tuskegee. It was the second African-American Army Air Forces Unit to be activated. It wouldn't be until September of 1942 that they would be declared ready for combat, however their planned deployment to Libya was indefinitely delayed. By October the 100th Pursuit Squadron was disbanded and reassigned to the 331st Fighter Squadron. The 99th Fighter Squadron, another squadron from Tuskegee, flew its first combat mission doing patrols over the Mediterranean sea in P-40s. They encountered enemy aircraft for the first time on June 9th while doing a routine mission escorting 12 A-20's over Pantelleria island. Four of the P-40s from the 99th intercepted 4 Messerschmitt Me-109 German fighters and the enemies soon fled while P-40s from another squadron escorted the A-20s to their base. Lt. Charles B. Hall of the 99th became the first Tuskegee Airmen to earn the first Aerial victory credit by shooting down a Focke-Wulf FW-190 aircraft. Through all the biases and racism the Tuskegee Airmen went through, they persevered and became some of the best pilots our nation has ever seen.

Community Service



The Benefits of Community Service for Students

By: Lovely Paw

Community service is doing unpaid work to help benefit the public or your community. For students, some choose to do community service as volunteers, which means they want to help other students or different people that need assistance. Community service is important because it has many positive impacts on students, like helping them to prove their skills, meeting with new people everyday, and knowing how to improve the quality of life of others. It doesn't matter if you are a freshman or a senior, high school is a place to try new things that you haven't done before, and one of the most popular ways to do so is by volunteering. Many choose not to do community service because they do not get paid, however, volunteering can provide many benefits that other jobs cannot. The biggest school-related benefit, volunteering, can help you with college, because colleges like to see volunteer hours. It also helps students learn about the world before graduation and can make students more invested in their education. It makes students more aware of the world around them, and they learn to work with those they don't necessarily agree with. For many students, it allows them to become better English speakers. For other students, it allows them to be comfortable around others and become more outspoken. For all of the students in GCHS, if you want to volunteer, the Key Club is a good opportunity for you because it is all about helping and volunteering.

Our local Boechetter Scholarship finalist!

Emma Johnston and Yahir Chairez-Salazar up for yet another scholarship.

By: Amber Huggins

What is the Boechetter Scholarship? The Boettcher Scholarship is a four-year, full-tuition and partial living expenses merit-based academic scholarship awarded to graduating Colorado high school students. Not only this though, it works to positively impact the Colorado community by seeking out students who plan to make a difference. Why did our two local Greeley Central athletes receive this award, let's ask them.

Why did you deserve this scholarship?

"I am a person that doesn't really like to mention his accomplishments or talk about what he deserves or not. I feel I am a great fit for this scholarship because I want to be able to influence and impact our Colorado communities by becoming a prime example of what needs to be done in order to give hope and spread positive affirmations. I want to impact people's lives and help them find their journeys."



Yahir seems like an amazing fit and just who they are looking for, he will surely change the world if he keeps up with what he's doing. Good luck, Yahir. Emma didn't have an exact way of telling me why she deserves this scholarship, but I can give you one big reason. She cares, she wants to make an impact and has already begun with young children. Emma began at the beginning of covid times with a plan to teach children the importance of dental hygiene, she has been able to present to children and even parents. I think this is amazing of her and truly shows her capability of making stuff happen. If she was able to make this plan work during covid, then imagine what she will be able to do in her future career as an occupational therapist. These two students excel on the field and in the classroom in every way possible; they throw themselves into everything 100 percent. This is how both Emma and Yahir never cease to amaze, and I for one can not wait to see what they accomplish in their futures. Good luck to both of you, and most importantly good luck in that final round.

VOLUNTEER



Superbowl Recap

By: Daniel Santillan



Million dollar bets, old-school rappers, and two teams battling it out for a Lombardi trophy. Superbowl 56 is one of the most expensive sporting events with tickets costing anywhere from \$4,114- \$33,730 (not including booths or VIP). This event occurred on Feb. 13th and had upward of 100,00 fans in attendance and 112.3 million television viewers. “Mattress Mack,” an elder man known for making million dollar bets, put up \$4.5 million dollars on the Bengals to win the superbowl. The bet’s premise was that if you bought something from Mattress Mack’s furniture business and the Bengals won, the furniture would be free. So as the kickoff came close, everyone was anxiously awaiting the outcome. To start off the first half of the game, the Rams held the lead 13-10. Everyone was also excited for the halftime show which featured major superstars, such as Dr.Dre, Snoop Dogg, Eminem, Mary J. Blige, and Kendrick Lamar. According to many people, this halftime show definitely lived up to the hype it conjured. Most people were excited and tuned in for the second half of the game, in which the Bengals came out and took the lead 20-16 into the final quarter. This last quarter was a nail biter for all fans as the Rams scored, putting them ahead 23-20 with only one minute on the clock for the Bengals to score. The Bengals came down the field hot but caught themselves on a 4th down and one yard. Aaron Donald sacked the Bengals quarterback ending the game and giving the Rams the win. The Superbowl 56 was awarded to star wide receiver Cooper Kupp, who also received Offensive Player of the Year only a few days prior. The Rams were the second team in NFL history to play and win a Superbowl in their own stadium. The Bengals were sent home packing that night and put up an amazing game for all viewers around the country watching.

Superbowl Commercials

By: Kaitlyn Romero

The 2022 SuperBowl LVI commercials have created short and entertaining commercial breaks during this long-awaited game, keeping viewers entertained as fan-favorite celebrities lead these segments. Celebrities like Scarlett Johansson, Salma Hayek, Guy Fieri, Megan Thee Stallion, and many more well-known artists, have taken on the task to take these big brand companies and collaborate in hopes to create an engaging yet purposeful commercial that will be streamed on SuperBowl Sunday. Starting in 10th place is Rakuten's ad for a cash back service starring Hannah Waddingham. Rakuten is an app that allows you to get cash back when you purchase something using their link. This commercial is the lowest-ranked because they were not specific enough on how the app works, also the overall production/ outcome was not very amusing or helpful. In 9th place, KFC. This ad was very short and simple, not creating much entertainment or amusement. The celebrity found in this commercial is actress and influencer, Liza Koshy. This celebrity promoted a “Beyond Fried Chicken” which consists of chicken made out of plants. Although this commercial was creative, the overall image was confusing as the bucket of chicken was floating on clouds. This created a confusing image for the viewer because the thought of plant based chicken in the sky was not related to the product. Next up in 8th place is Budweiser. This commercial gets 8th Place because the production of this ad was not nearly as related to their company’s tagline, “The King of Beers”. Although the message of bravery is clear, this ad did not portray their slogan to its full potential. As they claim to be the king of beers, not a single product from their company was promoted. Up next in 7th place is Flamin’ Hot Doritos. This commercial takes 7th place for their use of creativity. This ad depicts the brand by showing the intensity of the spice on the chips. The Doritos and Flamin’ Hot Cheetos collaboration creates a vision to the viewers that their chips are so flavorful that wild animals enjoy them as well. Taking 6th place is Pringles. The Pringles ad comes next on the leaderboard for their comedic and entertaining segment. Pringles has managed to produce an amusing and relatable commercial that provides viewers good content. Pringles promoted their product very well by composing something that would bring laughter to the public. This ad consists of brief moments of a man's life timeline with a Pringle can stuck on his hand. This was a great way to promote their product as many people enjoyed and talked about it. Reaching the top 5 comes UberEats. This brand provided viewers at home with a 60 second commercial starring Jennifer Coolidge. This commercial deserves top 5 because of its effort to try and engage with Gen Z. UberEats created a way to promote their new services of delivering other items that may not be food by using popular sounds found on TikTok, finding new and innovative ways to self promote, and using a big named celebrity to help attract an audience. Runner up for 4th place is the cryptocurrency derivatives exchange app, FTX. This company produced an ad that took us back to when many of the world's greatest inventions were coming to age. This company helped the viewer see them as one of these great inventions that will eventually be popularized and used by everyone. This was a great way to take the viewers point of view and change it to make them seek interest in their app. Finally, 3rd place belongs to Amazon’s Alexa “mind reader”. Amazon’s ad was either a hit or miss, and to a surprise it was one of the top fan favorites. Amazon put together a commercial that was quite entertaining. This ad consisted of a comedic feud between a couple as the Amazon Alexa read their minds, exposing their thoughts. Many viewers found this as one of the best Superbowl ads as it was one of those commercials that would not bore you as you watched it. Coming in 2nd place is Lays. This ad is second highly ranked because they let their creativity run wild. Lays created something that would make laughter and pleasure. This ad had no dull moments, causing the audience to truly enjoy the thrilling moments included. Lays included great brand promotion as they showed their product in every scene. Ultimately, first place belongs to Pepsi. This brand did a great job at connecting with the audience and gathering everyone's attention. Pepsi includes big celebrities and athletes like Eli Manning, Jerome Bettis, Terry Bradshaw, Victor Cruz, and Peyton Manning to attract attention to their product. Along with these big images, Pepsi also included music from one of Gen Z’s favorite artists, Olivia Rodrigo. This song choice boosted the commercials popularity as many younger viewers started engaging once they seeked an interest into these commercials that included some of their favorite people. The 2022 Superbowl has brought us many commercials, some better than others, with out a doubt keeping us entertained no matter what.

Cross Town Victory

A recap of the most anticipated game of the year

By: Carlos Rascon

The Central vs West basketball game is one of the most storied athletic rivalries in the city of Greeley, one that has seen future collegiate and NBA stars duke it out in epic showstopping matches which have gone down in history. This year the match took place at GCHS in historic Jim Bagot Gymnasium. Immediately the buzz and anticipation for the men and womens games were immense as both Central and West's student sections filled to the brim with excited fans. The first Varsity game was the Womens, the GCHS Women took an early lead and never looked back. The game was never in doubt as Central dominated the Spartans in a 73-32 blowout win with Zoey Drovda being named MVP. Drovda dominated the competition, leading the game in scoring despite leaving with an injury to her leg in the 3rd quarter, for which she came back from and continued playing with it wrapped. As she returned, chants from the student section of "MVP" echoed through the gym in a show of support for the star player. Next was the show stopping boys game, this game was reminiscent of the legendary battles Central and West has had in the past. An epic battle with neither team relenting from buzzer to buzzer and a finish for the ages. The game was seemingly tied for the entire match with neither team really gaining the definitive edge, any time one team scored it seemed like there was an immediate response and any time one team went on a run there was an opposing one.

This carried through the 4th quarter where West struck back against Central, with a major push led by Senior Edwin Benitez giving West the lead. The push came at the wrong time though, as Central was able to counter with a late run led by Senior Isaiah Flores. The momentum that GCHS gained from this run was too much for West to handle as they threw up desperate heaves in the closing seconds. Amongst the final buzzer, Central students stormed the court in pure elation, hoisting Flores in the air as chants of "This is Our Town" rang through the gym. The final score was 63-56 with Central claiming their first victory over Greeley West in 3 years, and Flores securing the MVP trophy.



Senior Night

By: JJ Espinoza

The boys and girls basketball teams held their senior night on January 26th. It was a great night for basketball and a special night as the seniors celebrated their last few games playing for the Wildcats.



Senior night is a special tradition for high school athletics. It's the night where teams recognize their seniors, say goodbye to them, and thank them for what they have done for their teams. The boys and girls basketball teams had their senior night on January 26. The boys team played first and the girls followed right after them. The boys have nine seniors on their team this season: David Nguyen, Isaiah Flores, Jakob Sepeda, Jacob Hernandez, Casey Hawkins, JJ Espinoza, Tate Sedinger, Frelly Ndayishimiye, and Noah Sasso. The girls have 6 seniors on their team: Shevon Brown, Alexis Tapia, Natalia Lopez-Gutierrez, Emma Lackey, Grace Lackey, and Baylee Robison. For the boys, it did not look like a promising game for them as they fell behind quickly, trailing 12 by halftime. But late in the 3rd quarter something sparked the Wildcats and they came back and tied the game in the final seconds of the 3rd quarter. The Wildcats were exchanging buckets with the Falcons but the Wildcats ended up pulling away and won the game. The final score was 59-48. After the boys' comeback win, the girls kept it close during the first quarter and then the Lady Wildcats started heating up and didn't look back. They were up 9 by halftime and kept adding on to their lead. The girls won their game with a final score of 29-58. It was a great night for both teams as the seniors are getting ready to play their final games as Wildcats.

Four Corners



Teacher of the Week

Ms. Degroote describes herself as someone who is friendly and helpful but doesn't like attention. She is a coach sponsor of the culture club with Mr. Will and Mrs. Alexander and Mrs. Campbell, which is a great club for students who want to learn about other cultures. When she was in high school her favorite subject was social studies, like history and sociology but now she likes math because she spends a lot of time helping students with math. In her free time she loves to hike, cross-country ski, and mountain bike. She also enjoys reading and visiting art museums.



Student of the Week

Tiago Storck describes himself as an open and social person. He loves new adventures, which is one of the reasons why he is doing an exchange year. He is an exchange student from Germany. He is involved in the yearbook team, which he really enjoys. He is also the unofficial photographer for the boys basketball team. In the fall he played for the varsity soccer team and in spring he is going to play volleyball. His favorite subject at Central is Spanish 3 because he loves learning about other cultures and languages. After high school he wants to do something in the media industry.



Artist of the Week

Asher Hein, "Ash," describes themselves as imaginative, curious, compassionate, and intelligent. They are involved in the vocal music department, the Thespian Troupe, and SAFE club. Their favorite subject in school is science. They want to become a secondary science teacher because they are passionate about and would like to instill future generations with that passion. In their free time they like to play games, video and tabletop, paint models, read, and make character designs.



Athlete of the Week

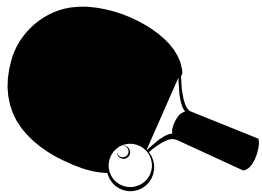
This issue's athlete of the week is Zoey Drovda. The 3 words that she would use to describe herself are hard working, determined, and positive. She is not involved in any clubs, but she does play volleyball and tennis, along with basketball. She recently got hurt and most likely tore her ACL. She unfortunately won't be able to play tennis this year. Her favorite subject would probably be English, however, her favorite class is field and court sports. After high school, she wants to play basketball in college and major in exercise science. One day she wants to run her own basketball club and open her own gym.

Wrestling Season Comes to a Head

Highly ranked wrestling team takes on post-season

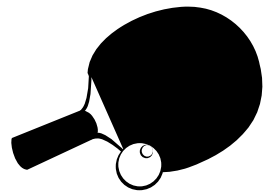
By: Sean Rotter

This season has been one of unprecedented success for the varsity wrestling team. They have been consistently ranked in the top 10 for the entire year and boast impressive wins over tough opponents. This includes dominant performances over cross town rivals West and Northridge. The momentum from this season has carried swiftly into the postseason as hopes run high for a possible state championship. The first step to this goal was the Regional championship held at Mead High School. The boys didn't disappoint as they put together an impressive performance taking second place and bolstering many top finishers. This includes first places from Leon Ramirez, Mikai Alirez, Yahir Chairez-Salazar (Chino). Second places from Victor Martinez, Julian Sepeda and Zander Alirez, with a third from Armstrong Zaw. With such a talented team and a handful of wrestlers heading for state, hopes run high for the future and the potential for a state champion grows closer.



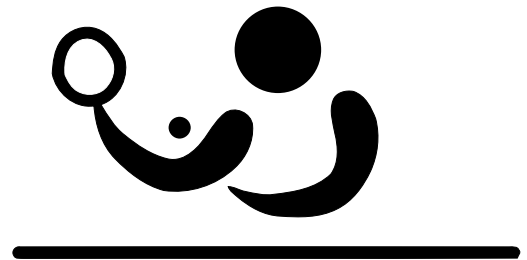
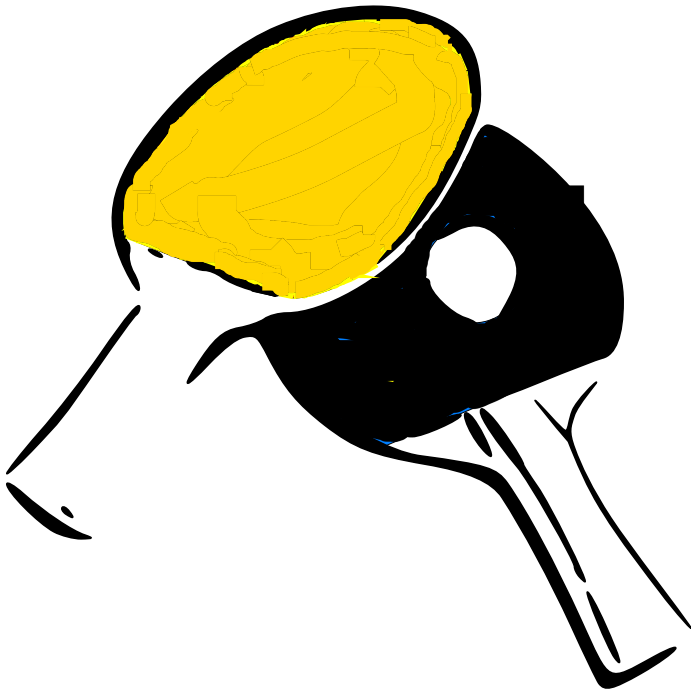
Ping Pong Tournaments

GCHS Ping pong ball tournament is back in action



By: Freli Ndayishimiye

Greeley Central ping pong tournaments have been a great tradition to Greeley Central and have been hosted for a while now. The hosts of the tournaments are Grafee and Rohnke, who are spectacular teachers here at Central for a very long time. They are both known for being great students and athletes back in their day.



Rohnke and Grafee host this tournament because both Rohnke and Grafee's passion is to get people to have fun and have students attend school events that are happening at the school. The ping pong tournaments were hosted in a bracket way where the winners would move until they got to the championship rounds. During the tournament, Mr. Uhlig was dominating and won.

What's Happened to Bittersweet Park?

Greeley has spent 1.5 million dollars on a project to transition Bittersweet Park's grass into Colorado native grass to decrease water use and maintenance on the park.

By: Chloe Forsythe

If you've driven down 35th avenue, you've probably noticed that one of our biggest parks, Bittersweet Park, has been under construction for a while now. But I believe you can agree that this park hasn't at all looked very good since they started. In 2018, The Bittersweet grass project was proposed to the City council. They claimed the project would decrease the amount of labor needed in the park, decrease the amount of water used for the grass, and create a more natural looking area. The project was started in 2020, with reseeding of the native grass. But so far, the community has not responded well to the park project. Many Residents state that the project has ruined the turf of the park and the mayor has received more complaints than anything.

Mayor Gates claims "I don't really want to see us spend a lot of money on this change, but I think the current aesthetics are terrible."

A big concern about the seeding is that there is a memorial for veterans and police officers in Bittersweet Park. It brings great disrespect to the memorial with the dead grass outlining the memorial. The project has been brought back to City council, but it's being debated on changing it back because of the millions of more dollars needed for it. The city staff have planned a meeting in March to come to an agreement and refine their options about what they should do to the park with the City council.



School Food

School food has become worse and worse over the years leading to heavy criticism and even disgust.

By: Preston Roser

School lunch, a topic that makes students wince and revolt, has been forever changed since the healthy food implementation within the last decade. Former first lady Michelle Obama's initiative of providing healthy and reduced lunches was a good idea, however, the likeness of the food and the portion sizes that come with it have been heavily reduced. Within the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act (HHFKA) are portion sizes requirements which set a minimum amount to be given to students. Schools often give out this minimum to students, however, they offer other food similar to food found in vending machines, which can be paid for by students. The problem arises with the fact that some students may not be able to afford this extra food and are barely scraping by with the food offered to them by schools.



Most students also dislike the healthier lunches as the flavors and textures which are embedded in these foods are incomparable to the lunches which students came to love in the past. A large number of students even refuse to eat the food served in cafeterias because of the look, smell, and taste of such "healthy" foods. Through personal experience, it's hard to believe that some of the foods served can even be considered healthy. I often find myself refusing the idea of such foods because of the appearance and especially the taste. Some may defend these lunches as they pose as the only healthy and hot "meal" that some students get, but with the portion sizes that are given out, it is baffling how some of these lunches can even be considered a meal. This leads to the question of whether healthy foods and the drawbacks that come with it, are really worth it?

New Year, New Me

New Year resolutions, a tradition that has been around for decades, continues to be an experience where people change their lives for the better.

By: Preston Roser

Now that January is over, most people feel that the time to start their new resolutions is nigh, however, there is no better time to start improving your life than the present. Although January may be over, it is still the beginning of 2022, which means you have nearly 11 months left to better yourself through the process of new year's resolutions. Whether you are debating whether to start going to the gym, exploring new hobbies, or even wanting to give some time for yourself, just pick something and jump into it. When trying to change your life and sticking to your resolutions, the most important aspect is consistency. Make sure to stay consistent by setting reminders and telling yourself that you will do it.

Without consistency, many people start to give up on not only their resolutions but also trying to change for the better in general.

If you are lacking some ideas, or just don't know how or where to start, here are some ideas of new year's resolutions you can still do:

- Start a gym membership
- Start Journaling
- Do yoga
- Apply to that job
- Start eating healthier
- Go on runs/jogs
- Read a book
- Learn a new language
- Fix your sleep schedule
- Strive for better grades



Big Band Boogie Balls Grand Return

Boogie Ball's 31st anniversary is now in-person

By: Noah Vasquez



The Big Band Boogie Ball is an annual event held on Feb. 12th in Greeley. Bands and orchestras from many of the schools within the city come together to perform along with a dance and a silent auction. This event was not only for the students, it was also beneficial for the schools that were involved. This includes UNC where the event was held. This is an annual community event which provides the schools with fundraising profits. Overall, the event was a huge success, resulting in amazing music and a surplus of fundraising proceeds for the school. There were two schools who had their students performing, Central was one. We had not only our orchestra, but we also had our pep band play as well. Even though only two schools had students who performed, there were students from all over the district who attended the event. Pictures from the vent can be found on different students as well as the schools social medias like Instagram and Facebook

History Of Valentine's Day!

This is an excerpt from The Highlights' February 14th, 2017 Volume 78

By: Britain Robbins

Valentines Day, a holiday celebrated all over the world, primarily in the U.S. and Europe, is often overlooked for its background. Even though its origins are all over the place, Valentine's Day goes all the way back to Ancient Rome and their Lupercalia festival, a surprisingly violent tradition, this doesn't really represent love, at all. Later on, Christianity chose mid- February to celebrate St. Valentine. Although historians aren't necessarily clear on which St. Valentine Christians used, it is still an insanely popular holiday. By the 1840s, cards for valentines were already being mass produced. Today, over 145 million cards are being distributed annually. More than 62% of American participate in the holiday. Every amount of money made in revenue for the holiday is more than the previous year.

It's obvious this holiday creates a huge amount of business, especially for companies like Hallmark, which creates products designed to express sentiments for loved ones. It's absolutely unbelievable the amount of people that will go to these extra heights to give gifts to the people they care about, it demonstrates how much people are willing to do for each other.

