FCCLA’s baby drive hopes to raise spirits of family

By Peyton Book
Staff Writer

Greeley West already helped raise over 1000 dollars for Ms. Evaline Serrano and her family after the tragic death of her husband earlier this year. Now, FCCLA is trying to make a difference for her newborn and six year old sons.

FCCLA is running a Baby Drive for Serrano, who is the attendance secretary. She will return to school this week to resume her job.

The school community, as well as that of the city of Greeley, has been touched by her story, which was featured on Fox 31 news last week.

FCCLA is a very small group with only five members, but Ms. Laura Ulmer is convinced that they are “tiny but mighty,” and can make a difference with the help of the community. Until March 11, FCCLA will be collecting diapers, wipes, baby bottles, and toys for a new born in room 705. Students can also take these items to their second hour class.

President Alexia Soria said the community project is perfect for the club.

“We heard about Ms. Serrano’s story and realized how hard it must be to provide for herself,” Soria said.

Freshman get a sneak peak of 2017

By Peyton Book
Staff Writer

Incoming freshman got a close up look at what Greeley West High School has to offer, last Wednesday when Greeley West held their annual freshman orientation.

A great presentation and performance was shown by every club and sport in the school trying to get new freshman involved with their interests and help them feel welcome to school at the beginning of next year.

Everyone sat in the gymnasium to watch what cheer, orchestra, choir, theater, and Poms has to offer.

MYP Design class makes audio books for kids

By Sylvia Rizo
Staff Writer

Mr. Zach Armstrong has chosen quite the project for his MYP Design class. The project is to create a voice recording of the students reading their favorite children’s books.

The freshmen have taken a field trip to Dos Rios Elementary school, which is a soon to be primary IB school, to read to Kindergarteners, 1st graders and 2nd graders. They read their favorite children’s book then asked the little ones for feedback.

“They didn’t have much to say except for us to bring ice cream next time,” stated freshmen Daphne Flores. “but it was a lot of fun especially because they really paid attention and listened to us read. It made me feel special.”

After that great experience Armstrong’s class took it to the next level. The children’s books are narrated so elementary students are able to follow along with the story as they learn to read.

Continued
Reading, Page 2

Continued
Freshman, Page 8

Reading their audience

By Sylvia Rizo
Staff Writer

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After that great experience Armstrong’s class took it to the next level. The MYP class is currently working on Audio books which will be up on YouTube for parents and kids to listen

Continued
Reading, Page 2
Day of Dance
West shows off to community

By Jana Datteri
Staff Writer

On March 5, the theater students who are in the musical and the Greeley West Poms performed at The Day of Dance which was held at the Greeley Funplex from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

This event was held to raise awareness for people’s health and give a bunch of different dance groups around Greeley a chance to perform in front of the town.

The theater program at Greeley West High School is putting on the musical, The Addam’s Family; and they performed the opening number “When You’re An Addams.” This number included, Lena Datteri, Victoria Ochoa, Peyton Book, Katie Gorsline, Sofia Mejia, Caleb Vannest, Julio Rascon, Allen Olmedo Soto, Tyler Maas, and home schooler, Andrew Cline. The leads in the show who were dancing in this number at Day of Dance were, Brandon Haas, Ellery Sedlacek, Conrad Schaefer, Paul Cangilla, Jessica Cha, and seventh grader from Union Colony, Jacob Evans.

After these numbers from the musical, our Greeley West Poms danced their numbers from nationals, jazz and hip hop.

The whole time, Greeley West had a total of 15 minutes to change into different clothes to perform another dance and to perform them. However, each dance was around 4 minutes long and time did not stop to wait for them to change.

Day of Dance was full of excitement for our own Greeley West students and was a complete success for advertising the community to come and watch the musical, The Addam’s Family.

AP job will be announced this month

By Kenya Grauberger
Staff Writer

West’s assistant principal Dr. Cindy Wiley has filled the position for just a year long requirement, which will leave the spot open for the upcoming school year.

As many students have already seen, a poll was put up on the school website to see what parents and incoming students are looking for in a new assistant principal.

“We took every response into consideration when we were choosing the finalists,” stated Mr. Jeff Cranson.

Most felt as though their opinion won’t be heard through the poll. This was not true though as the interviewing committee took every response, printed it out, and used the results when they were generating questions to ask the applicants during the interviews.

When athletic secretary Sasha Cohoon was asked what she personally wants in the new assistant principal, she replied with, “I think I really just want a person who is going to get involved with the students. Someone who will be noticed at the assemblies and not just kind of hides in the shadows of the school.”

Although the process may be long and difficult to choose the best applicant, the staff is hoping to have at least the finalists for the job announced to the student body by spring break.

The Addam’s Family ready to tease West

By Juliet Cha
Staff Writer

The Addam’s Family is coming to Greeley West High School March 24 for a teaser; bringing with them songs such as “When You’re an Addams”, “Pulled in a New Direction,” “Crazier than You,” and “The Tango.”

Because of the PARC testing last year, this performance will be the first teaser since the 2015 musical, Tarzan. Last year’s performance of Legally Blonde was only performed during the respective performance times instead of the additional short performances performed for the students.

Ms. Peggy Freemole, the theatre director at West, is anticipating an exceptional turn out and has sent out emails to all of the staff to ensure that as many people as possible are able to attend the preview.

“A lot of people do not get many opportunities to experience live theatre and especially not with their peers. With the teaser more people can be exposed to and enjoy the singing, acting, dancing, and lightings in the show that theatre brings to the world; and hopefully these students will be inspired to try out for the musical next year,” stated Ms. Freemole.

The auditorium will seat approximately 450 people and the hope is to fill up as many of those seats as possible.

The duration of the teaser will be from 8:45 to 11:15 a.m. and any teacher whom wishes to watch the preview is welcome to view the 55 to 69 students that are working to make this musical a success throughout those allotted times.

Senior and actor within the musical Brandon Haas stated, “I honestly hope that in addition to coming to see this musical, people become more inspired to become more involved in theatre.”
Kesha fights battle over her career or sanity

If you’ve heard about the Free Kesha movement then you know how controversial the entire thing is.

There is Kesha saying that she was sexually abused and then her producer denying the allegation and saying that she’s making it all up to get out of her contract. In a recent court date the world saw Kesha denied freedom from her binding contract, we all saw the pain she went through finding this out.

There’s no proof of the sexual abuse happening or not, but just the fact that it’s even brought up should make the contract invalid. It isn’t right for an artist to be forced to work with a producer that, at the very least, makes the artist uncomfortable. If she doesn’t want to make music for him, and it’s completely clear that it pains her to be kept in her contract, as we saw in the picture of her in court crying, then something needs to be done.

Many argue that it’s her fault for signing into a contract that won’t let her leave without destroying her career. That argument is silly, considering she didn’t know that her producer was going to turn out to be someone who sexually abused her. Yeah, it’s her fault for signing into a bad contract, but she shouldn’t have to decide between destroying her career and having to work with someone who may or may not sexually abuse her again.

Students lose respect for their country

The Pledge of Allegiance is an expression of loyalty to the flag and republic of the United States of America. It is recited as the opening to many government meetings, congressional sessions but also recited at public schools at the start of each school day.

The Supreme Court ruled in West Virginia State Board of Education vs. Barnette that students cannot be compelled to recite the pledge nor can they be punished for not doing so. Of the 53 states and territories of the US only 43 of them require public school students to recite the Pledge. Specifically in Colorado, any person who wishes not to participate in the recitation shall be exempt and need not participate.

Although one has the right not to participate in the reciting of the Pledge, it does not give them the right to talk, make noises, or be disrespectful of the flag and those reciting the Pledge.

Here at Greeley West High School it is safe to say that we are a diverse school with students from many places outside of the US. However, that is not an excuse to not be polite to the country they live in, and its customs. Not only is it those...
West athletes honored by Collins’ paper

By Jana Datteri
Staff Writer

This winter two of Greeley West’s top athletes, Elise Johnson and Donavon Roker, were chosen to represent Greeley West High School for the Northern Colorado Sports Awards. This event is held by the Fort Collins newspaper, The Coloradoan. At this event the Coloradoan will honor more than 450 student-athletes from all over Northern Colorado.

Students from every sport will be honored at the banquet including four other fall sport athletes. These athletes include Robert Perez and Darren De La Croix for football, Kelton Boyd for boys’ soccer, and Kenlee Frank for softball. Nominees for Basketball are yet to be announced given the timing of the season.

Honored students will attend a banquet on May 17 featuring keynote speaker, Peyton Manning. This event is held at the Lincoln Center. Students like these were picked from the faculty in the athletic department of the Coloradoan newspaper. So far only fall and winter sports have been chosen, because spring sports have just begun. The spring sport’s nominees from Greeley West will be released at the end of the spring season in time for the banquet in May.

DECA student places at state

Sophomore is first to place in many years

By Kaylee Roth
Staff Writer

On February 27, the Greeley West DECA members went to the state convention to compete in their respective categories. Out of 250 contestants in the category of Principles and Marketing, sophomore, Spencer Evan’s received 12th place. This had been the first time in many years that a student from Greeley West has made it to DECA state.

Being Rich Dufault’s first year teaching at West and being the DECA advisor he is honored to say that, “I am extremely proud for Spencer for just being his advisor.”

“The most challenging part of the whole thing was quickly coming up with an idea with only ten minutes of prep time,” stated Evans.

Continued
DECA, Page 8

AVID juniors motivated at Pepsi Center

By Elelys Sheneman
Staff Writer

Last week, the Junior AVID class took a very unique field trip to the Pepsi Center, where they gained information on some of their intended colleges, listened to keynote speakers, sat through a Junior Achievement financial literacy workshop, and watched the Nuggets game later that night.

AVID teacher Mark Jarnot, was one of the chaperones on this trip and stated that these specific activities and workshops were very beneficial to his students.

One of the many activities students took part in was listening to a few keynote speakers that first shared their backgrounds, and then were open to any questions. This allowed students a first-hand look on possible career choices and meaningful advice for the future.

Jarnot stated one of the keynote speakers, Joe Garcia, had a very meaningful message to burn into the minds of the pupils.

Garcia stated, “In this room, if you take 100 kids that are Hispanic and/or African American, only 67 will graduate high school. Of those 67, 28 will get accepted and attend a post-secondary school. Of those 28, 20 will make it to their second year of college. Of those 20, less than 10 will graduate with a 4 year degree on time.”

The main purpose of this message was to encourage students to not be a statistic, and break any stereotypes that could originally squander their chances of becoming the amazing people that they have the capability of being.

Not only did students gain valuable intel on their possible future paths, but they were invited to hold the American flag on the court during the national anthem of the Denver Nuggets game later that night.

Jarnot stated, “The kids had fun and they behaved very well. (Ms. Beth) Dent did an awesome job organizing the whole thing.”
NCAA has more than just madness

By Connor Thompson
Staff Writer

The NCAA Men’s Basketball Tournament, AKA March Madness, is among us. This year’s tournament is going to be full of upsets just like any other year. However, this year the madness might just be considered mayhem.

Never before has a season passed without a team holding a No. 1 ranking for at least 5 consecutive weeks until this year.

Duke also dropped out of the top 25 for the first time in 15 years. These two things combined give an explanation to why this year will be crazier than those coming before it.

This year’s front runners who are predicted to win the tournament include Michigan State, Villanova, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Virginia.

Although they are some of the clear cut favorites, anyone could make a run to the Final Four, which will be hosted in Houston, Texas, at NRG Stadium.

“No matter where Pittsburg is in the rankings, I will always go for my alma mater,” stated Pittsburg fan and West teacher Stacy Ruffer.

A couple of the first round games will be played in Denver at the Pepsi Center.

The games played in Denver will feature 4 VS. 13 and 5 VS. 12 matchups.

The bracket for the tournament will be announced on Sunday March 13, and the opening round games will begin on March 15.

Teachers must collaborate

By Madeline Rodgers
Staff Writer

Greeley West High School has had professional development days over the 2015-2016 school year and many students are beginning to wonder. It seems like there’s hardly any full weeks of school anymore.

These days are for teachers here at Greeley West and other schools to collaborate with other teachers from different schools on teaching techniques and tips, as well as allowing them to touch base with course material. These type of meeting days happened last year, but they happened on early release Mondays instead.

Based on the feedback that many teachers gave to School District 6, the district and the principals of schools involved all agreed on the decision for early release Mondays to be taken away and instead, all the time that early release Mondays give to students would be condensed into one whole day that students will have off, which makes for one professional development day a month.

With this, there’s time for the teachers to get together and have their meetings while students will have a day off for rest and recuperation.

“Instead of having early release Mondays, we can have one whole day off a month and that makes it a lot easier on students, the district, and the teachers,” remarked assistant principal Mr. Jeff Cranson.

Experiments draw interest

By Michaela Joyce
Staff Writer

Greeley West’s AP Psychology students are brainstorming ideas for their upcoming social experiment project. Taught by Don Wagner, AP Psych is one of the most popular advanced placement classes offered at West.

This social experiment project has been very popular in previous years as former Spartans have conducted unique studies to test subject’s actions to various circumstances.

Past experiments have tested social norms in a large variety of ways. While most AP Psychology students are still in the process of finalizing their decisions, quite a few have a couple of ideas.

From observing how strangers react, to pedestrians seemingly needing assistance, or observing how store employees display prejudice and discrimination, the social experiments are expected to be yet another success.

Senior Alyssa Muhlenbruck has AP Psychology first block and spoke about the project.

“I think psychology is a cool class because we can do experiments like this that teach us about the world we live in first hand”, Muhlenbruck said.

Overall, the AP Psych students seem really excited about concluding their experiments in the upcoming weeks.

What kids find entertaining continues to change

By Angela Pearson
Staff Writer

It would be unusual for a teen in today’s era to be unfamiliar with the phrase “Damn, Daniel!” or “What are those?”

With Snapchat, Vine, and Facebook, teens everywhere are able to share hilarious and unusual videos and memes in an instant. So why do people insist on posting such strange things?

“Our generation’s humor is something else for sure,” stated senior Suzanne Miller.

“It’s not really that we post weird things, it’s that our humor is different from previous generations.”

With the amount of crude, random, catchy humor our generation thrives on. There is no fault in labeling what teens post as “weird.”

It is easy for something unusual to stick out on twitter, Instagram, Facebook, or any other social media. People remember weird videos and that is why people post them. It does not take long for things to become viral.

Our generation craves one-liners and catchy humor, resulting in some weird findings on social media.

Ask Your Teachers

What does the phrase “Fetty Wap” mean?

“It’s an FBI agent hitting someone.”
-Mr. Mike Conner

“An STD you’d probably have to have an ointment for.”
-Mr. Don Wagner

“A rapper.”
-Mr. Brent Ritter
Baseball team looks forward to Grand Junction tourney

Staff Reports

Baseball is just around the corner. Last season Greeley West went 6-13 overall and 3-9 in the league. The team will start the season with a tournament in Grand Junction against Grand Junction, Grand Junction Central, and Fruita Monument Friday and Saturday. The first game in Greeley is against Northridge on March 18th.

This year the team has seven to eight players returning from last season, but also some new faces that have talent. West plays in the 5A Front Range League.

Head coach, Brian Holmes, said, “We play in a tough league, but we are ready to compete and try to make it to the playoffs.”

The toughest teams that Greeley West will play this season are a toss-up between Rocky Mountain and Boulder High School, according to Holmes. Last season West lost to both of these teams by a blowout. West lost two of their pitchers to graduation last year. As a result, West will expect Heath Clark to carry the workload on the mound. Clark, a senior for the Spartans, saw limited work off the mound in his freshmen year. However, he was a work horse for the Spartans during the summer time.

West should be led at the plate by second basemen Diego Martinez. The senior played for Greeley GoJos throughout the summer.

“I hope we can come together as a team and play as one. We have a lot of players who want to play and have fun doing so,” Clark said.

- Jordan Noland contributed to this story.

Roker, Vasquez wrestle in front of huge crowd

By Diego Martinez
Staff Writer

This year, there was only two wrestlers that made it to state, and only one of them placed at the tournament. Junior Donavon Roker performed exceptionally well this season considering that this was his first year ever to wrestle. Roker wrestled in the 285 weight class and ended his season by taking 5th place while at state. When asked about how Roker felt about his first season wrestling he stated, “It was really exciting knowing that I made it to state for my first year wrestling. But I plan on lifting in the summer and come back next year and get better.”

The other wrestler who made it to state was Xavier Vasquez. He did not make it to the podium.

So as a whole for next year, the team plans on sending more kids down to the Pepsi Center to compete in state.

On the positive side for the Greeley West wrestling team, the two competitors that were sent to state this year will both be returning next season looking to improve. The team will only be losing two wrestlers through graduation.

The returners plan on making a comeback next season to improve their record.

G-Wash ends G-West’s season

By Kenya Grauberger
Staff Writer

As the boys basketball season comes to a close, the team ended with a 19-6 record and pulled out a home playoff game win.

“Having a home playoff game as my first playoff experience was such a great feeling. The student section made the environment so much better and I was really happy that we could pull out a win,” stated freshman Andre Sepeda after a 30 point win over Douglas County High School.

Both playoff games had two of the biggest student sections that basketball has seen all season.

Seniors Cordell Gillingham, Connor Thompson, Preston Marion and AJ Lopez played their last game in a Greeley West uniform in its second round playoff game against George Washington High School. That night, the iconic “Sensational Six” came to an end.

The night was filled with all types of emotion and the loss came pretty tough to all the players. Sepeda said, “It got pretty emotional in the locker room after the game. It hit us that was we all wouldn’t play on the court together again, and because our chemistry was good this year, it’s not really going to be the same.”

Next year, the young team will have to work hard to build on momentum from the season.

The Spartans’ starting five plays defense against George Washington last Saturday night.
Building on success

Staff Reports

Another year of girl’s tennis is among us. Last year’s tennis team overall record was 9-3 which is a good record to have throughout the season. The girl’s tennis team also took first in the Greeley Tennis Invitational last year.

The girls have recently cleared the tennis court from snow in hopes that they could start practice earlier in the season. In order to prepare for the season the team has been doing a lot of conditioning and working on improving their skills. The team this year is shaping up to be a really talented group of girls. With almost making it to state last year that’s exactly what the team is planning to do. Sophomore, Delaynie Mcphee says, “Our main goal for this season is to be the best we can be and make it to state.”

There were many girls who were challenging for singles spots this season. Those included Emily Hopwood who is expected to play No. 1 singles for the Spartans. Kiley Cropper, who qualified for state last year is expected to be starting in the lineup at No. 2 singles.

Over 20 girls turned out for tryouts and Coach Ryan Pace was thrilled with the turnout.

- Daniel Guzman contributed to this story

Soccer team feels tight bond

By Zach Streeter
Staff Writer

The soccer season is about underway and the hopes are high for a good season. Last year’s record was 5-9-1 as a total and 2-9 in the league.

The girls soccer team is in one of the toughest leagues in Colorado which is the 5A Front Range League.

This year has a brighter look because they have a lot of experience playing with each other. This team has played with each other for at least two years and they play good together because they have a great team bond.

The team has six seniors who will be able to lead the team and are captains. This year’s team has a lot of experience in varsity games because of those seniors and a couple good underclassman who have been playing with them since they were freshman.

When asked if this season is looking to be a good one senior Caeley Lordemann replied, “This season is going to be a good one to end on. I am super excited to play one last year with all my friends.”

The first game for the 2016 season is a home non-conference game against Longmont on March 15. The optimism on the team is high and they are ready to start the season and get playing.

Experience pays dividends

By Drew Mendez
Staff Writer

The Greeley West track team is looking for another successful season. This year’s outlook of the team seems to be a very big turnout according to assistant coach Rich Davis, “Numbers are up; we’re going to start the season with 120-130 kids.”

After sending only Senior Zac Bitton to state last year, the team hopes to send six or seven kids to state this year.

The star athletes this year are all hoping to qualify to state. These athletes include Zac Bitton, Lexi Soria, Elizabeth Sisnaros, Dianna Rowe, Lilly Casas, and Andrew Wellington.

Davis included how much stronger the team looks this year. “We look a lot stronger this year than we did last year actually.”

This year’s team will consist of a lot of seniors. So they are going to want to go out with a bang. Especially if they can all qualify for state.

The team’s first meet will be a home meet and will host Loveland, Central, and Northridge at 9 am this Friday. They plan on starting off this promising season with a big win.

West ready to dive into season

By Elise Johnson
Staff Writer

This spring the Greeley West high school boys swim team has an optimistic mind set towards the upcoming season. Last year the boys finished with a league record of 4-6, and featured an individual state championship win in the 100 breaststroke by Brody Lewis.

This year Lewis, a senior at Frontier High School, will be returning alongside other standout seniors such as Platte Valley’s three-time state qualifier Bryce Fehringer and Greeley West’s own Severn Young.

Young, a dynamic part of multiple state relays, came close to qualifying for state last year and hopes to qualify and swim an individual race this year. “He just barely...”
who are not born citizens but those who live to make others’ lives difficult simply because they can. Students who don’t care for school correspondingly do not care to recite the Pledge and if they do, they “can’t help” but disrupt everyone else who cares to recite it.

Being one who loves reciting the Pledge it’s frustrating to have to tell others to please be quiet for not even ten seconds to honor the flag and my country.

is viewed through a limited lens, and is even considered to be a very controversial topic. However, the many people who believe in pro-choice uphold the position that abortion should not even be considered a controversy.

The argument stating the opinion that once conceived, a person does not possess the right to erase the life growing within them does not address the fact that if the conception was within the span of one to nineteen weeks, the fetus does not feel pain and is fundamentally a cell.

Arguably, abortion can be analogized to a plant or a flower. Flowers are quite alive when one bends down to pick it. However one does not consider the pain of the flower because they know that it cannot feel the sensation of being picked. A fetus would not register any pain and would be plucked simply and safely for the mother, and under the circumstances of rape or a career choice a mother’s life could be improved exponentially.

Abortion is a choice that women should be able to make without interference because it regards their lifestyle and bodies. It should not be considered a controversy for that reason alone.

Evans was given an hour online test of Principles of Marketing. After he took the test he had to do three role plays with professionals in principals and marketing. The professionals gave Evans a question and he was given ten to thirty minutes to prep and answer his question.

Evans stated, “Once I got started in the role plays my nerves slowly went away and I became more confident then ever.”

This is a great opportunity for upcoming freshmen to see what there is to do at Greeley West all in one night.

Not only were the clubs and sports trying to get new recruits, they were also attempting to convince upcoming ninth graders who hadn’t registered yet to attend Greeley West.

Ms. Amy Zulaf says, “This event is so important because it showcases all the amazing things students at West are able to get involved with, and it gives students and parents a chance to be inside the building to ask any final questions before they make their course requests. Not only do they get to see what’s available, they get to meet some of our best players and coaches.”

The event was a huge success packing the hub with dozens of West students, Future Spartans, parents and teachers.

Following the performance by multiple clubs in the gym, the future Spartans went around to booths set up by various clubs and sports.

This gave students the chance to talk to current West students about school life and everything West has to offer.