



- GREELEY CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL -

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Central Parking: A Dilemma

E. Voigt

Many Greeley Central students drive to school everyday and find themselves circling around the parking lot searching for a spot. If you drive everyday, you may find yourself guilty of making your own parking spot at the end of the row to get to class on time. The parking lot closest to the tennis courts is always full, but chances are the other parking lot might be full too. When asked if they struggle to find parking, Greeley Central senior Rhiannen Thero said, "Yes, all the time, everyday. Especially when I come to school at the end of first hour." If you come back to school after an off-block or in the middle of the day, good luck finding a legal place to park.

Some students are very bothered by the illegal parking, and others, not so much. Sophomore, Sadie Brennan, is one who is not bothered said, "No, it's just high school. I literally don't care at all. As long as they don't block where people drive, I could care less." Then there is junior Kaleb Hale, who is very bothered by the illegal parking. Hale said, "They can't find a normal spot because they're too lazy to park in the back, so they park illegally in the front and it's so stupid. They need to start ticketing them."

Parking is a huge problem that Greeley Central should look into to resolve. One option may be the idea of senior priority parking. Brennan said, "They've been here the longest and kinda deserve good parking... but not if they cut you off." On the other end, Hale said, "No, definitely not. They're seniors, so they have more off blocks and are here less." Maybe instead there should be priority spots for students who actually have their license, since many students who take the good parking spots don't even have a license or possibly not even a permit. The only other idea would be to add more legal spaces, but unfortunately, Central is already tight on parking lot space. Thero said, "I can't say that they need to get rid of some handicap spots because those are needed, but I feel like that would be the only option." Greeley Central needs to start taking charge with this parking dilemma, whether it's somehow adding more parking, ticketing students, or making priority parking.

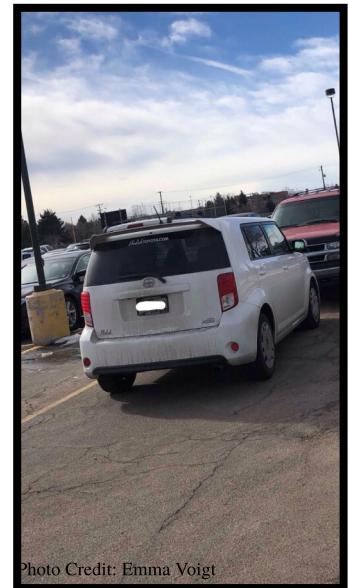


Photo Credit: Emma Voigt

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AP Mock Exam

T. Menard

On February 8, all the AP Language and Composition students took part in a mock exam at University of Northern Colorado. 123 Central students went over to the University Center on the college campus to take a three and a half hour test to assess their reading and writing skills. The groups were split into Mr. Frasier's and Mrs. Martinez's classes and were given time to complete the test. The test was separated into two sections, a multiple choice portion and an essay portion consisting of three essays.. During the multiple choice section, students had to read different articles and essays and use those same readings to answer questions about content and analysis. There were 55 questions that needed to be answered in an hour. The next and final section of the exam, consisted of three different essays; a synthesis essay, a rhetorical analysis essay, and an argumentative essay.

Photo Credit: Thomas Frasier



Students only had two and a half hours to write the essays along with a 15 minute reading period that was included in the time frame. Mrs. Martinez, when asked about why taking a mock exam is so important said, "Most students haven't sat that long for an exam before. We are trying to help them build the stamina since this exam is the longest of all the actual AP exams. It is also used as a guide for the students," Martinez also explained why the test takes place at UNC, "Students have a better environment at UNC and are more comfortable being away from the school." The practice test ended before lunch began that Friday and students were released with an idea of how they can improve and perform on the real AP Lang and Comp exam.

The New F-Word at Central: Fail

K. Hale

Here at Greeley Central, or any school for that matter, students pride themselves on their grades... or at least they should. Education is important to most people's futures, but last semester, the amount of failing grades in the Castle was incredibly ridiculous. There were a total of 1,751 F's last semester in total. That amount is more than the number of students in the school. Mr. Smith, Principal, said "It scares me. Those are credits [that students have] missed out on." He is 100% correct. With students failing classes and attendance rate going down, students have to make up credits or be held back, which is not at all good for the school's reputation. Raul Mendez, who's in the process of dropping out, said "[My grades do not] affect me in any way, shape or form. [I plan on] owning my own business and having my own barber shops [when I am older]."

It seems that some students have plans for after high school and that is the reason for their failing grades. For the students who just do not care, just drop out, because it is affecting our school rates.

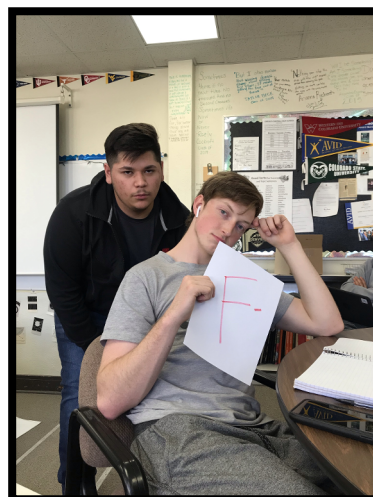


Photo Credit: Reina Gifford

Snow Day

G. Oliva

The parents and students of Weld County's, Greeley-Evans District 6 have conflicting views about the weather getting colder. As we all know, there hasn't been very much snow, but that doesn't mean the temperatures have not been freezing. On February 7, the morning temperatures were -13 degrees fahrenheit. Many parents and students were disappointed that the district didn't cancel school as a snow day. Many parents decided to keep their students home because of the freezing temperature.

Although many parents keep their students home, many parents still sent their students to school. Whether you have a ride, take a school or city bus, or walk the temperatures have been very cold. Some students who walked or waiting for a buss don't have much coverage against the cold winds. Yes, we live in Colorado with crazy weather changes, but always bring an extra jacket.



Photo Credit: Madeleine Dreiling

Night of The Seniors

S. Aldridge

On February 11, Senior Night was held in the Jim Baggot Gymnasium, celebrating the last time they will be playing basketball for the Wildcats. Naomi Hidalgo expressed how "bittersweet" the moment was walking with her mom, dad, brother, and sister. This is the night you get to walk on the court with people that have supported you all four years, and get to show a special appreciation to them. "We all knew it was coming...", says Thalia Cerda, a senior from the basketball team, "...but tonight is more about the game."

Not only was it Senior Night, but it was a battle to win the Northern Conference Championship. Facing Thomas Valley, they ended their night well, winning 50-38. The Greeley Central girls basketball team hasn't won the conference since 1981, and now they have a picture on the wall and a banner in the gym. "It was an awesome way to end the season as a senior and I wouldn't have done it anywhere else," says Hidalgo after winning the conference championship. The 2019 seniors of the Greeley Central girls basketball has left a legacy that we hope continues to live on through the Castle.



Photo Credit: Stacia Aldridge

Heading to The Playoffs!!!

S. Rotter

Needless to say, this has been a very eventful year for Greeley Central High School (GCHS) basketball. There have been records broken, last-second shots, comebacks, and to rap it all up in a bow, a conference championship. Both the boy's and the girl's team are heading to the playoffs with great confidence. Naomi Hidalgo, the star of the girls basketball team thinks so, saying, "I think that we can make it really far in the playoffs but we need to step up our game and work harder in practice." Though she's confident, Hidalgo knows that the girls have to step up their game to make it far, which is exactly what they're going to do.

On the other hand the boys are also confident on their abilities, Austin Knox one of the best players on the team said "I honestly think we have a legit shot at the championship and have a solid team, and once we learn to win we'll be deadly." This seems to be true especially after the game against Longmont on November 13, when our boys team took the number one team in the state to overtime. This has also been a very fun year for the wildcats who almost unanimously said that their favorite part of this season was playing and having fun with their friends. So, Wildcats we have a lot to be excited about going into the playoffs, and it might not be to much of a stretch to say that we might have another championship by the end of it all. Make sure to catch your lady cats play against Roosevelt High School Friday, February 22nd!

The Next Level: Transition to College Sports

S. Aldridge

Here at Greeley Central High School, we've had many successful student athletes continue playing sports after high school. When a student gets signed, we have a celebration after school in the commons with a side of cake and friends coming to support them. Now the school year is slowly coming to an end, athletes such as seniors Naomi Hidalgo and Hattie Sheets talk about the impact the transition has on them and their families. After signing to Hastings College Sheets says "My mom is hiding it, but I know she's sad there will be not be anymore children in the house." This hasn't just impacted the family but the players themselves. Hidalgo discusses, "I'm excited to get more competition and I want to be able to work at the next level." The transition to college sports is something to be excited about, knowing someone was scouting you as you play. These athletes get half to full ride scholarships to study their interests and go forward on their athletic career. It is an honor to have such great athletes attend Greeley Central High School to tell others about their experience playing as being a Wildcat.

Photo Credit: Stacia Aldridge





Athlete of the the Week

Austin Knox is a senior basketball player for Greeley Central's Varsity boys basketball team. He plays Shooting Guard where he averages 7 points per game and recorded a season high 14 against Northridge. Knox is adored by the student section which frequently chants his name during games and holds up Knox Street signs.



Artist of the Week

Lynnea Doty is a Junior at Central who is very passionate about dance. Doty is currently participating in Central's production of the musical *Barnum* and dances for Dance Factory where she regularly takes top honors at competitions. Doty is able to accomplish all this while maintaining a 3.8 GPA.



Club of the Week

Poetry club is an all-inclusive club that meets Mondays in Frasier's room (311) where they read, discuss, and hold workshops on poetry. They have a lot of fun and are looking for new members interested in competing in the Poetry Out Loud competition each which is held at Central in January each year. The winner of this moves onto the state competition in February.



Student of the Week

Freddy Ochoa is an exemplary senior at Central. Ochoa is Vice President of LULAC, a member of Green Cats, AVID, NHS, SART, Theater and is also a section leader in Wind Ensemble. Outside of Central, he is 1 of 4 representatives for the District 6 Student Council of Representatives and part of RESIST at Madison Elementary. Ochoa's explained, "I love the diversity Greeley Central has to offer." He accomplishes ALL this while Maintaining a 4.137 GPA and was just awarded the Dream Team Scholarship.

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Another Cold War?

B. Molina

Last week, President Trump announced that the US was pulling out of the Nuclear Arms Treaty with Russia. The Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo notified Moscow of the United State's withdraw from the agreement, after numerous warnings from the US. "We provided Russia an ample window of time to mend its ways and for Russia to honor its commitment," Pompeo said. "Tomorrow that time runs out." Established in 1987, the treaty banned the deployment and required the disassembly of "ground-based missiles" with a range of 500-5,500 kilometers. These Intermediate-Range Nuclear Missiles or, INMs, spearheaded the Cold War stalemate and were banned under the treaty. After being signed by the Reagan administration and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, the treaty was in affect till just this year. The US is accusing Russia of violating the agreement since as early as 2014 and former White House officials claim there have been at least 35 failed diplomatic agreements with Moscow, to disarm their nuclear arsenal. Unfortunately, these meetings have concluded without success. Much of this tension has been building since the 2016 presidential elections, and will likely continue to grow until both countries can find a peaceful resolution; to what could easily turn into another Cold War standoff, between both of these global superpowers.

Liam Neeson Under Fire For Racist Interview

I. Gifford

In a recent interview with CNN, Liam Neeson discussed a past friend who was raped by an African-American man and Neeson proceeded to recount how he was looking for a "black b*stard" that he could kill after learning what his friend had suffered. Celebrities are not letting Neeson get away with his words. Regina King stated, "Don't be surprised if someone doesn't want to work with you." King isn't the only one with this opinion on the actor and countless other problematic celebrities. Sophomore Eliana Mascarenas voiced that "Celebrities need to be held more accountable for their actions by facing consequences and not having their actions brushed off." When other sophomore Kaylee Carbajal was asked if his words of hatred for rapists justify his racially distasteful comments she commented, "Definitely not. It isn't hard to be conscious of things like that when you're a celebrity." Many celebrities in the past years have made many public mistakes. Some have gotten away with it and some are still in hot water. Neeson undoubtedly made a mistake, but however he decides to handle it will determine the fate of his acting career.



Photo Credit: Google Images

21 Savage Detained by ICE

K. Hale and I. Gifford

Rapper 21 Savage, was arrested on February 3, for overstaying his immigration visa which expired in 2006. The famous artist is originally born in the UK and moved to the US with his mother when he was 7 years old which required him to have a visa. He was 13 years old when his visa expired and did not move back at the time. ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) has claimed that he also has felony drug charges from October of 2014 that he was never convicted for. 21 Savage was in custody until February 13 when he was released on bond, as well as his felony charge being overturned. Under no convictions, ICE was trying to intimidate him into leaving the country. "I think 21 savage should not have been arrested because the government should worry about bigger issues than him overstaying his visa," says Kenidee Smith, a cultured sophomore. The incident with this rapper is bringing up issues with immigration and deportation that is causing his case to be stalled. There are many posts by celebrities that are fighting for his freedom, while there are also many memes and jokes being made about his British birthplace.



Photo Credit: Google Images

Photo Credit: Google Images



Sophomore Julianna Pulido was interviewed about her overall opinions on 21. Pulido claimed "I feel like he has so much fame, I don't think he's using his platform to do beneficial things." however, Pulido continued, "I feel like no matter the amount of money you have, immigrants will still be treated poorly." Sophomore Ikran Awal had differing opinions from Pulido. She is a fan of 21 Savage and would be sad if he was deported because him being in America allows her to attend his concerts. When asked if it was fair that he was being deported for an expired visa, she responded with, "No, because there are many without visas that are still here." Many other artists are speaking out for the rapper such as Jay-Z and Post Malone, using their platforms to support him. According to *CBS news*, Jay-Z had hired an attorney to help 21 Savage and Post Malone wore a shirt with the rapper's name on it during his 2019 Grammy performance with the Red Hot Chili Peppers. In another interview with *ABC News*, he was

questioned about his encounter with ICE. He claimed that no one on the scene had even told him that he was under arrest. All they said was, "We got savage." His arrest had many people wondering whether or not he was targeted and if more high profile people will be arrested soon.

Mr. Davis: The Alpha Cat

E. Matier

From football games to passing periods, you can hear Mr. Justin Davis' majestic voice flood the halls of Greeley Central. Personally, my favorite way to hear Davis' voice is at the Unified Basketball games, when he narrates a captivating play-by-play of the action going down on the court. It is no doubt that Davis is the voice of the Castle, and I honestly wonder why our "voice of the castle" isn't doing the morning announcements.

Mr. Davis, is the epitome of a Wildcat. He graduated from Greeley Central in the 1980's and after his time in college, he came back to the Castle and has been a dominant figure since then. Whenever Davis narrates something, he creates an encouraging and uplifting moral for whoever hears. Varsity football player, Eric Church, believes that Mr. Davis voice is great for football games, he said, "His voice is energetic and it hypes us up." If Mr. Davis did morning announcements everyday, he would bring the same energy and would "hype us up" everyday before school.

The school's current system is to have students do the announcements. According to Church, who doesn't like the current way announcements are done, the announcements are "monotone and boring." If Mr. Davis did the announcements every day, people would listen, his voice would demand our attention, and people would be much more aware of what's going on in our school.



Anti-Vax Movement

E. Voigt

Some parents make the difficult decision to not vaccinate their children. Vaccines are a substance that stimulates antibody production in your body to provide immunity against certain diseases. Vaccinating children is vital and starts when babies are just a few days old to protect them and keep them healthy. So why would parents decide to not protect their children against disease? There is a controversy that vaccinations can give your child autism and some parents actually believe in this. Obviously, there is no link with the ingredients in vaccines and autism.

A 2013 CDC study added to the research showing that the link does not exist. The study looked at the number of antigens from vaccines during the first two years of life in children. The results showed that the total amount of antigens from vaccines received was the same between children with autism and those that did not have autism. (*Centers For Disease Control And Prevention*.) Choosing to not vaccinate your children due to the fear of them possibly getting autism is very ignorant. There is no link between the two, and is autism really worse than a child getting deathly sick?

Vaccinations protect against chickenpox, influenza, measles, and many more diseases you definitely never want to experience getting. Greeley Central freshman Oliver Voigt said, "I don't think autism is affected by vaccines. It's a disorder, not a disease." Some diseases have been eradicated from the United States due to vaccinations such as the virus, measles. Measles have been eradicated for years until recently. It's only February, and 100+ measles cases have been reported this year. (*WLTZ.com*.) The cause for this outbreak is no other than parents refusing to vaccinate their children. Measles are now spreading extremely fast and may even cause death to some children. Senior Jayde Warner said, "I think that if everybody had vaccinated their children, it wouldn't be back in the US." Due to the fear of their children getting a disorder, kids are getting deathly sick and spreading it across the country. Vaccinating children only comes with pros and protects them and other children around them.

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