

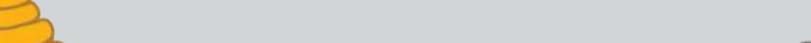


Volume 104 | Issue 4 | May 2022



it's all a *blur*

A simple cartoon illustration of a shop. It has a brown rectangular body, a bright blue door on the right side, and a red and white striped awning over the entrance. Above the awning is a green rectangular sign with the word 'SHOP' in white capital letters. The shop sits on a grey base.

An illustration of a yellow beehive with a dark entrance hole on the left. To the right of the beehive are three bees, each with yellow and black stripes and translucent wings, facing right. The background is a light gray gradient.

A cartoon illustration featuring a tiger on the left and a bottle of ink on the right. The tiger is orange with black stripes, standing and facing right. The ink bottle is dark grey with a black cap and a white label that says 'INK' in black capital letters. A large, dark ink blot is visible on the surface below the bottle.

meet the team:

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Reporter



a letter from the editor:

"This too shall pass."

We are often told in life: if you just make it over this hurdle, everything will be fine. But then, there is another difficult era. And another. And another. Maybe they aren't even difficult, just parts of your life you are ready to leave behind in order to jump into another chapter.

As the end of the school year approaches it's hard not to obsess over the finish line – the free time that you'll have over the summer or the crazy vacations you may have planned. Each school day lasts for an eternity now that the end is in sight (or maybe that's just my senioritis kicking in). But as much as we long for the carefree days of summer, or college, or the next season of life– we are still living one. By getting wrapped up in the future, we can lose sight of the value of the circumstances that surround us at present. Suddenly we are sprinting through life, always trying to reach for the next thing.

There are some eras that I would happily speed through, but reflecting back on this time period someday in the future, I might wish I made more of my time, or more fully enjoyed what I was surrounded by because these moments too, shall pass.

In this final issue of the Orange and Black for the 2021-2022 school year, we hope you are immersed in stories that reflect on the past school year, what is currently happening at GJHS and in the community, and get a sneak peek into the exciting future of students. We encourage you to slow down and enjoy the era of life you are in. Revel in the good in spite of some of the hardships you may be experiencing. The end is in sight– finish strong!

Policy

The Orange & Black, a legally recognized public forum for student expression, is published four to six times a year by the digital publishing and news magazine class for students of Grand Junction High School. Expression made by students in the exercise of the freedom of speech or freedom of press is not an expression of District⁵¹ school board policy. The views expressed in The Orange & Black do not necessarily represent the views of the entire staff, adviser, GJHS administration or the School District⁵¹ administration. Board policy regarding student publications (JICE, JICE-R) is available in the journalism room (Rooms 140-141) or in the principal's office.

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The **UN**seen effects of covid-19 in our school

In the two years since schools around the world went online, following the CDC guidelines for lockdown, schools all over the United States have been subject to the present and after-effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. GJHS continues to bounce back from the past and present impact of the pandemic.

Grand Junction High School's methods of combating these issues caused by COVID-19 range from providing food bags in the counseling office, and new clubs and groups popping up within our school. GJHS Connections has goals to bring isolated students who want to make more friends together with peers who share similar interests. Connections allows students to meet new people within our school, without the pressure to be outgoing.

Participation in school spirit and activities has recovered significantly from limited gatherings in recent years, with a good portion of the student body showing up for athletic events, fine arts concerts, and supporting academic extracurriculars. Compared to last year, school spirit has been boosted and a lot more students are enjoying the camaraderie of being together.

"I find when the majority of the school knows it's 'cool' to show up for each other, morale at school is really boosted and it's a lot more fun here," said Max Wilson, a sophomore Student Council representative.

The Student Council was able to return to putting on many more events and fundraisers this year.

The lives of students aren't the only ones who have been changed by the pandemic. Teachers and staff members have been forced to confront doubts about their occupation and their passion for teaching. Mental health issues affect everyone, after all.

"Everyone had a routine before, and things that they were used to and comfortable with. It's been a real struggle to get that routine back, and adjust to changes made in our everyday life as staff members," said Pam Middlemas, GJHS Librarian.

Adjusting to the routine of disinfecting desks, doors, and offering every student a shot of hand sanitizer, and then going back to "normal" has reportedly been difficult for all staff members, in addition to dealing with changes in their personal lives caused by

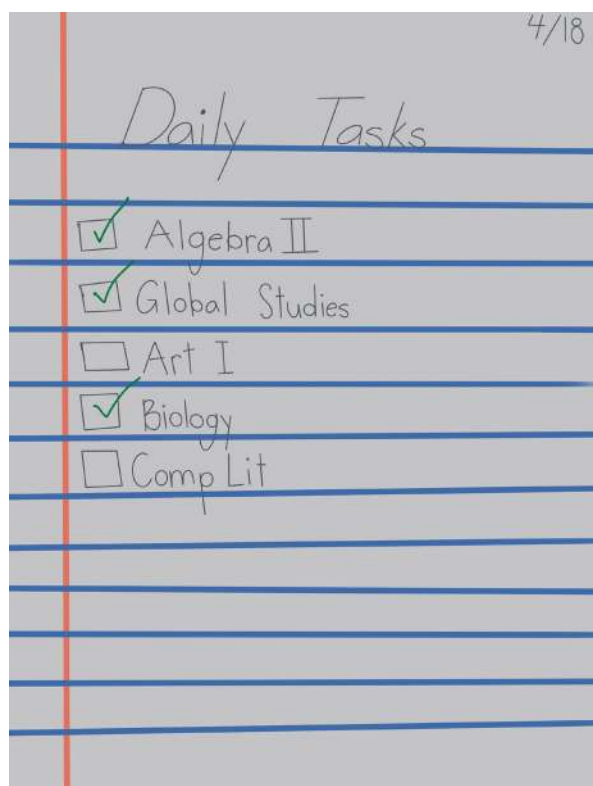
COVID-19.

Some teachers also have been using their sick days differently since the start of the pandemic.

"Attendance between teachers and students has actually flip-flopped," said GJHS Principal Megan Roenicke. "Between the pandemic and shortage of substitutes, I think teachers are more discerning in how they use their sick leave. I mean, there are teachers with children who may need that sick leave, and they also have to keep themselves in mind."

story and graphics by becca nedohon

Connections meets in Mrs. Spillane's room (141) every Tuesday and Thursday during lunch.



SPRING into a new CAREER



Math teacher Emma Dutch leaves to open Trail Life Brewing with her husband after seven years of teaching

by izzy **cornelison**

Math teacher Emma Dutch is leaving to start a brewpub with her husband after seven years at GJHS.

Mrs. Dutch, stated that she was, “A brewer before [she] was [a teacher].” She added that she believes Junction has such “a great community, a great staff, [and] great leadership.”

Her husband, Ryan Dutch, will be joining her in the venture.

Mrs. Dutch says he taught math at Independence Academy, owned his own climbing gym, been a rock climbing and mountaineering guide, and most recently ran the Colorado Mesa University Outdoor Program teaching classes and training college students how to rock climb, backpack, ski, and raft.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Dutch expressed how this has been a long time dream. Everything lined up for them to make their dream a reality this year.

“[I have] always just kept that door open, but the opportunity and timing is perfect,” said Mrs. Dutch.

She explained how exactly the timing was perfect for them.

“Mostly, the opportunity came at the right time for our family. We have been planning and dreaming for years about our own brewery, but always said that we would want it to be on Main Street,” Mrs. Dutch said. “This building went up for sale, and Gear Junction asked us if we wanted to be part of the project. It was the opportunity we had been dreaming about, and the timing worked out. Our kids are young, but old enough that we now feel like we can devote time and energy to a project like this.”

As well as Mr. Dutch who says that,

“[They] have been looking for a long time at doing this and have waited for the perfect opportunity. Brewing and owning your own business is a labor and time intensive endeavor.” And how they “wanted to get [their] family started and feel

grounded in life before [jumping] into it. And [they] also wanted to travel and explore the world before [they] locked [themselves] into a business.”

Trail Life Brewing, will be partnering up with Gear Junction; Trail Life Brewing will be opening with Gear Junction where Twisted Turtle used to be downtown. Gear Junction is a used gear shop and bike repair shop that also sells new gear and equipment.

“Basically, we split the building down the middle and they have the left side and we have the right side. There is a big garage door that will be open when both businesses are open or closed if one of us is closed,” said Mrs. Dutch.

Mrs. Dutch is planning on brewing; being a female brewer is much less common in the field. A survey done by the Brewers Association trade group shows that only 7.5 percent of breweries in the United States employ even one woman in the role of brewer.

“I brewed for years before teaching, starting in 2008,” Mrs. Dutch said. “At that time women in the industry were definitely few and far between. I remember going to conferences and being one of two women in a giant room of brewers. My bachelor’s degree is in engineering,

which is also a male-dominated field. In college I became accustomed to being in classes where females were a small minority. It just taught me to work hard, make sure I know my stuff, and then be confident in my knowledge and abilities.

“But Female representation in the industry is growing, which is really exciting,” she said.

Trail Life Brewing is planning on opening early June, and will be featuring 8-10 of their own beers, 8-10 beers and ciders from other breweries, and kombucha on tap according to Mr. Dutch.

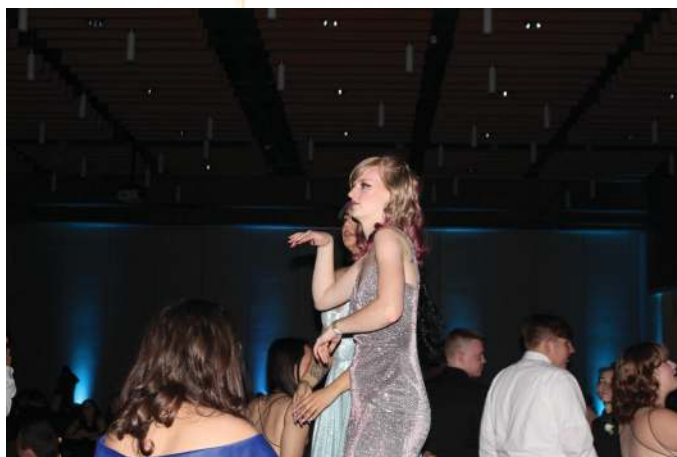
Mr. Dutch said he hopes to be an example: “that you can never settle for anything and there is no time like now to follow your dreams.”



Above: Trail Life Brewery on Mainstreet is being renovated

The Golden Night

Grand Junction High School's Prom was hosted at the Two Rivers Convention Center on April 16th, 2022.



Top left photo: Senior Aislinn Johnson is busting a move at Prom.

Middle photo: Students are enjoying their time at the Golden Night Prom.



Bottom left photo: Senior Andrew Leyba crowd surfs over his classmates.



photos courtesy of maddy **parkhurst** and GJHS teacher Sean Henry

Top right photo: Seniors Tyler White and Maleia Caudillo share a dance after being crowned Prom King and Queen.



Left middle photo: Juniors Blake Sturgeon and Mari Lopes pose as Prom Prince and Princess.



Right middle photo: Wesley Weaver, senior, is showing off his dance moves.



Bottom left, left to right: Kiah Dottson, senior, Wonde Clay, senior, Kyden Simpson, senior, Izabella Olguin, junior, Olivia Harrell, junior, Omarion York-Clark, senior, Sydney Clay, junior.



HS Explanation: Ukraine vs. Russia

by brady ancell

History

1991 - Russia loses Ukraine territory at the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

2008 - Ukrainians want to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), an intergovernmental military alliance between 30 member states, but Russia does not want this.

“It harkens back to the Cold War,” said GJHS social studies teacher Mark Carris. “You had the Warsaw Pact [with Russia] and you had NATO on the other side. The Warsaw Pact went away; NATO never did.” NATO still remains a threat to Russia’s expansion of land and power.

2014 - Russia invades the Crimean Peninsula in Ukraine. This became known as the Annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation.

Injury Count



Death Count



February 2022

Feb. 24 - Russian military forces begin invading Ukraine, bombing major cities, killing thousands of Ukrainian soldiers and civilians.

Feb. 26 - In response to the invasion, the United States and other western countries have placed sanctions (economic barriers) on Russia. These sanctions were intended to slow and discourage the invasion before it becomes even more costly.

“I need ammunition; not a ride.”

Reportedly said Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in response to U.S. officials' offer to evacuate.

The stakes get higher.

March 4 - Russia captures and fires at Zaporizhzhya, one of Europe's largest nuclear power plants, possibly causing a nuclear disaster. This was terrifying for many Ukrainians as they remember the Chernobyl nuclear disaster of 1986.

March 11 to current - Russia continues growing their invasion and capturing cities and areas across the country.

Why aren't we doing more?

“It’s a big risk to get into combat with a country with a tremendous number of nuclear weapons like Russia... We would lose hundreds of thousands of lives.”

- Mr. Carris

What does this mean for us?

Though the conflict’s impact in the US is not obvious, most Americans have noticed the rise in gas prices. The US and other countries are likely to notice more effects as Ukrainians flee elsewhere and the West provides financial support during the conflict.

Unfortunately, the solution is not clear at the moment. Russia is not showing signs of backing down, and hundreds are

losing their lives each day the conflict continues.

“This kind of thing happens all the time,” said GJHS senior Mason Dibble. Dibble is interested in joining the military and isn’t necessarily surprised by the conflict.

“Taking military action would probably cause a much larger conflict than any of us want,” said Dibble.



Mari meets professional womens Brazilian National Soccer team players Ericka Cristiano and Victoria Albuquerque.



Mari is on the current GJHS soccer team.

Girls soccer started this spring, and Grand Junction High School has a new and unique player - Mariana Lopes. Lopes is part of the foreign exchange program, and has come to Grand Junction all the way from Brazil for the second semester of her junior year.

Mariana, or “Mari”, has been playing soccer since she was 5 years old, and she played indoor club up until the 8th grade. Lopes currently plays mid-field, whereas back in Brazil Lopes played as a forward.

“Soccer is a huge thing back in Brazil. It’s similar to American football when you compare cultural importance. Families get together with friends and have parties for the World Cup just like Super Bowl Sunday,” Lopes said.

Soccer holds so much cultural significance in Brazil that people will often skip work and school to watch and attend these games. The nation has been nicknamed “o País do Futebol”, translating to “The Country of Football.” The sport has been a part of Brazilian culture since the 1800s, and they hold more FIFA World Cup titles than any other country in the world.

Lopes had the opportunity to meet Ericka Cristiano and Victoria Albuquerque, players for the Brazilian Women’s National soccer team. They played in the 2019 Women’s World Cup.

“Not only are they amazing players, but they’re amazing women as well. Both of them are very empowering role models for young women in Brazil,” Lopes said about her experience meeting Cristiano and Albuquerque.

Lopes’s grandfather was a professional soccer player.

Joaquim Carlos played for the Corinthians, which is a club based in the Tatuapé district of São Paulo. As a child, Joaquim Carlos and his friends evaded teachers and priests at school in order to keep playing soccer all day. Many members of Lopes’ family played soccer, and they had a heavy influence on her involvement in the sport growing up.

São Paulo, Lopes’ home in Brazil, has an elevation of 2,493 feet. Playing soccer at the beach in São Paulo, there’s an elevation of zero because that’s sea level, which is a significant difference to playing here in Grand Junction, where the elevation is 4,583 feet. Lopes struggled to adjust to the altitude at first, and it took a bit for her lungs to acclimate to the air here.

“We’re always trying to improve ourselves, and our main goal is to improve ourselves in the game, and putting in 100 percent,” Lopes said.

She’s made many close friends on her new team here

Mari leaving her mark

story by becca nedohon
photos courtesy of mariana lopes

and has settled into the community very well.

“She’s bright, exciting, and she’s always saying something to make us laugh. Mari and I have been through a lot of the same experiences in life, and we were definitely meant to meet each other. My life will be forever changed once she leaves,” said sophomore Kaylee Kraft, when asked how Lopes has influenced her high school career in soccer.

“I’m really loving playing soccer here,” Mari said. “It’s a huge family, and they make me feel at home.”



Mari’s grandfather, Joaquim Carlos, on the Corinthians soccer team in São Paulo, Brazil.

Summer Bucket List:

story by alondra **sanchez** graphics by izzy **cornelison**

Need a summer bucket list while staying here in town? Although Grand Junction may feel small to others, there is a good amount of fun things to do here during the summer. Here is a list of some fun summer activities here in Grand Junction!

~Camping

~Museum of the west

~Colorado river

~Las colonias park

~Motor speedway

~Rafting

~Fishing

~Hikes

~Sonic

~Escape Room

~Summer camps

~Botanical gardens

~Golfing

~Eureka cmu

~Historic downtown

Hiking:

There are a lot of fun hiking trails around Grand Junction that would be super fun to try this summer. Getting outside in the hot summer weather can be good for you and get exercise during the summer.

Devil's Kitchen
Bangs canyon trailhead
Tabeguache trials
Liberty cap trail
Colorado river trail
Monument

Book Cliffs
Lemonsqueezer
Kannah creek trail
Grand mesa
Devil's Canyon

Downtown:

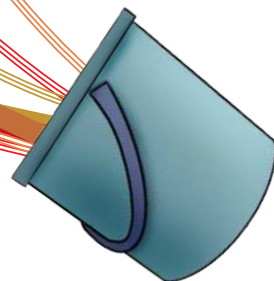
Downtown gj is a great place to be any day of the week. On a regular daily basis there is the normal shops and restaurants but during the summer they sometimes do fun things like the farmers market on Thursday and some other fun attractions! Downtown is a great place to be even just to walk around and look at the beautiful art!

Lots of restaurants

-main street bagel
-dream cafe
-el bistro
-gelato junction
-candy shoppe
-suehiro
-pablo's pizza

Art galleries

Farmers market
Food trucks
Avalon Theater



JOEL MEETS WORLD

Senior Joel Daugherty shares his exciting summer plans to backpack around Europe by himself

story by michael **taylor**
graphics by izzy **cornelison**

Grand Junction's seniors have a lot to look forward to after graduation. Many seniors will be going on trips or vacations before they start their new beginnings. Joel Daugherty is a senior who will be going on a trip this summer to Europe. He is in the process of deciding his college plans and where he would like to attend.

"This summer I will be flying to Europe and I will be backpacking across Europe for a month and a half," said Daugherty. Daugherty will be going by himself backpacking through 10 countries, using only the tools he will bring with him in his backpack.

"I am hoping to summit Mt. Etna," said Daugherty. Mt. Etna is 11,000 feet above sea level and is an active volcano. Daugherty will be hiking this mountain outside of his normal backpacking trip.

"What is cool is that by staying in youth hostels you are surrounded by backpackers basically your same

passport, cash, good shoes, and clothes.

"Some people are under the perspective that 'oh you are going alone? That is so dangerous' in reality it is not because you are surrounded by so many people doing the same thing as you are", said Daugherty. Of course traveling to Europe for a month and a half has its dangers, but Daugherty will be traveling by Interrail and will stay in youth hostels that were made for people to do what he will be doing.

"If I actually want to do this I just need to book it, or else I never will" said Daugherty. Daugherty has wanted to backpack across Europe for a while but was nervous about going but ultimately decided to go. It has taken Daugherty about a year and a half to plan his trip. Daugherty will be leaving two weeks after graduation.

Daugherty and other seniors' examples of diving head first into the world is inspiring for younger classmen who are looking and preparing for graduation.

"Mainly for me it is a big stepping stone in the career I want to have"

age," said Daugherty. Daugherty will be staying in youth hostels which will have places to sleep and a kitchen in order to make food that he buys from the local markets. The food is mostly Daugherty hopes to meet as many new people as possible while he is on his trip in Europe.

"I see myself in the field of International relations and international affairs" said Daugherty. Backpacking across Europe will help Daugherty understand more about himself and what he might want to do for a career in the future. One of the tips that Daugherty has learned is that traveling by yourself and seeing the world allows him to understand more about his career path in international relations and affairs.

"It is hard to have only so much room. With wanting to do some technical hiking, I'm not sure if I want to bring my hiking boots with all of their weight." said Daugherty. Daugherty only has so much room that he can bring on his month and a half trip, but some necessities he will need on his trip are his identification papers and his



Raine Foor, artist

Raine Foor, senior at Grand Junction High School, is ecstatic to be attending The School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) next year. After submitting an art portfolio and extensive application detailing her academic success, Foor was awarded admission and a scholarship to SAIC starting in the fall of 2022.

Along her art journey, Foor has been supported by friends and family, especially her brother.

"My brother, he is actually the one who inspired me to become an artist. He used to draw all the time... I was always like: I want to be like you," said Foor.

Although she considered heading straight into an art career, she hopes graduating from an accredited art school will grow her network and aid her in getting internships.

"My number one goal at the end of doing my schooling is to get an internship at a game developer and make character designs," said Foor.

Recently becoming interested in gaming, Foor's dream career is to get an internship with Naughty Dog, a video game company who developed her favorite video game: The Last of Us.

"[My biggest worry is] money. I am so worried about the money," said Foor. As SAIC is such a renowned art school, the tuition is \$53,160 per year. Although she was given a scholarship, attending SAIC is a huge financial burden.

"I am applying for more scholarships and I'm praying I'll get some, because I'm terrified," said Foor. For her, however, attending the dream school she never thought she would be accepted to, is worth the cost. For so long, Foor's aspirations have only been in theory-- she is excited to finally make them a reality.



Natalie Hanks, pilot

Senior Natalie Hanks, will be attending Colorado Mesa University in the Fall with hopes to eventually become a pilot. Hanks will be going to school for a Business degree and then her junior year she will start attending WCCC flight school classes. This way, Hanks has a Business degree to fall back on if flight school doesn't pan out.

"I haven't met a lot of people who want to be pilots, especially girls," said Hanks. She is excited to enter a field that is male dominated, but she has already been met with some challenges.

"When I tell people, pretty much everyone has been excited or thinking I'm going to be a flight attendant [not a pilot]." Overall, however, she receives a very positive reaction. Her family, especially, has been very supportive.

"My uncle introduced me to it and the stuff he does," said Hanks. "A lot of my family members have been pilots and I'd be the first woman in the family to be a pilot." She is excited to continue the family legacy of flying.

"I'm excited to make new connections and learn more," Hanks said.

College vs.

story by ashley **guddat** and riley **pope**
graphics by izzy **cornelison**



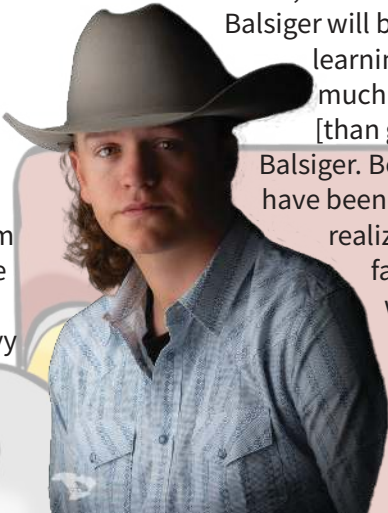
A college education is a “given” for many people, but Elliot Balsiger has had the foresight to recognize his strengths and interests lie beyond the classroom.

“I’ve been wanting to run heavy equipment for the past three years,” said Balsiger. Although he originally considered going to college, his family helped him realize he would be more successful heading straight into the workforce.

“My family didn’t really like college, they didn’t think it was a good way to go, they know me and said I was not going to like it before I knew that,” said Balsiger. His long history with heavy equipment sparked his interest in pursuing it as a career.

“When I was twelve I was sitting in a bucket that was 800 pounds and I thought that was cool just being around the equipment,” said Balsiger. His interest was further piqued when he took a technology construction class through career center.

“I’ve kind of surrounded myself with it for a while,” said Balsiger. In order to get a job working with heavy equipment, Balsiger must first complete training, through schools located around the Grand Valley. Although the training is extensive, it is free, and, while in training, Balsiger will be paid for working/learning in the field. “I would much rather make money [than go to college],” said Balsiger. Both his family and friends have been instrumental in helping him realize his goals, especially the close friend and father of a working heavy equipment for years.



Elliot Balsiger, heavy equipment



Hunter Dolobacs, mechanic

Senior, Hunter Dolobacs, decided he was best fit for the transportation services field. Dolobacs is currently attending WCCC classes to get him prepared for his career after high school. Dolobacs has been surrounded by this field his whole life as it runs in his family.

“[Being a mechanic is] something my family has done for a really really long time and I kind of want to keep that going a little bit longer,” said Dolobacs. However, Dolobacs’s interest in this career also stems from his willingness to help people.

“I try and help people as much as I can with their day to day lives [with the end goal of] making things easier on them,” said Dolobacs.

Dolobacs’s decision to go straight into the work force was one that required a lot of thought. Even though Dolobacs will not be going to college he thinks college provides great experiences and more opportunities for ones future.

“I think with the work force you can start getting things done, get an early start on your 401K and retirement plans,” said Dolobacs. Dolobacs is one of the few high school seniors already thinking about his retirement plan.

“I know college is important but going into the work-force is just as important,” said Dolobacs.

Career

Rounding up freshman girls

Administrators work hard to increase attendance numbers

by maddy parkhurst

When students come to high school there are many changes: New people, new classes, and more freedom.

Some students will find themselves going to class everyday, getting good grades and making new friends. Other students might find themselves going to a nearby park and ditching most of the school day.

It might just start off as one class a week, but then it quickly becomes three classes a day. Students are falling behind and not making up for the work they miss, and when they are in class they don't do the work. The cycle continues on until they have so much work they feel it's impossible to make up.

"When students are ditching so

much school it's difficult to put them in groups because they're so far behind and I have to rearrange groups," GJHS language arts teacher Megan Read said.

Teachers find it difficult to understand why their students don't show up to class. It's difficult for them to

catch up with the student when they've missed so much of their class.

Larry Lefebre said, "At the start of the year there are more girls ditching, but eventually the numbers go down."

Lefebre has been working at GJHS

for 10 years. You can see him on one of the golf carts driving around campus. Many students may think he's just here to round up kids while ditching. While it may seem like this, he is trying to encourage kids to go to school.

One thing that can make it difficult for Lefebre to catch the girls ditching is that they are constantly moving around. There's not really one place that the girls go to skip classes. They could be at the park one day, and a completely different spot the next.

Some of the girls might stop

ditching after being caught a few times

is not effective. The school is trying to contact them by phone call so they can address the problem head on to try and stop this issue.

"Mental health and anxiety is a major reason the girls are not showing up to class," GJHS principal Meghan Roenicke said.

During the pandemic many kids sat in their room all day by themselves and when they came back to school they felt overwhelmed. They were used to doing their work online or not doing work at all.

Another thing that is new to the

freshman girls is being able to fail a class. In middle school you couldn't be held back, but now if you fail a class you have to retake it.

Luckily for these girls there are many ways they can get caught up. One way is to start coming to class and going to those classes

during study time. Another very important way they can get caught up is going to summer school. It's about four weeks long for four days a week during the summer.



Above: Larry Lefebre is one of the staff members who routinely make sure students are where they are supposed to be.

Left: Sherwood Park is a notorious place where students escape class.

or having their parents be contacted.

Contacting parents is a very important part to stop this issue. Most of the time parents are being contacted by email or an auto dial. While this may seem helpful, it often

GJHS Altrusa Art Show 2022 winners

Mayble Dean - 1st Place, Black and White Drawing



Haley Strickland - 1st Place, Functional Ceramics



Olivia Rodriguez - 1st Place, Color Drawing



Stevie Otte - 1st Place, Functional Ceramics



3-D Design (Class) - 1st Place, Collaborative



Raine Foor - 1st Place, Non-Functional Ceramics

Abby Norfolk - 1st Place, Painting



Abby Norfolk - 1st Place, Painting



Maddie Kawasaki - BEST IN SHOW, Color Drawing



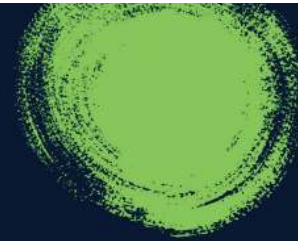
Carter Stehman - 1st Place, Printmaking



at GJHS



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Tigers make All Conference

Athletes at GJHS work very hard every year in order to become the best they possibly can. Every year at the end of the season some of these athletes are honored with various awards. "All conference selections are nominated by and then voted on by every coach in the conference," said GJHS activities director, Carol Sams.

story by danny duffy



The GJHS boys soccer team had 3 all conference selections: Matty Parkes, Mason Sanders, and Luiz Aguirre all to the first team. Matty Parkes and Luiz Aguirre also both received all state honorable mentions.

"A lot of our hard work goes into it and it means a lot to have that recognition."

"[Younger athletes] should keep their head down and keep working hard. Don't compare yourself to others, compare yourself to you," said senior all-state honorable mention Matty Parkes.



The GJHS girls basketball team had one all conference selection: Riley Applegate to the second team.

The GJHS boys basketball team had 3 all conference selections: Dillon Chapman to the first team, while Kyden Simpson and Reese Skinner to the second team. Dillon Chapman was also an all state honorable mention.

The GJHS volleyball team had one all conference selection: Leanna Clement to the second team. Leanna served as a leader for the tigers volleyball team throughout the year.



The GJHS football team had three all conference selections: Landon Grossnickle, Deacon Taylor, and William Wharton, all to the first team. These athletes have shown dedication to the GJHS football team throughout their highschool career.



The GJHS cross country team had one all conference selection: Danny Duffy to the first team.

The GJHS softball team had 3 all conference selections: Lindsey Cooley and Kaylie Kellerby made the second team, while Polly Senko made the first team.



an environmental *bees:* catastrophe

by brady **ancell** and danny **duffy**



In modern times, it's easy to forget about our timeless foundations of earth and nature. Despite how important it is, we don't pay much attention to our environments. In recent years, the population of bees on the Western Slope has been declining.

According to Environment Colorado, Colorado beekeepers lost approximately 29% on average and in some years up to 40% percent of all bees in recent winters. This is double the tolerable loss among environmentalists.

"Without bees all of our flowers would be dying and all of our fruits and veggies would not grow. Over one-third of our food supply would be gone," said GJHS senior, Erica Bryan, who heads the GJHS Planeteers club.

This means that the 29-40% population loss in Colorado needs to be addressed during the summer months to ensure a healthy ecosystem and agricultural industry.

"A lot of deaths are because of loss of habitat and pesticides," said GJHS science teacher Karen Owen, who is a beekeeper on her own time.

The agricultural nature of the valley means many people are using pesticides that harm bees. However, the use of pesticides in agricultural and residential settings is heavily contributing to the loss of these native bee populations.

"We have a lot of native bees around here, like mesa bees and leafcutter bees," said Owen.

Owen has been beekeeping for about six years.

"I planted 2 acres of lavender and decided it would be good to get bees to make lavender honey," said Owen.

Despite being stung many times, she has not stopped loving beekeeping since she first started. It can sometimes be challenging to ensure the survival of her bee colonies.

"It is difficult to figure out how to maintain the hives so they make it over the winter," said Owen.

Even with the challenges, everyone should do what they can to preserve bee populations. Simply spreading awareness of their importance can help.

"Worldwide the number of colonies has increased where people are aware of how they are important to the environment," said Owens.

There are ways to help bees in the valley..

"Don't clean up your lawn litter until it is about 50 degrees because the bees can be living in there for the winter," said Owens.

Many bees stay underground in lawns throughout the winter to stay warm, so disturbing them before it's safe can be harmful for them. Even keeping dandelions in your lawn can help save bees.

"It may seem impossible to make bigger changes, but as a small group we just do small things and do what we can to help," said Bryan.

Tatted for Tigers

by maddy parkhurst



Some teachers at GJHS go all out for orange and black day to show their school spirit. French teacher Jodee Cronk did it for another reason.

Cronk was decked out the first week of school putting her tiger spirit on full display. She was striving to win the most spirited award. She wore a black and orange wig, with a tiger covered dress, along with an orange tutu around it. The outfit also included orange and black striped socks and some bright orange glasses among other wild additions. She did this mostly to make her close friend, Jenny Petrilli, laugh during her battle with leukemia. Sadly, Petrilli died Jan. 24, 2022. Cronk regularly sent her photos of her wild outfits throughout the fall, displaying over-the-top school spirit to lift up Petrilli during her illness.

Cronk joked that if she was not named most spirited teacher she would quit her job. Instead, she turned it into a fundraiser and promised to get a tiger tattoo designed by a GJHS student.

"The holiday fundraiser allows us to meet the needs of students here at the school," said Cronk.

Advisory classes collected cash for the right to pick which tattoo she would get. Her own class raised the most money and the school-wide fundraiser collected nearly \$1,000. Her students selected a mosaic tiger tattoo designed by GJHS junior Caleb Behrman.

Behrman decided to go with the design for the tattoo because he likes geometric artwork. He's taken French classes with Cronk for three years. Behrman highly recommends Cronk as a teacher.

She got the first tattoo on Feb. 24. at First Street Tattoo. Tattoo artist Tobias Peltier donated his work. Peltier is a GJHS graduate.

Cronk plans to get a second tattoo done over the summer on her shoulder. The second tattoo was drawn by GJHS senior Lydia Qualls and it was the favorite of Petrilli.

Qualls said, "It seemed like something that seemed fun to do and I am already doing all the boards for the school so why not do a contest."

Qualls has also designed some of the artwork for her mom's tattoos. She met Cronk one day when she was designing one of the boards



for the school. Some of the boards she's designed for the school are some of the posters for the clubs here at GJHS. The money raised went toward helping 87 students during the holiday season. The money allowed the students to get gifts they wanted and for their families to receive a gift card to buy groceries for the holidays. The holiday event has been going on at GJHS for three years.

In order for the kids to be put on the list to receive the gift cards and presents they had to fill out a Google form. The form asked them what they would like for Christmas and other things. After that the money was divided and other community members could sponsor a student.

Cronk is an active teacher at GJHS. Some students may have her for French. She also operates the Tiger Boutique & Haberdashery for students and others in need.

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