



Volume 104 | Issue 2 | Dec 2021

high ***LIGHT*** ing
GJHS

A Look Inside

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News

*Students
& Culture*

Sports

Letter from the O&B staff...

Beyond the brightest lights on campus, there are many people active behind the scenes in lesser-known roles. They often go unnoticed because they are not directly in the spotlight. However, each of these people/clubs/events is critical to the GJHS community, and they deserve to be acknowledged.

Thomas Edison is often credited as the inventor of the first incandescent light bulb, but this is not so. According to energy.gov, since 1802, people had been developing what would eventually become the first incandescent light bulb. In 1878, William Sawyer and Albon Man developed the first electrical systems which were basically the framework for Edison's light bulb. Yes, Edison did create practical uses for electricity, but there is actually much historical debate whether or not Edison infringed on Sawyer and Man's patents, stealing the ideas behind it. But no one hears of Sawyer and Man, the brains behind the operation.

Likewise, in this issue of the Orange and Black, we hope to illuminate the less-well-known at Grand Junction High School so they don't go unacknowledged. In this edition, we want to highlight some of the unique persons, traditions, sports, and

events at GJHS that are more obscure, because, in reality, the majority of us have a hidden talent, a unique hobby, a special aspect of ourselves – that goes unrecognized.

These people contribute so much to our school culture and community at GJHS, which is why it is important to acknowledge their hard work. Our reporters have gone out of their way to interview teachers, students, staff, and administrators who are not often in the limelight to tell their stories. On page 19 learn about the people who contribute to the success of our sports teams: the managers. On pages 8-9 learn about how the Tiger Boutique and Haberdashery was founded, or dive into the unique background of Kiln Coffee shop and its surprising connection to GJHS on page 14.

While we acknowledge there are many more students and staff at GJHS who are active in our community every day, we cannot spotlight everyone. However, we sincerely hope that you learn something new about a person, event, or community that surrounds you as we momentarily shine the spotlight on the equally-important supporting roles at Grand Junction High School.

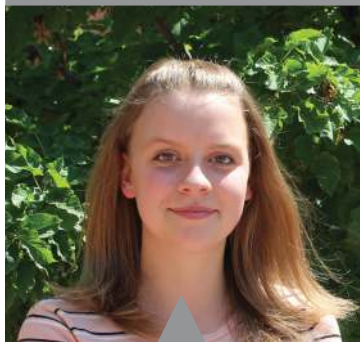
Meet the team:



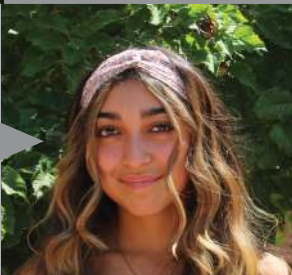
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The Orange & Black welcomes and encourages letters to the editors. This is a chance to express your viewpoint on important issues. Letters should be limited to 250 words. They will be edited for space and legal considerations, but not for inaccuracies, grammar or spelling. Letters must contain information pertinent to the students of GJHS. The staff retains the right to not publish any letter not meeting these requirements. Unsigned letters will not be published. Please submit typed letters in person to Room 140-141 or via email or to steve.fox@d51schools.org

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Drought in Grand Junction

by ashley guddat

Due to a record setting drought that started in 2019, Grand Junction dipped into the Colorado River water for the first time in 65 years.

With a drought that has been persisting for over three years, it is a wonder not many of us have felt the effects of a severe water shortage.

“I haven’t really seen the effects of it, I guess... we are always kind of in a constant drought because we are in the desert, but I haven’t really seen the effect of it. I am aware of it [though],” said Ellah Hall, GJHS senior and member of the Planeteers Club.

According to WesternSlopeNow.com, the drought has closed down the River Park at Las Colonias due to low river level, a relatively new addition that has attracted many people, in order to protect the natural species along the Colorado River. It is unknown how long

hydrologist for the National Weather Service in Grand Junction.

Currently, we are pulling out of one of the worst periods of drought, classified as an “exceptional drought” that occurred towards the beginning of 2021. The monsoon rains during the fall helped Grand Junction pull out of the “exceptional drought” category and back into the “extreme drought” category starting a few months ago.

Such a long-lasting and severe drought can have huge ramifications: both short and long term.

Obviously in the short term, the concern would be getting people the water they need daily. The U.S. Geological Survey projects that the average adult uses approximately 80-100 gallons of water per day for home uses including showering, using the restroom, washing hands, using a dishwasher, using a refrigerator,

“We survive on the snowpack and run-off from the mountains,” said Strautins.

However, the snowpack in the past few years has not been as copious as it has been in years past. Lack of run-off combined with the pre-existing drought, has forced water providers to use water from the Colorado River, which opens the floodgates for a host of other problems since numerous entities have claims on the water from the Colorado River.

The drought has also exacerbated other problems in Colorado. For example, forest fires are rampant due to the drought and since there are no trees to hold down the soil, mudslides and landslides ensue. That mud can contaminate rivers, which makes drinking water harder to treat and thus takes more electricity.

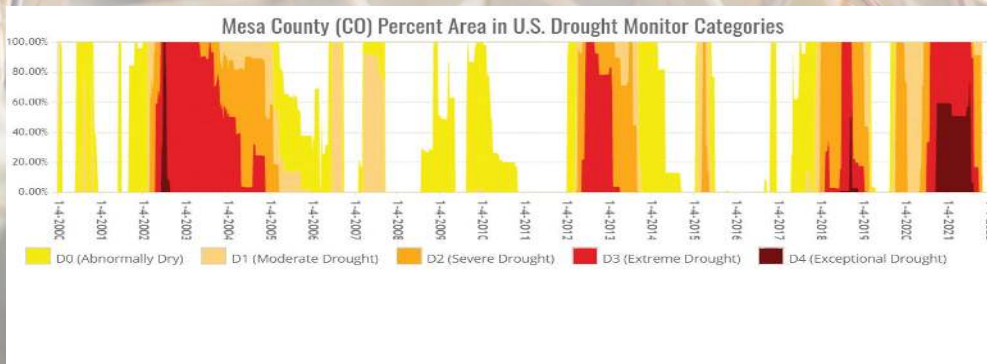
The drought, though hardly recognized, is a huge issue many feel isn’t being taken seriously enough.

“It is wasteful [to have grass lawns in a desert],” Hall said. Instead, Hall suggests people landscape their yards with native species more conducive to the arid environment of the Western Slope so we don’t have to waste as much water.

Principle Megan Reonicke said the architects of the new GJHS building are toying with the idea of creating a less grass-centric lawn to make the campus more water efficient. Other ideas include water bottle filling stations, as well as water-saving washing machines and toilets.

Srautins hopes people will take the time to turn off faucets when unneeded, to use shower heads designed to use less water, and generally be more aware of water consumption.

“Every drop counts out here,” said Strautins.



the park will remain closed since the drought is projected to persist into the future.

Although we have been in a drought for three years, the level of drought has fluctuated.

“We look at the effects and look at the amount of precipitation and how much run-off, and water is going through the river system and see if it is above average or below average... and then we classify it into a drought category,” said Aldis Strautins, a

4 oandbnews.com

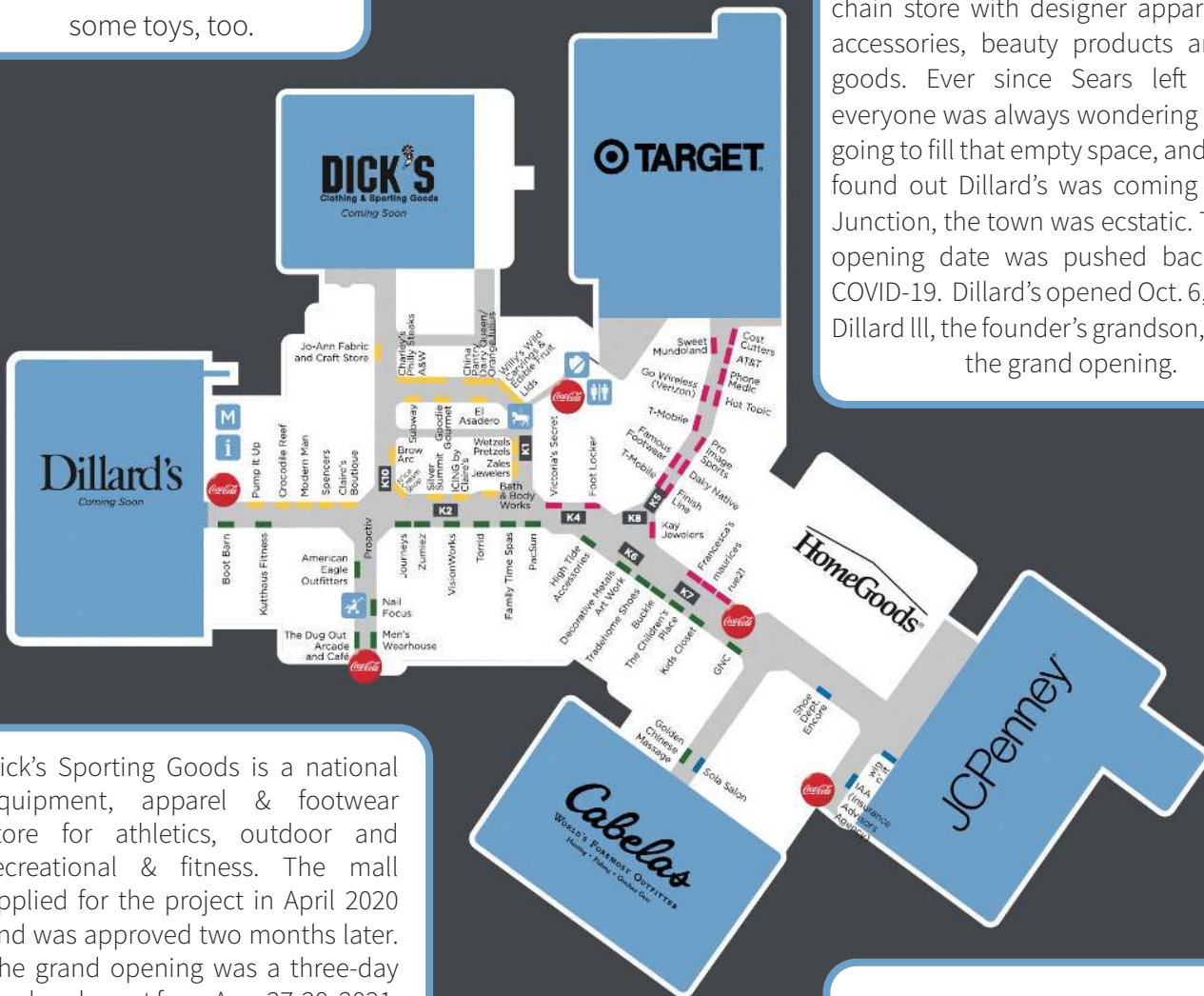
Category	Historically observed impacts
D0	Hay production decreases; rangeland is dry Irrigation begins sooner Rangeland growth is stunted; very little hay is available Dryland crops suffer Wildfires increase Pheasant population declines; ski season is limited CRP lands suffer Farmers reduce planting; producers sell cattle Fire season is extended Snowpack is low; surface water levels are low; river flow is reduced Pasture conditions worsen City landscapes are dying Large fires develop
D1	Recreation, fishing, hunting, skiing are reduced; fish kills occur Grasshopper and insect infestations are noted Reservoirs are extremely low; mandatory water restrictions are implemented; water temperature increases Dust storms and topsoil removal are widespread Agricultural and recreational economic losses are large
D2	
D3	
D4	

drinking, etc. Water providers such as Ute Water have been scrambling to meet consumers needs on a limited water budget.

Update on Mesa Mall

T's Candy Crave - The candy store took over what was Crocodile Reef. It opened October 2021. You can find all your favorite candy there. You can even find some toys, too.

Dillard's is a national department store chain store with designer apparel, shoes, accessories, beauty products and home goods. Ever since Sears left the mall everyone was always wondering what was going to fill that empty space, and when we found out Dillard's was coming to Grand Junction, the town was ecstatic. The initial opening date was pushed back due to COVID-19. Dillard's opened Oct. 6, 2021. Bill Dillard III, the founder's grandson, attended the grand opening.



Dick's Sporting Goods is a national equipment, apparel & footwear store for athletics, outdoor and recreational & fitness. The mall applied for the project in April 2020 and was approved two months later. The grand opening was a three-day weekend event from Aug. 27-29, 2021. The store has been popping off since Grand Junction has been in need of a good sporting store for quite some time now.

Santa is coming to town - Tis' the season! It's Christmas time and you know what that means! Santa is coming to the Mesa Mall just in time for the holiday season. Santa will be available at the mall until Dec. 24 during regular hours.

Dugout - The Dugout took over what was Chuck E. Cheese. The Dugout is a baseball theme arcade filled with over 50 arcade games. They host birthday parties, theme nights for teens, and you can redeem your arcade tickets for novelty prizes. They serve baseball style foods and beverages. The Dugout opened on March 5, 2021.

story by alondra **sanchez**
graphics and info courtesy of Mesa Mall website

Housing in Mesa County

by becca nedohon

A student living in unsafe housing conditions is impacted from every angle. When a residency is forced to choose between the cost of a roof over their head and everyday necessities, there are issues bound to develop and create a snowball effect. Reported by the Grand Valley Housing Needs Assessment, more than half of renters in Mesa County are cost-burdened, which means 30% or more of their monthly income has to contribute to housing as of 2021. This results in families having to choose between things such as a week's worth of groceries, or paying a medical bill. All the while, other expenses that many people take for granted like sports equipment and new clothes are put off or forgotten.

"I think for some people, there's that stress of worrying about whether they'll have dinner, or if they'll have a safe place to sleep that night. And obviously it's going to be hard to focus on homework or a school project when a student has these worries," said GJHS Counselor Chris Mack.

The median sales price of a home in the Grand Valley is \$328,000 as of October 2021. According to realtor John Duffy of Bray Real Estate, this shows a 15 % increase in the span of one year. The usual increase in the span of a year in a healthy market is between 2-4 %.

This rapid increase in housing prices is partly

due to the shortage of lumber, which delays construction, and makes the entire building process more expensive. The houses for sale in Mesa County are significantly out of the price range of the average income of a household in the Grand Valley. Of the 392 houses for sale in Mesa County as of October 2021, only 34 are listed under \$200,000. There are 86 more homes listed under \$300,000 and 73 are for sale for \$750,000 or more, said Duffy.

The number of affordable homes available for those making under \$45,000 has dropped since 2010, from 410,000 to 224,000 according to Colorado's Department of Local Affairs. Meanwhile, the number of available houses for those making \$75,000 or more has risen from 953,000 to nearly 1.5 million units.

"We have a program called REACH (Resources, Education, and Advocacy

for Children who are Homeless) which mainly supports those who are homeless, unaccompanied or in transitional housing situations, and REACH kind of opens a door to multiple resources in our community," said Mack when asked what resources there are for students who live in cost-burdened households. "As a school, we've really been focusing on making sure we can listen to every individual and make sure that individual students are taken care of and their needs are being met."

To contact REACH: (970) 254-5488

Art club

Grand Junction High School is home to some of the most talented

students in the valley, including a group of skilled artists. Grand Junction High School's Art Club has been a great way for students to express their creativity and explore new opportunities in their artistic career.

"The experiences we allow our members to have, from

work with design to field trips such as Artober fest," said GJHS senior Raine Foor, when asked about the most important aspects of Art Club.

Art Club meets every week on Wednesdays during lunch in Mr. Henry's room (705).

"It's going really well, and we currently have probably the largest number of members we ever have. This semester we've been doing a lot of design for clubs, we've designed logos as well as Art Club merch that is up on our RedBubble for people to order shirts or stickers. Within the next month or so we're planning on doing a mural for the new TigerTown store. We're also hoping on doing a trip next semester, whether it be in town or possibly Denver," said Henry.

by becca **nedohon**

pictures courtesy of art club students



Doran Kelsey (senior)



Raine Foor (senior)



Logan Stacy (senior)



Mayble Dean (freshman)



Abby Northfolk (senior)



Kennedy Wolfe (sophomore)
"Skarub"



Above: Items organized and displayed in the Tiger Boutique and Haberdashery for students in need.

The Tiger Boutique and Haberdashery is a charitable organization that has had a big impact on many different people at our school and community.

If you are ever in need of winter clothes, toiletries, school supplies or dressy clothes for dances, French teacher Jodee Cronk and her Agents of Change advisory have created the Tiger Boutique and Haberdashery. This advisory created this resource for students in 2018. It all started when the Agents of Change wanted to do a toiletries drive for the teens at the homeless shelter. The shelters were running low on toiletries, so their advisory put on a school wide toiletries drive.

“We ended up with way more than they can use and store at the shelter so we decided to keep some in my closet for students who needed them,” said Cronk.

From there on out they kept adding supplies to Mrs. Cronk’s little closet (comfort closet) and now it is this little room hidden in the back of the 800 building.

“It’s just an amazing project that we have thoroughly enjoyed as the class of 2022,” said senior Nina English, a member of Agents of change.

These students have been working really hard for 4 years with this boutique to make sure that people have access to everyday necessities. It was intentionally only for GJHS students then later on they opened it for the community and other schools.

“No questions asked, if they say they need something they

can,” said Cronk.

The boutique is now located in the 800 building at the end of the hallway by the restrooms. It is open every Wednesday and Thursday during study time and there will always be mentors there helping out or you can email the tiger boutique to set up an appointment. All the supplies come from donations from the community or shelters.

The boutique has had a huge impact on a wide range of people. Specifically those that struggle financially. Students from GJHS

tiger boutique

love going to get some cool items. They come to get clothing items or any necessities and things they need. Sheridan Percell is a freshman and likes to come during advisory study time to get some new items.

“Whenever my shoes get worn down, I come here and pick up a new pair of shoes,” said Percell.

“Maybe kids that have a hard time reaching out, they know that they can go to Mrs. Cronk or either one of us students to receive help,” said senior Chayton Moffitt, a member of agents of change.

If you have any clothes or stuff that you would like to donate to the tiger boutique and haberdashery or you would like to set up an appointment to go shop, email Mrs. Cronk at tigerboutique@d51schools.org or talk to Mrs. Cronk in room 116.

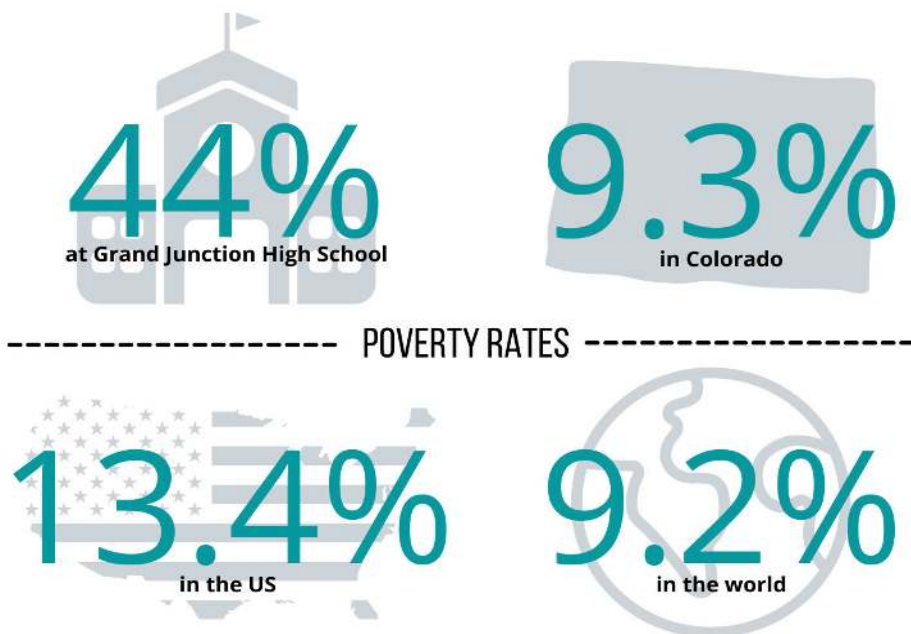
by alondra sanchez



Left and Above: Students browse through winter clothing at the Tiger Boutique and Haberdashery for the upcoming winter season.

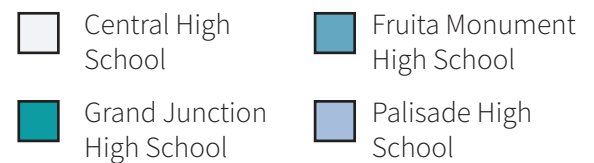
& haberdashery

Why is the boutique needed?

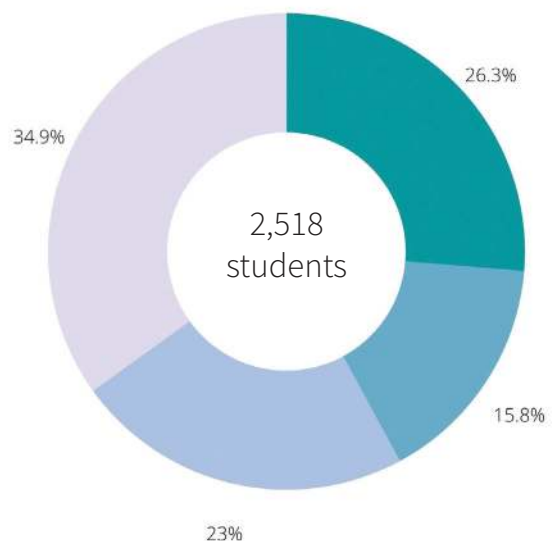


Note: a poverty rate is the percentage of people in comparison to the entire population who live below the poverty line

Sources: School District 51 Website, Colorado Census, World Vision, U.S. News, and Data USA



FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH AT HIGH SCHOOLS IN DISTRICT 51



Holiday Favorites *around* GJHS

Favorite Holiday Movie

Lori Jacobsen
(Library Secretary)

The Holiday
"It's fun and upbeat, I
watch it several times."

Kaidence Strippel
(Junior)
Edward Scissorhands
"It takes place during
christmas."

Favorite part about the Holidays

Kaidence Strippel
(Junior)
The weather and the
snow

Wesley Weaver
(Senior)
Getting to be with
family

Favorite Holiday drink/snack

Lori Jacobsen
Flavored hot cocoa
"Raspberry cocoa... it's
delicious."

Wesley Weaver
(Senior)
Popcorn and Hot
Cocoa
"Now you're talking."

Favorite Holiday Song

Jesse Ynojos
(Junior)
Let it Snow

Liam Pomrenke
(Junior)
Jingle Bells
"Because its classic
and catchy"

by abby price

SAT: Should Admissions Take it?

by danny duffy

Many colleges and universities have been dropping the requirement for applicants to submit SAT scores in recent years. This is partially due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as many people were unable to take the SAT. However, this is not truly making admissions become more fair and objective and should begin to be implemented into applications once again.

The SAT score should remain an important factor in applications because they serve as a reflection of a student's problem solving, knowledge, and potential to grow. Coelho-lopes Nainoa, a GJHS college advisor, says that it can be valuable for certain students who are trying to demonstrate their abilities and earn scholarships. He also believes that in certain situations, considering the SAT can encourage high achieving students to apply for your college because they are presented with an opportunity to make use of their impressive test scores.

The SAT is a good measure of problem solving and testing skills, which are crucial for successful students. A test that is taken in a single sitting is more representative of what a student knows, along with their ability to reason through scenarios in a limited amount of time. This is why final evaluations, such as AP exams, are also conducted in a test format rather than simply taking the grade from the overall class.

A standardized test is also consistent across the entire country. Each student is taking the same test which allows for direct comparison between scores to be completely objective.

Due to this objectivity, if two students have similar qualities and measurables in various areas that are considered by colleges, the SAT should be used to help determine who to admit.

Without SAT scores, many colleges often rely on Grade Point Average to make admissions decisions. This could end up eliminating students who have an extremely bright future because GPA is an average which is easily dragged down.

If a student has just one bad year and only manages to earn a 2.0 GPA, it becomes nearly impossible to recover even if the student does extremely well in later years. This punishes students who simply need time to grow and develop as learners.

GPA is also flawed because the level of difficulty to earn a 4.0 can greatly vary depending on the school or on the difficulty of the courses taken. Nainoa explained that a student who chooses to take only basic required classes will have a much easier time earning a 4.0 than a student who takes AP or honors courses, but the AP or honors student will likely be more knowledgeable despite potentially having a lower GPA.

Colleges that completely discard the SAT are missing out on admitting students who could be great candidates for their school. Instead they should take a balanced approach, considering many factors that could impact academics. Testing and problem solving potential are crucial factors that should continue to be part of the college admittance process.

GJHS office staff

The Grand Junction High School main office staff are getting students and teachers alike through the school year without a hitch

"We're considered support staff and I think we're just here to help students," said Karen Provenza, the Principal's Secretary.

The main office staff at GJHS takes care of a multitude of tasks including managing budgets, planning events, providing supplies to classrooms, and correctly filing student payments.

"For example, when football was happening, I paid all of their invoices for uniforms, just really anything that the sports or our teams [need] to order," said Yesica Olivas Bravo, the SBA Secretary.

Class fees are another item managed by the office staff since most classes have a fee that is paid by students or their families at the beginning of the year.

"That's actually how we are able to bring in money for our classes. I take in the payments from the students whether it be from a parent or from the student themselves to ensure that our class accounts have the money to... buy supplies or any items that they might need in their classrooms," said Bravo.

The main office staff, which also includes Kim Charlesworth and Susan Corbett, help provide peace of mind to students. Knowing that the school affairs are being coordinated and run by people who care about the school and are dedicated to their work is a relief to students.

"I really love working here. I started as the SBA secretary so... this is my 21st year [at GJHS]," said Provenza. "My kids went to school here [and] my husband coaches

here so we're just super involved in the school and enjoy all of the activities that come along with working here,"

Office staff at GJHS enjoy some of the benefits of working in a school. They actively participate in school activities and functions along with students and teachers.

"A couple years ago I went with Mr. Whiteford and Mr. Carris, on a trip to Vietnam, Cambodia, and Thailand. That was a super great opportunity and a wonderful experience traveling with the students and the teachers," said Provenza.

In addition to interacting with students during school events, the GJHS office staff also enjoys forming connections with students in everyday situations.

"My favorite part, I think, is interacting with all the students and just being here in the main office. I see a lot of people come and go and it's just nice to build relationships with our students, especially with our frequent comers," said Bravo.

The main office staff is making a difference at GJHS through their hard work, dedication, and love of the school and all of its students, teachers, and faculty.

"One person can make a difference. You know, everybody that works here, works together as a team. Each one of us has a role to fulfil and can make a difference," said Provenza.

"We can see faces but we don't know what [the student's] hearts are... You really are able to learn so much about them. And it's not that

you're judging them by looks or by the cover, but by just taking your time to learn more about your students it just really gives you a different perspective of our whole student body," said Bravo.



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-Bravo

Note: This story was contribute by Maddie Sites, a junior, who wanted experience with journalism.

graphics by abby price

simbang gabi

The Philippines

A predominantly Catholic country, the Philippines celebrate Simbang Gabi, a series of early morning masses on the nine days leading up to Christmas. It was originally to wake farmers for mass before they went to work in their fields, but now churches decorate their buildings with lights to welcome attendees. After the service where the nativity scene is displayed, people load up on hot pandesal (breakfast rolls), puto (rice cakes), and suman sa pasko (sticky rice with sugar and coconut in banana leaves), served by vendors parked outside the church. Simbang Gabi ends with a midnight mass on Dec. 24 to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Source: *Holidappy*

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Ethiopia

According to the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, Jesus was actually born on Jan. 7, and thus Christmas is celebrated on Jan. 7. When angels delivered the news of the birth of Jesus to the shepherds, Ethiopians believed they celebrated by hitting a ball around with sticks. This has morphed into a Christmas tradition called genna, where men and boys play a hockey-like game on Christmas day hitting a tree-root ball with sticks to hit it into the opposing team's goal.

Source: *Traditional Sports*

þrettán júlí sveinar

Iceland

Instead of one Santa Claus, Iceland folklore has 13 “yule lads” that visit children once per night in the 13 days leading up to Christmas. Children who were good received candy, while children who misbehaved ended up with a sack of rotten potatoes. These yule lads, unlike Santa however, are troublemakers. Each has their own personality such as stealing all the Icelandic yogurt or smoked meat. The stories were originally meant to scare children into good behavior, but in 1746 using the stories to torment were officially banned because it was so scary.

Christmas around the world



καραβάκι

Greece

In addition to decorating and lighting up a Christmas tree, in Greece it is customary to decorate your ship with lights, a tradition called Karavaki. If you don't have a ship, model ships are decorated and displayed in the windows of a house and/or carried by children when Christmas caroling. The decorated ships were meant to be an offering to St. Nicholas, given by wives and children, to bring the men home safely from their travels at sea. The tradition has since lost this significance, yet still does celebrate the ancient maritime tradition of Greece.

Source: Atlantic Yacht and Ship Inc.

round the
world

“I think people in general are fascinating, so when people do things differently its interesting just to see what they do,”
- Mr. Carris, social studies teacher

winter solstice

England

Christmas is not the only significant celebration observed by the English. In fact, long before Christmas became a holiday, neolithic peoples marked the winter solstice through a well-known landmark: Stonehenge. The winter solstice has always been a significant event for many religions and groups of people, and there is no better place to observe the day of the winter solstice than where the rays shine directly into the heart of Stonehenge. Today, it has become a monumental event for tourists, wiccans, witches, locals, Hare Krishnas, astronomers, etc.

Source: EarthSky.org

Kiln Coffee

story and photo by abby **price** graphic by alondra **sanchez**

Kiln Coffee Bar is a popular downtown coffee shop with a connection to GJHS.

Located on Main Street by Dream Cafe, Kiln has a modern, bright, and clean interior but is coffee-shop-cozy at the same time. It offers a relaxing and positive environment with comfy sofas in the corner, as well as books and games to play with friends. Kiln is owned by David Foster and his twin brother Jonathan Foster. Meghan Foster, a math teacher here at GJHS, is married to David Foster.

"We're all family so we kind of own it together," said Meghan Foster.

Kiln has been open since May 27, 2017. David and Jonathan had wanted to own a coffee shop together since they were in high school. Both worked as baristas for a while until the opportunity came for them to open up their own coffee shop and they jumped on it.

"Both David and I have worked in the coffee industry for several years in various different companies and approaches so we kind of got to experience what we like," said Jonathan Foster.

Kiln got its name from the idea of community and bringing people together. David and Jonathan picked through many names before they chose Kiln, most of them were taken. Then one of David and Jonathan's friends came up with the name Kiln and it happened to be exactly what they were looking for.



“The idea behind it is pottery is refined by a Kiln, we believe that we can be refined by one another through conversation and interacting with one another and what better way to do that than over a cup of coffee” - *Jonathan Foster*



Owning a business creates a lot of challenges. It takes a lot of time to run it, but you also have to face any problems that come your way head on. Broken machinery, disputes between employees or customers, etc.

"The most important thing to us when we do encounter those challenges is reflecting back on what our identity is and that allows us to figure out how we're going to approach those challenges," said Jonathan Foster.

Kiln was not immune to the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many local shops were not able to stay open during quarantine and some were forced to close permanently. Kiln was able to stay open with help from the community.

"Covid was scary...we were super blessed by the community banding around us, rallying and supporting us...but that was stressful because you didn't know what tomorrow would look like. If you would be able to stay open or not," said Meghan Foster.

Kiln has a wide variety of drinks and flavours to choose from. All syrups are homemade, including seasonal flavours. Peppermint is the winter season flavour through the new year.

Morgan Carter is a junior at GJHS. She has been going to Kiln since it opened and she loves it. She likes to visit Kiln to relax and enjoy the positive environment.

"My favorite drink at Kiln Coffee is the iced hazelnut latte," said Carter.

One of Kiln's main priorities is making sure their employees are happy and that they work in a positive environment. The owners go to extra lengths to make sure employees have enough time with their families around the holidays.

"On Christmas Eve my husband and I work together so we can give our staff the day off," said Meghan Foster.

Kiln Coffee is open monday- friday from 7am-6pm and saturday-sunday from 8am-4pm.

Eat, Sleep, March

Vivika Ortiz's journey to becoming the GJHS Marching Band Drum Major

story by riley **pope** photos by alondra **sanchez**

Being the marching band drum major is no easy job but senior Vivika Ortiz did an exceptional job for the 2021-2022 season. Ortiz stood out as drum major this year when she wore a long black dress and white gloves. The last time a drum major has strayed from the typical marching uniform was in 2016.

"I thought [the dress] was a fit towards the show and so I asked [Isaac Lavadie, marching band advisor] and I was allowed to wear the dress," Ortiz said. Ortiz's dress not only fit the show but sparked very positive reactions from the students and staff as GJHS.

Ortiz started playing the flute in middle school after her mom convinced her to join band. After the passing of her 7th grade band teacher, Mr. Lavadie took West Middle School's band program under his wing.

"[Mr. Lavadie] taught us [band students] the ways and that was something I really needed to keep me locked in [to band]," Ortiz said.

Freshman year, Ortiz marched flute then decided to march piccolo her sophomore and junior year, shaping her career for senior year as drum major. Ortiz interviewed and auditioned for this position. The questions in this process were based off leadership and handling pressure as conducting the entire marching band is not an easy job. Being the drum major comes with lots of responsibilities and dedication.

"She was definitely the most qualified," said Lavadie. Lavadie believes Ortiz's strongest character trait is being able to tell you exactly what she's thinking.

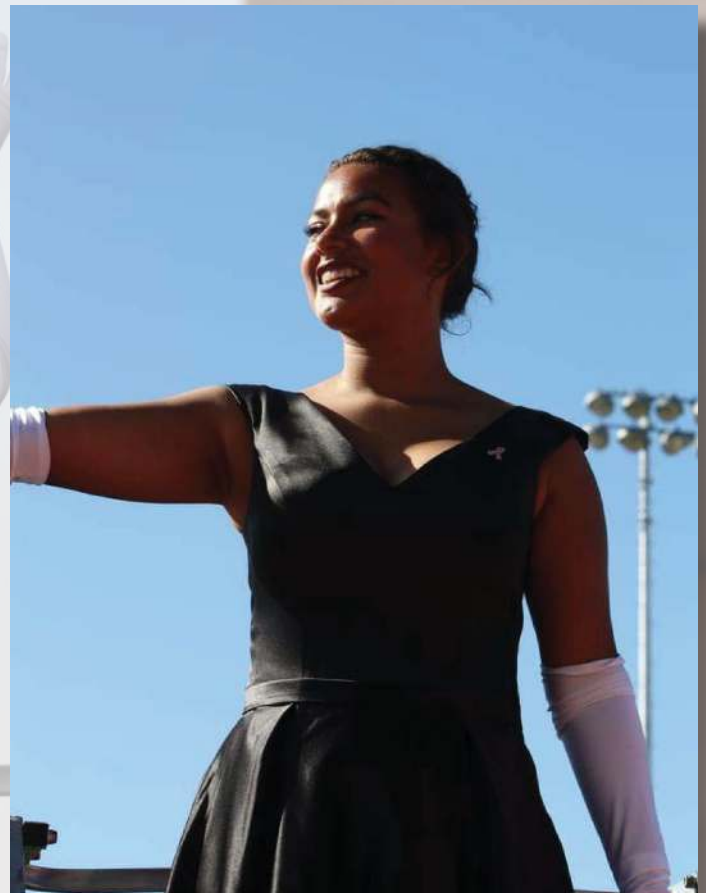
"You know exactly where you stand with her and to have that courage, to be able to tell your classmates exactly where you're at and not beat around the bush or be two faced about things at that age is a very strong character trait as far as I'm concerned," said Lavadie.

Ortiz is in charge of conducting the entire marching band however, conducting isn't the only responsibility Ortiz has as drum major. In her leadership position, Ortiz finds the hardest part of the job is finding solutions to every problem. But the solution to many problems are based off S.O.U.L., an acronym used by the GJHS marching band. S.O.U.L. stands for selflessness, ownership, unity and larger purpose. Ortiz embodies all these qualities which make an ideal marching band member.

Ortiz's favorite memory of marching band this year was band camp. She said the freshmen were so reserved and the rest of the band had to work on getting them out of their shells.

"Now everyone has made such great connections, we don't have little cliques in the band, we are one whole group," said Ortiz.

The 2021-2022 school year marching band season ended Oct. 29 when they performed their final show at the state competition.



"It didn't end how we wanted it to, scoring was a little unfair [at state] but it was really great seeing everyone evolving from where they started," Ortiz said. Many members in the marching band have grown into stronger musicians from where they first started to now.

Mr. Lavadie was really impressed with Ortiz's performance as drum major this year.

"It was just survival mode [after the COVID season last year] so for her to be able to come in after probably our hardest season and then do what she was able to do, she did a great job," said Lavadie.

Rolling into the season

graphics by abby **price**
story and picture by danny **duffy**

Bowling has been a popular American pastime since the 1950s, and the Grand Junction High School bowling team is one of the lesser known sports teams at school, but they are keeping the tradition alive. It is a great sport that anyone can get involved in for any reason. They meet twice a week: Mondays for practice and Thursdays for tournaments where they compete with bowlers from all across the Grand Valley.

"It is always super fun to be able to bowl against kids I have known for years that go to different schools and have that level of competition between us," said junior Justin Daly.

Like every other sport, it is a competition that can be taken very seriously for some. Daly has been bowling for 7 years and does everything he can to get better on a daily basis. For him, and many others, winning as much as possible is extremely important.

Due to this competition, the GJHS bowling team has been seeing significant improvement and success. For example, Alex Martinez, a freshman on the team, recently bowled a perfect score of 300. Even though it was achieved during practice, this is still among the most impressive feats a bowler can achieve. In order to score 300, a player must bowl 12 strikes in a row. Like a hole in one in golf, it is impossible for even a professional to perform better in a given game. This demonstrates Martinez's potential to become extremely competitive and successful with bowling in the future. If he, along with other members of the team

continue to improve throughout their high school career, the GJHS bowling team could become a powerhouse in the future.

Despite this high level of competition, Daly also stressed that newcomers are always welcome to the team. Anyone can join simply for the opportunity to pick up a new hobby and have fun with it.

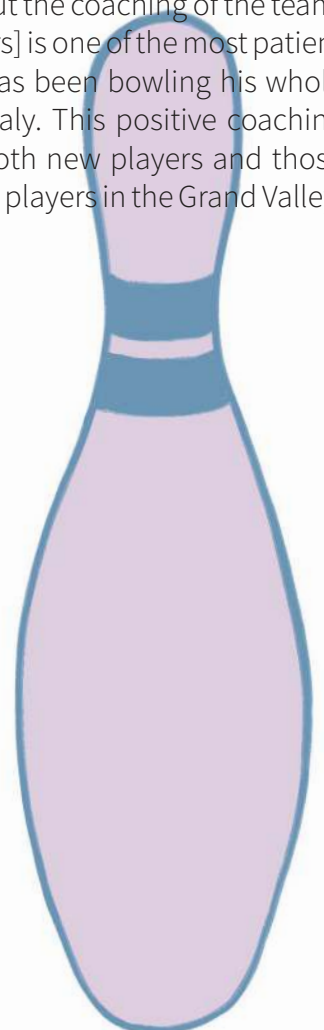
"Just try and have fun. Don't try to get too competitive with it too quickly," said Daly.

"It is really fun to just go bowling with your friends," said Sailer Warinner, a senior on the bowling team, when discussing how bowling is more of a social event for her rather than an extremely serious competition.

The members of the team all get closer over the course of the season and look forward to spending time together at practices and tournaments. They all support each other inside and outside of bowling. "Everyone just hypes everyone else up and it is a very positive environment," says Warner.

Good coaching and leadership can make a huge difference in a new member of a team enjoying their experience. Daly also had great things to say about the coaching of the team.

"[The head coach, Shane Elhers] is one of the most patient people I have ever met ... he has been bowling his whole life and is a great man," said Daly. This positive coaching environment is beneficial for both new players and those trying to become one of the best players in the Grand Valley.



Feeling the freeze

story and picture by ashley guddat

Once COVID-19 hit in March of 2020, the Glacier Ice rink on Riverside Parkway, closed. Although Grand Junction is not a center for winter sports such as hockey or figure skating, the rink closure had a significant impact on many people who enjoy a fun form of exercise, or who are invested in such winter sports.

For Jacob Carmichael, a sophomore at GJHS, the closing of the rink in Grand Junction, meant a sunset on a family tradition. Carmichael's father grew up in Canada where hockey was a major part of his life. He then transferred this love to his sons Trevor, Brayden, and eventually Jacob himself.

"[I love] just the speed of the game," said Carmichael. When the rink was shut down during COVID, however, Carmichael had a hard time finding places to get out on the ice. Carmichael has been on a team for six years, through the Glacier Ice rink. Once the rink closed, his family made the trip to Glenwood – an hour and a half drive each way – the nearest ice to Grand Junction, almost twice a week.

Walter Fox, a GJHS special education teacher, also had to commute to Glenwood Springs once the rink closed. He has been playing roller hockey and ice hockey for around 10 years and has since taken up coaching young hockey players at Glacier Ice Rink.

"I started as an assistant, then I became a head coach, and then I was actually directing the program last couple of years and it's been on a good basis," said Fox.

The Glacier Ice rink has been re-opened as part of the River City Sportsplex as of October 8, 2021. Being such a new venue already part-way into the season, there are not enough 16 and 17 year-olds to form a complete hockey team this year. Carmichael, however, does not let that fact deter him from pursuing what he loves.

The River City Sportsplex offers Stick and Puck sessions which are basically free skate sessions specifically for hockey players looking to practice skills and have a little fun. Carmichael has already been to a few even though the rink

has only been open for a

"Since the rink has had to start over, but we youth program," said Fox. Fox in membership to the publicity reopening. Although they have many of the players have lost year period where they had and thus Fox is focusing on for next year.

"I want to get a high in the next couple of like a Grand team or

little over a month.

re-opened, we've kind have 63 kids in the attributes this growth the rink got since its grown in numbers, skills during the two-no place to practice, rebuilding the team

school team together years, whether that's Junction High School its all four high schools playing together," said Fox.

Carmichael has been making the best of the situation by practicing whenever and wherever he can until an official team can form since Carmichael plans to play hockey in college.

"My brother already plays in Vancouver, I can't let him show me up," said Carmichael.

The River City Sportsplex is in the same location as Glacier Ice rink was – 2515 Riverside Pkwy, Grand Junction, CO 81501. They

are open from 9 AM to 11 PM on Tuesdays through Thursdays, from 9 AM to 8:30 PM on Mondays, and from 7:30 AM to 10:00 PM on Saturdays and Sundays. In the future, according to Fox, the rink hopes to expand its facilities to include batting cages, volleyball courts, etc, to become a true "sportsplex." As of now, they offer lessons in figure skating and hockey, as well as recreational leagues. They also host a free skate time where anyone can enjoy some time on the ice.



Girls Basketball

story by riley **pope**

pictures and graphic by alondra **sanchez**

2021-2022 Roster:

Varsity:

Riley Applegate - Jr.
Sada Bond - Sr.
Brooklyn Carver - Jr.
Kiah Dottson - Sr.
Annie Feather - Jr.
Nikki Maas - Jr.
Taylor Milam - Jr.
Teagan Wilkins - Jr.

Varsity Swingers:

Katelehn Abbath - Soph.
Trinity Burkepile - Soph.
Jaelyn Hanson - Soph.
Jordan Queen - Soph.
Jordyn Wrich - Soph.
Stephanie Vargas-Herrera - Jr.

Junior Varsity:

Katelehn Abbath - Soph.
Trinity Burkepile - Soph.
Kayla Gonzalas - Jr.
Jaelyn Hanson - Soph.
Stephanie Vargas-Herrera - Jr.
Caydence Lusher - Soph.
Jordan Queen - Soph.
Kayle Wagner - Jr.
Jordyn Wrich - Soph.

JV Swingers:

Maycie Child - Fresh.
Miah Hines - Soph.
Jada Renova - Soph.

The Grand Junction High School Girls Basketball team is starting fresh this year after losing eight varsity players who graduated in the class of 2021. Junior, Riley Applegate, and senior, Kiah Dottson are the only returning varsity players for the tigers. Under the coaching of Sam Provenza, this team is ready to take on the 2021-2022 season.

"I feel like this year should be more of a bonding year because it's the first time some of us have gotten to play with each other," said Applegate. Applegate looks forward to playing with her friends after playing varsity with all the 2021 graduates. Most of the team is coming from junior varsity so they are going to get a real "cultural awakening" when their season starts on the varsity team. Applegate plays post for the tigers hoping to put points on the scoreboard. As post player, Applegate uses her body to get in position to score.

This team is facing a tough season but they seem to be up to the challenge as many girls put in the work during pre-season practices. These girls have already completed tryouts and are continuing to put in the hard work to start their season. They had their first game on November 30th against Battle Mountain.

Dottson, alike Applegate is worried about this upcoming season due to the team being so young.

"It's not about winning games, it's about having fun," said Dottson. Dottson plays point guard for the tigers. Dottson is a leader on the court when she gets to call plays and bring the ball down the court.

"I'm most excited to get a lot of playing time and just have a fun senior season," said Dottson.

Even though this season might not have the winning outcomes, these girls will bond and unite as a team.



GJHS sports managers

story by maddie **sites**
pictures by alondra **sanchez**

GJHS sports are closely followed by students and staff alike. Less widely recognised however, are the team managers who make sure everything runs smoothly and according to plan.

"I think it's just given me something good to do," said Katelyn Peterson, junior, one of the football team's managers.

Sports team managers have numerous duties. Sometimes they work directly with the team, helping with drills or working on skills with the team members one on one. Other times, team managers work behind the scenes, setting up equipment, getting water, or keeping in contact with the GJHS athletic trainer, who provides first aid for athletic injuries.

Katelyn Peterson, junior, one of the football managers



"I got their water, I sometimes kept score, and during practice I would do some drills with them or I would feed the balls," said Natalie Hanks, senior, a manager for the boys tennis season.

But that's not all that the team managers do. One of their most important jobs is to support their team both on and off the court.

I wanted to be there to support the people that did [make the team] because I love the sport and no matter what, I would do my best to be there to support them," said Petra Salazar, sophomore, one of the girl's volleyball team managers.

Keeping team morale up is essential to a healthy team dynamic. Maintaining a positive mindset, especially if a season is not yielding as high scores or as many wins as hoped for by students, athletes, coaches, and staff alike, can be tricky, which is where team managers excel.

Natalie Hanks, senior, a manager for boys tennis



"It's kinda nice to have more people to watch, partly because not that many people come to watch tennis matches, so it's kind of nice to have people there that you know and are (...) moral support," said Evan Severs, sophomore, varsity tennis player.

The team managers at GJHS have different reasons for becoming a manager. In some cases, such as Theresa Crosslin, junior, a manager for the baseball team, becoming a manager was driven by teacher recommendation. In other cases, such as Salazar's, companionship was the driving factor. Still for others, the choice to manage was driven by the love of their sport.

"I wanted to play football, but I wasn't allowed to, so I [managed] so I could go to the games and watch the practice. So I could be a part of the team without... playing," said Peterson.

Petra Salazar, sophomore, one of the girl's volleyball team managers



For team managers, being part of the team means collaborating and getting along well with the players. Without a friendly relationship, team managers are made less effective in their efforts to help their team.

"[The relationship is] friendly and fun. There's just a lot of joking around," said Severs.

For many of the team managers at GJHS, managing has created a life-long love of sports and a healthy team environment. It has helped shape many of the managers into involved and driven individuals.

"I still continue to be there to support the team even though I wasn't [playing]. I was still there to support them and I'm going to do it again... When you love something, continue working for it, don't just leave it there and give up," said Salazar.

Theresa Crosslin, junior, team manager for the baseball team





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