



Colorado Student Media Association

Best of Colorado

Our annual individual competition to honor excellence in print, online and broadcast journalism

Ryan Fincher

Rock Canyon High School

Honorable Mention

Editorial Cartoon

Newspaper Class III - 1700+ / Best of Colorado 2018

The CSMA Best of Colorado awards began in 2011, and news and video entries must have been published or broadcast by the April submission deadline. Yearbook entries must be published in the current year's book.

Jack Kennedy
Jack Kennedy, MJE
Executive Director, CSMA

Annie Gorenstein-Falkenberg
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President, CSMA

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Taylor Swift Reputation Review

Opinion

By: Alex Shaffer

It's no secret that Taylor Swift had a rough go around with the media over the last two years. It wasn't much of a surprise that Swift's sixth studio album would be a glorious showdown of her side of the story on reputation.

Reputation sold 1.05 million copies within the first four days of its release. The last album to sell this many copies in a week was Adele's 25. On the album Swift talks about her meticulous relationships that never seem to last.

In my opinion this is the best Swift album yet. She always seems to know how to captivate her audience with every song. The 1989 album did this and reputation is doing just the same.

The album starts off with 'Ready For It?'. This is an extremely intelligent choice by Swift. Not only does the song seem to prepare you for the album, but it is such a powerful song that it gives the listener high hopes for the album. The next song features two unlikely cameos. With both Future and Ed Sheeran on the same song with Taylor Swift 'End Game' is really the end game for ultimate collaborations. The song is about Taylor Swift's big reputation and how the world perceives her. It seems to create the foundation for most everything Swift needs to say about her media troubles. 'I Did Something Bad' is the next song and it is my favorite song. It seemingly talks about how Swift felt about everyone telling her she was wrong and, how she ultimately persevered and didn't care what the haters say. The next song is a classic Swift love song. 'Don't Blame Me' is all about how love should make you crazy, "don't blame me love made me crazy if it doesn't you ain't doin' it right." However, in this song, Swift doesn't seem to be talking about a breakup, but a forbidden or not yet fulfilled love, as she does in another of my favorite songs, 'Dress'. 'Dress' is a more sexualized song and something that Swift yet to do with her young audience now appealing to an older audience and audience that has grown up with her. Swift now sings more mature content. 'Delicate' follows 'Don't Blame Me' and it's not the most delicate song, but it's definitely catchy. I really like it, but I wouldn't say it's a song you throw on repeat. It's more of a song you throw in the mix to breakup a playlist. Next is the most infamous and controversial song of the album. 'Look What You Made Me Do' is seemingly all about how Swift is jumping off the deep end and really trashes everyone who has done her wrong she sets the story straight. The music video for the song seems to talk about the 'KimYe' (Kim and Kanye West) situation and how she was called a snake and, how she had given Kanye permission to write what he did in his song 'Famous'. At the end of the extremely catchy tune she shows a scene in the video where all of her past selves are arguing with each other and the famous Kanye stealing the microphone moment is addressed with Swift asking to be 'excluded from this narrative' as she did on stage. I am going to quickly go over 'So It Goes', 'King of My Heart', and 'Dancing With Our Hands Tied' as they are all beautiful songs I just don't favor listening to them. They're all love songs and are a bit slower than the rest of the album. Both 'Gorgeous' and 'Getaway Car' are amazing songs that I like. They both show a new yet familiar side of Swift's music and I think it's definitely a style we can all gladly get used to. Now one of the best songs on the album simply because it is so funny is 'This Is Why We Can't Have Nice Things'. It's all about her extravagant life and how one person made it crumble. Who this song is about is unknown, but it's guaranteed to get a few laughs out as you listen. It is actually one of my favorite songs from the album. After that is another good song, 'Call It What You Want', it's not my favorite, but I definitely listen to it nonstop. Following that is probably the most sensual song on the album and that is only because the first time I heard this song Swift was performing on the Late Night Show with Jimmy Fallon and he had talked about his mother dying and squeezing his hand three times and one of the lyrics in 'New Year's Day' is 'squeeze my hand three times in the back of the taxi, I can tell it's gonna be a long road' this made the already sad and beautiful song better.

This is personally one of the best albums I've ever listened to. It has a song for everyone, and is an amazing combination of witty lyrics and revolutionary music. I would rate this album 8/10. I really like Swift's music and this new album does not disappoint.



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Critical Review

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Alex Shaffer Honorable Mention Critical Review

Program Benefits:

Since that time, the program has continued to grow and evolve. Even with the retirement of Piccone and the new leadership of Chapman, the program plans for little change.

"Chief Piccone did an awesome job," Chapman said. "He's a very smart individual that started this program to let me keep it pretty much like he had it."

Indeed, Chapman sees little need to alter a program that is already functioning to help students prepare for their futures. According to Chapman, the program is important in giving students a head-start when it comes to finding positions in public service.

"It is hard to get hired in the fire service. It takes a lot of time," Chapman said. "For me, for example, when I was going to be a firefighter, it took me three years to get hired by a fire department, which is actually pretty quick. It's usually longer than that."

The head of the program also cites an increased level of life safety as a reason for taking the course.

"They [students] learn how to use tools for how to escape out of situations. Say if their house burned or caught on fire, they know how to help themselves get out of the situation," Chapman said.

Personal Growth: Though students recognize these general benefits offered by the Fire Science Program, students such as Lander Robinson "fit" motivated for different reasons.

"My grandpa was a firefighter at DIA for a

long time and I just love the community and being around it and all the stuff they get to do to help people," Robinson said.

A strong sense of community lies at the heart of the program. However, the course is not all fun and games.

"You have to be willing to put in the work. It's a lot of physical work as well as a lot of book work but everything we do here is for a purpose," Robinson said. "You're not just doing anything random, so it's all worth it."

Neither of these core beliefs can stand alone, however. Work ethic must combine with community mentality in order to help fire science students find success in their drills.

"They have to be able to work as a team, just like a real fire department would have to," Chapman said.

Ultimately, this practice prepares fire science students for a partnership with Lufkin Fire Department during which students perform search and rescue, practice forcible entry, and spray the hose at the department's tower.

"It kind of shows us what firefighting is really like and if we're really up to it," Aiden Crockett '23 said.

These tools are most applicable to high school students desiring to pursue careers as firefighters. However, the program proves practical for all students.

"Even if I don't stick with fire science as a career, it's definitely a lot of the skills," Robinson said. "You're learning to work with

people and to work in a stressful situation and keep your cool. Learning all these physical skills will be a good foundation for anything I want to get into, period."

Recently Involved: So how can students become involved in the fire science program?

First, a student considering becoming a member must check with their counselor to be sure that all of their credits are in line as the program occupies three class periods each semester.

The three courses that must be completed in order include: Fire Science/Principles of Emergency Service, CPR, and First Responder. The classes provide students with a practical arts credit, a PE credit, and a science credit.

Additionally, as the Fire Science program is one of the CTE programs offered by Douglas County School District, students will receive 9 hours of college through Red Rocks Community College.

Once a junior or senior student has met the credit requirements, they can submit an application found through the CTE page on the Rock Canyon website. From this point, Chapman reviews the applications before the students meet with the head of the program for an interview.

Though the program counts towards both high school and college credit, students interested in becoming a part of the Fire Science Program sign up for more than a class. Instead, they become a key player in a family of hard-working individuals.

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Fire Science students wait in line to complete drills outside the school during Access, Oct. 16.



Members of the Fire Science Program park the program's fire truck near the baseball field, Oct. 16. The truck and equipment was secured by Chief George Piccone in 2011 for the development of skills necessary for students seeking to pursue careers in firefighting.

Fire Science students practice drills in pairs as they sit ladders onto the shed outside the school, Oct. 16.



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Makenna Allen & Olivia Allen

Rock Canyon High School

Honorable Mention

News-Feature

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Makenna & Olivia Allen Honorable Mention News Feature

STEPPING UP IN SPORTS

Fall sports are in full swing. Here's a look at the records of our boys soccer and tennis teams along with that of our cross country team.

By Makenna Allen & Alec Sutula

Soccer season kicks in as the varsity team continues its season with a record of 4-3-3. The boys hold victories over Outfield High School, Rocky Mountain High School, Heritage High School, and ThunderRidge High School. Additionally, the Jaguars tied Cherokee Trail High School, Far North East High School, and Ponderosa High School while losing to Legend High School, Pine Creek High School, and Mountain Vista High School. Following the graduation of 11 seniors who contributed to the varsity team last year, the soccer team works hard to incorporate its new members.

"Our main goal this year is to win league again," Thomas Kerker '18 said. "Rock Canyon won the Continental League last year and we want to once again prove that we are the team to beat in our league this season."

The team's next game will take place against Chaparral, Tues. Oct. 3.



Boys' varsity soccer players dribble down the field during a game against Far North East High School, Aug. 31. The boys came away with a 1-1 tie after losing the game into double overtime on Black Canyon turf.

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The cross country season is underway for both girls and boys. The team found success at the Arapahoe Invite as the boys' varsity team finished in first place and the girls' varsity team took home third. The boys made school history at the Liberty Bell meet when the team beat Mountain Vista High School by two points. Simultaneously, the girls placed third.

"The season so far is going really well with many podium finishes for both the boys and girls teams," AJ Bishop '18 said. "We've reached entirely new levels of motivation, teamwork, and grit to get where we are and where we hope to go."

Both the boys and girls teams will compete against Englewood High School, Sat. Oct. 7.

RUNNING THE RACE: CROSS COUNTRY



Members of the boys' varsity cross country team compete in the Rock Canyon Invitational, Sept. 16. Both the girls' and boys' teams placed fourth in the meet.

TRAINING FOR TENNIS

Boys tennis players are swinging into the fall season and the varsity team holds a winning record of 6-4. Many players graduated last year and as a result, one of the team's goals is to become united. "As a team, we need to improve our team spirit and determination to help one another. If we do this, we can count on each other to support each other when nobody else will," William Kong '18 said.

The team's next match is scheduled to take place Wed. Oct. 4.



Patrick Woodrow '18 warms up during practice, Sept. 13. The team prepares for their upcoming match against ThunderRidge, Sept. 26.

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Makenna Allen & Alec Sutula

Rock Canyon High School

3rd Place

In-Depth Sports Coverage

Newspaper Class III - 1700+ / Best of Colorado 2018

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Makenna Allen & Alec Sutula 3rd Place In-Depth Sports Coverage

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

by Amanda Brauchler

The state of our state impacts all Coloradans. Here's a quick look at what politics is like around Colorado.

DCSD SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

BIG CHANGES AHEAD FOR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Douglas County School Board Elections are Nov. 7, and some students can vote this year. The elections are being watched nationwide because of issues like vouchers. Read here for candidate information.

MEET THE SLATES



DREAM TEAM

Chris Ciancio-Schor
Anthony Graziano
Krista Holtzmann
Kevin Leung

Learn more about these candidates by visiting: douglascountyparents.com



ELEVATE DC

Randy Mills
Ryan Albrecht
Grant Nelson
Debra Scheffel

Learn more about these candidates by visiting: elevatedouglascounty.com



EARLY BIRD GETS THE WORM?

The 2018 Governor's race has already started, but why so early?

While the next gubernatorial race is not until Nov. of 2018, candidates have been announcing since April. The main reasons for this are name recognition and fundraising.

One of the first to announce was 18th Judicial District Attorney, George Brauchler, in April at the beginning of the fundraising quarter. After, six more candidates for the Republican party announced.

One possible problem this could pose for Republicans is it will make the primary election more difficult, which would lead to more spending before the general election in November. This could drain candidates' resources and funding.

MEET THE CANDIDATES



Steve Barlock
barlockforgovernor.com

George Brauchler
george2018.com

Lew Gaiter
lewgaiter.com

Greg Lopez
lopezforgovernor.com

Victor Mitchell
vic4gov.com

Doug Robinson
dougforcolorado.com

Walker Stapleton
stapletonforcolorado.com



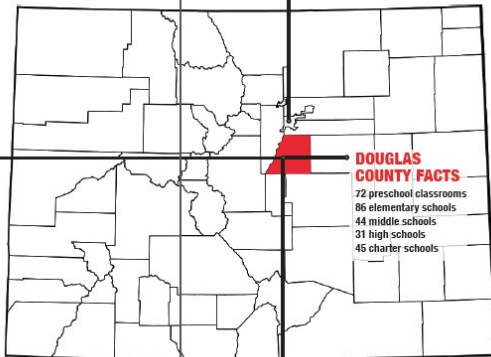
Noel Ginsburg
noelforcolorado.com

Mike Johnston
mikejohnstonforcolorado.com

Cary Kennedy
carykennedyforgovernor.com

Donna Lynne
lynneforcolorado.com

Jared Polis
polis.house.gov



DOUGLAS COUNTY FACTS

72 preschool classrooms
86 elementary schools
44 middle schools
31 high schools
46 charter schools

TALK TO THE ROCK

"I'm registered to vote. I'm planning to vote since I believe local politics are where you can have the most beneficial impact. I inform myself by going to [a candidate's] website."

Sam Ware '18

"If the right people get elected, it could give my family more money, better the education of all the students, and create a better place. The Dream Team are the good guys."

Blake Burnham '21

"I was driving to school, when I passed Rocky Heights there was a group promoting the candidates for the school board that they supported. They looked really cold, but they looked really excited."

Brittney Hutchison '19

JUSTICE WAS SERVED

Oct. 17, the members of the Colorado Supreme Court met at Mountain Vista High School. The event was part of their "Courts in the Community" that they do every year at two schools in Colorado. The Justices tried (real) cases in front of the audience of students and faculty. The cases were Love v. Klosky/Bishop and People v. Greigo.

POLITICS VOCABULARY

Gubernatorial having to do with the governor.

Primary Election typically an election inside one party to pick a nominee for the general election. Colorado now allows independent voters to participate in a party's primary election.

General Election the election between both parties' nominees; it is the deciding election.



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Amanda Brauchler

Rock Canyon High School

3rd Place

Alternative Coverage Treatment

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Amanda Brauchler

3rd Place

Alternative Coverage Treatment

You're Not Alone

"It can be hard
It can be so hard
But you gotta live right now
You got everything to give right
now," rapper Logic said.

1(800)273-8255

By: Alex Shaffer & Sam Keer

"Bu"
August 23, 2017
Photo by: Maddie Provost

3rd Place Winner
of Balfour Great Shot Contest
Creative Lighting Category

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"That's the thing you can't
always tell if someone's
for real," Melissa Fitzpatrick
25 said.

One of the most poignant things
in the U.S. isn't violent about, and
needs to be. American Foundation
for Suicide Prevention stated that
suicide is the 10th leading cause
of death in the United States. Each
year around 44,150 Americans
die due to suicide. According to
the Center for Disease Control, twenty
percent of teens will experience
depression before the age of
eighteen. Depression also increases
the risk of teenage suicide twelve
times more than a teenage not
suffering from depression.

"I couldn't get very real that
people feel like that as the only
option," Andrew Arnes 26 said.
"There are plenty of people to talk
to about that parents, friends, and
counselors. We use depression to go
down a road that had that they feel
the need to take their own life."

According to the Colorado Health
Institute, in 2012, UNH Colorado
researched suicide. That number
has increased by seventy-one
percent since 2000, yet we continue
to avoid talking about it.

With so many teens going
through depression the odds that
you or someone you know is going
through depression is likely. If you
know one of these people let them
know that you are here for them.
Everyone needs to know someone
is there for them.

Yolene Thomas's story
For three years I struggled through
suicide depression. "Yolene
Thomas 25 said. "I began in 7th
grade when my friend group
switched. All of the beautiful people
between the girls that grew up in
the past and looked down at me for
getting into the end of 7th grade.
I changed my friend group that
summer and since then I haven't
been myself or even been so sad as I
was during the time." Thomas said.

Only half of Americans receive
treatment for depression according
to American Psychiatric Association
Education. Everywhere around US
Americans come suicide. In the
world there is one death by suicide
approximately 40 seconds. The
American Foundation for Suicide
Prevention stated that 94,000
people visit a hospital for suicide
due to self-harm each year.

Things only get worse and escalated
to the point of me attempting to take
my own life twice. All of my friends
found out about my uncontrolled
struggles and proceeded to tell me
about "counselors." Thomas said. "The
rest of the school year, I went to
therapy and even though at the time
I found it stupid and mind numbing,
looking back on it now, it was very
helpful. After a couple of months
I was able to communicate my
parents, and my therapist that I was
fine and I was for about a month.
School started up a month later and
my friend group had not changed.
If anything I had gotten worse. I
continued to suffer for two more
years until the end of 9th grade.
I changed my friend group that
summer and since then I haven't
been myself or even been so sad as I
was during the time." Thomas said.

Myself Fitzpatrick's story
"I've always been a very emotional
person. I was bullied all throughout
elementary and middle school."
Melissa Fitzpatrick 25 said.
"Everything from my weight to my
sensitivity and even my color were
inspired for the bullies to middle
school. I had a lot of self-harm
issues because of my weight and
in 10th grade I got my first eating
disorder. Along with all of that I
struggled to self-harm. I started with
small cuts and small scars but... It
escalated out of control by 10th grade.
I had very few friends and I felt like
it would have been bad to tell them
that I was having so hard. I was so
young I didn't quite understand
why I was having these issues or
why I was being targeted. By 10th
grade I had pushed all my friends
away so they had no idea and I
felt so isolated that I just wanted
things to end. I tried to continue
middle school until that year. My
parents found out about all of my
issues that spring when I told them
about my first dose of Risperidone.
The doctors that year of 10th grade
(Huggett) I had been wanting long
because for months trying to help
how bad my issues were. I had one
100 dose just on that episode at

one point. Ten left with more all over
my wrist and thighs and hips that
remind me every day that life can't
get worse than what it was then. My
parents ended up taking me to the
doctor the next week and in was
diagnosed everything. I was put on
medicinal weed and I was diagnosed
with severe anxiety disorder and
severe depression disorder. It gave
a name to feelings I had had for 6-
years. I still struggle with both of
these things but I've learned ways
to cope with the feelings and I have
reconnected myself with people
who love and care about me. I still
have times where I question if it's
worth it or if I can make it, but after
experiencing living one of my best
friends in suicide and seeing how
it affects not only her but everyone
else around her it makes me think
more carefully about my choices
and how I would affect others. I
think about everything that I want
to do and what I feel my friends
through this, I remember distinctly
how I used to feel about me trying to
end myself and how trying to end
I remember how knowing one of
my friends who I was I didn't
try to tell her "Why was I pushing
her away?" That hurt me really bad

If you or a friend are going
through depression or are
having suicidal thoughts, talk to
someone. Whether it's a teacher,
a counselor, a peer-counselor,
a friend, or call The National
Suicide Prevention hotline:
1(800)273-8255
Anytime day or night there will
be someone there to talk to you.
You are not alone.



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Alex Shaffer & Sam Keer
Rock Canyon High School
2nd Place
Lifestyle News Feature

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Alex Shaffer & Sam Keer
2nd Place
Lifestyle News Feature

Last Season STATS			
16-8	5-5	.360	13
overall record	league record	batting average	home runs

Making Changes

It's a time of transition for the baseball program as newly hired Coach Garrett Duman prepares to put his spin on everything from warm-ups to relationships.

By: Makenna Allen & Alec Sutula

Crack!
The sound of the tightly stretched leather as it strikes metal rings through the air. The baseball sears and the player sprints out from a standstill. His stride sends red dirt flying in clouds around his shoes. Meanwhile, Coach Garrett Duman strides about, loudly surrounding himself in the team culture. He's newly arrived from Cherry Creek High School, but he's already involved and ready to make his mark upon the Rock Canyon Baseball Program.

"It's about relationships and players so it's really about getting to know each individual player," Duman said.
This ideal was one of the factors that caused Duman to stand out to administration in the hiring process. Athletic Director, Thomas Briske, described the new coach as outstanding in his desire to form relationships with his players and the community in general.

"He is a relationship person and I look for people who like to build relationships with students," Briske said. "He is going to be about baseball and going to be about Rock Canyon."

Players echoed Briske's enthusiasm.
"I am super excited for this season and about Coach Duman," Shortstop, Josh Terry '19 said. "I feel like he can take our program to the next level."

Duman also expresses this excitement for the upcoming season that begins in March. He hopes to continue the previous successes of the program as he works with the team.

"This is already a program that's created a winning culture and I look forward to continuing that," Duman said.

Briske conveyed similar ideas.
"We (the baseball program) have been strong but we want to make it stronger," Briske said.

This foundation was built by former math teacher and head coach, Tyler Munro. Shortly before the school year began, however, Munro left his position at Rock Canyon in order to teach and coach baseball at Heritage High School.



Zachary Purfurst '19 prepares to throw the ball during warm-ups at practice, Monday, Sept. 4. The team is beginning to implement Coach Garrett Duman's new routine during practice.

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Makenna Allen & Alec Sutula

Rock Canyon High School

1st Place

Sports Feature

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President, CSMA

"Having coached at Heritage prior to going to Rock Canyon, I always hoped to one day go back," Munro said. "After waiting 17 years for both a teaching and head coaching position to open up at Heritage, they finally did over the summer and my instincts told me to make the switch. Although Rock Canyon has treated me extremely well over the years, I believe that the Littleton community is a better fit for both my personality and personal beliefs."

Promptly, administration began the search for a new coach. "Usually it's a paper screening where we will look at all the applicants and try and narrow it down to four or five that we like based on what we are looking for, such as experience," Briske said. "We have them come in and I interview them. Sometimes we will have a committee and sometimes it's just me. We will interview them trying to get them down to one or two finalists. Sometimes we even might have three very qualified applicants. After we determine our finalists, Principal Andy Abner and myself will conduct a final interview."

Duman quickly stood out from other applicants when Coach Marc Johnson of Cherry Creek contacted Briske, providing only positive reviews. Indeed, Johnson had done more than coach alongside Duman. In fact, he had been Duman's own high school coach during the time that he played baseball at that same school.

After Duman graduated from high school, he continued his baseball career at Nebraska Wesleyan University. Following this, he immediately began to coach at the high school level. He coached for two years at Boulder High School and spent 11 years at Cherry Creek. Most of this time he spent working with the JV team.

Now, as the Rock Canyon varsity coach, Duman hopes to bring the community atmosphere which he so enjoyed at Cherry Creek to his new position.

"Bringing that community and that family atmosphere to Rock Canyon baseball, that's my number one objective," Duman said. "So I'd say that my favorite thing about being at Cherry Creek is my trying to bring here."

The development of this family atmosphere cannot happen immediately, however, as one of Duman's greatest tasks has yet to be accomplished. Indeed, the coach is currently looking to build his staff for all seasons.

"We have a lot of things that we have to do to prepare: number one, I'm still putting together the coaching staff," Duman said. "So that's going to be important because we obviously want really good coaches in our program, not just at the top. We want them all the way through the program."

The team also faces changes in its practices.
"We're coming up with a new warm-up routine," third baseman and pitcher, Jimmy Chai '20 said. "We're going to scratch our old one that Munro made us do because Coach D wants us to do a new routine. We're also doing a lot of new hitting drills."

As both coach and the team begin to prepare for the upcoming spring season, they practice daily with Duman's goals in mind. He strives for development of the team both physically and mentally.

"I always want to take a personal interest in their lives and to make sure that they're not just developing as baseball players but they're developing as human beings and young men, that they're going to go out in the community and represent not just our baseball program but our high school and our community, every single day as leaders," Duman said.

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Makenna Allen & Alec Sutula
1st Place
Sports Feature

California Chaos

By: Emily Humes

On Oct. 9 fires broke out all across Northern California, primarily in Wine Country. Thousands of people were evacuated and hundreds of thousands of acres were destroyed. The map (left) shows some of the worst fires, as of Oct. 25. Fires have also broken out through Montana, Idaho and Colorado this fall.

By the Numbers

Here are some quick facts and figures about the effects of the California Wildfires. All facts are as of the time of publication.



9
active fires.




42
people have
been confirmed
as dead.



3,800
firefighters
from all over
the country
work to put the
wildfires out.




8,700
homes were
destroyed.




216,566+
acres were burnt
in the California
fires.



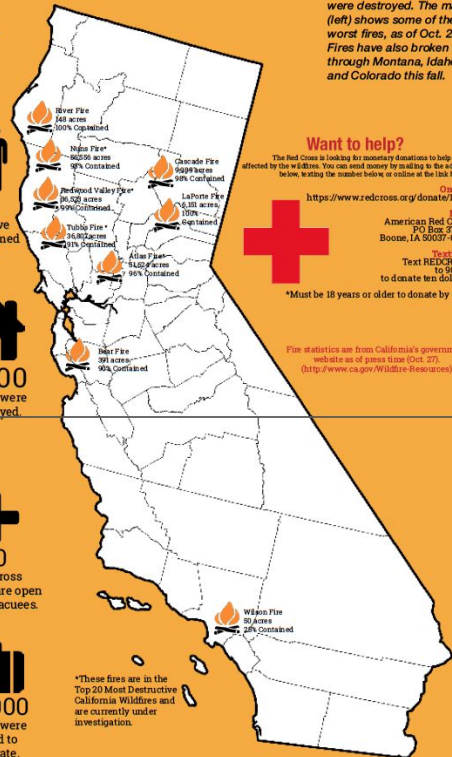
50
Red Cross
shelters are open
to the evacuees.



Fires
burned for
7
days.



75,000
people were
forced to
evacuate.



Want to help?

The Red Cross is looking for monetary donations to help those affected by the wildfires. You can send money by mailing to the address below, texting the number below or online at the link below.

Online:
<https://www.redcross.org/donate/10171>

Mail:
American Red Cross
PO Box 27839
Boone, IA 50037-0839

Texting:
Text REDCROSS
to 50909
to donate ten dollars.
*Must be 18 years or older to donate by text.

Fire statistics are from California's government website as of press time (Oct. 27).
(<http://www.ca.gov/Wildfire-Resources>)

*These fires are in the Top 20 Most Destructive California Wildfires and are currently under investigation.

Students Speak

The Rock Newspaper asked students for their thoughts on the California wildfires and asked what they would say to the evacuees.

"I think it is awful that our country has been devastated by this. It is not just affecting Californians, but it is affecting everyone who knows people in California, who has loved ones in California. Also our resources are having to be pulled into that area like water from Colorado is having to be pulled in order to fight the fires," Aidyn Schmidt '20 said.

"I think that it is very unfortunate that this disaster is going on right now right after the hurricanes. I hope that all of the families in California stay safe and I wish them well. If I had to evacuate, I think I would be very scared and feel unsafe. My heart goes out to those who have to lose their homes," Andrea Zicker '21 said.

"It's terrifying to think about. If I had to evacuate, I would be so scared because that's the last time you could see your home and your friends and family," Naishia Amond '18 said.

"I think that it's very heartbreaking for the families there to evacuate and leave all that they know behind just because of a fire. They have lived there their whole life and they are now forced to leave," Aditya Gopalan '18 said.



Colorado Student Media Association

Best of Colorado

Our annual individual competition to honor excellence in print, online and broadcast journalism

Emily Humes
Rock Canyon High School
1st Place
Facing Pages Design
Newspaper Class III - 1700+ / Best of Colorado 2018

The CSMA Best of Colorado awards began in 2011, and news and video entries must have been published or broadcast by the April submission deadline. Yearbook entries must be published in the current year's book.


Jack Kennedy, MJE
Executive Director, CSMA


Annie Gorenstein-Falkenberg, CJE
President, CSMA

Emily Humes
1st Place
Facing Pages Design

Makenna Allen
Honorable Mention
Reporter of the Year



Colorado Student Media Association

Honorable Mention

2018 Reporter of the Year

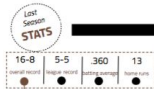
Makenna Allen

Rock Canyon High School

This individual award program began in 2016, and this year 11 top journalists entered this competition. Makenna submitted an online portfolio of her reporting over the 2017-18 school year.

Jack Kennedy
Jack Kennedy, MJE
Executive Director, CSMA

Annie Gorenstein-Falkenberg, CJE
President, CSMA



Making Changes

It's a time of transition for the baseball program as newly hired Coach Garrett Duman prepares to put his spin on everything from warm-ups to relationships.

By: Makenna Allen & Alec Sutula

Con

The sound of the tightly stretched leather as it strikes metal rings through the air. The baseball soars and the player sprints out from a standstill. His stride sends red dirt flying in clouds around his shoes. Meanwhile, Coach Garrett Duman strides about, busily surrounding himself in the team culture. He's newly arrived from Cherry Creek High School, but he's already involved and ready to make his mark upon the Borik Canyon Baseball Diamonds.

This ideal was one of the factors that caused Duman to stand out to administration in the hiring process. Athletic Director, Thomas Bireskie, described the new coach as outstanding in his desire to form relationships with his players and the community in general.

"He is a relationship person and I look for people who like to build relationships with students," Brieske said. "He is gung-ho about baseball and gung-ho about Rock Canyon."

Duman also expresses this excitement for the upcoming season that begins in March. He hopes to continue the notable successes of the program as he works

"This is already a program that's created a winning culture and I look forward to continuing that," Duran said.

"We [the baseball program] have been strong but we want to make it stronger," Briscoe said.

This foundation was built by former math teacher and head coach, Tyler Munro. Shortly before the school year began, however, Munro left his position at Rock

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"Having coached at Heritage prior to going to Rock Canyon, I always hoped to one day go back," Munro said. "After waiting 12 years for both a teaching and head coaching position to open up at Heritage, they finally did over the summer and my instincts told me to make the switch. Although Rock Canyon has treated me extremely well over the years, I believe that the Littleton community is a better fit for both my personality and personal beliefs."

"Usually it's a paper screening where we will look at all the applicants and try and narrow it down to four or five that we like based on what we are looking for, such as experience," Breske said. "We have them come in and I'll interview them. Sometimes we will have a committee and sometimes it's just me. We will interview them trying to get them down to one or two finalists. Sometimes we even might have three very qualified applicants. After we determine our finalists, Principal Andy Abner and myself will conduct a final interview."

Duman quickly stood out from other applicants when Coach Marc Johnson of Cherry Creek contacted Brieske, providing only positive reviews. Indeed, Johnson had done more than coach alongside Duman. In fact, he had been Duman's own high school coach during the time that he played baseball at that same school.

After graduating from high school, he continued his baseball career at Nebraska Wesleyan University. Following this, he immediately began to coach at the high school level. He coached for two years at Boulder High School and spent 11 years at Cherry Creek. Most of this time he spent working with the JV team.

Now, as the Rock Canyon varsity coach, Duman hopes to bring the community atmosphere which he so enjoyed at Cherry Creek to his new position.

"Bringing that community and that family atmosphere to Rock Canyon baseball, that's my number one objective," Duman said. "So I'd say that my favorite thing about there (Cherry Creek), I'm trying to bring here."

The development of this family atmosphere cannot happen immediately, however, as one of Oumari's greatest tasks has yet to be accomplished. Indeed, the coach is currently looking to build his staff for all teams.

"We have a lot of things that we have to do to prepare: number one, I'm still putting together the coaching staff," Duman said. "So that's going to be important because we obviously want really good coaches in our program, not just at the top. We want them all the way through the program."

"We're coming up with a new warm-up routine," third baseman and pitcher Jimmy Chui '20 said. "We're going to scratch our old one that Munro made us do because Coach G wants us to do a new

As both coach and the team begin to prepare for the upcoming spring season, they practice daily with Duman's goals in mind. He strives for development of the team both physically and mentally.

"I always want to take a personal interest in their lives and to make sure that they're not just developing as baseball players but they're developing as human beings and young men, that they're going to go out in the community and represent not just our baseball

going to get out of the community and represent that person's success program but our high school and our community, every single day as leaders," Duman said.

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