United During Homecoming Week

By Jordyn Rivera

Here is a little recap of yet another successful homecoming week. To kick off the week with powderpuff the Seniors played the Sophomores and beat them, and the Juniors beat the Freshmen which led to the Juniors and Seniors battling it out for the win and the Juniors coming out on top with a score of 14-8.

Mr. Mustang was also a success on Tuesday with competitors from each grade. Junior Alex Heer won over the crowd vote with his song about sideburns to become our 2015-16 Mr. Mustang.

On Wednesday the Carnival took place at Legion Field. It was a great night that brought our community together with people of all ages having a fun time. Some of the more popular activities were the petting zoo, the ever popular dunk tank, and almost any type of carnival food you can imagine, even caramel apples.

On Thursday after the volleyball team beat Ft. Lupton Rough and Tough filled the gym with a highly charged competitive atmosphere; the Seniors beat the Sophomores, the Juniors beat the Freshmen which led to the Juniors and Seniors fighting for the win yet again. It was a really close game, but the Seniors won that night 25-23.

Friday was full of all kinds of kids showing some crazy class color pride. At the end of the day at our pep rally Mr. Bauman united and gave recognition to each class on all of their hard work for the week. The football team continued their win streak beating Skyview 50-0. Amy Anderson was crowned Homecoming Queen and Toby McBride was crowned Homecoming King during the halftime ceremony.

To end the week we filled the Commons for our homecoming dance. The variety of music satisfied virtually everyone’s taste. All in all it was a great week to unite our Mustang Student Body!
Do Dreams Come True?
By Abigail Loose-Martinez

We all have dreams about what we want to be when we grow up. Some of us wanted to be princesses, the president, Indiana Jones, or a cat (if you were weird). But as soon as we started growing up our parents wanted us to change our dreams. "Be a doctor!" They said. "They make a lot of money." So from then on we gave up our childhood dreams because we believed that in order to be happy and successful we needed a high paying job. So when we were asked what we wanted to be when we grew up we said lawyers and doctors because we wanted to make our parents happy.

There are a few of us though who will never give up on our dreams because that's what we want to be and what we want to do. We don’t care about how much money we will make because that doesn’t matter. We love our dreams so much that some of us make it a reality and those people are living their dream right now as you’re reading this. One particular person I know about finally took the last step to start his dream—his journey. Ever since he was young he wanted to travel the world, and who wouldn't? So for the past year he's been working hard and saving up every single cent he made to finally start living the life he's been dreaming of. His name is Zach Schwindt and so far he's been to Stockholm, Amsterdam, and Paris, and that's only the beginning! Luckily I was able to ask him a few questions. There isn't a ton of them since I didn't want to waste his time but the answers he gave were definitely worth it.

Q: After you graduated you went on a trip to India, how did that trip change your life?
A: It made me realize how big the world is and how much is out there. I think it's beneficial to have a large perspective.

Q: Did you learn anything about yourself on your first trip that you didn't really know? And do you think that you'll be learning even more about yourself on this journey?
A: Home isn't a place, or a destination, it’s a state of mind. Your skin is your home. I learned that the world isn't quite as scary as people like to think it is. Everyone just wants to feel some happiness.

Q: Traveling has been a lifelong dream of yours, what advice do you have for someone who has the same dream?
A: If travel is your priority, it will happen. Put it first and it will happen. Take the steps you need in order to get there, & stay focused on the goal. Look for opportunity. Most people travel for a vacation. But if you aren't on vacation, you should be looking for opportunities constantly. Travel until you find a place you love.

Q: What is your favorite thing about traveling so far?
A: Having my mind blown.

Good luck Zach! Everyone back in Morgan is rooting for you!

He uploads daily vlogs & post amazing photos if you want to stay updated on his journey!
Instagram- zachmoves
YouTube- zachmoves
Putting A Name To A Miracle
    By Cheyenne Icenhower

In Colorado, about 20% of people do not know where their next meal is coming from. That sounds like such a small number, right? Wrong. According to the 2014 US Census QuickFacts there are approximately 5.36 million people living in Colorado which means that over 1 million people do not know where they will get their next meal. What is of even more concern is that approximately 23.3% of those individuals are under the age of 18. Let’s look at it another way. Put 5 close friends in a row next to each other. Isn’t it weird to think that one of them may be hungry and not sure he or she will have any food to satisfy that hunger today?

This hunger rate especially applies to rural Colorado, including Morgan County. Food Bank for Larimer County states the need for continued support in rural areas best on their website, "Rural households in the United States suffer from food insecurity…at greater rates that the rest of the nation… It is a sad reminder that hunger persists in our nation when so many people go hungry in the very communities where food is produced."

Good thing we have Caring Ministries of Morgan County. Caring Ministries allows citizens of Fort Morgan and Brush to donate food to people who need it. They team up with all sorts of organizations in the county to make our food pantry more available to those who need it. Author John Green wrote that “Everybody gets a miracle.” 80% of us don’t need to worry about that miracle being a meal on our table every day. Most of us don’t even appreciate that meal on our table. Then there is that 20. It’s that 5th friend scarfin down their lunch. It’s the three people who won’t leave the kitchen at the party. They are the ones who need Caring Ministries. Thank you, Caring Ministries, for being a miracle in disguise every day.

Another School Shooting!
    By Jonathan Stone

Preliminary information indicates ten people were killed and over twenty injured when a gunman opened fire at Oregon’s Umpqua Community College on Thursday October 1. The tragedy took about 14 minutes from the time of the first 911 call until the “suspect down” was broadcast.

Two Roseburg police detectives raced to the college. They were the first law enforcement to arrive on campus after the initial 911 call. They were five miles away on another case before this.

As the two detectives parked outside Snyder Hall and approached the building, they found the shooter, Christopher Harper-Mercer, age twenty six, standing right outside the building with 5 handguns and 1 rifle. These were only a few of his owned weapons; over 14 varieties were found in his apartment. Officials say Harper-Mercer initiated gunfire to the detectives. The detectives took cover and were safe from the gunfire. As officers moved in to arrest the gunman who we have now learned died from self inflicted wounds.

Army Veteran Chris Mintz, age 30 was taken to the hospital on Thursday after being shot in the legs by the gunman. He began the day by wishing his autistic 6 year old son a happy birthday on Facebook and then headed to class at the community college. When the shooting began, a witness had said he ran to the library to pull the alarms while telling people to run. After encountering the gunman Mintz was mercilessly shot several times, despite him saying it was his son’s birthday. Well wishers have donated over $600,000 in GoFundMe to help this hero recover.

GoFundMe have also been set up for two additional survivors of the shooting. Ann Boylan, age eighteen, sand aspiring singer, was shot near the shoulder, the bullet lodged near her spine. A GoFundMe account set up for her has raised over $6,300 so far. Cheyenne Fitzgerald, age 16, who is pursuing a career in nursing, was shot in the stomach and lost a kidney. As of Sunday evening, a GoFundMe account for her raised over $12,360 so far. That equals an impressive $618,660 raised to help victims so far. A true indication of a community and the country coming together in time of need once again.

SENIORS!!
Check the counselling office for upcoming deadlines!

CHECK OUT THE AIR FORCE ACADEMY BAND IN THE FMHS AUDITORIUM
THURSDAY OCTOBER 8 AT 7PM
FREE OF CHARGE!
Flobots

By: Cheyenne Icenhower

Fort Morgan High School has a very strong athletic department. Most students—regardless of gender, race, or religion—are in a sport. The arts department, while not as strong, is definitely a work in progress. When the Flobots decided to come to our small town of Fort Morgan, The Ink Club (sponsored by Mr. Johnston), hopped onto the opportunity to help expand our creative writing program. According to Mr. Johnston, Ink Club is the school’s “small but mighty creative writing club”. When word spread that the Flobots were coming to our small town, Mr. Johnston asked them to do a writers workshop with the school's students. The Flobots were more than happy to oblige.

During 6th and 7th period, all students who had an English class were allowed to come to the library. The members of the Flobots interacted with the students to have an educational and fun workshop.

Then came the concert. For some of the teens who had lived in Fort Morgan their entire life, this was the first concert they had been to. The openers, M2XM, were electric and lively. They got the crowd pumped up. Then, 15 minutes of silence came. Some students anxiously waited in the auditorium while others went out to the commons and ate while donating money to two of our very important and— for now—slightly underfunded clubs, Inc Club and the newly formed Speech and Debate Team (Forensics).

Then, two people walked on stage. One man is rocking some serious dreads. He's tall and slender and has a smile on his face. The second looks like your average joe. He's not too tall, not too small. His facial features are hard but he is softening them with a smile.

They started to play. The indie hip-hop band has everybody stand up and huddle towards the front of the stage. They started to play, and the crowd cheered and continued to cheer for the next two hours.

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Ag Students Learn Fire Safety

By Jordyn Rivera

On Wednesday September 16th the Fort Morgan Fire Department came to FMHS to teach the Ag students how to control fires. This was a very important lesson for the students to learn especially because of the environment we live in. Summertime here in Colorado means high temperatures and low humidity creating tinder dry-conditions that fuel wildfires. On average over 2,500 wildfires occur each year in Colorado. Most of these are small fires that can be quickly extinguished, but large catastrophic fires can and do occur.

In 2002 wildfires started unusually and dangerously early. By early June 2002 there were several large wildfires that occurred, the Hayman Fire was one of them. The Hayman Fire is recorded as Colorado's largest wildfire. According to the Denver Post it burned nearly 138,000 acres, destroyed well over 100 homes, over 400 additional buildings and displaced thousands of people while the fire was being fought. Hopefully the students learned that fire safety is a very important thing that should always be taking seriously!