

# Trojan Tribune



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**Instructor: John Kissingford**

**News From Ouray High School**  
**Reporters: Anna Biolchini, Caeley Eddy, Ally King, Cliona Pasek**

## Calendar

### Thursday, December 7

3:45pm - Budget Mtg in Conference Room  
 6:00 pm - Booster Club Mtg in Cafeteria

### Friday, December 8

5:30 pm - HS BBall @ Caprock Academy  
 7:00 pm - MS Dance in APAC

### Saturday, December 9

All Day - HS Speech @ Fruita Monument  
 All Day - MS G BBall SJBL Tournament  
 7:00 am - ACT Testing

### Tuesday, December 12

6:00 pm - Winter Band Concert in APAC

## Heard in the Halls

“Ok, ok, I’ll get an educational book to read.”

\*grabs Guinness Book of World Records\*

## Everybody Loves the Office Ladies

by Mackenzie Gibbs

The final round of the arm wrestling tournament has two women staring each other in the eye and using all the strength they can muster. Finally, the forearms fall with the victor on top: Cindy Lacey, school business manager, is the champion.

The two administrative assistants, Kimberly Sills and Paige Sackman, laugh while Cindy does a celebration dance, mocking the other two. The prize was bragging rights and she will definitely utilize them.

While this might seem like a strange occurrence, three administrative women competing in an arm wrestling tournament, this is not necessarily surprising at the Ouray School office. A constant stream of giggling and gossip can be heard from the front room.

Despite the strange goings-on, these three women most definitely contribute to the smooth-functioning of the school. “I love the ladies in the office,” said librarian Cappi Castro. “They’re always so helpful and nice with any problem I have for them.”

Students of all ages also seem to have a positive opinion on the three in the office. “Paige has been working here for as long as I have been here,” said senior Keegan Eddy. “It’s comforting, in a way, to have that consistency.”

“I really like them. They are so funny and laughy,” said a first grade student.

Besides their obvious job of running the school, another purpose they serve is the gossip hub. Theater teacher Ms Alyssa Preston also frequently joins in. Students have been known to occasionally pop into the office for tidbits of juicy information. “I really enjoy their company,” said junior Abbie Link. “They’re super funny and their gossiping is adorable.”

In years past, Paige’s son Lincoln, could be found in the office between every class.

But, like everyone, they have their flaws. “Ms Kim always calls me Pal,” said sophomore Geny McArdle. “But other than calling me by my younger sister’s name, they make every visit I take to the office fun. They make boring jobs enjoyable.”

Every member of the school community is pretty grateful for the three women in the office. They certainly do a fantastic job at brightening every one’s days.

## Learning to Lead

by Ally King

On Thursday, three students had the opportunity to go to Colorado Springs for a leadership conference at the Colorado Association of School Boards convention, which aims in part to “build student leadership, communication, collaboration, and thinking process,” said the CASB website.

During the convention students got to breakout into different sessions to learn about things that interest them. “I really liked the problem solving activities,” said senior Beth Williams. The opportunities to learn to build leadership skills was “exciting, educational, and fantastic,” said Beth.

“It was super fun,” said junior Evie Wood. Evie is the vice president of the Student Council at Ouray and enjoyed being able to learn new leadership skills. “My favorite session was, ‘How to fix a broken school?’ Lead Fearlessly, Love Hard,” said Evie. She enjoyed this session because “the speaker knew what she was talking about and how to put ideas to work in a school.”

“The conference was really thought-out,” said history teacher Mrs. Harthan. Mrs. Harthan is in

charge of Student Council and was grateful to be able to take students to the CASB leadership conference. “This was an opportunity for students to grow a new skillset,” said Mrs. Harthan.

Students got to learn different types of leadership styles and what would work best at Ouray. “They learned how to face different challenges, make change, and take action,” said Mrs. Harthan. She hopes for students to take this back to school and educate other students on what they learned at the conference.

“I am very glad this opportunity came up for students,” said superintendent Mr. Pankow. He thinks the conference was “influential for students.” As homecoming is coming up at Ouray he hopes they can take some of the ideas that they learned and put them to work.

“I hope this is an opportunity for students every year,” said Beth Williams. She hopes that younger students will take advantage of the future opportunity to learn about leadership.

## New Club Solves Mysteries

by Cliona Pasek

A mysterious package arrives at your doorstep. Inside, you find blood stained letters and odd objects: the tools and clues you need to solve a murder! Ouray School now offers a high school club designated to give students an opportunity to use their knowledge and creativity to solve a crime.

Ms. Jen Ballard, the high school science teacher, and Ms. Cappi Castro, the librarian, created the Hunt a Killer Club this semester and now has four students participating.

The school’s club is based on the online organization, Hunt a Killer. Subscribers receive a package every month. The items inside are “crafted by professional mystery writers who are masters at weaving gripping, suspenseful tales,” according to their website. Mrs. Ballard first heard of the Hunt a Killer club a year ago and has been wanting to do it herself. However, she, “could not justify spending money on crime solving,” she said.

Throughout the school year, Mrs. Ballard talked about the Hunt a Killer subscription with Mrs. Cappi and thought would be a good idea to make it into a student club.

When they started to fill out their subscription, Mrs. Ballard told the company that she does not scare easily. “Yeah I lied,” Mrs. Ballard giggled nervously, “I wasn’t sure if they would send me

the right stuff if I said I get scared. I really do, probably because I watch so many crime shows.”

So far, the packages have contained everything from a mental patient’s medical file to a map of the stars. Every Thursday, from 3:30 to 4:30, or whenever they brains start to wear out, student detectives come together to further their investigation.

“There is so much stuff to look at that everybody kind of separates and starts to work on their own things.

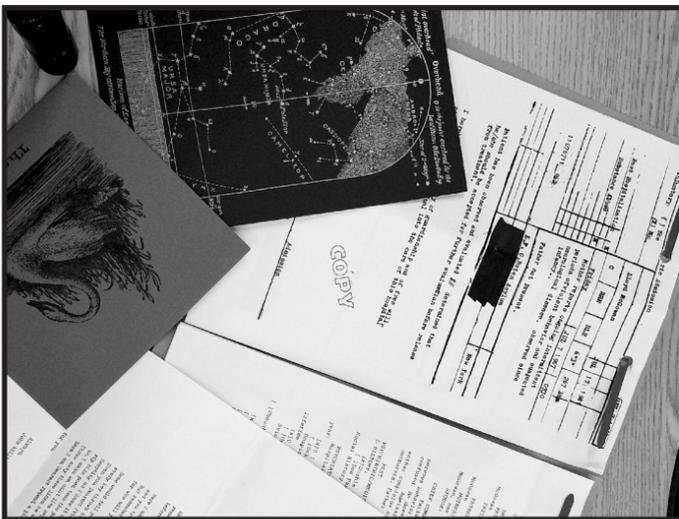
Like some people are trying to find hidden meanings and some are trying to decode things,” said Mrs. Ballard.

Freshman Maddi Meenan, a member of the club, said, “The clues are sometimes really weird! In one package we got stuff like a picture of a swan and a bunch of articles with

numbers that meant nothing.”

Right now a serial killer is writing to them giving secret clues in his messages which has shown to be connected to the other clues received in last month’s package.

“I think it’s huge the critical thinking skills that we are learning,” Ms. Cappi said. “I can even feel my brain growing because you have nothing and then from nothing you create different things that sometimes are a dead end and are sometimes a jackpot. It feels so good!”



## Working Hard Outside the Classroom

by Caeley Eddy

Work, everyone does it sooner a later. But some people start it in their teenage years. It could be a summer job, or during the school year job. In our town a person could work almost anywhere as long as they are over 14, and some start as young as 11. They can work in restaurants, shops, and the pool.

Senior Evan Vann works at Mouse’s Chocolates. He started in August of last summer. “I like being in the professional world, I like being able to balance the sphere of school and being out in the world. I also like the income,” he said. Right now Evan is working to pay his car insurance and because he likes the money. “For me making people espresso drinks and coffee is amazing. You need a certain level of skill to do it. Whenever someone pays me a compliment it covers up all the people that complain,” said Evan. It’s not only about the money for students: it’s also

about interacting in different ways with adults.

Keegan Eddy works at the Ouray brewery, and Mouse’s chocolates. Right now he is working to pay for his college and his flying lessons. “It’s great, he said, “it’s really nice to have spending money during the school year.” He has worked all summer and still works really hard balancing work and school.

Students aren’t the only ones who are working outside of school hours. Science teacher Mrs. Ballard works part-time at the Chipeta restaurant in Ridgway. For her, the second job is a necessity: “The additional money is amazing,” she said. “Without it I wouldn’t be able to pay my bills.” But her work at school is where she finds the creativity that motivates her. She especially likes “the excitement in people’s eyes when they learn something new.”