

## Science Bowl teams to compete in regionals

Hannah Blagg

Staff Writer

The Science Bowl regional competition will take place March 16 at Dakota Ridge High School in Littleton.

FCHS will send two teams to regionals, an academic competition that tests students' knowledge in science and mathematics. Teams will face off in question-and-answer rounds.

"During the competition itself everyone is really tense because it is a fast-paced buzzer competition," senior Nathan Sima, team captain, said. "It's your team of four or five against the other team. Everyone is really tense during the competition; however, during our substantial free time between rounds, we get to socialize and it's pretty fun."

If the team wins regionals, they move on to the National Science Bowl in Washington D.C. This would be Sima's fourth year competing at nationals at the high-school level.

"It's pretty fun," he said. "You meet a lot of people with similar interests to yours. It is a very like-minded group because a lot of them are the brightest science students in the nation. You meet a lot of new and innovative people, and it is an inspiring experience."

## Mock trial team placed first in regionals

Alex Ellmer

Staff Writer

The FCHS Mock Trial team won the regional competition on Feb. 8 and 9 in Greeley against Northern Colorado teams including Poudre, Fossil, Rocky, Ridgeview, Windsor, and Greeley.

"The Ridgeview teams were amazing and got places 2 and 3, but we got first which is phenomenal and well deserved for our club team," Mock Trial Sponsor Sarah Keller said.

The FCHS team will advance to the state competition on Mar. 8 and 9 in Golden to face the best teams in the state. If the team places high enough, they will continue to nationals facing the best teams throughout the nation.

## Other than 4 Year College Fair to occur March 12

Roland Tomsic

Managing Editor

The other than four-year college fair will be held in the spine on Tuesday, March 12, from 10:20 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"Any students that are interested are welcome to come," Counselor Tanya vigil said. "It will be held during fourth, fifth, and sixth lunches."

This fair is geared toward students who are interested in post-secondary education but don't want to take the typical four-year college route or toward people who want to complete prerequisite classes before entering a four-year program. Vendors like FRCC, Aims, Barbizon, and WyoTech will all be there along with roughly 30 others.

## Teacher constantly displays caring nature

Sadie Buggle

News Editor

The walls of P115 are decked out with posters of historical figures, documents, and events, grouped by time period. Near the ceiling, a line of photographs of each president of the United States hangs in chronological order. The desks sit in a circular pattern facing the front of the classroom. A bookshelf is pressed up against one of the walls, stuffed with textbooks, history novels, and SAT and AP prep books.

In the corner of the room sits the paper-ridden desk of Christine Matthie, social studies teacher and mentor. Matthie has been at FCHS since 1998 and teaches AP US History, US History, AVID, and Mind Center.

Students know and admire Matthie's caring and loving nature, which she displays in and out of class to students and teachers alike. She constantly gives up her own time to help students with work for other classes or college and test preparation.

Matthie found her love for teaching in her junior year of college, when she began tutoring bilingual students who couldn't read in San Diego.

"I instantly fell in love with these kids," she said. "I just felt like my first two years of college I didn't really have an aim or a direction. I was just getting good learning across the board. I just felt like it (the tutoring experience) gave me a purpose."

Matthie has kept up her passion for life and her strong caring nature through her connection with both religion and a strong fitness regimen.

She began her religious journey at a young age, when in middle school she was struggling and asked her friend if she could go to church with her.

"I wanted to search for my own truth. I wanted to find peace. And



Christine Matthie, social studies teacher and mentor, smiles in front of her poster-covered classroom wall. Photo by Sadie Buggle

religion taught me that joy isn't temporal, joy is eternal," she said.

Additionally, her rigid workout schedule and healthful diet is something very important to her, as she is a strong believer that our brains are affected by what we eat and what we do. Matthie exercises 6 days a week, and she tries to eat very healthily and takes vitamin supplements and essential oils and fatty acids. She measures herself not in pounds, but in how strong and healthy she feels.

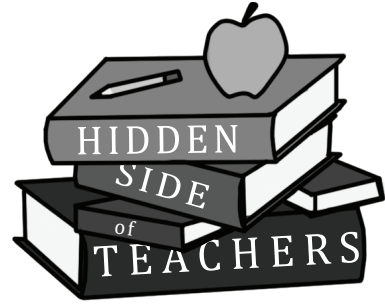
Both her healthy lifestyle and religious beliefs have allowed her caring nature to stay with her through the course of her life. Matthie has always had this passion for learning and happy and caring nature, and that this can be traced back to her childhood nickname.

"When I was little, my nickname was 'Bubbles,'" she said. "Mom said I giggled all the time. I think I was born 'Bubbles.' It's the way I chose to see the world.

And I try to remind myself that."

Matthie strongly believes that a teacher should not only teach the topic at hand, they should teach life lessons and an appreciation for learning of any kind, and should show students they are loved and respected.

"I want to bring to you guys a joy and hope for learning, and a joy and hope for the world. You can look at the world in two ways: glass half full or glass half empty," she said. "There is a lot of hardship in the world. Rather than think about how the world is going to hell, I like to think about what I can do every day to make the day better for just one kid."



## 'Merica Day showed divide, sensationalism

Molly Lubbers

Editor-in-Chief

"You can't celebrate America, school says."

That was the headline splashed across the Fox News website five years ago this month; the school in question was actually FCHS.

Unused to media attention, we soon became a national news story. That article set off a round of others and sparked a controversy surrounding "'Merica Monday."

It started when Student Council proposed a dress-up theme be "'Merica Monday" during Spread the Love Week. Originally, the day was stopped by administrators.

One anonymous source quoted in that Fox News article said that administration rejected it out of worry it could exclude international students. Many became outraged and thought it was unfair they couldn't celebrate America because non-Americans might get offended.

About a dozen protestors gathered outside FCHS on Feb. 5, the day following the Fox News article's release. They expressed their anger, feeling the decision by administrators was anti-America, and proclaimed their own patriotism. Even public figures like the Sheriff Justin Smith joined the crowd and urged others to take part.



After the controversy gained traction, the administration clarified their decision. Poudre School District made a statement that day, acknowledging they felt 'Merica Monday could be counter to the "unifying theme" of Spread the Love Week, but also that it could be disrespectful to America. They stated that the word "'Merica" is slang "often used in a negative, stereotypical way to describe life in the United States."

Ultimately, the theme was changed to "America Monday." On the actual spirit day, over 100 protestors stood along Timberline Road, singing the National anthem and waving American flags. At that point, the matter was fairly resolved, but the group still remained.

After the 2016 election, a polarization between political parties has occurred. People typically are expected to be extreme in their viewpoints, rather than moderate. We've seen this reflected in heated class discussions, movements started by students, and more.

But the 'Merica Monday controversy doesn't just show that divide—it also is an example of the sensationalism sometimes exercised by news organizations, despite the code of ethics.

Though Fox News reached out for a statement from the administration, the reporter did not include much of the other side; it quoted only students who felt strongly that the administration rejecting "'Merica Monday" was unpatriotic. While it was an opinion piece, it likely could have benefited from a more complete perspective of how FCHS students and administration were reacting.

Instead, the article helped turn a relatively small disagreement into one that caused protests and scrutiny. It's a testament to how the news contributes to politically-charged controversies, sometimes to the point of overemphasizing their significance.

In this age of quick click-bait and extreme divide, it is important to practice unbiased, truthful journalism.