

Waterloo teen converses with Congress

■ West High graduate focuses on abilities, not limitations.

By JENS MANUEL KROGSTAD
Courier Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — When visiting the nation's capitol, Tyler Greene likes to stroll along the National Mall and gaze up at the statue of Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

When Greene admires the memorial of the country's 32nd president, he sees a great man who led the nation through some of its darkest years, a man who happened to use a wheelchair because of a disability.

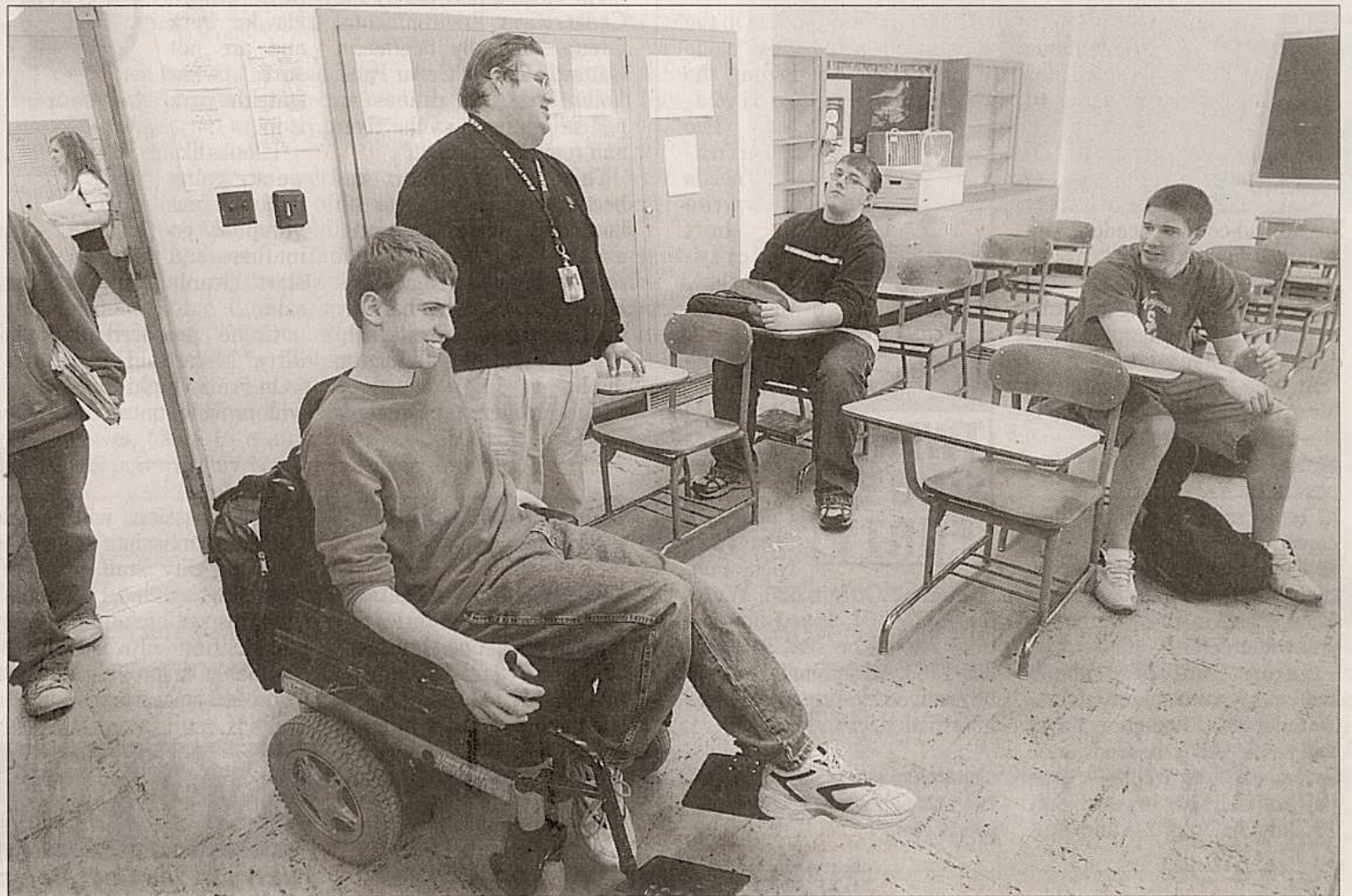
"They actually have a statue of him in his wheelchair, which is really cool to see," Greene said.

Roosevelt's life represents an ideal Greene, 18, is dedicated to spreading. The Waterloo West High School graduate lives with cerebral palsy.

Wednesday, during a celebration of the 18th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Greene spoke to several members of Congress about ability awareness. Greene focuses on what he can accomplish, not on the limitations of his disability.

An experienced public speaker, Greene said he became more nervous than usual when he addressed the influential crowd. Nonetheless, he had longed to speak in front of just that crowd since he visited Rep. Bruce Braley, D-Iowa, in Washington last year.

"It was very satisfying for us



Courier file photo

Tyler Greene, seen here at West High in March, was in Washington, D.C., Wednesday to speak to members of Congress about ability awareness.

to have one of Tyler's dreams to talk to congressmen about ability awareness come true," said Tyler's father, Paul Greene.

Paul and Gina Greene treated their son just like their other two children as he grew up and encouraged him to pursue any activities he liked. Tyler didn't need much pushing. Through the years, he was active in Boy Scouts, karate, band, theater and student senate.

From a young age, his mother said, Tyler showed a natural ability to connect with people. So he started speaking when

he was around 8 years old to educators.

"He's always had a great ability with people and a good sense of humor. That has gone a long ways for him," Gina Greene said.

Tyler gained worldwide recognition after he created a video, "I'm Tyler (don't be surprised)" for his Eagle Scout project two years ago. It has since been distributed to all 365 public school districts in Iowa, to all 50 states and to 18 countries.

His efforts have garnered him

Ways you can help

To donate, make checks payable to I'm Tyler and send to:
"I'm Tyler"
140 Montrose Rd
Waterloo, IA 50701
Videos can be bought for \$5 at:
www.imtyler.org

several prestigious awards, including the 2008 "Yes, I Can" Award from the Council for Exceptional Children.

If all goes according to plan, this will not be Tyler's last trip to Washington. This fall

he will attend Hawkeye Community College to study public administration.

He hopes the degree will help make advocacy work a career that takes him to all corners of the globe.

"I've gone around the country to speak, but I haven't gone out of the country," he said. "Maybe one day I'll go to Europe — that would be awesome."

Contact Jens Manuel Krogstad at (319) 291-1580 or jens.krogstad@wfcourier.com.

Displaced animals find comfort at clinic

■ Taylor Veterinary Hospital taking in animals dislocated by disasters.

By DENNIS MAGEE
Courier Regional Editor

CEDAR FALLS — Forced to clear out with a few hours' notice. No clear idea about where to go next.

The folks at Taylor Veterinary Hospital can sympathize. Like others in downtown Cedar Falls, they evacuated when the Cedar River threatened.

And like many residents affected by the tornado in May and flooding in June, owners and staff members worried about what to do with animals in their care.

"It was just awful," Dr. Elizabeth Bixby said. "It was just panic. 'Where do we go now?'"

The situation eventually settled and business returned to normal. So much so that



DENNIS MAGEE / Courier Regional Editor

Dr. Elizabeth Bixby and Taylor Veterinary Hospital in Cedar Falls have

"We're all a community, and we all have to help each other."

Dr. Jim Taylor
member of Iowa Veterinarians
Rapid Response Team

appreciate a contribution to help defray expenses.

"We said \$2 per day, but if somebody doesn't have \$2 a day, we don't care," Bixby said.

Dr. Jim Taylor said the hospital is making the offer for a simple reason.

"We can," he said.

"We're all a community, and we all have to help each other."

This is not the first time the veterinarians have stepped up in recent months. Taylor and Bixby are members of the Iowa Veterinarians Rapid Response Team, and both helped wounded animals following the EF5 tornado that tore through Butler, Black Hawk and Buchanan counties.

Local man sentenced in horse neglect case

■ New Hampton resident to spend 42 days in jail.

By JOSH NELSON
Courier Staff Writer

WEST UNION — A New Hampton resident accused of neglecting a herd of horses was sentenced this week to 42 days in jail after pleading guilty to lesser charges.

Kelly Olson, 41, was arrested in March after Fayette County sheriff's deputies discovered 18 malnourished animals on a farm near Hawkeye. Three other horses reportedly had died from neglect.

The horses were eating wood off feed bunks and bark off trees,