

THE GROWL

the voice of Mexico High School

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photo by Dakota White

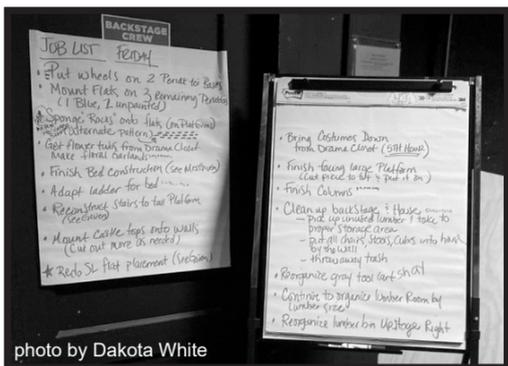


photo by Dakota White



photo by Dakota White

Every aspect of production at Mexico High School are in the hands of students under the guidance of theatre and speech instructor, Ms. Sara Given, and

when the production is a musical, vocal music instructor Ms. Julie Pappas. Students from Given's set design class are responsible for most of the building

done on-stage. They also help with costuming and props. A full technical crew comprised of students run the lights and sound during performances.

Behind the Scenes: Once Upon a Mattress

Character	Actor
Queen Agravain	Lissa Blair
Princess Winnifred	Kaitlin Rose
Prince Dauntless	Collin Martin
Princess Viviana	Viviana Benjamin
Lady Larken	Abriana Lynch
Sir Harry	William Sause
Minstrel	Mia Moeller
Jester	Ben Clampitt
Wizard	Logan Wilson
King Sextimus, The Silent	Camden Williams
Lady Rowena	Abby Chitwood
Lady Merrill	Sidney Turlington
Lady Lucille	Annie Stanford
Lady Helena	Aaliyah Peterson
Lady Sarah	Ruby Haefling
Lady Mabelle	Jor'daai Cooks
Lady Beatrice	Rebecca Stanford
Sir Luce	Jacob Holtkamp
Sir Studley	David Hutchison
Chambermaid Emily	Madison Lee
Cook's Daughter	Natalie Landis
Chambermaid	Olivia Benton
Ensemble - as themselves:	
Lady Abby Drew	Lady Melody Peterson
Lady Ella Connell	Lady Ava Williamson
Lady Taylor Wyman	Sir Ethan Wiley
Sir Bailey Crum	Sir Landry Cooney
Sir Ryan Beasley	Sir Jackson Lamb
Cook	Ava Potter
Crew	
Stage Managers	Sam Joiner, Nell Waller, Eli Burks
Light Technician	Emaline Watt
Sound Technicians	Wyatt Troesser, Rylee Littrell
Costume Crew	
Kylee Carlson	Sydney Wyman
Haleigh Dean	Emaline Watt
Zilynn Love	Aurora Vines
Makeup & Hair Crew	
Kylee Carlson	Colony Bledsoe
Sam Joiner	Leigha Shepherd
Dominique Carpenter	Teazia Potter
Props Crew	
Sydney Wyman	Zilynn Love
Cara Murdock	Caitlyn Spurling
House Crew	
Teazia Potter	Autumn Cortner
Leigha Shepherd	
Cara Murdock	Caitlyn Spurling
Shelby Shramek	
Set & Running Crews	
Haleigh Dean	Teazia Potter
Caitlyn Spurling	Aurora Vine
Dominique Carpenter	Teazia Potter
Kylee Carlson	Ava Williamsosn
Cara Murdock	Sydney Wyman
Abby Drew	
Choreography	
Colony Bledsoe	Madison Lee
Abriana Lynch	Anne Stanford
Ms. Julie Pappas	

Cast and Crew

The Faces Behind the Characters

by Jackson Lamb



Wilson, right, with castmate senior Lissalou Blair

Logan Wilson is a junior at Mexico High School, playing one of the lead roles in the Fall musical, Cardamon the Wizard, which Wilson describes as, "an important character in the story." Wilson has been acting since the fifth grade and was inspired by many of the actors featured on television or plays, driving him to take a lead role this year. Wilson balances his time between school and the musical with a planner. One of Wilson's fondest memories in the musical so far has been the visit to UCM. The visit has truly inspired Wilson to possibly further his acting career after high school.

Sam Joiner is a senior at Mexico High School, and is the stage manager of the Fall musical. Since her early days as a freshman, Joiner has been an active member of the speech and debate team. During her time on the team, Joiner worked alongside MHS Class of 2021 alum Grant Norfleet who inspired her to work on stage. As the stage manager, Joiner works with Ms. Given to help coordinate the musical. Like many of the lead roles, Joiner's part conflicts with life outside of the Musical. Joiner says she follows a schedule to keep her organized. Most of all, Joiner is having fun working alongside Mrs. Given, describing it as fun and loud.



Joiner cites Class of 2021 graduate Grant Norfleet for her interest in theatre.



Moeller didn't know she could sing until she auditioned for the play.

Mia Moeller is a junior at Mexico High School, playing one of the lead roles in the Fall musical, The Minstrel, a travelling musician who serves as the story's narrator. Since she was nine, Moeller has been acting. It wasn't until high school when she discovered many opportunities to perform. Moeller is an active member of the speech and debate team, founder of the GSA Club, and a talented actress. With her part, Moeller discovered her ability to sing and is excited to be part of the play alongside the cast.

Kaitlin Rose is a sophomore at Mexico High School, playing one of the lead roles in the Fall Musical, Winnifred, who Rose says resembles her in real life. Rose began her acting career in second grade, being inspired from watching Presser performances. Since then Rose has pursued not only acting, but singing as well. These two talents made her perfect for a lead role. However, Rose describes being a lead role as time-consuming, yet inspiring to younger actors. As the late-night rehearsals go on, Rose is most excited to build relationships with her fellow cast and directors.



Sophomore Kaitlin Rose says her role is not much of a stretch from reality. photo by Autumn Moore

Given on All Things "Mattress" and Working with Expanded Age Cast

MHS veteran drama teacher, Ms. Sara Given and vocal music instructor Julie Pappas selected "Once Upon a Mattress" for its strong lead characters and great ensemble cast and feature roles

"It is based on the fairy tale of the *Princess and the Pea*," Given explained, noting that it is set in a time period that she and her students have not tackled before.

Her advanced design class was responsible for helping to create, not just build the set. "There are seven locations that the show takes place in." Students were asked to design and build a 3D model for the play. "They presented those sets and we discussed what realistically would work and wouldn't work on our stage. We then took the best of each design and created the set for this production."

This year, the play was open to students sixth through twelfth grade. Several students from St. Brendan's are included in the cast. The crew has

students from both Mexico Middle School and St. Brendan's.

Given explained the immersion of her students in reference to the play. "The set is being built by my Theatre Design 1 and Advanced Design classes during school. The crews (so far) have been helping with costumes, props and minor set fixes during rehearsals. As we progress through this next month, my crews will learn how to move the set during the show for each new setting, how to create and organize prop table for a show and how to set up and run a costume room for a production. My backstage crew is primarily middle school girls with a few high school girls to help guide them."

Given estimated that nearly 90 percent of the cast and crew have not participated in a play production before. So, it has been an interesting process and experience for all of us," Given laughed.

Ms. Sara Given (left) and Ms. Julie Pappas run rehearsals for "Once Upon a Mattress." Pappas looks forward to the years that the school does a musical. "It takes a lot of time and work behind the scenes from everyone, but in the end it is always a happy experience for everyone to look back on."



TICKET INFO

Show dates/times

7 p.m. Fri. & Sat. Nov. 19-20, 2021
2:30 p.m. Sun. Nov 21, 2021
at Emmons Hall, MHS Campus

Purchase info

\$5 - students through 12th grade
\$10 - adults
Tickets on sale Nov. 8

Art Appreciation

a meet and greet with some of the most talented artists at MHS

by Myah Smith and Hailey Long

April Mills, 10

“What got me into art was always since I was a little kid I’ve always enjoyed sketching and things like that. I started out by tracing, but as I got older I always had a visual knack for drawing observations. What makes me enjoy art is it helps with my anxiety and to calm me down. I would describe my art as animation, fantasy, and anything along there.”



Ronnie Smith, 09

“The way I got into art was my grandfather. He likes to paint and I sketch alot. What is enjoyable about art is sketching because I can put what I’m feeling into my sketches. I would explain my art as creative and mythical.”



David Hutchison, 09

“I got into art by doodling and someone said it was cool. Thats all. Someone enjoyed the little doodling I did so I did more. I enjoy art, it can go many different ways, you can either go on the fact that its in your control, you can choose how it goes or the fact that you can put your imagination in it, you can make a world you that you see and I love that.”



If you are an artist or an artist appreciate-er please reach out to the The Growl. We'd love to feature your art! Stop by room 102 or email jwilliams@mexico.k12.mo.us.

See more, read more, engage more! Follow us on Facebook

@mexhsdigitalmedia!

WHO'S NEW?

Meet Myranda Frederickson, new to the MHS office squad. Ms. Frederickson is the administrative assistant to the athletic director. Here's a little bit about

Who's New:

Preferences

Summer over winter

Comedy over horror

Night time over day time

Favorites

Music genre: Classic Rock

Movie: *Braveheart*

Favorite song: "Ave Maria"

Favorite book: *Jane Eyre*

Dream car: '69 Stingray

Favorite animal: Otter

Favorite holiday: Christmas

Dream vacation spot: Stresa, Italy



In the Halls...

Over 800 stories walk through the halls of MHS every single day... Here are a couple of them.



Eric Spurling, 12

Why him? There is a quiet strength about Spurling, and his smile is contagious. He seems wise beyond his years.

"When I was born I had Hallermann-Streiff Syndrome. I can't run right; I don't have straight hands. I like to watch movies, but I don't like to read books, I have a good supporting family, Hallermann Syndrome has affected me by being a pain in my legs a lot, but I have been having a bunch of surgeries and I am doing better."



Emmy McCoy, 12

Why her? Everything about Emmy says "Fierce!" in the best way. She is artistic and not afraid of who she is.

"The homesick writing on my fingers is a Lil' Peep tattoo, I have had a pretty rough high school year and I really never knew how to deal with it. So, I looked into music and I found many other musical artists that I related to and when I find one I relate to a whole lot I find something about them that catches my attention and draw it on me to show that I relate to them and that I am a fan"

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She Believed She Could and She Did

Kristina Fecht Shares Her Triumphant Story of Overcoming Breast Cancer

features

by Gage Walker

I: Please introduce yourself...

KF: Hi im Kris Fecht and I am a part of this school and I want you guys to be a part of my story of being a breast cancer survivor.

I: How did you find out that you had breast cancer?

KF: I came to know how I had cancer because I went for my normal mammo-gram and they had found a lump and my doctor was very quick about getting me into see another doctor. I had a biopsy and within about a week from the mammo-gram I was dealing with "I have cancer and now what do we do?:"

I: Were you scared? What was your initial reaction?

KF: My initial reaction to having breast cancer was "what do we have to do to get this gone?" I told myself I am too young and I have way too much left to do.

I: How did your family react?

KF: My family's reaction was "Holy crap! How do we deal with this?" But in taking all that in stride my next reaction was whatever we have to do to kick this in the butt.

I: So how did the treatment work? Was it difficult?

KF: It really put the skids on me being an active woman in that chemo is one of those things that can cause you to be excessively tired. I was lucky that I didn't have too much of a reaction to the chemo I wasn't sick and I had some actual weird cravings instead of not being able to eat, but I was tired like nobody's ever been tired before.

I: What scared you most about the diagnosis?

KF: The most frightening thing about cancer was that you hear the words you have cancer and you are like "Wow! I could die from this, this could be it."

I: What made you strong? What made you believe that you could survive it?

KF: The first point that made me know that I could come through cancer and beat it was meeting with my oncologist. Dr. Waheed at the Cancer Center is phenomenal and my first question to him was: "Is this survivable?" And he, without a doubt, said absolutely this is survivable and we are going to make that happen and that gave me faith to believe, "Okay we got this."

I: How did your struggle change? Change your outlook?

KF: Cancer is one of those things that you deal with as you go through and you are grateful, for family, for friends, for this school who was supportive in every way they could have been. I am now almost three years out from the diagnosis and I am still grateful every day when I put my feet on the ground. A lot of people have been cancer survivors. There are multiple types of cancers and breast cancer was just what I had to deal with. Since that I have helped two very good friends by being able to answer some questions and not be scared of the unknown so maybe that is my reason for still being here.

Editor's note: Fecht encouraged everyone to educate themselves not only about breast cancer but all types of cancer. It is never too early to start monitoring and researching family history. For more information on the role of genetics in cancer and the importance of early screenings, visit the American Cancer Society's website online.



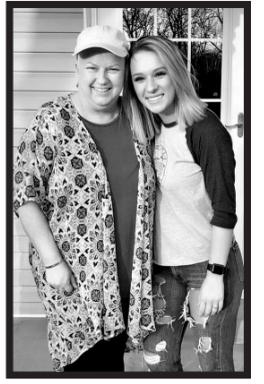
Four generations of strength: from left, Haley (Fecht) Schafer, grandmother Jolene Gilltrap (center) Blayke Schafer and Fecht.



Above left, Fecht and her two daughters bought matching rings: "Faith over fear." Above, right, Fecht and her husband, Andy.



Fecht and her favorite person in the world, her granddaughter, Blayke. Also she is completely unapologetic about that!



Fecht and her youngest daughter, Whitney.

Football in post-season at top seed; other athletes honored

by Gage Walker

As Mexico High Schools Fall sports season winds down and gets finished up the big news is the Bulldog football team ended with a district-leading record of 7-2, and will head into post-season play with a first place seed.

State golfer, junior Kennedy Rowe, placed 34th out of 70 at state competition. Rowe explained how her hard work over the summer paid off with her first trip to state being the icing on her junior-year career. "Going out and golfing every day during the summer, as well as setting goals for myself and working on them was how I improved.. You always have room to improve on specific things."

Senior Shelby Kennemore and the Lady Bulldogs tennis team ended with an impressive 11-4 record. Kennemore earned a trip to sectionals where she put her all into the match against the player that would be first in the state. "I feel like it was a great season. It was a good way to end my senior year. I didn't get to where I wanted but I did accomplish a lot of my goals," Kennemore stated. The team landed a second place finish in conference play, second place in district play and six players were named to the all-district team, with Kennemore advancing to sectionals.

Boys soccer had a rough season, but working with what they have they came in at a 3-17 record.

Senior Thomas Peuster, a Mexico cross-country member for four years, shared this about his last run: "I did so many workouts and I learned to be confident in myself." Peuster earned 11th place at districts last year; districts will be held the last weekend in October this year in Washington. "Lots of hills," Peuster commented. "Very steep and hard on your body. Also the mental strain is there, keeping up your speed, concentrating on pushing." The girls cross country team won the conference championship.

Softball ended with over 500 and a record of 11-10. All-conference players named are Jordyn Thurman, Riley Thurman, Abby Bellamy, and Kiersten Epper-son. All-district honors went to Jordyn Thurman, Riley Thurman, and Abby Bellamy. Bellamy was also named first team all-region and broke the homerun record previously set by Patience Holman in 2018.

Volleyball ended the year with a record of 3-19. All-conference honors went to Jessica Stephens and Emily Nunan.

For winter sports information, tune to local AM station KXEO and follow us @mexhsdigitalmedia.



SENIOR PHOTOS ARE DUE BY DEC. 17, 2021. SENIOR MEMORY ADS ARE DUE BY DEC. 17, 2021. NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE. FOLLOW themexicohighyearbook on Facebook for more information.

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Easy Stromboli

Ingredients

1 can refrigerated pizza dough
 1 1/2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese
 1/3 cup marinara sauce
 1/2 cup chopped cooked ham
 1/2 cup sliced salami
 1/2 cup pepperoni slices
 1 egg
 1 tablespoon water
 1/2 teaspoon Italian seasoning
 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder

Instructions

-Heat oven to 350 degrees F and line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

-Roll pizza dough out on a lightly floured surface into a roughly 12" x 16" rectangle (it doesn't have to be exact!).

-Spread marinara sauce over pizza dough, but leave one inch all the way around and 2-3 inches at the long side furthest from you.

-Top with 1 cup of the shredded cheese, then ham, salami and pepperoni. Finish with remaining 1/2 cup cheese.

-Roll up as tightly as possible, doing your best not to push out the toppings as you do so. Stop just before you reach the end. Whisk together egg, water, Italian seasoning and garlic powder. Brush over pizza dough where the edges will meet, then pinch together.

-Place on prepared baking sheet with the seal down and brush with egg wash.

Bake for 20-25 minutes, until golden brown and slightly puffed. Let rest for 5-10 minutes before slicing.



Ms. Karen Ford
FACS instructor



Ron ON:

There is no denying the legend status that Ron Ridgway has attained at the high school. The Growl will be featuring some of our favorite Ron stories and learn everything he knows about the underbelly of MHS...

by Gage Walker

The Haunting of MHS

"So one mornin' I come in the back door and its six-o' clock so there is no noise in this building. I heard the elevator runnin' and you know when the door opens you hear the ding ding ding? Then the door shuts and it goes somewhere else, another floor.

"I'm like 'ooo,' but then I go and unlock all the corridor doors, unlock every floor because that's what I do every mornin'.

"Well after I got that done I come back downstairs and I still hear that elevator runnin' so then I walk down north to Jennifer Silver's room and she's in there sittin' at her desk and I said "Do you know who else is here besides you and I because that elevators runnin'?"

She says it does that from time to time. So, I don't know... but I go to the elevator and hit the button because I'm not afraid and I go all around and it's just fine. So really it turned out to be nothing."

Come join us at Mexico High School on November 11th for this year's Veterans Day Assembly!

**Registration begins: 9:00 am
Assembly: 9:30 am**

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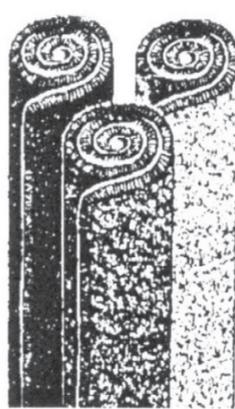
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