

THE GROWL

the voice of Mexico High School

**CONGRATS TO OUR
MHS WRESTLERS
FOR THEIR SHOWING
AT STATE!**

February 26, 2022
Volume 1 Issue 6



The Mexico High School boys basketball team has done something that no other basketball team in MHS history has ever done: they have a perfect record. In other words, their performance in each and every game, against each and every opponent has been pristine and flawless. What was different about this year? "There was more trust and communication," said senior Michael White who has been a member of the team since he was a freshman. The boys go into district play as the number one seed and play at 6 p.m. on March 2 at Centralia.

LEGENDARY

Mexico High School boys basketball 2021/22

Definitely NOT Fake News

MHS Journalism and Digital Media Program tackles old school and new outlets in media



Freshman Kambreya Merryman is excited to be a freshman journalism student in on the ground floor of bringing back the old-school printed newspaper.



After five years of being a digital newspaper online and a website, the high school newspaper, The Growl, is back in print thanks to the local owners of the Ledger and the support of local business owners and merchants.



"Make-do" journalism is how the program survives and Ms. Malott was kind enough to allow us to use the art closet as a podcast studio for our newest project.



Bringing back The Bite, the Mexico High School Video Channel, has fallen into the more than capable hands of an excited new staff. Members of the staff are, from left: Jordan Shelton, Messiah Simpson, BreAsia Estill, Lexie Willer, Capri'Ona Fountain, Ally Wilson and Elias Owens.



Left: Freshman Gage Walker, left, junior Landen Wilson, center, and senior Bailey Crum work out an edit of their YouTube show premier episode: RATS (Real American Teenagers). The show features the RATS trying food and offering their reviews, talking about serious, and not so serious issues, and just about anything else. Producing and hosting the broadcast is junior Jackson Lamb, and also pitching is freshman Conner Baclesse.

For more information, check out the Mexico High School Digital Media page on Facebook, the YouTube channel at The Bite-MHS, and the podcast, which has yet to be named will be announced soon. If you'd like to support MHS Digital Media, contact Ms. Jami Williams at jwilliams@mexico.k12.mo.us.



humans of MHS
all of us are human; some of us are just better at it...

In the Halls

There are over 800 stories walking the halls of MHS - here are two of them.



“Outside school when i have the time I do some gaming with my friends, I also like to use the time i have to learn more about Photography and Painting”

Parker Allen,
Junior



“My family and I went to a mountain in Colorado. My Dad was driving and he would mess around with my Mom about going on the edge of the mountain. She was freaking out about it and I was laughing at her for how scared she was. This is one one my favorite memories with my parents.”

Adviana Grimes,
freshman

Prom to Return to High School

After a two-year hiatus from school sponsorship due to Covid restrictions, the Mexico High School junior/senior prom will not only be sponsored by the high school, it will return to the high school.

Prom is scheduled for 8-10:30 p.m., April 30, 2022, at the Sports Complex Lobby. The junior class officers have been working with prom sponsors to put together a theme and decorations, despite the two-year lag in fundraising and the desire to bring the prom back to campus.

The Class of 2021 had originally planned to hold prom for the Class of 2020 in Gooch Gymnasium in April of 2020, however, schools were closed by order of the governor in March of that year. Prom was then rescheduled for the end of May, then again for early July of that same year and finally, it was cancelled.

A group of parents rallied and put together a “Mom Prom” in July of 2020 so that the graduates did not have to forego that tradition. Restrictions made holding the prom as a school-sponsored event in 2021 a problem as well, and so again, parents put together a second “Mom Prom” in 2021.

This year, the parents will get a break as the responsibility returns to the junior class. However, the community, who was so much a part of the success of the two Mom Prom events is being invited to help by donating any of the following items for decoration; please email jwilliams@mexico.k12.mo.us for more information:

- strands of clear lights
- artificial flowers
- tulle or gossamer
- old metal objects or architectural objects
- strands of ivy or flowers
- wooden chairs
- lanterns
- wooden fence lengths
- old doors
- old ladders
- flameless candles.

Word for Word an interview with: Rebecca Moppin

What is your position and title?

So my official position is Student Success and Behavioral Coordinator.

What needs do you see in our students?

The needs that I see in our student body is support and a sense of belonging. So, I think that being a teenager should not be hard, this should be some of the best times in our lives and if there is something I can do to make high school better for everyone then that's my goal. I want everyone to have good memories of high school and not have to struggle.

How has the whole concept of school changed over the past decade when it comes to kids?

In the past... So, this is my 18th year of education and there is so much more involved in being a kid in high school. When I started, it use to be all about the academics. That was just the way it was, but then as the world has changed, students needs have changed and students future needs have changed. Where it use to be everyone was moving for that path of college, now that's not how it is anymore. We need to make sure that we are meeting the needs of all of our students, and we are making sure that they have that sense of belonging, so they become part of our community.

What is the number one need of MHS students?

I think the number one need is a sense of belonging. Being able to come to school and know that somebody cares if your here or not. Knowing that you have opportunities to grow and develop as a individual, and not fit into a mold that somebody thinks that you should be in is a tremendous need for our students.

How can the community help meet those needs?

Being involved is huge. We have a parent night, we have sporting events, we have plays and we have competitions like our academic games and things. Just being supportive and knowing that our students want to find success and sometimes that doesn't happen like a Point A to Point B. Sometimes its like Point A,B,C,D; but, they really want to find that success. They want to be part of something bigger then them. That's the generation they want to be a part of; making something big, you know?



Mexico High School

Office of Student Support Services

ACADEMIC INTERVENTIONS
Data collection; Monitoring of academic growth; Development of Academic Improvement Plans

BEHAVIOR INTERVENTIONS
Data collection; Development & Implementation of Social-Emotional Improvement Plans at MHS

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL INTERVENTIONS
Data collection; Internal Case Management of Social-Emotional Services at MHS

COMMUNITY OUTREACH
School-Home-Community Partnerships; Management of Workforce Development Programs at MHS

SPECIAL PROGRAMS
Development & Implementation of programs designed to strengthen MHS students & community.

Kelsey Louder, LMSW, District Social Worker
kelsey.louder@mexico.k12.mo.us
 Christina McCaw, M.Ed. District Director of Social, Emotional and Behavioral Interventions
cmccaw@mexico.k12.mo.us
 Rebecca Moppin, Ed.S. Student Success & Behavior Management Coordinator
rmoppin@mexico.k12.mo.us

For more information contact the High School Office at 573-581-4296, ext. 3016 or email rmoppin@mexico.k12.mo.us

SkillsUSA District Medalists Move on to State Competitions

The following students received medals at District SkillsUSA competition this month:

Leadership Contests

Promotional Bulletin Board

3rd Place (Team) - Lexi Kemp (Wellsville), Booke Reichardt (Wellsville), William Sause (Mexico)

Occupational Related Contests

Related Technical Math

2nd Place - Andrew Pemberton (Mexico)

Technical Information Contests

Automotive Service Tech Info

2nd Place - Nick Speaks (Mexico)

Computer Repair Tech Info

1st Place - Zachary McWilliams (Mexico)

2nd Place - Andrew Dowty (Mexico)

Welding Tech Info

2nd Place - Derek Farrah (Mexico)

National Honor Society Inducts 32

The Mexico High School Honor Society will induct 32 new members at 7:30 p.m. on March 9, 2022, at Emmons Hall on the MHS campus. Students are:

Seniors

Beasley, Rayn

Manns, Quin

Playter, Tristan

Smythe, Brock

Urbina-Parra, Luisa

Juniors

Balvanz, Madison

Burks, Elizabeth

Delgado-Martinez, Brenda

Dowty, Andrew

Fountain, Aliyah

Gleeson, Declan

Grubb, Morgan

Haefling, Tessa

Jackson, Aleigha

Jarquín-García, Jocelyn

Jeffries, Jamison

Moeller, Amelia

Owens, Mekhi

Pemberton, Andrew

Peuster, Thomas

Ramirez-Lopez, Estrella

Rowe, Kennedy

Sims, Ty

Stephens, Jessica

Thebeau, Jaron

Thoenen, Tyler

Turlington, Kali

Turlington, Sidney

Waller, Nell

Willer, Alexis

A Marked Salon LLC
 Mark DeJaynes
owner/stylist

573-567-2233
mark@amarkedsalon.com

Mommens

Heating and Cooling LLC

1320 Paris Road 573-581-7970
 Mexico, MO 65265 FAX 573-581-7338
www.mommenshvac.com

CORNERSTONE

family medicine

A Noble Health Company

Arnold Funeral Home, Inc.

“Helping People Is Our Business”

TODD YAGER

425 South Jefferson St. Office: 573-581-5330
 Mexico, Missouri 65265 www.arnoldfh.com

THE GROWL

The Growl is the student newspaper of Mexico High School. It produced by the journalism students under the advisement of Ms. Jami Williams, instructor. The Growl is produced and distributed on the last Wednesday of each month through The Mexico Ledger. For advertising information please call: 573.581.4296 x. 2726 during school hours.

SHOW ME

Credit Union

550 S. Muldrow ~ 581-6978

www.showmecu.org

21 CENTURY 21

Peak, Marking, & Assoc.

228 S Jefferson
 Mexico, MO 65265
 Cell 573.721.8232
 Office 573.581.1363
marissadianelightsy@gmail.com
www.century21peakmarking.com

Each Office Is Independently Owned And Operated

Marissa Lightsey
Real Estate Agent

Staff

Conner Baclesse	Autumn Moore
Ja’Niyah Brookins	Braylin Parrott
Adam Buck	Jordan Shelton
Bailey Crum	Emily Smith
BreAsia Estill	Myah Smith
Jackson Lamb	Gage Walker
Hailey Long	Madison Wheaton
Kambrey Merriman	Dakota White

Kids W/ Careers

Darby's Got Drive

There is something about senior Jakob Darby that speaks of old-fashioned trustworthiness. His easy smile, his booming laughter, that is probably part of it. Or it could be the fact that Darby has been wearing a shirt with a patch that bears his name for almost two years. Darby is in the business of fixing cars, and he plans to continue doing just that.

by Bailey Crum

At MHS there are plenty of student workers, but some of those students have scored jobs that many would call careers. High school senior Jakob Darby is one of these students. Darby works on cars for Jim Butler of Centralia. He is rather experienced in this job as he's been working there since April of 2020. Not only has he gained valuable experience in that time, he has become a loyal employee.



Jakob Darby

hicles you'd be more successful if you studied automotive technology." As far as steps to further career success go, Darby is already a few ahead of the game.

"I'm planning to attend Ranken Technical College to study General Motors Automotive Technology. I'm focusing on this because I want a brand-oriented education."

As far as auto techs go, Darby was born into it. He is grateful for the opportunity granted to him by Jim Butler of Centralia, and he repays that with hard work and loyalty.

"Yes, I do plan to continue working for Jim Butler" Darby said, whether or not this job is for everyone is another he made sure to cover.

"It doesn't really require a traditional education, however with modern ve-

• **ARTISTS OF ALL KINDS** •
 • **PHOTOGRAPHERS** •
 • **POETS AND WRITERS** •
 • **SHOW OFF!** •
 • **The Growl is reviving** •
 • **THE ARTISTS** •
 • **AND WRITERS** •
 • **SPECIAL EDIT!** •
 • send your b/w photos, b/w art or pix of •
 • your art, poems, short stories, essays, •
 • flash fiction, flash nonfiction to •
 • jwilliams@mexico.k12.mo.us by March •
 • 10, 2022. Please put "Growl Art" in the •
 • subject line! •

features and stuff
 all of us are human; some of us
 are just better at it

Nobody is ever gonna believe you were THAT cool. Buy a yearbook and prove it! See Sarah in the office!

Audrain County Clerk

Lisa Smith
 County Clerk

Room 101
 101 N Jefferson
 Mexico, MO 65265
(573) 473-5820
 (573) 581-2380 fax
 lsmith@audraincounty.org
 audraincounty.org

The City of Mexico is accepting applications for the following summer openings in the Parks and Recreation Department:

Aquatic Center Assistant Manager- must be at least 21 years old

Job descriptions and applications are available at City Hall, Administrative Services Department, 300 North Coal, Mexico, MO 65265 or on our website at www.mexicomissouri.net. Applications will be accepted until positions are filled. The City of Mexico is an AA/EOE/E-Verify/Tobacco free employer.

103 N. Washington
 Mexico, MO 65265
 573.581.7400

Kate's
 Hallmark Shop

Facebook.com/KatesHallmarkShop
 KatesHallmarkShop@gmail.com
 Barbara Wilson, Owner

68 years... and counting!

A proud supporter of the Mexico Bulldogs!

millertiremissouri.com

Mexico MO 1706

ONE MOOSE

THOMAS LAW OFFICES
 WHERE CLIENTS COME FIRST

KRISTIN L. ARNOLD
 ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
 2600 FORUM BLVD, SUITE B1
 COLUMBIA, MO 65203

PHONE: 573-607-1818
 FAX: 573-447-7730
 KRISTIN.ARNOLD@THOMASLAWOFFICES.COM
 WWW.THOMASLAWOFFICES.COM

THE DEADLINE FOR SENIOR PICTURES AND MEMORY ADS HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO FEBRUARY 28, 2022.

BUILDING MATERIAL, PAINTS, VARNISHES, BUILDERS HARDWARE SPECIAL PLAN SERVICE

120 East Liberty
 Mexico, MO. 65265
 (573) 581-5656

Go Dawgs!!

Building a strong foundation for the community supporting our students!

COMMERCIAL, RESIDENTIAL, INDUSTRIAL & ROLLOFF SERVICES

"PROVIDING CUSTOMER SATISFACTION BY PEOPLE WHO CARE."

Dayne Love, President
 P.O. Box 248
 Mexico, MO 65265
 dayneswastedisposal@gmail.com

(573) 492-6195
 Fax (573) 492-6197
 Cell (573) 473-8432

GO BULLDOGS!

GO BULLDOGS!

from a loyal supporter of local education.

Writers Spotlight

Jane Doe #236 - Sydney Moeller

A scream broke the uneasy silence of the desert. I found myself staring with eyes that could no longer see into the face of a terrified hiker. She was rather unfortunate. What were the odds that she would trip and fall just enough to stare at my face? A face that is only left to be bones bleached by the sun and picked clean by vultures.

I used to be more than bone, I imagine. But, the desert had long stripped me of that. I once had a family, possibly waiting to hear from me. I could've been an ill-fated and unprepared hiker, similar to the one that had just found me. Or perhaps I was just a murder victim that had found an end here.

That was what the police wondered when they arrived. It must have been hard to reach me, as few arrived, all on horses.

"What do we have?" The detective asked.

In a different story, he would have a name, but not in this one. This is not a story about him. This is the story of the nameless skeleton that I have become.

"Skeleton, found by a hiker, not sure how long it's been here," a park ranger answered.

"What do we know?"

"It appears that someone fell; there is significant damage in the skull. Likely cause of death, blunt force trauma," the medical examiner spoke it like a well-rehearsed speech.

"We'll know more once we get it out."

They took so many pictures. There are quite possibly more pictures of my skeleton than of me when I was tendons and tissue; I was alive and whole and hated cameras. Then they extracted me, piece by piece. I was no longer a person, but a puzzle to be solved with incomplete pieces.

The medical examiner mentioned that some of me was missing. Most of me was there, but the hyoid, some teeth, and hand bones were gone. I couldn't tell you where...

They brought me to a van, then a cold basement where I was inspected and studied. People went in and out of the cold room all day. There were other bodies, other people who had become puzzles.

Then the detective entered and asked for details.

"The level of decomposition tells us these bones have been out there a while, likely over a month. Judging by the wider angle of the pubic bones, this is a female. The sutures in the skull and pubic symphysis tell us she was in her mid 20's. Finally, the alignment of her skull tells us she was likely caucasian." The medical examiner was quick and thorough, and blunt, so very blunt.

"Additionally, judging by the length of her femur, she was about five feet tall," and I was summed up.

"Alright, I'll check missing persons for a five-foot-tall caucasian female in her mid 20's. Anything else?" The detective was bored with me. I didn't feel sad. I didn't feel anything.

"Yes, the most likely cause of death is blunt force trauma to the skull. As you can see..." He indicated a shattered portion of my skull.

"Seems like a pretty open and shut case, inexperienced hiker trips, body is lost to the desert." The detective was satisfied; he was done and so was my story.

That's the story they decided on. They couldn't give me my name, my face, or my story back. Instead, they put me in a box with the label "Jane Doe #236." That is the end of my story, nameless, faceless, and without justice.

If this were not my story, if instead it was the story of the detective, I would tell you that he was the only detective ever called out to the desert to investigate bodies; because he was the only one willing to go and able to ride a horse. I would tell you his

wife wonders where he goes at night.

I would tell you that story. Many Jane's could fill in the details like wrapping tendons and tissue around a dusty, hollow rib cage.

He finds people who won't be searched for and drives them to the desert. He knows that by the time anyone is found in the desert they are left as bone, He knows that when he hits them over the head it will look just like they were a hiker that fell.

If this were the story of the hiker, I would tell you that she had lost her family in a car accident and had been on a hike to clear her mind. I would tell you that after she gave her statement to the detective, he asked for a follow-up interview and offered her a ride home, which she took.

I would tell you that by the time she realized she was never going home, it was too late. I would tell you that she is in a box next to me and that her story ends the same as mine, just a different number. She becomes Jane Doe #237.

But, since it is my story, I'll leave you with this: I had no one left to call for a ride home. And, same as he would for the hiker, a detective offered me a ride. I accepted, he seemed trustworthy, he had a badge. I would tell you that I did have a family waiting for me to call, but I had fought with my father.

My father would never know if I was missing or just ignoring him. The box with my bones would collect dust; my story has no satisfying end. I'd tell you that the detective has long forgotten my name, he died of old age, never being caught.

My family never knew what happened to me, and I am still sitting in a box labeled Jane Doe #236 out of thousands.



KATE BECKER
Collector of Revenue
Audrain County, Missouri
(573) 473.5824 office
Monday - Friday 8-5
we email receipts!
kbecker@audraincounty.org

Lookup / Print / Pay Online
tax.audraincounty.org
Paid for by Kate Becker

★ **DAGWOOD JR.** ★
MEXICO'S ORIGINAL

\$1 off whole sub
\$.50 off half sub
Limit 2 subs per coupon

216 West Promenade
Mexico, Missouri 65265
573.581.2332




Brick City Dental
Family Dentistry

"Minimally Invasive, Compassionate, Quality Focused. No matter where you are at on your oral health journey, come see what we can do for you!" ~ Dr. Kollath

Call us to schedule your visit today!!
573.581.4352



KIRK EKERN
AGENT

Providing Insurance & Financial Services
www.KirkEkern.com
1122 E. LIBERTY, MEXICO
581-4111



This is the day the Lord has made. Rejoice and be glad in it.

Melody's Quality Jewelry

103 S. Washington • Mexico, MO 65265 • 573.581.7725
E-mail: mqj1995@att.net

20 YEARS OF SERVICE



Shelly Branch
Realtor®

573.253.1024(Cell)
573.581.1363 (Office)
shellybranch1974@gmail.com

Century 21 Peak Marking & Associates
228 S Jefferson
Mexico MO
Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated.

HOME BANK

For All Your Banking Needs

2977 S. Clark Street
Mexico, MO 65265
573.975.8005
www.myhomebank.bank




There is no such thing as having too much optimism!

Mexico Optimists support the Mexico Bulldogs no matter how big or how small the paws!



Consolidated Electric Cooperative

3940 E. Liberty • Mexico, MO 65265 • 573/581-3630
www.consolidatedelecric.com

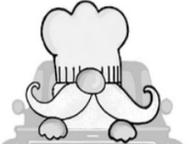
KXEO
is Mexico!

A M 1340

Since 1948

The Home of Bulldog Sports!

BUCKY'S SIT OR GET



HOMESTYLE COOKING
Mexico MO

Dine in or Take out & Catering too!!!
573-975-4151

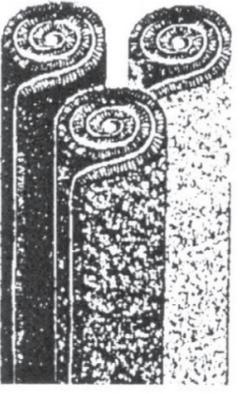
573-581-7064

Erdel & Wood

HOME IMPROVEMENT CENTER, INC.

NORTH SIDE OF THE SQUARE
109 W. MONROE, MEXICO, MO 65265

TOLL FREE 877-771-7064
FAX 573-581-7067



slumberland
FURNITURE



We are totally in favor of dogs on the couch... especially Bulldogs!

2715 East Liberty St. Mexico, Missouri
573.581.6767