



# The Pirate Tribune



*Happy Saint Patrick's Day, Monte Vista High School!*

Issue 5

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## Conour Animal Shelter Allegations Given a Closer Look

By Emma DeHerrera

Many people have come forward recently concerning the conditions of the Conour Animal Shelter. The Upper Rio Grande Animal Society is a non-profit organization that operates the no kill shelter here in Monte Vista, providing a temporary home for dogs until they are adopted. Because a number of allegations have been made against the shelter recently, the *Pirate Tribune* decided to investigate further after hearing from all sides.

On December 30, 2015, Anthony Guerrero of the *Monte Vista Journal* wrote the article "Animal shelter faces abuse allegations", part one of a series. Therein Guerrero claimed that "homeless dogs and puppies being housed at Conour Animal Shelter have been abused, neglected, ignored and generally mistreated by shelter employees, despite complaints to the Conour Board of Directors." He also wrote, "According to these allegations, the animals have slept in their own feces, gone without food and water, been subjected to an improperly handled Parvovirus outbreak and also have been yelled at, dragged, beat on the head, injected with used needles and their basic rights to comfort ignored." Former employee Brandi Branecky provided Valley Publishing with many documents, videos, pictures and voice recordings substantiating these claims. Branecky, a self-described animal advocate, eventually came forth on a Facebook page she created, explaining, "There were things going on at the shelter that I should've dealt with a long time ago." and "Instead of dealing with the actual issues, they would rather deal with the person reporting the issues." The board chairman, Jim Leist, immediately responded in disagreement, claiming Brandi was dismissed for being grossly insubordinate to him and the board's secretary. Branecky deactivated the page after the shelter created a new page.

Then, on January 6th, the *Journal* published

part two of the series because of claims of abuse and misconduct from Branecky, as well as from former and current volunteers. Both Branecky and the Board of Directors for the animal shelter were granted an interview. The Leist interview was originally scheduled for December 1st, but took place on the 22nd due to the shelter's attorney advising him not to proceed after reviewing Branecky's evidence. On the 22nd, according to the *Journal*, Leist stated, "I need you to understand that the vast majority of the problems at the shelter have been brought on by Brandi herself." He claimed her Facebook page was "not at all representative of true facts." Upon hearing that Valley Publishing had also discovered puppies in unsanitary conditions, Leist sent an email saying that the workers there had no volunteers at the time and have many responsibilities. Leist proclaimed, "We are one of the top 10 shelters in the state for cleanliness."

On two separate days in February Mrs. Jessica Castillo and Emma DeHerrera took last hour to venture around the shelter for a first hand look. Inside the shelter it seemed the dogs had been given adequate bedding, water, and food. None of the kennels looked messy, and the dogs looked relatively clean. The outside dogs also had food, water, and lifted beds. Mrs. Castillo noted, "The handlers knew the dogs and their character well." Although on our two trips volunteering as dog walkers we didn't find anything of concern, now that the shelter is on alert, it's not a surprise that conditions have improved (if, indeed, they were poor before); thus, we must all keep these allegations and their implications in mind in supporting the shelter.

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## Saguache County Jail Inmate Found Guilty of Rioting and Arson

By Chris Villagomez

Dickie Lopez has been accused of starting a jail riot on May 27th, 2015, at the Saguache County Jail and has been found guilty of three out of five counts, including riot in a detention facility, conspiracy to engage in a riot, first degree arson, assault, and criminal mischief. He was convicted for inciting a riot, first-degree arson and criminal mischief. District Judge Patrick oversaw the case which started on February 10th and finished around 1:30 pm on February 12th.

The proceedings revealed that the riot was supposedly aggravated when Lopez hung up a poster on his cell wall which read “red rum”, which also reads murder backwards. Posters are not allowed in the prison so he was asked to remove it, after which Lopez says that he felt “disrespected”. During breaks in the proceedings Lopez turned against his public defenders and protested against law enforcement. Saguache County confirmed that Lopez has a long history with the law and the prosecution introduced five witnesses: Prisoner Marty Martinez, who was present at the scene of the crime when the riot began, Saguache Sheriff's Deputy Wayne Clark, Saguache Sheriff Dan Warwick, former fire chief and dispatcher Ron Gilbertson and Undersheriff Jim McCloskey.

Martinez attested that Lopez also spit in his face, which in the state of Colorado is consid-

ered assault when done towards enforcement personnel. Martinez also explained that without any help there was very little he could do to stop the riot. Deputy Wayne Clark, on the stand, stated that he arrived at the jail around 8:30 am when he saw fire coming from the building. He proceeded to enter and found a distressed Lopez pacing back and forth in the lobby. He then stated that he handcuffed prisoners and took them to an ambulance to be checked for smoke inhalation. He then followed them to the Rio Grande County Hospital in Del Norte and later helped transport Lopez to Park County Jail where Lopez asked him if “Warwick was mad that he burnt down the jail”. Clark was then dismissed because, according to court rules, you can't use a statement after the actual event. Warwick was the next witness and told the jury that he arrived at the prison at around 7 am and discovered it to be in flames with the jailers rioting.

He said that he went into the jail after the incident, as well, and found damage from a melted air conditioner and damaged security cameras, in addition to damage from firefighters trying to put out the fire. He was then asked to confirm that he received a check from the insurance for damages adding to \$76,282 but he says that the actual amount came to about \$102,000. Public Defender Matthew Ferguson then gave a

lengthy demonstration of the bills from KW Construction and Renovation, the company who repaired the jail. Ferguson then said that the damage done to the jail wasn't enough to be considered first degree arson, in light of the video evidence.

Then the Saguache fire chief testified that he arrived at the jail around 7:15 to 7:30 am, at which time he was told that Lopez wanted to speak with him. The chief said that he tried his best to calm him down but Lopez kept saying that he was tired of the disrespect he received the night before as he paced back and forth. The chief was then asked if he gave Lopez the lighter he used to light the cigarette he offered him. He replied by saying no, that Lopez had taken a lighter from his waistband, which he, as fire chief, then confiscated.

Next on the stand was McCloskey, who placed Lopez under arrest. He says during transport Lopez apologized for what he did and felt remorse.

Then, in the closing statements, Ferguson said that Lopez felt disrespected and that he didn't intend to start the riot or fire. The prosecution pointed out that the disrespect was irrelevant, however, because “you don't get to demand things in jail.” Ultimately, Lopez was found guilty and will be sentenced on the charges March 29th at 1:30 pm.

## Alamosa Adds a New K9 to Aid in Drug Control in the San Luis Valley

By Matt Martinez

Alamosa will be adding on a new K9 to help out with drug control in the San Luis Valley. The K9's name is Dax and he is from the Colorado Springs forest service. He is trained to detect drugs and aid in search and rescue missions. He is also trained for patrol, but the Alamosa police chief said that he will not be used for patrol at this time; he will only be used for drug work and search and rescue. The Alamosa police force is really happy to get a second dog because the K9 unit's current dog, Sammy, and his handler will get a break. The new dog that they will be receiving has been donated to them by the old handler and the forest service. The cost of the dog will be very minimal because the



*Dogs used in search and rescue missions throughout the state often make great drug detection dogs, as well, like Dax, Alamosa's newest K9.*

*Photo courtesy of Search and Rescue Dogs of Colorado*

only thing that the K9 unit really spends money on is the materials that the dog really needs to do his job to help out the community. The chief said that the new dog is likely going to be an even better

dog than they have now. Sammy is very good (on his first day he helped with a big bust), but his handlers hope Dax will be as good or better than Sammy one day.



## Monte Vista School Board Discusses Senior Trip and Retirements

By Emma DeHerrera

The February 11th school board meeting started off with the announcement that Abigail Sanchez, president of the senior class, put in a request for an overnight senior trip, which was approved as an exception to board policy. The Board also accepted the retirement resignations of Mary Vigil and Jerene Wilkinson. The board also approved Maria Martinez as a guest teacher (one year sub authorization) and Daniel Gallegos as a classified guest employee (a bus driver). During his superintendent's report, Mr. Robert Webb spoke about his recent exchange trip to Mexico, gave an update on the Curriculum Loft matter, discussed a transition plan for the staffing changes in the administration office, gave a budget update, and reported on SCAP. In regards to school safety, Mr. Webb reported on the new plan and highlighted points from the Claire Davis study. The board also approved several policy revisions, a policy repeal, December financial and quarterly reports, and the minutes from the two previous meetings. The Board then heard reports on BOCES, the Education Foundation, and city/district conversations. They also had follow-up comments and questions in regards to the principal reports. The next Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 10th, 2016, at 6 pm.



# Sports News



## Monte Vista High School Track Season Well Underway this Spring

Compiled by Austin Brown

As the Monte Vista track season began the runners were preparing themselves for a track meet at CSU Pueblo on Saturday, March 12th, the opener of the season. The practices have consisted of tons of running and lots of practice on events. The track team is composed of lots of great athletes this year, led by Coach Tonso, Coach Michelle Schaefer, assistant coach Shadron Wentta, as well as a new throwing coach, Jim McAuliffe.

### Track Schedule

- Saturday, March 12th @ CSUP Early Bird Meet
- Friday, March 18th @ Center Meet
- Thursday, March 24th @ La Junta Early Meet
- Saturday, April 2nd @ Sangre De Cristo Meet
- Saturday, April 9th @ Salida Meet
- Friday, April 15th @ Primero Track Meet
- Friday, April 22nd @ Tiger Relays
- Saturday, April 30th @ High Altitude/Alamosa League Meet
- Saturday, May 7th @ Terry Alley Meet/Pagosa
- Saturday, May 14th Monte Vista Last Chance Meet**



## Lady Pirates Suffer a Tough Loss to Platte Valley in the Playoffs

By Austin Brown

On Friday, March 4th, 2016, the Lady Pirates faced off against the Platte Valley Broncos in a playoff game in the regional state tournament. The Lady Pirates had had an awesome season and they hoped to end it on a high note. Monte Vista went into the tournament ranked as the 13th seed, while the Platte Valley Broncos went in as the 20th seed. Though Monte Vista outscored Platte Valley in both the second and fourth quarters, it wasn't enough to secure a win. The final score was 55-60, Platte Valley; the Broncos would go on to play the Moffat County Bulldogs in the playoffs.



Monte Vista Senior Abbey Sanchez says, "It was a good season; we made it further than before and we should be proud of that, but we could've done better."

The Monte Vista High School Lady Pirates had a great season, but were finally taken down by the Platte Valley Broncos.

Photo courtesy of Dezirae Sandoval and Arianna Varela

## Lady Pirates Start Strong in Playoffs With Conference Victory Over Alamosa

By Austin Brown, Dezirae Sandoval and Arianna Varela

On February 13, 2016, the Lady Pirates squared up against the Lady Moose in a Conference game on the Pirates' home court in what ended up being a tough but well-played game. As this was their last home game and senior night, the Pirates wanted to end the regular season on a good note.

The seniors and parents who were honored that night include Faith Pacheco (James and Rhonda Pacheco), Payton Cooper (Jeff and Linett Escherman), Lexi Wingert (Lori Martinez), Abigail Sanchez (Elizabeth Conner, Donald Sanchez), and Terrise Sanchez (Mike and Terri Sanchez).

In the first quarter, Monte Vista, led by its seniors, came out to send a message to the Moose. This game was intense and very fun to watch because players that had been underrated were certainly the biggest threat in the matchup. Many players from the Pirates contributed to help keep the game competitive. Alamosa fought back, but Monte still took the first quarter, 12-4.

In the second quarter the Alamosa Lady Moose came out strong and put their effort into the game, but the Lady Pirates didn't give in. Both teams played aggressively in the second quarter, so the game was pretty tight, causing the crowd to get in on the action. Players on both teams hustled to end strong, but the Lady Pirates came out on top again, leading 21-13 at the end of the first half.

In the third quarter of play, both teams came out strong and aggressive. The Lady Pirates were not showing any signs of weakness, so the Lady Moose had to figure out a game plan. Soon enough, the Moose started giving their all and scored 9 points on Monte's defense. But then Monte dropped an easy 12 points on Alamosa. At the end of the third the score was 33-22, Monte still in the lead.

In the final quarter the Pirates had no mercy and attacked the Moose with their striking defense. But the Moose sort of kept their cool and continued to play, even though Monte had an amazing defense that supported the sharp Monte offense. At the end of the game the Pirates won 45-35, thanks in great part to the leading scorers: Danielle Chacon (16 Points), Abigail Sanchez (8 points), Lexi Wingert (8 points), and Terrise Sanchez (5 points).

After this uplifting win, the Lady Pirates had some thoughts: Senior Terrise Sanchez said she was "very pleased with how we played against them and glad we won on our senior night." Senior Lexi Wingert also said it "felt very good" to win. Junior Danielle Chacon also pointed out, "We all did good. We came together as a team."

From that win against Alamosa, the Lady Pirates went on to win the neutral playoff game against the Bayfield Wolverines on Tuesday, February 23rd, with the final score being 52-28. Monte Vista residents attended to cheer on the Pirates. Then the first tournament game was against Centauri on February 26th, 2016, in Centauri. The Falcons won their home playoff game against Monte Vista with a score of 52-44. This game was very intense and many Monte Vista fans, family, friends, and students, alike, showed up to cheer on the Lady Pirates. After the game, many attendees were heard saying the loss was partially the referee's fault. Even though the Lady Pirates didn't bring home the win at that game, they still had another game against the Alamosa Mean Moose on February 27th at Centauri High School. That game would determine if they would go on to regional competition. The Lady Pirates were able to triumph over Alamosa with a score of 48-44 at that neutral playoff game, but, sadly, the boys couldn't keep up, with a final score of 64-27, Alamosa. The girls team went on to play their last game of the season against Platte Valley on March 4th. The Monte Vista Lady Pirates lost 55-60, though they put up a great fight.

# San Luis Valley Wide Rugby Team Picking Up Speed and Stamina as Season Wears On

By Andres Fuentes

Coach: Andrew Weiss

Players:

- Javi Ramos (Hooker)
- Justice Quirova (Tighthead prop)
- Trysten Ogden (Lock)
- Ace Asbell (Lock)
- Kyle Noonan (Flanker)
- Nabor Quintana (Flanker)
- Joey Charron (8 Man)
- Ted Hernandez (Scrum-half)
- Trace Braun (Fly-half)
- Matt Reaves (Left wing)
- D'Angelo Santos Montoya (Inside centre)
- Josh Jones (Out centre)
- Rico Simmons (Right wing)
- Andres Fuentes (Full back)
- Angelo Saenz (Wing or full back)
- Kris Donaldson (Forward)
- John Garcia (Flanker or centre)
- Niclo Cisneros (Back)
- Brandon Atencio (Hooker)
- Chandler Swanson (Forward)
- Romes Hamilton (Flanker or centre)



The new SLV rugby team is ready to take on opponents all over the state this upcoming spring. Photo courtesy of Andres Fuentes

## Rugby Schedule

- February 27th: Aspen
- March 12th: @Swarm
- March 19th: @Terrors
- March 26th: Ridge View
- April 2nd: @Summit
- April 9th: Castle Rock
- April 16th: @Harlequins
- April 23rd: Falcons
- April 30th: @Titans



The team faced a tough opponent in the Aspen rugby club. Photo courtesy of Andres Fuentes

Coach Anthony Weiss, a Monte Vista police officer, hails from the University of Wyoming. He started this team because “he knows that there's not much to do in Monte Vista and he wants to provide positive support groups and help us all reach a post high school goal.” On February 27th, the team took on Aspen’s rugby club at Chapman Park. Monte Vista started their first season with a loss, Aspen winning the game 21-0, but the team is looking forward to its next game and learning a lot along the way.



## Monte Vista High School Makes Another Impressive Showing at Regional Science Fair

Compiled by Loree Harvey and Violet Swope

Congratulations to our young scientists who were honored at this year's regional science fair! This year was a success as Monte Vista High School was awarded the Large High School Award, and Amber Michel, Molly Nehring, and Parker Randolph were selected to attend the Colorado Science and Engineering Fair in Fort Collins, Colorado, April 7th-9th. As of this year, 137 students from the region have earned the honor of participating in CSEF, 50 of those students coming from Monte Vista High School.

All of the students' hard work finally paid off as Monte Vista's ten finalists headed to Plachy Hall at Adams State University on March 11th to showcase their projects. All of the blood, sweat, and tears put into finishing every last bit of the projects, standing in front of the boards, and attempting not to forget a single detail of the oral presentation was worth it. Ms. Loree Harvey and Ms. Gina Randolph, MVHS science teachers, led the charge after devoting countless hours to help Monte Vista's science fair participants prepare themselves for regional science fair.

Bill Metz Elementary and Monte Vista Middle School also received numerous accolades, showing that Monte Vista School District is a leader in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) and science! Listed below are the MVHS participants and the titles of their projects:

**Justin Carr:** Smart Car

**Jeremiah Etter:** Supplementation Nation: The Effects of Dietary Supplements on Daphnia Heart Rate and Behavior

**Cortnie Hunter:** Effects of location and soil profile on dissolved metals in Salvage Wells on the Closed Basin Project, San Luis Valley, Colorado

**Krystin Martinez:** Exhausting Effects

**Amber Michel:** I Guess That's Why They Call It The Blues

**Molly Nehring:** Python Cubed

**Parker Randolph:** Polymer Enhanced Passive Cooling: Designing a Thin Film Material to Remove Thermal Energy and Avert Incoming Solar Radiation

**Nevada Siemering:** Effects of Roads on the Distribution of Elk in the Rio Grande National Forest

**Kendra Stonefield and Violet Swope:** Educational Beats

In addition to being selected to attend CSEF in April, Molly Nehring has qualified for the International Science and Engineering Fair to be held in Phoenix, Arizona, May 8th-13th. Nevada Siemering was also awarded a \$2,000 scholarship from Adams State University.



Science fair participants and sponsors photo courtesy of the Monte Vista School District website

## Mesa Science Hosts Family Fun Night Filled With Experiments at Bill Metz

By Derek Medina



*A Fun Night attendee is very engaged in a hands-on activity.  
Photo courtesy of Presley Garcia*

On February 11th our Mesa Science club here at MVHS hosted a family fun night at Bill Metz Elementary. We showed all the children different experiments. There were five groups, all teaching about different properties of science, including inertia, air pressure, and chemical reactions. The Fun Night was made so all of the little kids could go out after school with their parents and watch some interesting experiments. Our Mesa Science sponsors who run the club are Eric Hotz and Gary Wilkinson. The sponsors at Bill Metz are Annette Montoya and Kellyn Ross. The club's main student boss is Presley Garcia, number 30 on the court but number 1 in Mesa's hearts, as he is our one and only president.

The night, overall, went very well and the kids seemed to enjoy our presentations. Prior to the event, we all met up at the high school to get all of our materials together and practice our experiments. Then we proceeded to five different rooms that were set up in Bill Metz. Each room had three different experiments. I

myself was not able to go into each of the rooms and check out all of the experiments, but the room I was in was all about air pressure. We demonstrated how airplanes get lifted off the ground by using a pop can and a glass beaker. Blowing into the beaker would cause the can to shoot out of the beaker. The next demonstration showed how strong air is. We used a straw to stab through a whole potato by putting our thumbs on the back of it and letting the air push through it. Lastly, we had a demonstration with water. We filled up a water bottle with water and poked multiple small holes in it, but no water would come out unless the lid was taken off. About fifty kids and thirty parents came for Family Fun Night to see these science demonstrations, which I would consider a success.

## PBIS News: MVHS Students Take an Exciting Ski Trip to Wolf Creek

By Derek Medina

Monte Vista High School took a big group of students to spend the day at Wolf Creek Friday, March 4th. Everyone had the a choice to ski or snowboard. It cost \$20 to ski and \$40 to snowboard. Most of the kids skied and but there was a surprising number of snowboarders, as well. Five teachers came along on the trip, including Ms. Loree Harvey, Mr. Aaron Woodke, Mrs. Sharon Stanford, Mr. Russell Randolph, and Mrs. Gina Randolph. All of the students had to be at the school by 7:30 am. We were told to bring sunscreen, a packed lunch, warm clothes, goggles or sunglasses and many other things to get us through the day. Upon arrival, we all went to base camp to rent our boots and skis or boards. Everyone was taken up on the Raven lift so the instructors could assess our skill level and put us in groups. The groups went from A-E, "A" being for beginners. Throughout the morning we were taught skills to make us better. Around 12 o'clock we were released to lunch during which we could eat our packed lunch or go to the lodge to order a variety of meals. After lunch our teachers signed most kids out so we could ski with our friends. It was fun to go down all of the different slopes. The instructors were disappointed we didn't stay with them and learn some more, but it was fun to learn on our own. At around 4 o'clock we were told to head back down to base camp so we could return our skis, poles, boots, and boards. After a long day of playing on the mountain, we all headed back and got home safely.





## FBLA's Community Service Project Donated Ninety Hygiene Kits to La Puente Shelter

By Steven Valdez

On Monday, March 6th, 2016, FBLA president Samantha Bogle and vice president Emma DeHerrera delivered ninety homemade hygiene kits for the temporary residents of La Puente homeless shelter. This project was the club's major community service project this year with donations

and effort offered by the entire club. Throughout the month of February donation collection boxes sat in the library and Mrs. Condon's classroom. Before the month was through the boxes overflowed with donations. Samantha told the *Tribune*, "This project really means a lot to me; it really warms

my heart to see how much everyone appreciates the donations. I just want to thank everyone who donated, and all the members of FBLA. We did it, guys." This project will not be presented at State FBLA in Vail, however, due to lack of members able to present at the event.



Key Club Spring Rally photo by Steven Valdez

## MVHS Hosts Successful Spring Rally

By Steven Valdez

On Saturday, February 13th, Monte Vista High School Key Club hosted the annual division five spring rally. This event took place in the morning from 10 am until about noon. Members from the Center High School Key Club and Alamosa High School Key Club attended the event. Lt. Governor Steven Valdez was the presenter and presiding officer of this event. Every year the current Lt. Governor of all the divisions in every district internationally is required to host a Spring Rally for the primary purpose of electing a succeeding Lt. Governor for the next school year. This year Megan Curry of Alamosa High School Key Club ran unopposed for the position and was elected into office. Megan will not officially begin performing her Lt. Governor duties until she is sworn in at the district convention April 1st-3rd in Lakewood, Colorado. Curry gave a riveting speech that was by far the best performance of the day. Lunch was served and everyone in attendance went home with a smile and another great Key Club memory.

## Monte Sends Ten Students to State FBLA

By Steven Valdez

Monte Vista Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) attended their district competition Tuesday, February 9th, at Adams State University. The events had a late start, but began at 7:30 am, half an hour late. When the event did begin each student with a live event from the multiple schools in District 10 departed to their designated holding room in either the business building or the student center. From the holding rooms FBLA sponsors from each school guided teams or individuals to a prep room where they prepared their presentations in just ten brief minutes. The sponsors then led students to a room with two judges where they presented a seven minute skit demonstrating their knowledge of the area in which their event was themed. There were ten state FBLA qualifiers this year from Monte Vista High School: Emma DeHerrera and Alexis Lovato in Business Ethics, Angel Sandoval and Nohemi Lopez in Client Services, Hector Ramos in Computer Problem Solving, Samantha Bogle and Steven Valdez in Hospitality Management, and Brandi Hoffstetter and Jacky Acosta in Publication Design.

These ten qualifiers will travel to Vail, Thursday, April 14th, and plan to stay at the riveting Cascade Resort & Spa, a pleasant upgrade from the simple hotel they usually stay in, thanks to the major success the club had this winter selling poinsettia flowers. Upon hearing about FBLA's success, principal Scott Wiedeman exclaimed, "Congratulations, state qualifiers! Let's send some Pirates to nationals!"

## Wind Symphony Travels to Grand Junction, Shines at Concert

By Tyina Pacheco

After spending the weekend at the CSU Pueblo Festival of the Winds, Monte Vista High School's Wind Symphony traveled to Grand Junction on Sunday, February 28th, 2016, to perform the next day with other bands from around the state. The Wind Symphony played a selection of music, including "Waltz No. 2", "Soundtrack", and "(Risk) Everything For a Dream". On Monday, February 29th, the band performed their selection of music in front of judges and other bands. After getting back to Monte Vista, the MVHS Band went home to rest up for their concert on Tuesday March 1st. At the concert that evening, the MVHS Concert Band performed "Trumpets" by Jason Derulo, "(Risk) Everything For a

Dream", and "Normandy Beach." The MVHS Wind Symphony also performed "Waltz No. 2" and "Soundtrack". Before playing "Soundtrack", there was a short intermission to announce the Monte Vista Sweetheart. The Sweetheart is chosen from amongst the senior girls that participate in the MVHS Band. The contestants for this year were Kimberly Bowman, Anahi Arroyo, Brittany Heredia, Victoria Jaramillo, and Terrise Sanchez. Their escorts were Sterling



*Festival of the Winds group photo courtesy of band director Josh Garcia*

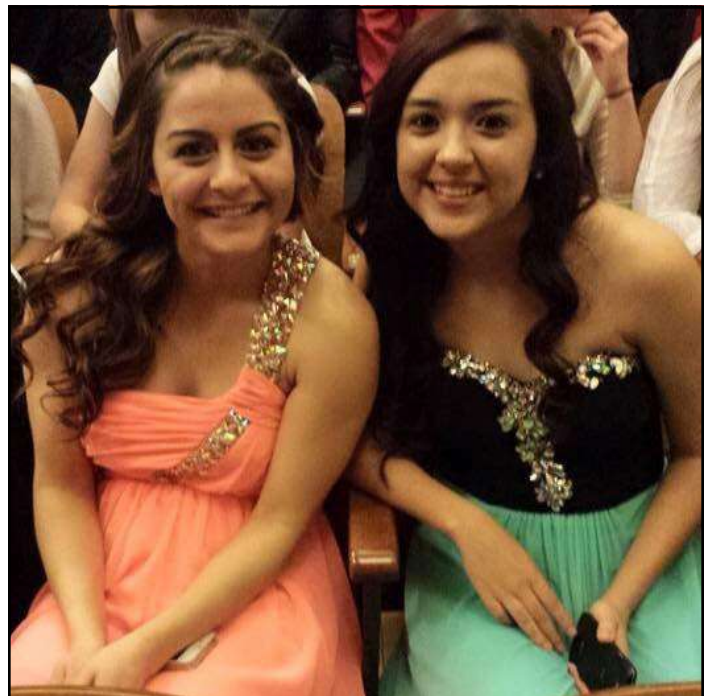
Salazar, Ceasar Duran, Lorenzo Valenzuela, Joel Solano, Allan Ochoa, and Ignacio Gallegos. After crowning Anahi Arroyo, the senior band students surprised Mr. Garcia with a gift basket. Then the Wind Symphony ended the concert with the dramatic crowd pleaser, "Soundtrack".

Salazar, Ceasar Duran, Lorenzo Valenzuela, Joel Solano, Allan Ochoa, and Ignacio Gallegos. After crowning Anahi Arroyo, the senior band students surprised Mr. Garcia with a gift basket. Then the Wind Symphony ended the concert with the dramatic crowd pleaser, "Soundtrack".

## Anahi Arroyo Crowned 2016 Band Sweetheart at Sweetheart Concert

By Tyler Vigil

Anahi Arroyo, daughter of Lucinda and Noe Arroyo, was selected as this year's Sweetheart by the Monte Vista High School Band. That is a big accomplishment because it shows that her band mates respect and value her. Anahi is a senior at MVHS and she was very honored to be selected. She enjoys running track and hanging out with friends, and she has also loved all of the band trips and competitions in which she has participated. She explained that being a part of the band has been an amazing experience and she will never forget all the fun that she has had. In addition to her achievements in band, she is a multiple sport athlete and a very good student. She is pictured at right with fellow senior band mate, Brittany Heredia.



*Photo courtesy of Anahi Arroyo*

## Kali Wallace's *Shallow Graves* Takes Readers Deep Into the Life of Breezy

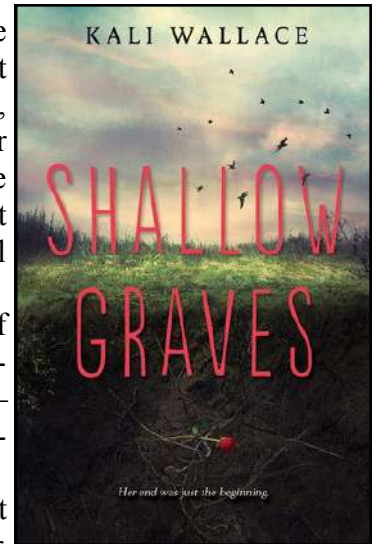
By Violet Swope

"The first time I killed someone it was an accident," writes Kali Wallace when describing the young, dead "life" of Breezy, aka Melanie, her alive best friend's name. Breezy has spent a year underground, during which she saw stars, though she had no awareness of time, just stars. She wakes up to a man over her grave and she realizes she's been dug up. A split second passes and there lays the man. Dead. At that point, she begins to have flashbacks, not her flashbacks, but flashbacks of a killer, of the man she just killed, and the family he murdered all dead around the table.

Prior to this point, as a young woman, Breezy had her whole life ahead of her, dreaming of her perfect career as an astronaut. But then she was murdered after leaving her friend behind at a party. Her whole life ended in that moment—literally. She had no identity, no friends, no family. She was just there for no apparent reason.

Find out what happens to Breezy in this spine-chilling, unusual thriller that will have you paranoid about those around you. Breezy is an engaging character because she is emotionless and fears nothing. She just wants to continue moving, no destination in mind. She takes rides from strangers, kills more murderers and sees ghosts. She has no home to go to, yet she still pushes forward, being that there's no way of dying when you're already dead. She can also see right through people, in the sense that she can tell when someone's a murderer. All she needs is a little shelter, and to stop running into killers. And to stop killing the them.

Kali Wallace was very vivid, presenting this book as though in the real world, but with a twist. Expressions and emotions were high in this book, with twists and turns at every corner. The book presented itself as creepy, yet drew in the attention. The flashbacks are very detailed and visual, as is the book in its entirety. This Colorado writer, Kali Wallace, found a great take, creating a book which seemed to be twisted and dark, a very abnormal book, but is actually very relatable. Even though this is Wallace's first book, I recommend it to anyone that is into the world of creeps and shocks, ready for a twist at any moment.



Copyright Katherine Tegen Books

## Best of New York Fashion Week from Madison Square Garden

By Arianna Varela

The world's top designers and brands, such as Ralph Lauren, Rebecca Minkoff, Hood By Air, Victoria Beckham, Balmain, and many more, made appearances during NYFW, which began February 18th. Hundreds of adorers attended in person, while thousands watched at home.

The sold-out venue, Madison Square Garden, was where organizers named the most influential human of our generation, Kanye West. In addition to presenting his Yeezy Season 3 collection, West premiered his new album at the 90-minute show. Season 3 is everything 1 and 2 is not. Although they have the same aesthetic, the signature nudes in the first two seasons have transformed into warm tones and even patterns. The price has also significantly dropped by a staggering 60%. But nothing could ever compare to Olivier Rousteing's elegant Balmain collection. Never disappointing a soul when it comes to his high fashion couture, Oliver's new collection dropped jaws down the runway, as usual. Balmain also released their new collaboration with H&M with more of a toned down look, instead of their signature glam.

Then there was the Kardashian/Jenner clan who combined elegance and grunge; the girls rocked custom Yeezy x Baliman, earning them the title of best dressed.

## Opinion: Underclassmen Attending Prom Controversy

By Violet Swope

Dresses and tuxes are ready for the moment that lasts a lifetime; everyone is geared up to dance the night away, knowing everything will be perfect.

But, for one second, take into consideration the freshmen and sophomores, especially the ones who are dating upperclassmen. Think about how unfair it is for someone to have to watch the love of his or her life go to prom without him or her, or sacrifice that special night. One way or another, someone is left out. Yes, it is a night meant for juniors and seniors, but it is also a night for romance.

Thus, because there are no exceptions to the rule that only juniors and seniors and their dates (junior equivalent to twenty years of age), underclassmen dating upperclassmen are unable to attend.

Freshman Briana Garcia states, "I feel that underclassman should be allowed to have that opportunity to experience Prom with the person they love...If their love can't go and he/she decides to take someone else, their significant other would grow jealous...Why is it okay for people out of high school to go, but underclassmen can't?" Sophomore Ezekiel Medina also said, "Freshman and sophomores being invited as a date to Prom—I say it would be something good because I feel like it's unfair for it to just be for juniors and seniors. Give freshmen and sophomores a chance. I always think of school as a family." Junior Kyle Noonan went on to say, "I think they [freshmen and sophomores] should go; it's an experience. I think it's pretty stupid that Monte is one of the few schools that doesn't allow them to go as dates. It should definitely be changed."

On the other hand, Mrs. Jessica Castillo, Monte Vista High School junior sponsor, felt as though it should continue to be an event just for juniors and seniors because juniors fund and put on the event for the seniors who did it the year before. She did state, however, that she could understand it from the flip side of students who were in committed relationships who wanted to go with their older significant others. Senior Presley Garcia sympathized, too, but said "it's a privilege...it's a junior and senior thing." Regardless of which side you're on, it's going to be up for debate this spring.

## Social Anxiety is a Serious Issue in Schools

By Lily Query

Social anxiety, also called social phobia, is an anxiety disorder in which a person has an excessive and unreasonable fear of social situations. Anxiety and self-consciousness arise from a fear of being closely watched, judged, and criticized by others. A person with social anxiety disorder is afraid that he or she will make mistakes, look bad, and be embarrassed or humiliated in front of others. The fear may be made worse by a lack of social skills or experience in social situations. The anxiety could even escalate into a panic attack. As a result of the fear, the person endures certain social situations in extreme distress or may avoid them altogether (if possible). In addition, people with social anxiety disorder often suffer from "anticipatory" anxiety—the fear of a situation before it even happens—for days or weeks before the event. In many cases, the person is aware that the fear is unreasonable, yet is unable to overcome it. People with social anxiety disorder suffer from distorted thinking, including false beliefs about social situations and the negative opinions of others. Without treatment, social anxiety disorder can negatively interfere with the person's normal daily routine, including school, work, social activities, and relationships. People with social anxiety disorder may be afraid of a specific situation, such as speaking in public. However, most people with social anxiety disorder fear more than one social situation (*apa.org*).

Some teenagers and children may even find school very stressful. This may be a result of being bullied. Some people who have social anxiety could also be paranoid, so they worry everyone is judging them about the littlest things. They may worry that others will say something about how they dress, or how they look. It might be hard or nearly impossible for people with this disorder to make friends, or even talk to people. I have social anxiety and it makes everyday things that seem like they shouldn't be difficult hard to do. My disorder can even make ordering food at a restaurant, or any other social interaction with strangers, unbearably uncomfortable.

## Opinion: How Does One Socialize in a such a Flawed Society?

By Lizzy Doyle



edutopia.org

There is a lot of controversy about individuals being social in a society with so many flaws and fears. According to *dictionary.com*, to be social means “seeking or enjoying the companionship of others.” But in society as it is now, I wonder how that’s possible, so I asked a random selection of students, “Should people be more social in a society with high crime rates or not?”

Freshman Briana Garcia told me, “It’s acceptable to be social to an extent, but at least know them and don’t just go talk to some random person.” Similarly, Lily Query said, “I think you should talk to people but be aware of who you talk to because not everybody is exactly how they look or act. You don’t want to tell some random person everything about you because they can destroy your future social life by telling it to everyone else.”


A few anonymous people also agreed “it’s a good idea to be social but be careful who you talk to because you never know who’s a serial killer and who’s not.” and “I’m very social so it doesn’t matter if you’re social or not. It is a good idea to be, though.”

Sophomore Hunter Hindes, upon being asked the question, explained, “It depends on your personality and actions.” Likewise, junior Johnny Garcia said, “It’s all different for different people based on religions and if the other person is willing to talk.”


Senior Kina Rivera had mixed feelings, also: “I feel like at times you can be social so you can make new friends, and you’re going to have to deal with people you don’t know in your life at times. But, also, no, because you don’t know who you’re talking to most of the time.”

Being social may be just as important as being healthy, mentally, emotionally, and physically. Now, there is no way of knowing if someone is a killer, or something bad might happen by talking to a random person, but I believe that we as people need to take chances and talk to everyone. Who knows—it might save a life. The more social you are the less anxiety you’ll have. Like Kina said, you’re going to have to talk to people, anyway. If you don’t learn early then how is your confidence going to be when you have to in your future career? People can be interesting when you get to know them, and a person is always learning, so maybe you or the person you’re getting to know will learn something. Being a social butterfly is great when it comes to change and friends. When you move out of your parents’ house and into a dorm far away from home and all your friends, being social will definitely help you make friends and fit in. Likewise, in college, forming strong bonds will, in the long run, help you stay there and not get homesick. It’s definitely a positive thing to be social.

When being social there are so many things that you might not want to put out there, though. For example, maybe you’re talking to someone that you don’t know because you just felt like talking to them, but never give personal information. Things like your birth date, where you live, religious views (unless you know for sure it won’t turn into an argument), your phone number (unless you two are parting ways and want to meet up again), who your siblings are and how many you have, or your friends’ names might be information you want to keep private. When talking to someone, instead of giving personal information, share your hobbies and what you like. Talk about sports or books. Don’t always make the conversation about yourself, though; make sure you let them talk about themselves, also. When they are talking listen to what they have to say, even if they aren’t listening to you; it’s just more polite. So get out there and be social!



# Super Tuesday



State	Republican Winner	Democratic Winner
<b>Colorado</b>	--*	Sanders
<b>Vermont</b>	Trump	Sanders
<b>Virginia</b>	Trump	Clinton
<b>Alabama</b>	Trump	Clinton
<b>Oklahoma</b>	Cruz	Sanders
<b>Tennessee</b>	Trump	Clinton
<b>Massachusetts</b>	Trump	Clinton
<b>Alaska</b>	Cruz	--*
<b>Texas</b>	Cruz	Clinton
<b>Arkansas</b>	Trump	Clinton
<b>Minnesota</b>	Rubio	Sanders
<b>Georgia</b>	Trump	Clinton

\*Colorado's GOP committee decided to postpone their republican primary, along with Alaska's DNC, who made the same decision.

**Important Election 2016 Dates:**

Republican National Convention: **July 18th**      Democratic National Convention: **July 25th**  
 Presidential Debates: **September 26th, October 9th, October 19th**  
 Vice Presidential Debate: **October 4th**  
 Election Day: **November 8th**  
 ([wsj.com](http://wsj.com))

**Election coverage courtesy of Jessica Castillo Gallegos and Steven Valdez**

## Supreme Court Nominee Controversy Continues

By Derek Medina

President Barack Obama has said that Republicans have no constitutional grounds to refuse to vote on a Supreme Court nominee. Obama's attempt to fill the seat of Justice Antonin Scalia will test if the Senate could function with the Republicans opposing. The Chairman of the Judiciary Senate, Charles Grassley, said he might be open to Obama's yet-to-be named nominee, though a "short list" has already been leaked. Obama stated that he and the senators need to do their jobs in responsibly filling the vacancy. Many politicians have said Obama should leave the choice to the next president. Obama has disagreed and says he will put forward a replacement. Democrats support him by saying he has every right and constitutional duty to fill vacant slots on the court until he is no longer president. It is a hard and slow process to get a new candidate in there during campaign season, though. The Republican party is still searching for a strategy to not let Obama pick a new nominee.

In "Here's who should replace Antonin Scalia" CNN reports that Obama can nominate anyone to replace Justice Scalia according to the constitution. The Senate can reject any candidate and does not have to have a reason. When the president is on the opposite party of most of the Senate, the nominee is turned down moderately. Three nominees are currently possible: The President can nominate a moderate, can appoint someone to the court on a recess selection, or he can appoint a leading legal mind. The favorite nominee according to CNN is Judge Richard Posner who has a deep history in law and is "the MJ of law".

On the other hand, in the "G.O.P. Unites in Opposing Obama on Naming a Replacement for Scalia" *The New York Times* explains that the Republicans all say that Obama should not nominate a successor. Both Donald Trump and Ted Cruz disagree with Obama and think the next president should make the choice.

Further complicating the issue, Politico points out in "McConnell throws down the gauntlet: No Scalia replacement under Obama" that McConnell, the Senate majority leader, said the Senate should not confirm a replacement until after the 2016 election, shocking White House officials. McConnell also believes the American people should have a voice in the selection. However, according to Politico, Scalia's wish was for Obama to pick the next nominee. Though there are certainly disparate opinions on this issue, leaving the Supreme Court with a vacant seat for so long would be a big mistake and an embarrassment.

### Opinion: Legal Immigration is the Only Option

By Derek Medina

Immigration has turned into a huge issue due to this next presidential election. Donald Trump has claimed he will build a large wall across the Mexican border if he is elected president. This has been very controversial but, surprisingly, a number of people agree with Trump. He is leading the Republican race by a landslide since March 9th and hopes to go up against Hillary Clinton or Bernie Sanders. Even the democrats have used Trump's anti Mexican speech to their advantage by focusing on the issue.

In my own thoughts, coming from any outside country is alright, but only if you come in through the legal process. It is easier to come in illegally, but it's not fair to those who are going through the citizenship process. Some of these illegal immigrants come into America and sell drugs, kill American citizens, or commit other crimes, and we don't need that here. According to the American Immigration Center, the average wait time to get into the United States can be less than a year or several years; it all depends on the circumstances. If neither of your parents are from the US it will take much longer and depending on where you are with your application affects how long you will have to wait. When hundreds of thousands of immigrants came to America through Ellis Island from Europe, they all came legally and lived the American dream. Nowadays, illegal immigrants are coming in and taking advantage of the system and living tax-free. Yes, they keep the economy rolling, but they do take a lot of the jobs our own unemployed need. As Trump says, "Without a border we have no country." Our country is overpopulated and we have enough problems here.

# Easter Untold: The Story of the Holiday, Past and Present

By Lizzy Doyle

The name “Easter” has roots in paganism, though much of the history and meaning behind the holiday is Christian in nature. The holiday’s name isn’t used in the original Scriptures or in the bible referring to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, which is now the religious basis of the day, as well as its preparatory season, Lent. Because of this, Christians often use the term “Resurrection Sunday” to distinguish between the word’s pagan roots and the religious significance of Easter. Easter came from Eastre, the Teutonic goddess of Spring, although the origin of the name and the goddess are far more ancient, beginning not long after the biblical flood. In the biblical flood Noah built his ark upon God’s request to save humanity by saving himself and his family.

The Easter bunny and egg both have interesting backgrounds, as well, though their connection to either the goddess or the biblical flood is not immediately apparent. The Easter Bunny is actually a sexual symbol of fertility. Many different parts of the world associate the rabbit with periodicity, both human and lunar. The Mother Goddess Easter, Semiramis, is also associated with the Moon, so basically the Easter bunny symbolizes the Mother Goddess and fertility. The Easter Egg also symbolizes the Goddess: “The egg was a sacred symbol among the Babylonians. They believed an old fable about an egg of wondrous size which was supposed to have fallen from heaven into the Euphrates River. From this marvelous egg—according to the ancient story—the Goddess Astarte (Easter) [Semiramis], was hatched. And so the egg came to symbolize the Goddess Easter” (Woodrow 152-153).

Today, during the Easter holiday Americans spend \$1.9 billion on Easter candy, most of it packed into those symbolic little eggs. That’s the second biggest candy holiday after Halloween. 70% of Easter candy purchased is chocolate. 76% of Americans think the ears of a chocolate bunny should be the first to be eaten, though the bunny is actually a symbol of fertility, just like the eggs so popular at egg hunts hosted by churches and community organizations nation wide. Today’s artificial dyes are very different from the original egg dyes, which were made out of natural items like onion peels, tree bark, flower petals, and juices. Egg hunts evolved into egg shaped candy and décor, as well. The tallest chocolate Easter egg ever was made in Italy in 2011. At 10.39 meters in height and 7,200 kg in weight, it was taller than a giraffe and heavier than an elephant. In addition to chocolate, Americans buy more than 700 million marshmallow Peeps during the Easter holiday, which makes Peeps the most popular non-chocolate Easter candy.

([christiananswers.net](http://christiananswers.net), [dosomething.org](http://dosomething.org), [history.com](http://history.com), [list25.com](http://list25.com))

## Springtime Humor

Compiled by Tyina Pacheco

Q: Can February March?

A: No, but April May!

Q: If April showers bring May flowers, then what do May flowers bring?

A: Pilgrims



[horniman.ac.uk](http://horniman.ac.uk)



[candis.co.uk](http://candis.co.uk)



## Horoscopes: Your Outlook for Springtime

Compiled by Jaz Dominguez

### Pisces (2/19- 3/30)

Make your own way as much as possible so you don't have to deal with anyone trying to tell you what to do. You got this!

### Aries (3/21-4/19)

Through discomfort comes the opportunity to change. When rebirth is an option, don't look the other way.

### Taurus (4/20-5/20)

You have a lot of suspicions, but can any of them be confirmed? Going on a hunch isn't enough; you need real proof this time.

### Gemini (5/21-6/20)

When you have this much going for you, it's hard to feel down, but make sure your head doesn't get too big to fit through the door!

### Cancer (6/21-7/22)

You might find yourself thinking or saying 'why me' a lot. Why you? Because you can handle it.

### Leo (7/23-8/22)

Partner up with a best friend or favorite relative to see if you can make something better in the world. It'll feel great!

### Virgo (8/23-9/22)

There aren't very many people around who follow your strict attention to details or your ideology, in general, which makes it really difficult for you to get things done the way you want them done.

### Libra (9/23-10/21)

What are a few of your favorite things? You deserve to be surrounded by all of them, so don't deprive yourself of any pleasure.

### Scorpio (10/22-11/21)

When friends tell you their dirty little secrets, they can rest assured that you'll keep them to yourself. You pride yourself on being trustworthy, and you demonstrate this quality on a regular basis.

### Sagittarius (11/22-12/21)

The unforeseen shows up, and although you aren't prepared for it, you deal with it remarkably well.

### Capricorn (12/22-1/19)

You've got your eye on the prize, but there's someone who loves standing between you and what you want to obtain or achieve. Don't worry, though—you'll probably reach your goal in the end.

### Aquarius (1/20-2/18)

Practice on your own until you can perfect your skills and/or talents. You'll unveil your genius to the world soon enough.

## Ivy Martinez Joins the Monte Vista High School Family

My name is Ivy Martinez I am from Ojo Encino, which is part of the reservation. I was raised there by my parents, Ignashia and Johnny; I also have four younger brothers but one passed when he was only four years old. My parents are now apart; I have a step now, Mark Castillo, and he has three more kids of his own. Mark is funny and loves to take us out and have fun with us.

I am a person that loves to go out and have fun with friends. I also like to listen to people that are having problems. The thing that I don't like, though, is when people say things about me or do things in front of me to get me mad. But I don't pay any attention to them because I dealt with so much drama at my old school.

I only like people that are very honest with me. I had good friends in New Mexico and I didn't want to leave them, but I had no choice. I'm a good person, so I don't like hanging out with people that just waste their time in school. I stay away from them because I don't have time to be getting in trouble.

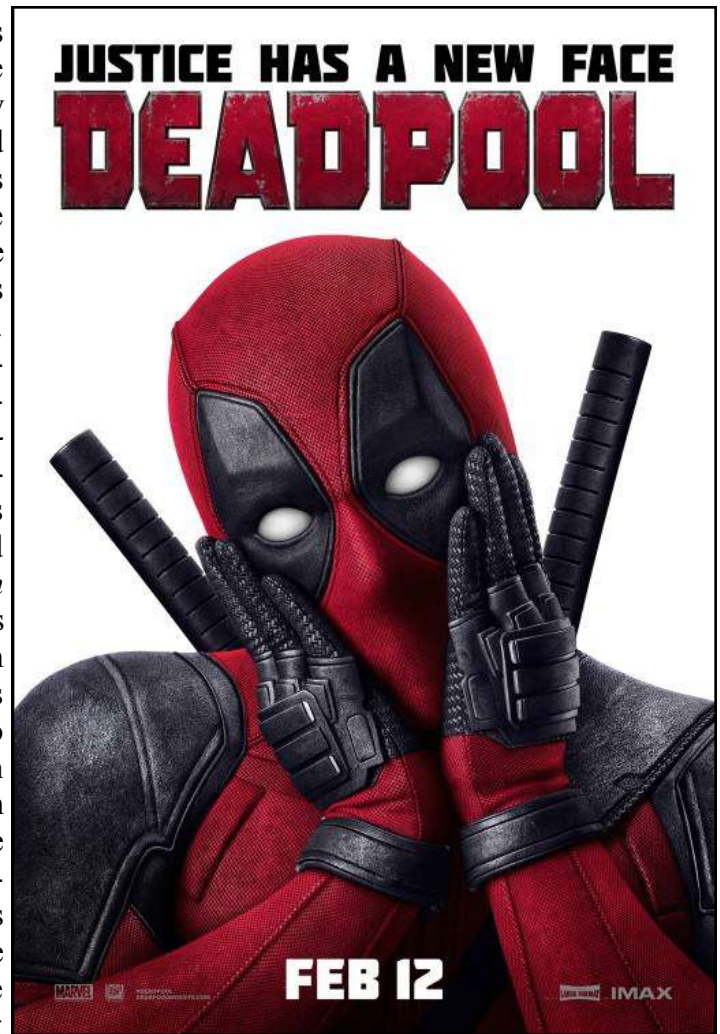
My last school was in Cuba, New Mexico, and its mascot is THE RAMS! I attended school in Cuba for ten years, and I would've been a senior this year. I think that's one of the reasons why a lot of teachers think that I am senior. This would have been my year to graduate, but I made mistakes back when I was in first and sixth grade. But now that I'm here at Monte Vista High School, I think it's a good school. It's not that strict like it is back at my old school. The weirdest thing about it is that you guys don't have bells. That aside, this school is very nice. I'm enjoying being here and meeting new people; everybody here is very nice and very welcoming.

# *Deadpool: The Merc With the Highest Grossing Movie Thrills Audiences*

By Jose Valdovinos

Marvel has had many memorable superheroes throughout the years. In fact, these superheroes have become so popular that Marvel has worked with many movie companies to bring some of these heroes and heroines to the big screen. Well, actually, Marvel has sold some of the rights to the characters, so they're owned by those movie companies now. Thanks to the companies who now own the rights to these characters they have been able to gross high in the box office. Some movies have managed to even break past box office successes, but none have made as much of a commercial impact as the 2016 film adaptation of *Deadpool*. *Deadpool* was directed by Tim Miller, an American director and visual effects artist. The character was accurately portrayed by Ryan Reynolds. Reynolds had also portrayed the character in the god-awful *X-Men Origins: Wolverine* film. The far-superior *Deadpool* is the story of a delinquent by the name of Wade Wilson who has fun with his life before a tragic event takes place: Wade is diagnosed with cancer and now has no hope left in his life. However, Wade's life is far from over when a man approaches Wade and offers him something that other men only dream of having. Wade is then taken to a mysterious facility where he is experimented on. After an experiment goes wrong, his skin is permanently damaged. However, Wade has gained the ability to regenerate full body parts. After seeing the damaged tissue, Wade decides not to see his partner because he is afraid that she will not accept him. As if events couldn't get any more tragic, Wade's partner is captured by the same person who conducted experiments on him. Wade then decides to seek out the man who captured the love of his life, dedicating himself to becoming a "superhero".

The movie itself has a really great plot line, so I won't spoil the rest of it. Fox really did a good job providing the fans with a great movie about the Merc with the Mouth. I feel that the director also really captured what Deadpool acted like in the comics. He was able to provide most of the elements from the comic as well as being able to show the world what happens when you give Deadpool his own movie. Despite some of the humor, *Deadpool* was a movie that really showed how comedy and action could be put together. *Deadpool* has actually become popular throughout the years; though he may be perceived to be a copycat of DC Comics' Deathstroke, an imitation of Spider-Man, and an antihero who copies Wolverine's powers, he still has given people so much joy throughout his comics. Marvel is considering a sequel to *Deadpool*; hopefully we will see Wolverine in the sequel, as their relationship as teammates is a bit odd. Hopefully more fourth wall breaks will be given, as well. Whatever path the sequel takes, I recommend seeing the Merc with a Mouth in action for those of you who are *Deadpool* fans. If you just like juvenile humor, well, then you'll love *Deadpool*, regardless. *Deadpool* has kind of changed the whole superhero genre, considering the violence and the inappropriate jokes you hear throughout the film, but don't deny that once you've seen the film that it wasn't funny. That said, if I had to give *Deadpool* a rate, I'd say that it would deserve a 9 out of 10.



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