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Vidal M. Treviño School of Communications and Fine Arts, 2102 East Lyon St., Laredo, Texas 78043

Generations speak about VMT



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Silver Medal recipient

Junior makes sacrifices for Congressional medal

LUCERO REA
STAFF WRITER

"It was kind of awful because it was raining and we got mud in our tents and then we saw some javelinas and we got scared but it's okay," Junior Lauren Melendez said.

It was a unique New Year's Day for Melendez and other girls from the Girl Scout troop. Staying overnight at Camp Huisache, a scout campground on Highway 59 outside of Laredo, away from her loved ones during this time of the year was one of the challenges she faced. She had to make some sacrifices but at the end it was all worth it.

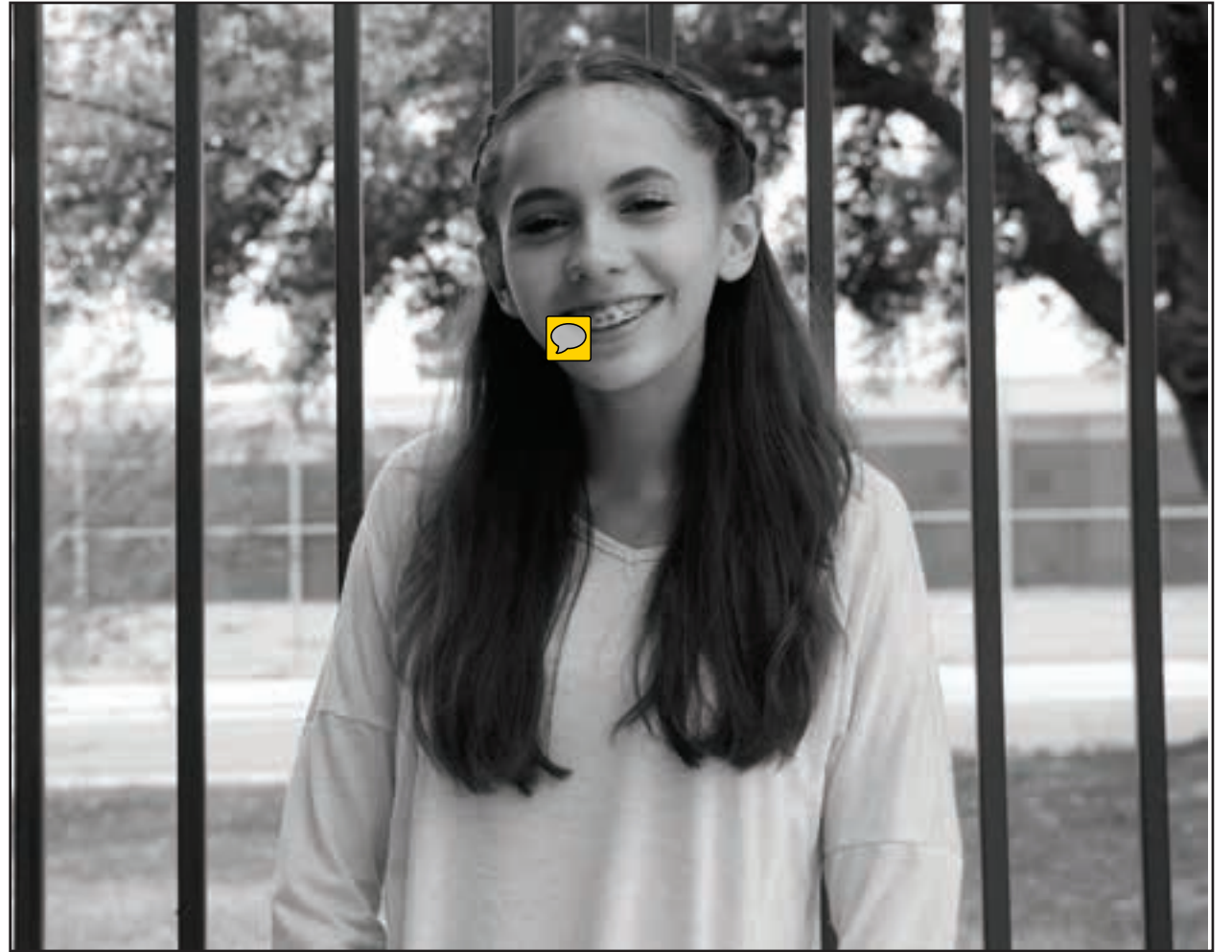
The campout helped her earn the Congressional Award Silver Medal. In order to fulfill this challenge Melendez had a limit of 1 year and to complete a requirement at least every month.

Melendez found out about the congressional award from her troop leader who told her and other girls it has nothing to do with Girl Scouts, but she and her friends wanted to give it a try.

In order for Melendez to meet the requirements she had to complete 200 hours of Voluntary Public Service, 100 hours of Personal Development, 100 hours of Physical Fitness plus spending at least three days or two nights exploring a new environment or culture, according to the Congressional Award website, <http://congressionalaward.org/>

"It made me grow as a person because I developed a lot of hours on things I enjoy... it really helped me grow in my communications skills as well," Melendez, a creative writing student, said.

"I know it sounds like a lot of work because of all the hours



Junior Lauren Melendez has earned the Congressional Award Silver Medal. She completed such tasks like camping out and running to increase her strength.

you need to put on it but it is really rewarding," she said.

Better Skills

Melendez earned an award but she said she also gained better skills from all the events that she completed. She said her diligence and dedication helped her meet the requirements for the silver medal by keeping up with the hours each month.

"I think way more people should do it. It's an excellent opportunity to discover your passion and learn new things about yourself," Melendez said.

She encourages individuals to give the Congressional Award a try because they can

Audio Interview online at
<http://magnettribune.org/?p=12493>

Melendez's road to the Silver Medal

VOLUNTARY PUBLIC SERVICE

Spent 9 days during the summer taking care of Brownies as a camp counselor at Camp Huisache.

NEW ENVIRONMENT

Stayed at a local scout camp called Camp Huisache.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Participated in speech and debate contests which helped improve communication skills.

PHYSICAL FITNESS

Running to improve physical strength.

get involve with a lot of new things they might feel connected with.

you do good things and it feels really nice, like good deeds make you feel good," Melendez said.

"It is really rewarding, like

'Sanctuary cities' bill is now law

IRENE ALEGRIA
STAFF WRITER

Governor Gregg Abbott signed Senate Bill 4 on Facebook Live on Sunday, May 8.

Also known as the "sanctuary cities" bill, it will take effect on the first of September of this year.

State Senator Charles Perry introduced Senate Bill 4 on Jan. 23 in the Legislature, which would amend current law relating to the enforcement of state and federal laws of governing immigration by certain governmental entities.

The questioning of immigration status does not apply to victims, witnesses of a crime, and also those who reported the crime. Police officers are not able to ask someone for their immigration status when detained, according to the bill.

Perry told the Texas Tribune online newspaper that even if a person is in the country illegally, he or she would not have a reason to fear his legislation if they didn't commit crimes.

Texas law enforcement agency personnel are expected to comply with U.S. Customs and Immigration Enforcement requests to turn people over to the agency as knowingly failing to complying with an immigration detainer request is a Class A misdemeanor.

"The bill would also punish local governments if their law enforcement agencies fail to honor request, known as detainees, from federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement in violation would be stripped of state grant funding and also be subject to civil fines," the Texas Tribune story stated.

Bill 4 was listed as one of Governor Greg Abbott's emergency items; therefore, law makers voted on it before the standard 60-day waiting period.

Those who oppose the law worry that police will make unnecessary stops in order to catch immigrants and get them deported, reporter Sanya Mansoor wrote in the Texas Tribune.

A state senator discussed possible difficulties with the legislation.

"When people go from a broken taillight to a broken family to broken trust in the system, that is real," said Houston Democratic Senator Sylvia Garcia during the debate in February.

A student offered her opinion of the bill.

"The bill benefits people that would otherwise not be protected by law," said Angie Bravo, a sophomore communications student at VMT. "People who are afraid to speak of their status in the country would



Gov. Gregg Abbott signs Senate Bill 4, known as the "sanctuary cities" bill, in his office at the state Capitol in Austin on March 8 during a Facebook Live broadcast.

typically just not speak of it, but with the bill, they would have no need to fear."

This bill will also apply to college campuses. Police at colleges and universities are also required to cooperate with the immigration law.

"Now more than ever immigrants are being singled out, in some instances targeted, for being in this country even

when they are simply trying to provide for their family," stated Jasmine Cantu, a sophomore theater student at VMT. "Immigrants are all generalized into one group assuming one thing. They are "dangerous". It's really disappointing because some of them are really trying to make a good life for themselves and their families." See SANCTUARY, page 11

Daughter follows mom

Freshman almost didn't attend because her mom did

KAYLA GONZALEZ
STAFF WRITER

Freshman Regina Renteria said, that at first, she didn't want to attend VMT because her mother attended.

Renteria, who is a creative writing student, said she really didn't know why she chose creative writing as her fine art but she likes the idea that she gets to write about the way she feels in her own way.

Renteria's mother, Rina Benavides, attended VMT as a choir student in the school's first year in 1993, but she also took other classes as well as piano, karate, and jewelry making in her senior year.

She took classes with choir teacher Veronica Ramirez as well with art teacher Armando Flores and computer instructor David Blumberg.

Benavides said the only piece of jewelry she kept when she was at VMT is a ring she made when she was taking jewelry making classes. Renteria still has the ring and wears it.

Benavides said in a phone interview that what she misses the most about VMT is being a part of something bigger, which is what VMT really meant to her.

Benavides said the very first year VMT opened there were no buildings.

"We had our classes under a tree or anywhere outside (in St. Peter's Plaza) since there were no buildings in the first semester. We would sometimes share with Martin and we would share the Civic Center," Benavides said. "I remember that I was taking basic computer with Mr. (David) Blumberg, but since we didn't have a classroom yet, we were sharing the Civic Center auditorium with 10 different groups in the first few months."

Benavides discussed her most memorable memories were at the old campus.

She said she remembers friendships.

"There were lot of friendships that were created there (VMT) not only with my home school but with other schools, that VMT was all on its own. If



Photos courtesy of Regina Renteria
Top left: freshman Regina Renteria is a student in creative writing. Her mother, Rina Benavides, top right, attended VMT in the early years of the school.

MT photo by Kayla Gonzalez
Left: Rina Benavides made this ring in her jewelry making class.



you are a part of it (VMT) you are part of a family. It didn't matter which high school you went to, what mattered was that you were there and the friendship went beyond (high school)," Benavides said.

Renteria said her mother reacted very excitedly about her attending VMT. She said her mother was extremely excited for her. Benavides said

she was very excited for her daughter.

Renteria added her family was very excited because her mother attended.

As for Renteria, she said she went through a hard time before applying at VMT.

"I kind of didn't want to do it because my mother did it and since she was a very advanced student I thought, if she can do

it I wouldn't be able to because I wasn't as advanced as she was in high school," Renteria said.

After high school Benavides did not pursue her fine art.

"I am really good in math. I always had a perfect score on it. I got a degree in finance but I never found a use for my fine art," Benavides said.

Renteria said she likes VMT but she feels that students

should have more than one fine art.

Benavides said she found VMT much different from her home school.

"It's very different from going to a regular high school. Going to school there (VMT) was a very exciting experience," she said.

Piano and dance

Mom was once in Folklorico; son now studies piano

EDWARD BARRERA
STAFF WRITER

Gabriel Torres is a freshman at VMT. The difference with Gabriel and almost every other student though is that his mother is a VMT alumna.

Gabriel Torres's mother, Blanca Torres, commented about her own experience and her thoughts on Gabriel attending VMT.

"I was so glad! My first daughter ... went to the health magnet (because) she didn't want to go to VMT ... I was really, really happy about it because I went to (VMT) and I was one of the first to graduate there since it opened. I was in the first class of juniors that graduated there and thinking of my kids going to there... it would be a good experience," Torres said.

Torres then continued about her own experience at VMT.

"They were the best years—

I really enjoyed it. To go to a brand new school (at that time) in '94, '95, whenever it opened, since I graduated in '97. It was the first art school we had, maybe the first magnet school that ever opened, so everybody wanted to be there. It felt like you were really excited to be chosen to be there. It's really nice to see how it's gone by over the years but I loved the school—the teachers, the principals, everything," Torres told The Magnet Tribune.

Torres said she didn't influence her son's decision of attending VMT.

"He was interested in engineering also, so he was waiting for the acceptance letters. He got accepted to the engineering school, Cigarroa, and VMT for piano, so I told him 'that's your choice ... that'd be something you're gonna (do) for four years.' ... He decided to go to VMT," she said.

Although Torres attended dance in her time at VMT, she did not pursue it.



MT photo by Edward Barrera
Gabriel Torres, a freshman, poses with a piano in his fine arts class. His mother was a dance student in VMT's early years.

"I work at (Laredo Independent) School District, I'm a parental involvement agent

here at the schools. I went to school, I just pursued my degree in education. I didn't go

into dance," Torres said.

As for Gabriel himself, he
See GABRIEL, page 4

Niece and aunt

Former student liked journalism, but niece likes dancing

EMILY GARZA
STAFF WRITER

Leann Bernal and Gabriela Bernal (Leann's aunt) both have something in common, and that is V.M.T.

Leann is a current VMT student. Bernal is a former VMT student and was part of class of 2000.

Bernal remembers how it was back in the old VMT and is amazed with how it has evolved throughout the years.

"I was a little bit sad because I liked the custom of getting around downtown. Once I saw what they did (at the new campus) and everything you guys have I think they did a great job. I went to go see Leann and as I was walking through I was like, 'wow it's a beautiful school'," Bernal said.

Bringing up the old VMT, Leann shared what her aunt has told her.

"I've only heard of it...my aunt has told me how it was smaller, and that they couldn't do as much stuff as we can do now here (in the new VMT)," Leann shared.

There were many excellent parts of VMT that Bernal enjoyed but here she explains her favorite.

"They let me be as creative as I wanted to be...whatever creation you have they help you..." Bernal said.

To Leann, the people is her favorite part of VMT.

"It's cool how we're all from different schools and we can meet up here and make new friends," Leann said.

Leann herself has friends that attend the magnet school in different fine arts such as journalism and theater.

"It's nice seeing them (friends) here doing what they like to do," Leann said.

Leann explains why she picked dancing as her fine art.

"I've always been dancing since I was three years old so I've always loved it and thought it was cool knowing you can do it at school..." Leann said.

Leann discussed why she choose dance over journalism. Her aunt, Gabriela Bernal, studied journalism at VMT.

"I've never liked writing, I've always been more of an active person...so that (journalism) didn't really work for me..." Leann said.

Leann's family support and enjoy her attending VMT, especially her aunt since she was also part of VMT at one point.

"They love it. They come to every single one of my recitals and they're a huge crowd every time..." Leann said.

Leann would like to continue doing what she's doing now and strive for the best after graduation.

"Plan to stay in dance my four high school years so that when I graduate I want to audition for colleges. Staying in dance will help with that," Leann said.

"I would like my children to join VMT because it's open to a lot of things. I would like them to be in dance...but I also like photography and art or maybe even them playing an instrument since I've always want-

ed to learn how to play one," Leann said.

Like Bernal is a former VMT student, Lorena Mahtani is as well a former VMT student. Mahtani is now teaching at VMT as a dance teacher; she graduated a year after Bernal. Bernal explains how she feels having a former student teach Leann and other students now.

"I love it. I do remember Lorena from school and to see how it's a full circle having the dream of being a dancer, her going out and doing her thing, and then coming back and being a teacher, and now the new generation coming in being Leann. I think it's awesome," Bernal said.

Leann, sophomore at VMT explains how she feels about her teacher being a former student.

"I think it's cool seeing a teacher that was once a student, teaching...it's nice knowing the students can do that one day," Leann said.

Leann, the student shared her thoughts on becoming a dance teacher.

"I would like to become a dancer, not a dance teacher, but it would be cool to come back and show what I've learned," she said.

Mahtani sees herself continuing to teach at VMT in the future.

"I definitely see myself here at VMT. My plans are to continue to working with students who have appreciation for the art of dance. The classroom is my home!" Mahtani said.

VMT was and still is a big part in Gabriela Bernal's life and therefore she encourages it on others.

"...Actually every kid I come across that I know they're going into high school I encourage VMT very highly. It holds a huge place in my heart. I know that if you're not good in some subjects and you're more artistic there's a little bit for everybody, and I think VMT helps with that...I know it helped me," Bernal, former VMT student, said.

"High school was awesome because of VMT," Bernal said.

Photography has been in Bernal's life since she was in her teens. Up to this date she still uses her fine art area in her everyday life and can't let go the love she has for photography.

"One day, I think I was in seventh grade, I found a picture of my grandparents in black and white and it caught my eye and I knew ever since then I wanted to be in photography so when I went to the VMT orientation in eighth grade and saw photography I said 'this is it' and ever since I've never left my house without my camera," Bernal said.

Bernal now has a career as a photographer.

"I'm a professional photographer so it's what take us out in summer trips, it's what has gotten me to Paris, to New York...it's a huge role in my everyday life," Bernal said.

VMT is growing and more generations are coming in as the years go by. Leann Bernal is part of that new generation



MT photo by Emily Garza
ABOVE: Leann Bernal, a sophomore, performs during a recital in the auditorium. Her aunt also attended VMT in the late 1990s and studied journalism.

Photo courtesy of Gabriela Bernal

LEFT: Gabriela Bernal stands in front of a church in Europe in this recent photograph. She studied journalism at VMT in the late 1990s and is now works as a professional photographer.



and Gabriela explains how she feels.

"It's awesome that you know how there's generations and generations from Martin and Nixon. Our hearts are in VMT and now that our kids, nieces, nephews, etc. are going to attended or hopefully attend it's something that can be passed down and say, 'yeah I was there', Bernal said.

Lorena Mahtani the dance instructor thinks the school has done a good job overall, throughout the years.

"It only shows the school has continued its success and continued to grow... there have been people that have gradu-

ated and been inspired by the school so they tell their relatives... to attend and therefore we upkeep a good reputation," Mahtani said.

Mahtani dance teacher explains how it is when students, whose relatives have attended VMT in the past, come into the school.

"The students come with a really high expectation. All our students come in knowing this school is great but they come in with excitement because they've heard first-hand what it's like," Mahtani said.

Bernal thinks bringing VMT in Laredo made a big impact in the city.

"What Vidal Trevino did for Laredo it gave the opportunity to open this (the school) up and which used to be back then such a small town I think that we're evolving in a fast pace and people didn't know where to put the kids that aren't good in some subjects, 'Ok so what so we do with them.' Our brains are all wired up differently that's why going to an art school which has communication, dance, art, photography, all of that I think that's where were able to get our heads moving our brains working and you're happier," Bernal said.

Check out #VMThrowback for more stories, photos, and videos about the early years of VMT!

<http://magnettribune.org/category/vmthrowback/>

Fine arts memories

Original student, freshman share the same teacher

JESUS HERNANDEZ
STAFF WRITER

Freshman Melissa Rendon said the students at VMT are the best thing about the school.

"I like the people here. They're into their own things; It's different from Nixon, it's just better," Rendon said.

Rendon, who is a journalism student, said she has enjoyed taking pictures since she was a little girl.

"I like taking pictures, and I like what the stories behind the pictures are. I like talking about it," Rendon said.

Rendon's uncle, Bruno Rendon, also attended VMT as a journalism student. He also took classes that involved art, sculpture and jewelry making starting with the school's first year in 1993.

He took classes with journalism teacher Mark Webber as well as helped build the well-known VMT hand statue.

"I feel glad that he was a part of VMT because he told me he helped build the hand," Melissa Rendon, who is also Webber's student, said.

Bruno Rendon said during a phone interview that building the VMT statue was a unique experience.

"Well, just knowing that you're contributing into something that's going to last a long time, it's going to be there indefinitely," Rendon said.

Journalism teacher Mark Webber said it's wonderful that children and family members of past VMT students are attending the school now.

"I think it's fantastic that children whose family members attended VMT long ago are now students. This is like what's going on with the home schools, where generations of family have attended the same school and there are those special ties to the school because of it. We're starting to see the same thing at VMT, and I'd like to see more children of former VMT students attend. That shows a maturing of the school," Webber said.

Old and new

Melissa Rendon said her uncle had no idea a new campus was constructed.

"He actually didn't know there was a new VMT campus. But he said it was very old at the previous campus; he remembers being there," Rendon said of the remodeled facilities downtown in the St. Peter's Historical District.

Bruno Rendon said the new VMT campus looks very modern.

"Downtown was a little classy, and now (the new campus) seems like a modern building. But it looks nice and as long as they have a

good facility it's good for the students," Rendon said. "We didn't have a building downtown, it wasn't there yet, it was still under construction. So we spent a whole semester cruising around town. We went to the Civic Center, we had computer classes on the lawn. I don't know, it was different. When we finally got the classrooms it was the best feeling in the world to get a brand new classroom that's been built just for you."

Webber said VMT was very different when Bruno was a student to the campus Melissa is now attending.

"When Bruno was here it was the first year of VMT. We didn't have any buildings until January or February. Our classroom buildings were scattered over three blocks, so students got to walk around just like at college. That was a great atmosphere," Webber said.

"Now, Melissa and everybody else have a state-of-the-art facility that will allow us to offer so much more than we ever could downtown, but we've lost the college-like atmosphere," Webber added.

When asked about her uncle's reaction finding out she was attending VMT, she said her uncle was very excited for her.

"He was like, 'Wow, do you know Mr. Webber? Because that was my teacher when I was at VMT,'" Rendon said. "My family was also surprised; they didn't know that Mr. Webber was his teacher and then my teacher."

Bruno Rendon said that it's great for his niece to be attending VMT.

"I thought it was awesome. I thought it was a good idea. She's a pretty creative girl; she can do just about anything if she puts her mind to it," Rendon said.

Melissa Rendon also said her family was very supportive in her photo work she's done.

"They're very proud. When I took the pictures for 16 de septiembre, they said, 'wow, those pictures look like if a professional took them, like if they were for a magazine,'" Rendon said.

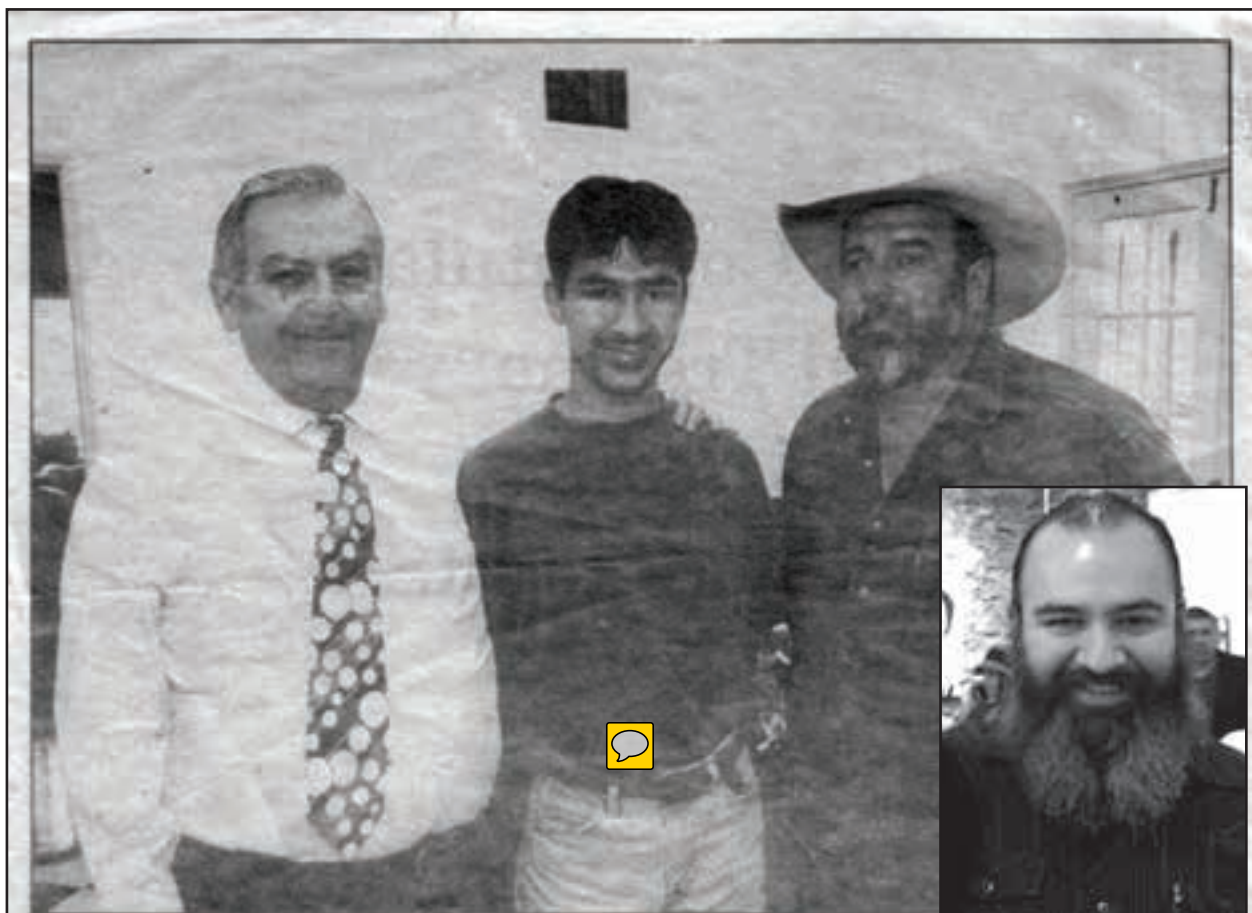
Rendon said she plans pursuing a veterinarian career after high school.

"I want to be a veterinarian; Journalism is just for my high school years. I like doing it," Rendon said.

Rendon said she sees herself studying biology in 10 years.

Two fine arts

Bruno Rendon, who graduated from his home school J.W. Nixon, did a group art exhibit in several cities. After that he attended the Academy of Art University in California,



Bruno Rendon, student at the Magnet School, seen here with LISD superintendent Vidal M. Trevino and his instructor Armando Flores, was recently awarded a silver award in Jewelry and Metalsmithing.

Photos courtesy of Bruno Rendon

Top: Bruno Rendon poses with then-Superintendent Vidal M. Trevino (left) and his art instructor Armando Flores in this newspaper clipping from the 1990s. Inset: Bruno Rendon in a recent photo.



MT photo by Jesus Hernandez

Melissa Rendon, a freshman journalism student, stands in front of awards The Magnet Tribune has received. Her uncle also studied journalism with the same teacher when he was a student back in the early days of VMT.

See more photos online at
<http://magnettribune.org/?p=11691>

where he studied industrial design.

Melissa Rendon had thoughts on what she would like VMT to improve on.

"Maybe like two extracurricular classes. Some people want like art and they want dance or they would like to have photography and dance," Rendon said.

Rendon said she would

take journalism and art, if she could.

Rendon said that in four years she would like to be known for multiple things.

"I would like to be known for my photography skills and also for basketball," Rendon, who plays for her home school J.W. Nixon, said.

The best thing Bruno Rendon liked about VMT was the

feeling of difference.

"Going someplace else away from your parent high school, and going to school there (VMT) was the best thing. It didn't feel like high school, it was like going to university or like a little college. I was getting instruction that wasn't available in a regular high school," Rendon said. "It's up to the students to look beyond what they see in high school because VMT is great but it's just your first step into the real world."

GABRIEL, FROM PAGE 2

has formed opinions on VMT and his experience here.

"It's everything I thought it'd be and more," Gabriel told The Magnet Tribune.

Gabriel currently takes piano classes with Dr. Mary Grace Carroll and has picked up some experience.

"I've learned a new piece called Stress and I've also learned how to read music. When I entered I wasn't good at reading music, since I knew how to play it by the way it sounded, but now I can read it," Gabriel said. "I've been playing piano at

church a little bit after seventh grade, for about two years. I practice piano at home too; we have two or three pianos."

Gabriel was asked how he felt about his mother being a VMT alumni.

"It's really cool. She even has one of the first Magnet Tribune newspapers at home. She talks to me about (her experiences) when it's brought up; ... sometimes I tell her what goes on at school."

Gabriel plans to use his piano experience to study music, but is undecided as to where he will attend for it.

See more photos online at
<http://magnettribune.org/?p=12463>



Photo courtesy of Blanca Torres

Then-school Director John Cox poses with Blanca Martinez (now Torres) after a Medalion Ceremony early in VMT's history.

School rises through its Visual Arts department

Page design, story, and photography
by Belen Silva
Staff Writer

Take a look at the art work you see in the hallways. The infamous horse that has made us all smile to the festive decorations at the Hispanic festival to the mesmerizing décor at Winter Ball. Thanks to the Visual Arts department, run by teaching assistant Mario Teniente and instructors Alfonso Santos and Gilberto Rocha, VMT rises through their art.

For the past 21 years, Teniente, or Mr. T as he is affectionately known, has been helping the school show its true colors, literally. Teniente dedicates his time, not as a teacher, but a walking artist who is willing to help anyone.

"Teachers come and say they have a theme or idea for the event. And after that, the teachers and I work together from there," he said.

Off to the drawing board, Teniente decides what colors, patterns and materials to use on the latest design. There are many steps to take when making such a masterpiece, luckily the art students are always there to help.

When students are put to the task of organizing a float or making decorations, they are challenged to meet deadlines and make their school look exceptional while representing its authentic character.

The art department doesn't have much time to create one of their pieces. It takes them about one to two weeks to get a project finished. Unlike most fine arts who take months preparing for a concert or recital, there is no hesitation in the ability of the art department to get things done within a short amount of time.

Although many hands go into making these projects, Teniente has a firm grasp on any situation at hand.

"It's gotten to a point, I think, everyone is confident with what Mr. T does. Like we just had a meeting about the medallion ceremony and like, 'Mr. T you got it,'" Rocha said.

Alongside Teniente is Alfonso Santos. He has been teaching art sculpture at V.M.T. for 7 years now. He always encourages students to have absolute freedom in the art that they create.

Martin High School senior Arelee Castro has been working diligently on her newest sculpture -- a cow made up entirely of milk cartons.

For the past four years, she has been displaying her sculptures at the annual Art Exhibition at the Center for the Arts along with the rest of the art students. The community of Laredo is invited to attend this student exhibition. This year over 700 people attended in April. This kind of exposure serves as a learning experiences for both students and the public.

"With the art that we usually do, we see all kinds of people there, asking questions like, 'What is that?' and

it helps them to know that these kids at this age are doing that kind of stuff. I think that's pretty cool," Castro said.

"It also reassures students when they receive compliments. It makes them not feel like what they're not doing is just for fun. It has an actual impact on people," Peter Sanchez said.

Sanchez recently displayed his video art project at the Art Exhibition. It consisted of shots from Mexico City and Laredo. It was meant to portray a mixture of contemporary life and popular culture in both cities.

One of the clips in the video shows La Virgen de Guadalupe with Kim Kardashian's famous crying face.

"The project was about appropriating these iconic images and fusing them with everyday acts. It was meant to show how extremely glorified La Virgen is in Mexican culture as well as show how Kim Kardashian receives the same amount of adoration," Sanchez said.

As for the art teachers, their talent does not stay within the walls of a classroom. Santos recently developed a Valentine's Day-themed sculpture exhibit featuring his own work. Many Laredoans attended his show on Valentine's Day. He is now developing pieces for a new show for this summer.

"I'm working on artwork that deals with the new political climate that we're in. I'm working on a show this summer having to do with the proposed building of the border wall, immigration... all sorts of conceptual pieces like paintings, light installations, and maybe a couple of video installations as well," he said.

The same goes for Rocha. After the mural Rocha painted at Veterans Park in Cotulla, he has since been working on new projects. He will be working on a group show on May in San Antonio along with a solo show displaying his own pieces in July.

Knowing their students have been impacted by art makes their job all the more rewarding.

"Seeing how their eyes glow when they finally get it. Like it's magic. When somebody struggles, and struggles and after many tries and they finally get it and you see in their drawings the pride, that really gets me," Rocha said.

Art transcends not only through paintings and sculptures but everyday life as well. From the design on a t-shirt that you buy or a video game you enjoy, art is able to put your words and thoughts into tangible existence.

As a former art student, I can personally say that being in this class has influenced me in so many ways, both artistically and intellectually. Many ask themselves does art imitate life, or does life imitate art? Here at V.M.T. we learn to live our lives as though they are works of art.



Senior Arelee Castro works on her sculpture of a cow in her classroom in A Building for the annual art exhibit.



Art teaching assistant Mario Teniente reacts to a student's comment during a sixth block class in his classroom in A Building.



Left: Art instructor Gilberto Rocha sits at his desk. Right: Alfonso Santos poses for a photo in his classroom.



Senior Peter Sanchez adds finishing touches to his sculpture in his classroom in A Building for the annual art exhibit.

See more photos online at:
<http://magnettribune.org/?p=12997>

Colorful performances highlight annual Showcase

Students, faculty, and the community turned out for the annual Showcase on April 26 at the LISD Fine Arts Center. Nineteen groups performed a variety of music and dance numbers, and Visual Arts and Communications students had displays in the lobby.

*Photography and page design
by Emily Garza*

See more Showcase photos online:
<http://magnettribune.org/?p=12930>



ABOVE: Conjunto Jarocho performs La Bruja during the annual Showcase. From left to right is Jose Cortez, Jose Gomes, and Juan Carlos Flores.

BELOW: Far left, guitar instructor Billy Thatcher stands with the International Guitar Ensemble.



ABOVE: Theatre department head and master of ceremonies Vernon Carroll speaks during Showcase at the Fine Arts Center.

LEFT: Bianca Ochoa sings with VMT Mariachi de Oro while the Ballet Folklorico (not shown) performs Potpourri and Celos by Vicente Fernandez.

BELOW: VMT Concert Choir sings Shake it Out and City of Stars by Justin Hurwitz, Benj Pasek, and Justin Paul.



Victoria Pacheco plays In the Steppes of Central Asia by A. Borodin with the VMT Philharmonic Orchestra at Showcase at the Fine Arts Center.



Rachel Mora performs Variation from Don Quixote by Leon Minkus during the annual Showcase.



Members of the VMT Ballet Folklorico and VMT Conjunto Norteño perform Redoblando at Showcase at the Fine Arts Center.

Genetic engineering is our future

EDITORIAL

The Magnet Tribune staff

This editorial represents The Magnet Tribune staff's position on the issue of genetic engineering.

On April 6, 2016, scientists made a revolutionary breakthrough in genetic engineering; the first baby to have three parents was born. The online Oxford Dictionary formally recognizes genetic engineering as the deliberate modification of the characteristics of an organism by manipulating its genetic material.

Genetic engineering is a rather controversial topic which ought to be accepted within society because this form of DNA modification will give families with a genetic disease a chance to have a child born without the disease in their genes.

The baby to have been born to three parents' mother carries a rare genetic disorder named Leigh syndrome. It was with genetic engineering, however, that less than one percent of the child's mitochondria carries the mutation. It was genetic engineering that gave the couple a chance to have a child; Had it not been

for a scientific intervention, the couple would have possibly never had a surviving biological baby.

As of now, there are two types of genetic engineering possible on humans. The first is pronuclear transfer; this method involves destroying two embryos and so because the couple with the three parented child were Muslim, they decided to go with the second procedure; spindle nuclear transfer in which a patient's nucleus is inserted to a donor egg without its nucleus. After the egg is reconstructed and fertilized, a child is

born.

Genetic engineering within humans is the future.

Genetic engineering's focus point is on faulty mitochondria. Defective mitochondria has been linked to medical problems such as deafness, epilepsy and failing eyesight. However, we have the possibility of decreasing the amount of children that inherit life threatening/impairing genetic diseases.

In addition to providing healthier lives for children, genetic engineering could mean living longer lives. With healthier

offspring being born, humankind has the potential to live longer lives. To those trying to extend their lifespan as long as possible, genetic engineering could be the answer people are looking for. However, in order to truly see how genetic engineering affects lifespan, more births would have to be conceived through genetic engineering.

Genetic engineering is relatively new for human beings; however, it might not be long before we meet more children with three parents. Besides being a means to terminating the carrying of faulty mitochondria, genetic engineering could perhaps further the technology necessary in the pursuit of longer life spans. Perhaps one day, we will not have to be concerned for terminal illnesses, but for that day to come society must accept genetic engineering as a practical form of medicine.

—Written by Angie Bravo for the staff.

This music will give a boost to your day

(This is senior Delilah Gonzalez's final column for the print edition of the newspaper.)

Have you ever played music to go to sleep and listen to music when you wake up?

Every day I listen to music just to be in a really good mood. I have three types of genres that I listen to. Those three genres help me create different moods.

Country music is one of my top three genres. I listen to because it helps me relax. My sisters and I have always liked to listen to music out loud on my ASUS smartphone with our



OBSERVATIONS

By Delilah Gonzalez

small iHome speaker. We sing and dance to these amazing artists. I mainly listen to Luke Bryan, Brett Young, Hunter Hayes, Carrie Underwood, Madie & Tae, Cole Swindell, Thomas Rhett and others.

Hip Hop music boosts me up and gets me in an energized and moving mood. I start dancing and goofing around to the beat of the songs. I love to lis-

ten to my music with my earphones. I actually have a playlist in my phone of my favorite hip hop songs. I listen to Ariana Grande, Selena Gomez, Becky G, Bruno Mars, Alex Aiono, G-Eazy, Chris Brown, Shawn Mendes and other artists.

Sometimes music can help you concentrate too. At school I do like to listen to music while having lunch or when I'm hav-

ing a bus ride to school. Also when I'm doing my classwork I like to listen to music just so I can concentrate. I won't be bothered or distracted while doing my classwork.

Reggaeton music is my third favorite; Jennifer Lopez, Daddy Yankee, Maluma, Shakira, Enrique Iglesias, J-Balvin, Nicky Jam, CNCO and a few more. These artists have amazing songs to dance to. I get really happy when I listen to this

genre. It brightens up my day. I start dancing like no one's watching and I even get motivated to do house chores.

Before I go to sleep I connect my speaker with my phone and I put on my playlist of my favorite songs of the artists I mentioned above. I go to sleep with music and I wake up to music. I think music boosts your day and can get you in a really good mood that makes you enjoy your day even more.

Read more Observations columns at <http://magnettribune.org/category/opinions/>

Racism keeps evolving in various ways

Racism is everywhere we turn, no matter how much we deny it. This issue has been around for many years and it hasn't seemed to clear up yet and I believe it never will. It is such a heartache to those who are discriminated and even to those who aren't. Every person, every race, has been discriminated in some way.

I believe that racism has always been a big issue in America and continues to arise. Growing up around so many different races has allowed me



THE BUG

By Justyne Bernal

I can say that I am able to see beyond the words, and only wish that everyone had the same opportunities no matter what race they are.

to gain a different perspective of the world.

I live in Laredo where there is a combination of many rac-

es and ethnic groups, but the majority are Mexican being a border city. Growing up I never really paid much attention to

racism because these issues seemed to be clearing up but now it is arising once again. Yes, I did learn about the early times and slavery but now everything is so different. It is like racism is continuously growing but in different ways.

I am now a teenager that lives in Laredo, afraid. Afraid of what tomorrow might bring for my city and the people in it, no matter what race they

we hear and learn about the American Dream. How it has become everyone's goal to achieve. I have learned that many people come to America because of this, how many people work to the greatest extent of their ability to be a citizen in this country.

As I was born in America, I cannot say that I struggle to live the American Dream. But I can say that I am able to see beyond the words, and only wish that everyone had the same opportunities no matter what race they are.

So many cases in the country continue to portray racism, from police harassments to African Americans to the 45th president's speeches.

It scares me how racism is growing more and more each day. I don't think young people should be afraid of what the future holds due to race.

We do not get to choose our race nor ethnicity, it's just something that we are born into. We should not be treated any differently; everyone should be treated equal because that is the way it should be.

Every year

Read more The Bug columns at <http://magnettribune.org/category/opinions/>

The Magnet Tribune

The Magnet Tribune is a publication produced by students in the Journalism, Newspaper Production and Photojournalism classes of the Vidal M. Treviño School of Communications and Fine Arts, Laredo Independent School District. This publication provides readers with information relating to the school and its students, provides students a lab for producing a newspaper using professional-level computer software and offers an open forum for student opinion. The Magnet Tribune is distributed free of charge.

Dr. Martha Villarreal
School director

Mark Webber
Journalism/online media
Instructor and adviser
The Magnet Tribune

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WAFFLE IRON

By Edwin Villanueva

Monster attacks water park swimmers



It is the policy of the Laredo Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, limited English proficiency, or handicapping condition in its programs.

NSPA First Class Award: 1996-97, 98-99, 99-00, 02-03, 03-04, 04-05, 05-06, 06-07, 07-08, 08-09, 09-10, 10-11, 11-12, 13-14 (online)
Second Class Award: 2000-01, 01-02, 10-11 (website), 11-12 (paper and website), 12-13 (paper), 13-14 (paper)

Contact The Magnet Tribune

By e-mail: mt_writers@hotmail.com || On the Internet: <http://magnettribune.org> || Facebook || Twitter

Address: Vidal M. Treviño School of Communication and Fine Arts, The Magnet Tribune, 2102 East Lyon St., Laredo, Texas 78043
In person: Room A212 (Journalism classroom), or drop off items for Mark Webber in the school office.

ILPC Award of Distinguished Merit: 2006, 2007, 2009, 2010 (Star nomination), 2010 (online)
Award of Achievement: 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2008, 2011, 2011 (online), 2012 (online), 2013, 2014
Award of Honor: 1998, 2004, 2005

TAJE

Good Luck
Class of 2017!

Thursday, June 1
Laredo Energy Arena

10 a.m.: Cigarroa H.S.
Procession starts at 9:45 a.m.

2 p.m.: Martin H.S.
Procession starts at 1:45 p.m.

6 p.m.: Nixon H.S.
Procession starts at 5:45 p.m.

Friday, June 2
10 a.m. Early College H.S.

Source: LISD Public Information Office

Paper, ebooks battle for attention

(Editor's note: This is senior Belen Silva's last *The Book Look* column.)

Technology has influenced the way we learn, react, think, and create. It is now a monumental part of our daily lives and without it, our world would probably crash and burn.

Don't get me wrong, some of these electronics have saved lives, literally and figuratively, whether it's AED machine that can resuscitate a loved one, or turning in that last minute report through email just on time practically "saving your life." But is technology really necessary when reading books?

In the great battle between books and ebooks, which one is really considered the best to use? As an avid reader for the past 12 years, I would confidently say that good, old fashioned paper books provide a more beneficial reading experience because the overuse of technology can affect your mental health, can cause stress and eye strain.

While reading e-books you can miss out on important in-



THE BOOK LOOK

By Belen Silva

Read more *The Book Look* columns at <http://magnettribune.org/category/reviews/>

formation.

We use technology enough as it is, and using it more will just increase our lack of retention. A 2009 study has shown that while being stressed or nervous, six minutes into reading will help you calm down. On the other hand, if you were to read an ebook, it would not give you the same effect. Especially reading ebooks at night or using any tech can cause depression.

Have you ever tried to put your phone down at night but seem to keep using it throughout the night? Not only does it stress you out and cause depression, but it also disrupts your sleep patterns which could cause you to do poorly in school.

Not only can it affect our

mental health, but our physical health as well. Spending too much time staring at a screen can contribute to having watery eyes, itching or a burning sensation as well as headaches and eye strain. This will obviously lead to having glasses.

According to CBS News, "A 2014 study published in the journal PNAS found that reading an ebook before bedtime decreased the production of melatonin, a hormone that preps the body for sleep."

From my personal experience, I have been a somewhat victim of these symptoms of using technology to read. One day after school, I was anxious to head over to the library to check out a book that I had wanted



Graphic by Briana Sepulveda

word without closing my eyes every ten seconds. The next day I had woken up to a small headache between my eyes and had to squint for most of the day.

While reading a paperback, I never had to use my reading glasses because honestly, I never needed them. I could go hours reading, but the previous night I had only read 50 pages. This was only one night of reading ebooks. I could only imagine the people who use this every day.

Lastly, a contributing factor to why e-books shouldn't be replaced with paper books is that, while you might think about reading all this information on your Kindle or Nook, you could be missing out on some very information. A 2014 study shows that most readers **See BOOK LOOK, page 10**

to read that was long overdue. Unfortunately, it was closed and I couldn't wait another day to read this book so I went online and found an e-book version. That night, I was already on page 12 and my eyes were burning and they started to get a little watery. I wore my reading glasses to see if they could better my situation and they did for about an hour. Eventually I gave up and put my laptop down because I couldn't read another

13 Reasons Why examines girl's end

13 Reasons Why came out March 31; it broke the internet. Seriously. It was all over my Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr feed. It was everywhere. The show is a Netflix original and it's based on the novel by Jay Asher. It is created by Brian Yorkey and one of the executive producers is actress and singer Selena Gomez.

The show itself is intriguing. I personally didn't read the book, but I want to, even if I already know what happens. There are things that are different from the book to the show - that is always the thing. Not everything is included and I really want to know everything about this show/novel.

For the most part, the worst is at the end and it's so sad. I cried maybe four times - maybe more, probably more. All I know is that this show is outstanding and they did such a great job with the casting and dialogue and scenery.

There are so many theories already because both the show and book leave you in a cliff-hanger. However, I don't think there should be a second season due to the fact there is no sec-



TV FANATIC

By Krysta Robles

Read more *TV FANatic* columns at <http://magnettribune.org/category/reviews/>

ond book and the way they left it makes me wonder. And that's what draws me in because this book and show is a mystery and to continue it would be so disappointing. They won't reach the level of book one if they just go on with it, but in their own way, get me?

This show and novel bring awareness to teen suicide, cyber and regular bullying. Some people think these aren't important issues but they are. I'm a strong and firm believer in what you say to someone does have an effect on them and also if you have nothing nice to say, don't say anything at all.

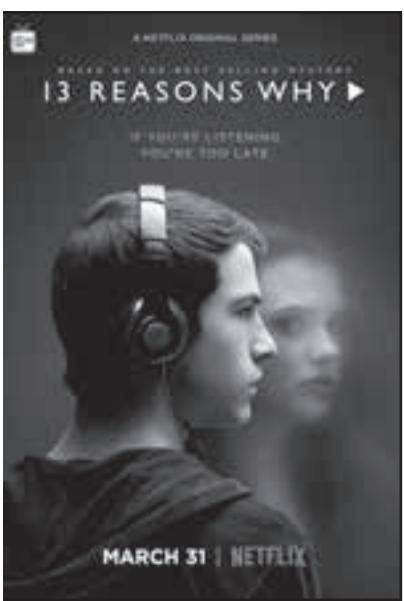
I'm sure everyone and their mothers are talking about this show because this show is flipping fantastic. From the scenario to the dialogue to the cast - the directors, producers, and casting directors did such

an amazing job with this show and casting. Anyways, the show consists of 13 episodes and that's quite genius, don't you think? They are titled "Tape 1, Side A" and so on. I think that's pretty original.

The episodes are heavy in a way that it touches your heart. Many people go through bullying and sexual harassment but no one does anything. This show truly shows what words can do to a person. It drove a girl to kill herself. This show touched me in a way no other show has.

Now, onto to the actual episodes. Every episode is a different tape and it's about a different reason why she killed herself. Pretty self-explanatory.

I stayed up late to finish this show. Like 4 a.m. late. I finished it in two days. The episodes are so interesting and the way the tapes show what happens in-



sault to suicide. These are huge problems in the world, but nobody seems to get that. About 49 percent of children in 4th grade through 12th grade are bullied throughout the US. One in 5 women and 1 in 16 men are sexually assaulted and 63 percent of sexual assault are not reported. And from 1999 to 2010 suicide increased up to 30 percent. If this isn't alarming, I don't know what is.

Back to the show: it's really something special and close to my heart. The characters are all so different and this show has POC! The show's cast is so diverse and that makes my heart happy and the characters themselves are so diverse - they're teenagers on the show and they portray high school students perfectly.

This show made me feel so many things; from happiness to sadness to anger in a span of an hour. 13 Reasons Why shows emotion and that is something a lot of shows can't achieve. Netflix has the best original shows.

I totally recommend this show. WARNING: there are scenes that may be triggering to some. I give this show a 10 out of 10.

stead of just hearing the tapes is amazing. For the most part, the tapes contain a lot of information about each event leading up to her death. It goes back to a lot of people, 13 people actually. Explaining the show's and novel's title. Anyway, within each episode, the reasons get worse. It starts out small, but then they grow into bigger things.

The show's dynamic is filled with amazing things. 13 Reasons Why shows awareness. From bullying to sexual as-

Choose your fate in Fire Emblem Fates

Fire Emblem is a turn-based tactical RPG that is developed by Intelligent Systems and published by Nintendo.

The franchise started off with many games exclusive for Japan for a long while, but on December 3, 2001, was the first time two Fire Emblem Characters, Marth from Shadow Dragon, and Roy from Blinding Blade, made an appearance outside from Japan.

Due to appearances of these two characters, demand rose for Fire Emblem Titles to be released outside of Japan. The first Fire Emblem game to be released was Fire Emblem: The Blinding Blade or as known as "Fire Emblem" in the states.

History

Fire Emblem Fates was first shown off Jan. 14, 2015, during a Nintendo Direct, a Livestream where Nintendo announces new upcoming titles. The title would be released June 25, 2015, for Japanese Audiences while North America would get the title Feb. 19, 2016.

Story

The story is about the main character Corrin, the player's main avatar, who has to make a choice between fighting alongside either his family in Nohr, the kingdom that kidnapped him as a child and raised him/her as their own, or fight along-



GAME CORNER

By Manuel Ruiz



Screen shot

This is a player's castle in Fire Emblem Fates.

side his true family in Hoshido the peaceful and loving kingdom. Or, will the player choose neither side?

Differences

The player can purchase Fire Emblem Conquest, Fire Emblem Birthright, and lastly can only purchase Fire Emblem Revelation digitally. For players who own the Special Edition of Fire Emblem Fates, all three story modes are included.

Each version has its own unique differences: in Conquest

the game is more difficult such as limiting the amount of gold that players gains when clearing a chapter, having limited turns or defeating a character in limited turns. In Birthright, the game is easier as the game is friendlier as it gives players more gold and having few limited requirements.

Lastly, Revelation is in between on difficulty since it's harder than Birthright but less difficult than Conquest.

Each version has exclusive

Read more *Game Corner* columns at <http://magnettribune.org/category/reviews/>

characters excluding the third path, whether the player has Birthright or Conquest, the player will always have 10 characters that are playable from both versions.

Downloadable Content

Fire Emblem Fates also offers downloadable content. Some are free that the player can download while others have to be bought. Some of the content include a map that helps players level up their units, gain more gold, or maps that offer content not found in the main games.

Pros

The soundtrack for the game is astounding. All pieces of music are fantastic and give out a great sense of vibe of the dangers of getting a game over. The gameplay has been improved from the previous installment; players now have to plan ahead with the new changes such as the pair up mechanic and clearing a chapter with the new types of objectives.

Lastly with the amount of downloadable content available to purchase it makes the game a great way to return for more content and game time.

Cons

Fire Emblem Fates included a mode called "Phoenix Mode" which is an easier mode for players who are either new to the game or rather play just for the story. This mode wasn't needed since most players can choose a Casual mode where the player won't lose any units and are also able to choose a difficulty that makes chapters less difficult.

Lastly, the minor complaint is a number of characters the player has to choose, of course, varies, but most of the times ignoring a character can punish the player for not selecting them in using them in battle. This happens with one of the characters in Birthright.

Conclusion

In all of the playtime I gotten with the game, and played each version of Fates, I can determine with the wonderful cast of characters, an amazing soundtrack, and lastly a decent story for each version, Fire Emblem Birthright gets an 8/10 and is recommend to players who have played Fire Emblem Awakening to enjoy a new and different experience.

Fire Emblem Conquest gets **See GAME CORNER, page 10**

Gfriend moves earn more attention

Gfriend is a girl group with six members that was formed by Source Music who have recently gotten more famous and are no longer underrated although when they debuted with Glass Bead they didn't have as much attention as they do today.

The names of those six members are Yuju, Umji, Yerin, SinB, Eunha, and Sowon. Their latest comeback was Fingertip, and many fans were excited to finally have a dark concept instead of the "first love" concept. Of course, their music style was the same, the only thing that was different was that it wasn't as cheerful.

Many people believe that they had gotten better known with a video of their performance that had gone wrong. While they were performing in the video, the girls were falling down due to the stage being too slippery. Nonetheless, they finished their performance and walked off the stage as if nothing had happened. The same incident happened recently just after their Fingertip comeback at the 2017 Nonsan Strawberry Festival, but they immediately stood up and continued performing, laughing it off.

Their concept for a while was basically schoolgirls experiencing their first love. I instantly thought it was their concept for the setting in their music vid-



MUSICAL SEOUL

By Mariene Sanchez

Read more Musical Seoul columns at <http://magnettribune.org/category/reviews/>

eos were at a school; they wore school uniforms and the lyrics made sure you had the same idea. For Navillera, they sort of tried to stray away from that concept, but it still had that same feel and so many fans got bored and they want to see something different from them.

Beyond their first loves

Then Fingertip came and the feel was much more different. It wasn't them experiencing their first love but it was them being confident that they'll have their love no matter what. The choreography for Fingertip goes really well with the song for their moves always go with the beat of the song, and even though it really is a lot of moving from one place to another, they don't seem to make any mistakes.

Fingertip is the title track for their new album called "The Awakening" which has the songs "Hear the Wind Sing," "FINGERTIP" (title), "Contrail," "Please Save My Earth," "Rain in the Spring Time," and "Crush."

More attention was brought to Gfriend for they performed with popular boy group SEVENTEEN with a skit that included Gfriend's songs Navillera, Rough, and SEVENTEEN's songs BOOM BOOM, Adore U, and Very Nice for the 2016 MAMA award show. SEVENTEEN is a boy group that sings about being madly in love with their significant other so their songs went perfectly together. The cute little skit was SEVENTEEN falling in love with the girls of Gfriend at first sight and so they gave flowers to the girls as a sign of love in which the girls accepted them.

They're a really funny group when you get to see how they are at home. Umji and SinB were playing a dancing game and had asked the oldest of the group, Sowon, to watch. At first they were doing okay and they were laughing until SinB accidentally hit Sowon and they both fell to the floor, SinB apologizing, but Umji just ignored what was going on right next to



Source Music
Gfriend's most recent music has gone beyond school-girls experiencing their first true loves.

her and continued to dance.

Rumors

There was a rumor going on that Umji was being bullied by SinB but SinB just has a resting mean face so she was just misunderstood. Umji clarified the rumors on V Live, which is a Korean broadcasting app for idols, saying that after she saw the video of SinB's facial expressions, she laughed and didn't feel bad about it. She also added that the members get along really well.

I believe Gfriend when they say they do not bully each other for they always laugh when

they're around each other and they have sincere worry written on their faces when one of them falls on stage. These rumors tend to start from antis who don't like the group so they create lies and bring a bad name to Gfriend so that they're are known solely for that rumor.

Aside from the rumors that will come up due to their popularity, Gfriend will overcome obstacles and continue to be a group which focuses on its music instead of scandals. When things get out of hand, members will address the subject and clear up any misunderstandings.

Tucker gains thousands of followers

Wesley Tucker, also known as Wes Tucker, is a 19-year-old social media star that emerged on YouNow but gained notice with his Tumblr blog. He also made covers and other 6-second videos on Vine.

Wesley on YouNow has 305,504 total views and 144.8K fans. When Wes was broadcast on YouNow he would answer questions from his fans as well as sing or just reply to want the comments would say. He wouldn't have a small audience but it wasn't big either it was a fair amount of people that he had watching.

Watching back on some of his old broadcasts and he would mostly cover songs like songs from Justin Bieber and Ed Sheeran.

Wesley made a Twitter account back in December 2014 and his followers skyrocketed from there. Since, Wesley has gotten so popular for his good looks and his voice and sweet personality, he has been on a tour since January, called



RISING STARS

By Madelyn Dion

Read more Rising Star columns at <http://magnettribune.org/category/reviews/>

Press Play, that has been to cities such as Toronto, Los Angeles, and Boston, and there are more shows coming up in the cities of Dallas, San Diego, Chicago, Atlanta and more.

Wes doesn't have a huge fan base but also its not small. He has 996k followers on Instagram and 274k on Twitter. He has so many supporters and he cares about all of them so much you can really tell. Even though he doesn't post on Twitter and Instagram, he does on his Snapchat as Wesleyfinn. He posts on it sometimes once a day but sometimes more than that.

More on iTunes

Wesley also has some songs out on iTunes, Hallelujah, Be Alright, and Stronger featuring him. They can all be purchased



YouTube

Wes Tucker has nearly 145,000 fans on YouNow.

on iTunes for \$0.99 each.

Wesley is such a sweet guy and I only came across him recently but he's an inspiration

to me. He's so sweet to his fans and I've been told he remembers everything his fans tell him so if you meet him again he would be able to tell you what he said to you and what you say to him. To me he's a beautiful human overall; his snapchats make me smile or give me chest pain from his good looks and his laugh. When I see pictures of Wesley and his fans it warms my heart because the way he embraces them and the smile he has on his face shows he really cares and loves his supporters.

I talked to some people and asked them how they felt about Wesley overall as a person and if they met him what they thought about him.

My friend Zach that goes by *_alwaysthebest* on Twitter said "I've seen lots of videos of him meeting his fans at Press Play. He has always remembered each person. In every video he gives them a hug so big you can feel it even if you're not

the one being hugged. His personality definitely stands out and I believe he's nothing like an ordinary celebrity."

I talked to Paradise also known as *dopedaddywes* on Instagram and I asked her what she thought of Wesley overall and if she had ever met him and she said, "No I haven't, but I really want to though" about meeting him. She added, "I really like him. I see past his looks. He has a very good heart and makes every girl feel beautiful."

Serena, who goes by *Corruptedtrash* on Twitter, said, "I feel like he's a role model and an inspiration to so many people. He makes peoples days and gives them happiness even when the person is in like depression he can still put a smile on their face."

Wes is a sweet person and he is someone you would want to have in your life. He seems like such a fun and carefree person to be around.

Fries taste better than Grand Mac

(This is senior Victoriano Garcia's final Burger Pursuit column.)

One day, minding my own business doing work at school I came across big news that McDonalds released a new Mac.

I immediately asked the name and difference of the bigger burger.

"Grand Mac"

Just by hearing the name I got super interested on giving it a try.

"It got bigger in size"

This was good. I've always complained about the Big Mac's smallish size and how it's not really a big burger.

So what I did is I went by



BURGER PURSUIT

By Victoriano Garcia

Read more Burger Pursuit columns at <http://magnettribune.org/category/reviews/>

McDonald's drive thru right after school. The McDonald's on Saunders Street has a double lane on their drive thru. No trouble on getting my meal or having to wait more than usual.

I went home happy to know I'm about to try on the new burger.

I take the burger out of its box and from there it changed my mood. It didn't seem to be that much of a difference from the Big Mac.

I take the first bite and it wasn't so bad. The sauce was there but I don't know, there was nothing special, really.

The sauce

After taking more bites the sauce started to get to me. I don't want to say gross out because I do like its sauce most of the time. I guess maybe because I wasn't hungry.

I wasn't having any fun.

When getting halfway through I didn't feel like finishing the burger so I stopped and just went for the fries.

To be honest, I enjoyed the fries more than the burger.

I guess what happened is that I overhyped the Grand Mac. This won't happen again.

I give McDonald's fries a 10/10 for saving the day. McDonald's top-of-the-line double drive thru also deserves a 10/10. For the Grand Mac however... a 5/10.



MT photo by Victoriano Garcia
McDonald's Grand Mac isn't all that much different from a Big Mac.

BOOK LOOK, FROM PAGE 9

who read on a tablet recall less information than when reading a paperback.

Scientists still don't know what causes this but it seems that readers find it difficult to keep track physically and mentally in an e-book. That being said, keeping track and also an emotional feel to the book doesn't have the same effect as

the real ones.

A 2012 study from the Guardian stated, "iPad readers didn't feel that the story was as immersive, and therefore weren't able to connect with it on an emotional level. Further, those who read on paper were much more capable of placing the story's events in chronological order."

Having a tangible thing makes the experience more real than reading it on a screen. Call me old fashioned but reading books should be enjoyed without any complications whatsoever. Using e-books regularly not only takes away the feel of the reading experiences but can cause more damage than it's worth.

GAME CORNER, FROM PAGE 9

the series as it offers a challenge to the players.

Lastly, Fire Emblem Revelation gets an 8/10, with a number of characters the players gets in this route most players might have difficulty choosing who should be used in battle.

With the difficult set between Conquest and Birthright which makes it enjoyable, it is recommended to play Birthright and Conquest before playing Revelation for the player to get the story.



MT photo by Delilah Gonzalez

Superintendent Dr. A. Marcus Nelson speaks at VMT's ribbon cutting ceremony opening the new campus on Aug. 6, 2015. He has been hired as superintendent at Waco ISD, and will start in early June.

Nelson signs as Waco superintendent

JESUS HERNANDEZ
STAFF WRITER

Waco ISD signed Dr. A. Marcus Nelson, Laredo ISD superintendent, to a 5-year contract as superintendent during a school board meeting Thursday, April 27, according to the Waco Tribune-Herald newspaper.

Nelson is expected to begin work in Waco by mid-June, according to the.

Another Tribune-Herald story stated his base salary will be \$272,000 plus benefits. He leaves Laredo ISD making almost \$218,000 plus benefits, according to a copy of his contract on the LISD website. The current Waco ISD superintendent, who will retire in June, earns about \$214,000.

Waco ISD named Nelson the lone finalist on Wednesday, April 5. He was one of 59 applicants who applied for the position, according to the Laredo Morning Times.

"In my mind, we set a goal to look as far as we needed to go find the best candidate to be our superintendent and we found him," said WISD Board President Pat Akins in a news release on April 6. "Marcus Nelson's personality and track record of success put him at the head of a strong group of applicants."

Nelson will lead a school district with about 15,000 students, 2,400 employees and 26

campuses. At LISD, he oversees about 24,000 students, 4,500 employees and 33 campuses, newspaper articles have stated.

"It certainly brings me to tears when I think about not working with the people I work with," he said during an early April interview with LMT.

Nelson has been superintendent of LISD for 8 years and said it was a tough decision to accept the new position at Waco.

"The people of Laredo welcomed me with open arms when I moved to Laredo in 2009," Nelson told LMT. "I have been very happy in Laredo and I have made many lifelong friends which makes my decision to move to Waco very difficult. I have been struggling with my decision and admit to shedding some tears."

He said his success as superintendent is a team effort.

"The people I work with are the reason I was recruited to Waco," Nelson told LMT. "I am the superintendent I am today because of the life lessons I've learned in Laredo."

Nelson will for the last time shake every graduate's hand at graduation ceremonies on June 1 and 2. He said it is a tradition he cherishes.

"Right now we have to celebrate the graduating class of 2017. Those kids and their parents deserve us to focus on them," Nelson told LMT.

Nelson has not responded to a Magnet Tribune email asking for comment.

Many students said they were devastated hearing Nelson's plan to leave the district. Junior Ashley Garcia, in dance, said she was surprised to find out Nelson was leaving LISD.

"I was shocked because he was our superintendent for a long time," Garcia said.

She said she last saw him at the youth parade.

The only memory junior Brandon Gardea, in dance, had of Nelson is when he was at Wal-Mart buying groceries.

Gardea wishes Nelson well. "I do I wish him the best," he said.

Senior Amaranta Espinoza, in dance, said she was mad at Nelson because he was leaving.

"I was really disappointed. I never thought he would leave LISD," Espinoza said.

The only memory she had of Nelson is seeing him attend the parades since she was a band member.

"I wish him the best," she added.

Sophomore Lorena Gomez, in guitar, said she was unhappy to hear Nelson is leaving.

"I'm super sad. He's the best superintendent ever," Gomez said.

The only memory she has of Nelson is when he shook her hand after she sang in a concert.

"He will be missed a lot," Gomez added.

Journalism teacher Mark Webber said he expects student achievement to be at the top of the list for the new superintendent.

"I hate to see Dr. Nelson leave the district. I believe he's brought a lot of positive changes. Plus, under his leadership we now have a beautiful new campus that will provide decades of great learning possibilities and wonderful memories for many generations of students," Webber said.

Webber said he treasures a memory from Nelson.

"He was brand new to the district when (The Magnet Tribune) received an award, and a few days later I received a hand-written card congratulating the students and me. That is a treasured memory. I know he'll continue his career as an excellent educator in Waco," Webber said.

Looking back, Nelson told LMT he's proud of some of the achievements and team effort involved in the district. These include Jose A. Valdez High School, a non-traditional campus that serves high school students who are at-risk of dropping out, the construction of the new Nixon High School and the new VMT campus.

Musical is a 'horror' of a comedy

KEVIN GARCIA
STAFF WRITER

Theatre Department head Vernon Carroll thought "Little Shop of Horrors" would provide something new for people to enjoy this summer.

"It's a popular musical, students love it. Young people love "Little Shop of Horrors" because it's a take-off on the old horror movies where everybody ends up dying one way or another in the movie," Carroll said.

Productions are scheduled for June 14-17 at the VMT auditorium, and are scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. daily. Ticket prices are pending.

Carroll explained how the play has similarities with old classic horror movies.

"What's interesting is how they end up dying, but it's a comedy so nobody takes the deaths seriously. It's kind of like the movies of "Freddy Krueger," that old series of movies where no matter what you did with Freddy, he always comes back in the next movie and the people get bumped off, they get killed and most of them you don't care about them anyway, so it's a take-off of old horror movies and young people love this play. Plus it's got really good music and it's an unusual story," Carroll said.

Carroll explained a piece from the play on how someone finds an unusual plant.

"You have this guy who finds this plant and the guy is a total loser. The whole world is against him and he becomes a media sensation because he found an unknown plant and raised it to gigantic size plus it

Cast:

Seymour: Alfredo Cantu
Audrey: Mia Gomez
Plant (Audrey II): Luke Reimund
Mr. Mushnik: Ricardo Lozano
Orin Scivello, DDS: Javier Sanchez
Chiffon: Victorie Meza
Ronnelle: Harper Zimmermann
Crystal: Paulina De Leon
Patrick Martin: Benjamin Zapata

Chorus:

Jasmine Cantu
Ling Ling Cheung
Vivian Coleman
Zenaida Elizondo
Jasmine Hinds
Luis Espinoza
Raul Garza
Albert Hernandez
Jack Paul
Sergio Sanchez

eats people and its part of an alien invasion plan," Carroll stated.

Last summer the school presented the musical You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown.

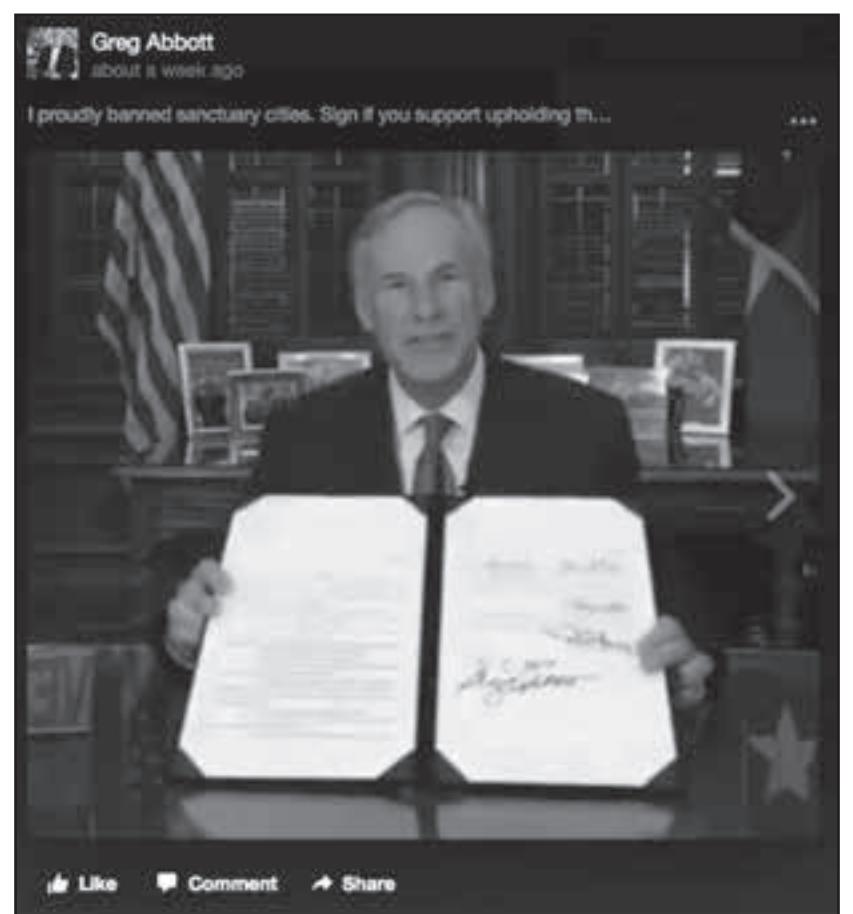
Carroll described on how the audition for the Little Shop of Horrors went.

"We had a very good audition. Also a group of fantastic performers who auditioned for the shows so we were able to cast it very well," Carroll said.

Carroll pointed out some challenges for having a summer production.

"First and foremost is getting everybody together for rehearsal because the actors live all over town and just getting here for rehearsal at the same time is a challenge. A lot of the actors and actresses have other commitment like summer school or summer workshop, things like that so working for rehearsal schedule is one of the largest challenges," Carroll said.

SANCTUARY, FROM PAGE 1



Facebook screen shot

Gov. Gregg Abbott shows his signature on the "sanctuary cities" bill in his office on March 8 during a Facebook Live broadcast.

Acting Laredo Police Chief Gabriel E. Martinez Jr. told the news media that the community should not be afraid of calling police out of fear of deportation.

Since the bill was signed May 8, lawyers have filed law-

suits, including one by the city of El Cenizo in south Webb County.

The Magnet Tribune has contacted Perry and State Senator Judith Zaffirini for comment on the bill but has not yet received a response.

Hope you have a great summer!
From
The Magnet Tribune
staff!



Refill,
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and Save!

Ink jet
cartridges



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2108 South Meadow Ave., 729-0123



VMT Senior Class of 2017

Communication
J. Teran, Radio & Television

Adamaris Andrade
Chris Davalos
Luis Enrique Gutierrez Jr.
Jesus Peche
Gabriela Reyna
Andres Sanchez
Alexis Gabriel Villanueva

M. Webber, *Creative Writing*
Angie Marie Hernandez
Briselda Ortiz Escobar
Andrew Perez
Abigail Salazar

M. Webber, *Print Journalism/Online Media*
Homero Adolfo Arevalo
Edward Robert Barrera
Victoriano Gabriel Garcia
Deilah Elaine Gonzalez
Crystal Martinez
Mario Alfonso Rodriguez
Belen Silva

Dance

M.E. Leyva, *Classical Ballet*
Lizbeth Vianira Cardenas
Briana Nicole Castillo
Cassandra Elaine Chavez
Leann Mae Cuellar
Anaranta Espinosa Castillo
Priscilla Maribel Garza
Lesley Marie Lopez
Ana Karen Martinez
Jaqueline Esmeralda Martinez

Music

Dr. M.G. Carroll, *Piano Studies*
Miriam Noemi Aguilar
Salomon Banda Saucedo
Maridelisa Garza
Cristina Ginez
Cesar Alexander Gomez
Carolina Loera
Julian Vicente Miranda
Ismael Paz Cruz
Regina Abigail Rodriguez
Tanya Ivette Treviño
Zecundino Valdez
Eric Villarreal

B. Compton, *Orchestral Strings*
Dante Mateo Aguilar
Samantha Nicole Gonzalez
Juan Patricio Rivera
Jose Prisciliano Ugarte Jr.

R. Cortez, *Jazz/Classical Guitar*
Paola Gomez Ginez
Micaela Belen Guerra
Matthew Lesait Heath
Jorge Roberto Morales Jr.
Albert Rodriguez
Gilbert Rodriguez
Alexis San Miguel
Viola Dominique Valdez

C. Hernandez, *Choral Studies*
April Marie Dominguez
Armando Daniel Gallegos
Macey Lorraine Garibaldi
Valerie Alexandra Nieto
Lesley Picazio

Visual Arts

G. Rocha, *Drawing & Painting*
Chantal Alexandra Hernandez
Andrew Lazo
Julia Victoria Leyva
Karla Ruby Pineda
Karen Elizabeth Rivas
Christian Joshua Terrazas
Kendra Soledad Treviño

A. Santos, *Drawing & Sculpting*
Martha Carmen Barrientos
Areele Castro-Prado
Marsha Diaz
Abigail Elise Flores
Brandon Michael Gumez
Jose Manuel Leyva Jr.
Carlos Lopez Jr.
Frida Michell Marin
Emily Guadalupe Molina
Ricardo Daniel Padron
Peter Brandon Sanchez
Victor Trujillo
Jacqueline Danielle Zamora
Crystal Lynn Zuniga

B. Thatcher, *Classical Guitar*
Francisco Aguilar Colunga
Ricardo Chavana
Juan Arturo Flores Leon
Juan Carlos Flores Rivera
Jose Alfredo Flores
Angel Fuentes
Carlos Eluid Gonzalez
Victor Hernandez Perez
Javier Agustin Lara
Alberto Manzo
Bianca Airy Ochoa
Juan Mario Solis Jr.
Abel Ignacio Vazquez

C. Torres, *Percussion Studies*
Edwin Giovanni Delgado
Josiah Mireles
Esperanza Ramirez
Gilberto Rodriguez

Theatre Arts
V. Carroll, *Acting & Technical Theatre*
Crystal Arenal
Daniela Garcia
Kevin Alexander Gonzalez
Jesus Manuel Hernandez Sanchez
Lesly Cristina Lopez
Ricardo Lozano Jr.
Adam Marshall Mechem
Marina Alejandra Meddellin
Juan Palomares Jr.
Martin Ramirez Jr.
Javier Eduardo Sanchez Jr.
Arlene Estefania Solis
Daniela Treviño
Leslie Treviño
Benjamin Eduardo Zapata
Harper Rose Zimmermann

Jessica Lizeth Ramos
Ruth Sovereans

M. Hinojosa, *Woodwind Studies*
Michael Anthony Calleros
Sarah Odette Camacho
Gisel Garza
Cynthia Maria Gutierrez
Dany Hernandez Salazar
Eduardo Jimenez, IV
Ebonie Brianna Lopez
Lyann Linette Lozano
Vanessa Martinez
Rebecca Merito
Gustavo Alfredo Olguin
Christina Fernandez Peña
Karolina Milette Perez
Carolina Isabel Ramon
Jose Guadalupe Ruiz Jr.
Bryanna Denise Salinas
Eva Cristina Sanchez
Alexis Treviño

R. Lopez, *High Brass Studies/Sound Town*
Ben David Mora
Sergio Antonio Nava
Jason Perez
Gabrielle Alyssia Praether
Jose Luis Ramos Jr.
Mario Alejandro Valle, Jr.

J. Reimund, *Low Brass Studies*
Michael Anthony Chavez
Jordan Antonio Flores
Oscar Jose Nateras

Visual Arts

G. Rocha, *Drawing & Painting*
Chantal Alexandra Hernandez
Andrew Lazo
Julia Victoria Leyva
Karla Ruby Pineda
Karen Elizabeth Rivas
Christian Joshua Terrazas
Kendra Soledad Treviño

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Mario Alejandro Valle, Jr.

J. Reimund, *Low Brass Studies*
Michael Anthony Chavez
Jordan Antonio Flores
Oscar Jose Nateras

Graduation schedule

Thursday, June 1 at Laredo Energy Arena
10 a.m. Cigarroa High School
2 p.m. Martin High School
6 p.m. Nixon High School

Friday, June 2 at TAMU gym
10 a.m. Early College High School

Sources: Medallion Ceremony program; LISD Public Information Office

Seniors celebrate with breakfast

Members of the Class of 2017 met for their annual Senior Breakfast on Tuesday, May 16, in the school cafeteria.

Besides breakfast, seniors received personalized bobblehead dolls, other small gifts, and performed karaoke.

A slide show featuring seniors was played on the big screen near the north-side windows.



RIGHT: Seniors Jose de la Rosa, left, and Jesse Macegoza get breakfast at Senior Breakfast in the school cafeteria on May 16.



LEFT: Seniors chat and look at a slide show on the big screen in the cafeteria during Senior Breakfast on May 16.



RIGHT: Counselor Ana Salinas visits a tableful of seniors during Senior Breakfast in the cafeteria.



LEFT: Seniors watch a slide show in the cafeteria during Senior Breakfast on May 16.



RIGHT: School Director Dr. Martha Villarreal speaks to seniors during Senior Breakfast on May 16.



LEFT: Seniors Marina Medellin, third from right, and Eva Sanchez, second from right, react as they leave the cafeteria after Senior Breakfast ended on May 16.

Photography and page design by Karla Alvarez

Check The Magnet Tribune online for more Senior Breakfast photos!

Medallions cap school careers



LEFT and RIGHT: Dance instructor Mary Ellen Leyendecker places a medallion around senior Briana Castillo's neck, and embrace afterwards.

VMT's 24th Annual Medallion Ceremony honored 176 seniors of the Class of 2017 with medallions in the LISD Fine Arts Center on Friday, May 12.

Speakers besides school Director Martha Villarreal were AP English III and IV instructor Gerardo Flores and senior speaker Leonel Ayala Jr. Dance instructor Alicia McKinnis introduced the senior speaker. Other students assisting were Gisel Garza, music; Gabriela Reyna, communication; Marina Garza, dance; and Viola Valdez, music.



Communication students receiving the 24th annual Elizabeth Sorrell Scholarships are, from left, Abigail Salazar, creative writing; Gabriela Reyna, audio/video production; and Belen Silva, print journalism/online media.



Lizbeth Garcia, dance student, reacts after receiving her medallion at the annual Medallion Ceremony at the LISD Fine Arts Center on May 12.



MEDALLION SPEAKERS. Left: AP English III and IV instructor Gerardo Flores was faculty speaker. Center: Viola Valdez, music student, introduced the school's director and faculty speaker. Right: School Director Dr. Martha Villarreal speaks to seniors.

Photography and page design by Sabrina Sanchez



Left: Seniors react after receiving their medallions. RIGHT: Seniors and audience members listen to a speaker at the Medallion Ceremony.