

Tigertalk



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Talent Show Winners



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Members of the high school choir had the opportunity to sing the National Anthem prior to a Texas A&M girls basketball game recently.

Tigertalk

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Tiger hoops win close games to reach regional semifinals

The Tigers boys basketball team went on a historic playoff run as they reached the regional semifinals before coming up short to Lancaster this past weekend. By winning close games throughout the playoffs, the Tigers got their fans, the school and community all behind them.

In their first playoff game, they got a 3-pointer from Josh McGill to send the game into overtime. They won with six seconds remaining on a Buddy McGill shot to beat Forney by two points.

They won their next game over Frisco Liberty, 64-62, on a Josh McGill layup in the final seconds. Their next game was just as thrilling as they defeated Little Elm, 80-78, on two Buddy McGill free throws with two seconds left.

They advanced to face Lancaster. After falling behind big in the first quarter, the Tigers roared back in the second half. They closed to within two but couldn't get closer and lost 66-57.

Congratulations to players Terrance Allen, Aaron Antone, Anterius Beard, Jamarion Brown, KJ Cannon, Jo'Karrian Fluellen, Dorian Glinton, Christon Himes, Buddy McGill, Josh McGill, Josh Morris and Kevin Savage and coaches Joey Chism, Drew Barkley, Cudahy Harmon, Karlton Davis and Anthony Moore Mount Pleasant High



Josh McGill



Kevin Savage



Head Coach Joey Chism



Dorian Glinton



Buddy McGill



Christon Himes

Reynolds wins Tigers Got Talent

By SAMANTHA GONZALEZ
Tigertalk Staff Writer

Mount Pleasant High School has completed yet another successful year of Tigers got Talent. A lot of different and diverse talent was left on the stage! The hosts of the show consisted of Steven Mendoza, Angela Flores and Ja'Quacy Minter.

There were 16 acts competing in the talent show with Alyssa Reynolds taking first, Abby Sneed second and Mya Clark third.

With the song "Never Enough" Alyssa Reynolds brought home first place.

"I picked this song because I think it showcased my voice better than most of the other songs," Alyssa said.

The performance itself was so beautiful and gave the audience goosebumps! Waiting to for first place to be called Alyssa was "worried she didn't place" standing on stage however once Steven announced her name she "felt a relief how much work [she] put into it and benefited from it!" She left the stage happy, proud and accomplished.

Sneed came in second place with a song she wrote herself and dedicated to her father who had passed away two and a half years ago.

"I felt that he was in the room as I was singing and no one else was there. I was singing to him" Abby said. She felt she was ready for the world to hear her song. Hearing her name called for second place Abby was "surprised" and she felt really proud of herself.

Clark came in third place with the beautiful song Hallelujah. Being only a freshman and competing her first year she was shocked when they called her name for 3rd place. Mia said "I thought that I was going to be more nervous than I was, but I was much more confident."



Reynolds took first place with "Never Enough."



Hosts Minter, Flores and Mendoza.

Her performance was outstanding and paid off in the end.

The other amazing contestants included Autumn Velin, Cessia Gonzalez, Chloe Garrett, Rachel Moreno and Sam Valdez, Eileen Martinez, Shanel Harmon, Casey Strelow, Angela Rios, Ashlee Stoffel, Ariana Garrett and Antonio Ramirez.



Tigers Got Talent contestant participants



Sneed won second place.



Cheerleaders have been busy since the start of football season.

Cheerleaders have had busy year

By HARPER DAVIS
Tigertalk Staff Writer

The cheer team supports the high school in a variety of ways. From cheering at sporting events to serving the community and boosting school morale, they have had their hands full.

“This year has been a non-stop ride for us,” varsity cheerleader Ali Grace Merritt said.

“From football to competition to basketball we have stayed very busy, but it’s been so much fun.”

The cheerleaders recently traveled to Fort Worth to compete in the UIL State Championship and did very well.

“We achieved our goal of reaching finals and making top 20,” Varsity Captain Bailey Sisk said. “We are currently the 15th ranked cheer team in the state. It was a really long day but we had a lot of fun and made so many memories.”

The cheerleaders are now



Cheerleaders show their support for the boys basketball team.

cheering on our varsity basketball boys as they continue to advance in playoffs.

“The games are so much fun,” Sisk said. “The stands have been packed with Tiger fans and the energy level is greater than I’ve seen in all my years of cheering.”

Soon, the cheerleaders will be hosting a tryout clinic for those interested in cheering next year.

“Tryouts will be March 9th

and clinic will be the week leading up to it,” Merritt. “Results will be announced the night of tryouts.”

The rest of the semester the cheerleaders will be preparing for the upcoming school year.

“It’s been amazing year and I wouldn’t have wanted to spend it with any other girls,” Sisk said. “I can’t wait for next year and the opportunities it holds.”



The UIL Team shows off the medals they won at the Pine Tree Meet earlier this year.

UIL academics gearing up for district

By **HARPER DAVIS**
Tigertalk Staff Writer

UIL academic teams have had a successful year as they prepare for the upcoming district meet March 23 and 24 in Hallsville.

The UIL academic teams have placed in the top two teams at every meet they have attended this year.

“We’ve had lots of highlights this year, it’s hard to say what the best one has been,” UIL Coordinator Regina Crouch said.

“Perhaps watching kids’ reactions as they earn medals competing against “better” schools.”

Students are looking forward to competing at district and hopefully state.

“We’ve been working hard and have been pretty suc-

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cessful,” Eric Vasquez said. “I really see a lot of our teams advancing past area.”

Math Coach Andy Speir anticipates tough competition at district as well as at regionals and state.

“The biggest challenge to advancing to regionals would be that our district is the toughest in the state in 5A for math and calculator applications since there are three very good teams,” Speir said.

“Mount Pleasant, Hallsville, and Pine Tree are all among the top 10 in the state in both events.”

The math team lost some valuable seniors last year and has worked hard to fill their shoes.

“It looked to be a rebuilding year after losing the top 3 to

graduation from last year’s state championship team, but the team has improved and won 1st at many meets and should do well this year,” Speir said.

Students have sacrificed many of their Saturdays to go to practice meets in preparation for district.

“The goal of any practice meet is just that, practice, but also improvement...and to win,” Crouch said.

The UIL academic program is more than just competing at meets to some students.

“I’ve been in UIL since I was a freshman and all my friends are in it too,” junior Rebecca Yox said.

“We practice together, ride the bus together, spend entire Saturdays together...it really is a team and a family.”

FFA students volunteer time to clean up tornado debris

By ERIC VASQUEZ
Tigertalk Editor

An EF2 tornado (Enhanced Fujita 2) rotating at approximately 111–157 mph touched in DeKalb on Jan. 22. Many homes and farmlands were destroyed. The members of the FFA chapter traveled to the site last month to help clean up the wreckage.

“I was shocked when I saw the effects a tornado can do, but we cleaned up as much as we could,” Daisy Del Carmen said. “I was exhausted but it was all worth it at the end. I was glad I had the opportunity to help people in need.”

The volunteers were there from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. picking up the debris scattered around the area, and picking up houses’ fallen roofs.

“It looked very dirty, all things were thrown between the trees and leaves,” Lourdes Coronado said.

The students who volunteered worked hard to clean up all that they could to help the community.

“We took some pressure off the people in DeKalb, and made it easier for them,” Blake Denson said. “I was tired from working all day but also felt good because we helped some good people.”

Much of what was scattered around were parts of roofs, the inside of the houses, and a lot of it ended up in trees or around the pastures.

“The group I went with was hardworking. We worked as a team and got as much work done as we could,” Del Carmen said. “It took us a whole day, but seeing their smiles at the end of the day made it all worth it.”





FBLA students at area competition in Athens.

54 FBLA students advance to state

**By REBECCA YOX
Tigertalk Staff Writer**

FBLA recently competed at Area in Athens and a total of 54 students have advanced to state.

“I felt that all my hard work had paid off, and I am super excited to compete at state and hopefully advance to nationals,” Senior Eric Vasquez said.

State will be held in Dallas from March 8-10. If the students place at state, they will advance to nationals which will take place in Baltimore this summer.

“I hope we will have some advance,” FBLA Sponsor John Whitten said. “We were lucky to have one student advance last year and hope to have a great showing at state.”

The students who received first place in their specific event and will advance to state include Cessia Gonzalez, Sanum Shahid and Jose Liera (Banking and Financial Systems), Nuvia Chavez, Alan Gonzalez and Tripp Hinton (Broadcast Journalism), Avery Ayers, Keily Castanon, Tatum Dungan, Keren Mendoza and Erika Vargas (Community Service), Joshua Menhennett (Computer Applications), Kody Escobar and Tristan

Zuniga (E-Business), Connor Reese (Economics), Avery Ayers (Electronic Career Portfolio), Karson Hutchings, Dylan Ingram and Noah Wall (Graphic Design), Abby Mason (Healthcare Administration), Abigail Amerson, Zannah Hutchings and Payton Tyler (Hospitality Management), Elizabeth Jones (Introduction to Business), Shelby Courreges (Introduction to Financial Math), Seth Robertson (Management Information Systems), Nancy Ibarra and Tessa Land (Marketing), Blanca Antolin and Maritza Zambrano (Public Service Announcement), Annie Le and Erica Salazar (Social Media Campaign), Oscar Munoz (Sports and Entertaining Marketing)

The students who received second place in their specific event and will advance to state include Joshua Harris (Agribusiness), Daniel Landaverde (Business Calculations), Stephanie Gonzalez (Client Service), Jennifer Rosiles (Health care Administration), Itzamari Vargas and Itzel Vargas (Hospitality Management), Austin Cheatham (Journalism), Hannah Gage, Sarah Nelson and Bailey Sisk (Publication Design), Eric Vasquez

See FBLA, Page 9

SkillsUSA students qualify for state

Nine Electrical Trades students have advanced to the Texas SkillsUSA State competition in Corpus Christi April 5-7.

Giovanni Hipolito and Chris Memije advanced in the Construction Wiring competition. Hipolito also advanced with his Electrical Exhibit.

Seven other students advanced with their Electrical Exhibits: Zackary Brown, Eloy Castillo, Jose E. Gonzalez, Eliab Monroy, Solomon Morgan, Mario Rodriguez and Anthony Tejada.

“These students put in a lot of extra time and worked very hard to get ready for area competition and I am thrilled that nine are going to State,” said Tim Davis, MPHS Electrical Trades instructor and SkillsUSA Advisor.

“They are now focusing



From left are Chris Memije, Solomon Morgan, Eloy Castillo, Giovanni Hipolito, Jose Gonzalez and Zackary Brown. Not pictured are Eliab Monroy, Mario Rodriguez and Anthony Tejada.

on preparing to compete at State against students from across Texas, including students from Career-Tech

magnet schools. I know they will be great representatives of MPISD and the Mount Pleasant community.”

FBLA from Page 8



Matthew Armstrong with his Who's Who Award that he received at area.

(Sales Presentation), and Katelyn Kimbrough (Word Processing).

The students who received third place in their specific event and will advance to state include Brent Garret (Business law), Grace Whitten (Health Care Administration), Aslin Barrientos (Job Interview), and Daisy Delcarmen (Personal Finance).

The students who received fourth in their specific event and will advance to state include Luke Scoggins (Accounting), Alexis Morales (Business Communications), Abby Sneed (Impromptu Speaking), and Rebecca Yox (Journalism).

Area Vice President Matthew Armstrong was chosen as the chapter recipient for the Who's Who Award, which recognizes an outstanding member.

Whitten thanks sponsors Sarah Fry and Dolanda Lockett for their help in preparing students for their competitions.



From left are Samantha Gonzales, Averie Ayers, Faith Logan, Sandra Ramirez, Alyssa Reynolds, Tessa Land, Avanlea Sinclair, Grace Whitten and Karson Hutchings.

HOSA students earn state trip

By **MATTHEW ARMSTRONG**
Tigertalk Staff Writer

Our Health Occupational Students of America (HOSA) chapter has been hard at work lately preparing for their area competition. Along with the advisors, 54 students attended the competition in hopes that they would advance to the next round.

HOSA prides itself on the rigor of the competition and how it allows for gifted students to showcase their individual talents in order to prepare themselves for the medical field.

Compared to the tough competition in attendance, our chapter did exceptional. The following students placed in their event and will compete at the upcoming state competition:

Karson Hutchings: 2nd place, Health Career Photography

Sandra Ramirez: 2nd place, Medical Art Poster

Avanlea Sinclair: 2nd place, Personal Care

Nathon Segovia: 3rd place, Medical Math

Averie Ayers: 5th place, Job Seeking Skills

Samantha Gonzalez: 5th place, Healthy Lifestyle

These students met certain criteria to qualify for the next level of competition. Their events did not award places, however, they received recognition.

Andrea Beles: Health Care Issues

Tessa Land: Outstanding HOSA Chapter

Alyssa Reynolds: Outstanding HOSA Chapter

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Nathon Segovia and Andrea Beles qualified for state after online testing.

Grace Whitten: Outstanding HOSA Chapter

Faith Logan: Outstanding HOSA Chapter

See HOSA, Pg. 11

FCCLA students advance to state

The high school chapter of FCCLA (Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America) competed at the Region III meeting in Waco on Feb. 9.

Three teams competed in the Culinary Arts competition and two students competed in the Cupcake Battle competition. The team of Michael Cortez, Tyrese Milton, and Matthew Braudaway placed 5th out of 24 teams in the Culinary Arts competition and advanced to the State Meet April 5-7 in Dallas.

The team of Alicia Bello, Lizbeth Mejia and Samantha Garcia competed in Life Event Planning. For their project, they planned and organized a baby shower. They came up with a theme, invitations and had to stay within a budget. They placed second out of seven teams and will be moving on to state competition as well.

Ashley Rodriguez received a bronze medal for her efforts in Education and Training FCS-Assessments. Ashley scored better than 200 other testers and represented Mount Pleasant well at the Regional Competition.

“All the competitors and advisors spent countless hours studying and preparing for the competition and the results prove that Mount Pleasant FCCLA is a force to be reckoned with,” said Aimee Sweeden, MPHS teacher and one of the FCCLA sponsors. “We are all excited about the upcoming State Competition.”

Other FCCLA sponsors are Chef Jamie Hudman and Margaret Bradley.



From left are Milton, Cortez and Braudaway.



Rodriguez



Garcia, Bello and Mejia

HOSA from Page 10

Zannah Hutchings: HOSA Happenings Newsletter

Following the area competition, the students who advanced are still working diligently on their competition and improving themselves.

“They are competing against a tougher competition,” HOSA Advisor Suzy Whitten said. “We meet during work nights to prac-

tice and work on our competition.”

While in attendance, the students will be offered numerous opportunities for them at the state conference which is being held April 11-14 at the Gaylord Texan in Grapevine.

“Students will have leadership training opportunities, the chance to apply for scholarships, and compete against other HOSA students from across the state,” Whitten said.

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Lady Tigers reach basketball playoffs

For the second consecutive season, the Lady Tigers basketball team was able to advance to the playoffs.

The Lady Tigers took third in district and reached the bi-district round where they came up short in their playoff game against Lucas Lovejoy.

Team members included Ja'Niya Hill, Sha'Kera Evans, Kendria Roberson, Mauryana Gholston, Taryanna McNary, Summer Baldwin, Taylor Dillard, Stacey Henderson, Jordan Dickerson and Keandria Craddock. Congratulations to the players along with head coach Tina Carrillo and assistants Kyle Stansell, Danny Holderness and Carmen Nance on a great season.



Haupt signs with North Lake College

Senior volleyball player Shelbi Haupt signed a National Letter of Intent to play at North Lake College in Irving. Shelbi is the daughter of James and Julie Nugent.

Volleyball Coach Jeremy Stewart congratulated Shelbi on her achievement. He said that he had seen her develop as a player over the last five years, since he began coaching her in junior high school. He added that no matter what obstacle appeared in her way, she never gave up on becoming a great volleyball player.

Pinckard named new AD, Tigers head football coach

By KARSON HUTCHINGS
Tigertalk Staff Writer

Mount Pleasant Tiger Athletics has a familiar face heading up the program. Former Tigers football assistant coach Ritchie Pinckard has returned as the new head football coach and athletic director.

Coach Pinckard previously coached at MPHS from 2008 to 2010.

"It feels good to come back to a community that we really enjoyed being a part of, knowing the school and the needs of the program is very helpful to me in many ways," Pinckard said.

Between then and now Coach Pinckard coached at other schools including, the most recent, Ennis High School.

Coach Pinckard as well as his family had to endure the transition from Ennis.

"With any transition there will be adjustments...but I feel like it is going to well and progression is positive," Pinckard said.

With any team there is room for improvement. At the beginning of the semester Coach Pinckard talked with his athletes and said he will be "establishing a strong work ethic, it is the most important thing right now, nothing else matters."

He will be using the acronym that spells "EAT -- Effort, Attitude, and Toughness".

With this, he has established some goals for the 2018-'19 season, including, "to create the pride in our brand, create commitment to our program and to character, and



Coach Pinckard, who previously coached at the high school returns to the district with his family. From left are wife Amanda, 6th grader Landon, Coach Pinckard, 8th grader Layne and 9th grader Reid.

to establish the mindset of 'attack,'" Pinckard said.

As different coaches come and go, the playbook tends to change.

"I have always believed that you do what fits your kids," Pinckard said.

"It is our job as coaches to be versatile in our approach and put our athletics in an offense and defense that fits their skill set as well as their personality".

Mount Pleasant is now in a new district with schools such as Pine Tree, Hallsville, Whitehouse, Lindale, Jacksonville, Marshall and Nacogdoches. No longer will the Tigers play longtime rivals Sulphur Springs and

Texas High in district.

The Tigers will now play some of the same teams and some new faces. Pinckard says he thinks it is a "solid district with good coaches! I know we can compete and be successful with great work ethics and belief."

Coach Pinckard has committed his time and effort to better the Mount Pleasant Tigers as a whole. So far he has embedded the term "EAT" into the heads of his athletes.

The Tigers will continue to train and continue to get better. He joined the Tiger Family on Jan. 5 and is already doing amazing things for Tiger Athletics.



Swim team members sitting are Hearron and Sharp. Standing from left are Greco, Houchin, Jones and Elliott.

Swim team turns in good laps at region

By KARSON HUTCHINGS
Tigertalk Staff Writer

The swim team did an excellent job at the Regional meet this past weekend in Lewisville.

The 200 Yard Medley Relay consisting of Lily Grace Jones, Makayla Houchin, Isabella Greco, and Anna Elliott placed 7th. The same group of athletes placed 7th in the 200 Yard Freestyle Relay. Ryan Sharp placed 4th in both the 100 Butterfly and 100 Backstroke. He shaved off time in both races from Friday to Saturday. Makayla Houchin placed 8th in the 100 Yard Butterfly and took off time from Friday to Saturday's race as well.

Swimming in the first heat of finals was Jones in the 50 Yard Freestyle placing 8th. Ty Hearron placed 8th in the 100 Yard Freestyle. Houchin placed 5th and Elliott placed 6th in the 100 Yard Breaststroke.

Ryan Sharp earned the spot of 10th place Boys Individual Swimmer of the meet.

The grls team was awarded the honor of 10th place team of the meet.

"It always amazes me how well our athletes do at both the District and Regional

level against teams who've had more practice time," Coach Echo Johnson said. "I am thrilled with how much dedication and effort my swimmers put in to get as much practice time as they can on their own. I am already looking forward to next year's season with these athletes and the incoming freshmen"

Jones, a junior, said her goals are to "make state and practice more." She enjoys the fact that swimming "keeps [Lily] fit and is a good way to bond with friends."

Although Lily loves swimming, the high school doesn't have a swimming pool, which Lily thinks is a challenge. Lily enjoys competing in the 50 Yard Freestyle, the 100 Yard Medley Relay, the 100 Yard Freestyle Relay, and the 100 Yard Breaststroke races.

Ryan Sharp, a freshman, says his goals are "to make it to state and be the best overall male swimmer at district."

He competes in the 100 yard Butterfly race and the 100 yard Backstroke race. He likes competing at meeting new people while at the swimming competitions.

In Sharp's opinion, some challenges are "training your hardest and keeping a positive mind."



Lady Tigers close out regionals, careers

By **DON WOODS**
Special to Tigertalk

Thursday evening brought a host of emotions, some of elation and others of sorrow.

For freshman Maira Rocha, freshman Camille Cantu and junior Joanna Sandoval, a glimpse of next year peeked through the curtain of defeat, giving them their first taste of Regional competition.

Rocha finished the night with a Squat of 185 pounds, Bench of 70 pounds and Deadlift of 205 pounds. Her total for the night was 460 pounds, enough to finish 4th overall in the 105 class.

Cantu completed her night with a Squat of 300 pounds, a Bench of 120 pounds and a Deadlift of 305 pounds, placing 6th and just missing out on a top 5 finish in the 220 class.

Sandoval finished up with a Squat of 215 pounds, a Bench of 95 pounds and a Deadlift of 230 pounds, placing 8th overall in the 123 class. Senior Keren Mendoza and 1st year lifter, along with Stephanie Gonzalez, Senior and 1st year lifter, both finished strong in their weight classes.

Mendoza battled all night and ended up with a Squat of 240 pounds, a Bench of 110 pounds and a Deadlift of 265 pounds, totaling 615 pounds and claiming 5th place overall in the 132 class.

Gonzalez, never relenting, kept pace with her younger counterpart Cantu, and finished 7th overall in the 220 class while posting a Squat of 250 pounds, a Bench of 95 pounds and a Deadlift of 305 pounds.

The Lady Tigers final lifter and veteran was Molli Dorsey, Senior and 2017 State Finalist. Dorsey entered the night ranked 3rd in the 259 class. After a night full of ups and downs, a night full of tears and jeers, a night full of grit and grunt, after giving everything she had, Dorsey fell just short in her bid to return to the State Championships.

Totaling 800 pounds, and tying another lifter for 2nd place, Dorsey ended up in third due to Lifter Weight differential.

Heartbreak and incredulity abounded.

Champions, however, are not made by medals, or placement, or even how much a lifter lifts, Champions are made by perseverance, determination and work ethic.

Dorsey, although missing her chance at a State Meet, showed all of these qualities and has for many years.

Like Dorsey, all of the Lady Tiger lifters, showed these same traits throughout the entire season.

Champions are not made, they are forged; forged through fire, and these girls have felt the heat and kept on moving forward.

Soccer girls aiming for playoffs

By ERIC VASQUEZ
Tigertalk Editor

The Lady Tigers soccer team is in the midst of wrapping up their district season and have the playoffs on the mind. Four of them took the time to give their opinion on a variety of questions.

How much has soccer impacted your life?

Grasiela Gaona - Soccer has impacted my life by encouraging me to be involved in sports, and be more active.

Karina Regalado - Soccer has impacted my life by developing my responsibility skills.

Citlali Gonzalez - Soccer has impacted my life by teaching me responsibility and trust. Also working hard as a team and individually.

Guadalupe "Vaquerita" Palacios - Soccer has impacted my life by giving me amazing memories.

What is your goal for the year?

Gaona - To finish strong regardless the outcome.

Regalado - To leave a legacy while making fun memories.

Gonzalez - To grow as a team and leave a legacy.

Palacios - To make history and finish strong.

What do you like most about your teammates?

Gaona - What I like most about my teammates is that they have a great sense of humor.

Regalado- I like the strong positivity vibes and all the hard work we do as Lady Tigers.

Gonzalez- How we all bond and have the same sense of humor.

Palacios- Their positive views and their hardworking attitudes.



Gonzalez, above, and Gaona, left, are two key players for the Lady Tigers team.

How much do you practice?

Gaona - We practice every day except game day and weekends.

Regalado - All day, every day, the grind don't stop.

Gonzalez - I would say, it is never where you start that counts, it's where you finish.

Palacios - To practice until you can't get it wrong anymore.

What will you most miss about soccer?

Gaona - The bus rides to away games with the "back of the bus".

Regalado - The practices and the bus rides with the back of the bus and the girls.

Gonzalez - I will miss the feeling of playing, being under the lights with my team.

Palacios - The bond I created with my teammates throughout high school.

What would you tell someone that wants to be good at soccer?

Gaona- Talent may put you on the field, but its effort and attitude that will keep you there.

Regalado- It never gets easier, you just get better.

Perez, Landaverde conclude lifting careers at regionals

By **DON WOODS**
Special to Tigertalk
Saturday.

Hard fought. Never Give Up. Never Surrender.

This is the battle our Tiger lifters brought to the Regional meet.

Daniel Landaverde, Senior, was competing in his 3rd Regional Meet in as many years and fought until the final lift. Competing in the 132 class, Landaverde finished with a Squat of 365 pounds, a Bench of 210 pounds and a Deadlift of 395 pounds. His total of 970 pounds was good enough to place 6th.

George Lias, Sophomore and 1st year lifter, competed in his 1st Regional meet and placed 6th overall in the 242 class. He had a Squat of 575 pounds, a Bench of 265 pounds and a Deadlift of 515 pounds.

Jesus Perez, Senior, was competing in his 1st Regional meet since his Freshman year. He battled all day long, forcing the State qualifiers to be determined by his last lift. Going into his last Deadlift, Perez needed to pull 465 pounds to win 2nd place. Although he gave it his best effort, he just wasn't able to lock it out.

Finishing the night with a Squat of 425, a Bench of 210 and a Deadlift of 445 pounds, Perez finished 5th overall, claiming the only medal for the Tigers.

For three years, these two young men, Landaverde and Perez, have been amazing leaders and lifters. These type of athletes



are the reason coaches get into coaching, not because of their athletic ability, but because of their dedication, humbleness, work ethic and outright joy.

As easy as it is to coach because of these kids, they are also the one thing coaches hate about coaching, the fact that one day, these young men will graduate.

20 Questions with Mrs. Crouch

By **REBECCA YOX**
Tigertalk Staff Writer

Each issue of the Tigertalk, the newspaper staff selects a different teacher to feature.

This issue highlights Regina Crouch, who teaches English III Pre-AP and AP classes along with serving as UIL coordinator.

1. Where were you born and raised?

I was born in Ft. Polk Louisiana, but grew up in Texas, Kentucky, California, Kansas, and Germany

2. How has your childhood affected you?

My childhood taught me to be open to other perspectives, taught me not to judge someone just because they are different.

3. How would you describe your family?

Loud and boisterous! We are close.

4. Previous job experiences?

I was a restaurant manager before I started teaching

5. Why did you decide to work at Mt. Pleasant High School?

The diversity of the school. And, I needed a job. I had just graduated college

6. What is your favorite thing about teaching?

My favorite thing about teaching is getting to know the kids.

7. What is your least favorite thing about teaching?

The politics of Texas education. I don't like it. Also, the lack of consistency across the state with funding and furnishing. A kid attending public school should have the same

8. What is your favorite book?

That's a hard one...Probably The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn



Crouch

9. What is your favorite saying/quote?

Ain't nothing to it but to do it

10. What was your dream job growing up?

Teacher

11. If you could change your career, what would you change it to?

I would continue to teach, I love it

12. What is the one thing you are really attached to and would be really hard to give up?

Gummi bears....diet or not,

I still cannot turn down Haribo gummi bears

13. What weird food combinations do you really enjoy?

That's a tough one...there isn't much I don't like...except liver and bananas.

14. What is your favorite TV show?

NCIS

15. What is your favorite movie?

Star Trek

16. What is the most interesting place you have been?

Germany. I will go back one day

17. If you could go anywhere in the world where would you go?

Everywhere. I'd love to see the world.

18. What is your biggest pet peeve?

Whining

19. What is your favorite song/singer/band?

I'm kind of an eclectic mix of music lover...I like a little bit of everything, even some classical

20. If you could have any superpower, what would it be?

Swimming under water indefinitely without gear. I love being underwater.



Mrs. Crouch with her spelling team.



Top row from left are Nick Jackson – first rate medal, Zaushalynn Lee – first rate medal, Zarahi De La Rosa, Johann Sanchez - first rate medal, Jullisa Rios – first rate medal, Kachina Swafford – first rate medal, Jasper Reynolds, Luis Becerra - first rate medal, Dianna Daugherty – first rate medal and Daniel Landaverde – first rate medal. Bottom row from left are Savanna Finigan – first rate medal, Paola Ventura – first rate medal, Alexandra Ibanez – first rate medal, Angelica Najera, Leshly Zermeno - first rate medal, Mya Clark – first rate medal, Paulina Muniz – first rate medal, Maddison Weddle – first rate medal, Eimy Candelero – first rate medal, Itaii Luna – 2 first rate medals, Cessia Gonzalez – first rate medal.

Art students win 19 medals at VASE

By ODALYS MACEDO
Tigertalk Staff Writer

Recently, the students of the art program competed in VASE competition at Pleasant Grove.

They were not chosen to go to state this year, however, in this very subjective field of work 10 of the students rated in the 55-60 range, meaning they were in the running for state. The art students did very well, taking home 19 medals out of 22 entries, they will try to achieve of all getting medals next year!

“Next time we will try to achieve all of us getting medals,” Art Teacher Laura Kirkland said.

When asked about VASE

competition, junior Cessia Gonzalez said “It was interesting to see the different artworks and styles from different schools. It’s always intense and nerve wrecking before the results are revealed; some are hopeful, majority doubtful.”

When it comes to deciding what piece to enter for competition, junior Itaii Luna said it’s not the easiest decision.

“It’s like deciding what shirt you want to wear, not that difficult, unless you are extremely indecisive,” Luna said. It could take a day, a week, or just immediately.”

Both juniors love art and have a very diverse reason

to love it, but love that art is form of expression by what words can’t say.

“What I like best about art is being able to experiment with different mediums and material. I love that through art, I can express not only ideas, but emotions and problematic situations I see,” Cessia said.

Luna said art allows her to express herself in others ways that she may not be able to do so.

“Getting to express emotions that necessarily I can’t put in words,” Itaii said.

Good job to all the art students who competed in this year’s VASE competition!

Student Spotlight

Sharp stays busy with Tiger Dolls, UIL

By **PAYTON TYLER & ZANNAH HUTCHINGS**
Tigertalk Staff Writers

Rachel Sharp is a senior and is currently the Tiger Doll Captain for the 2017-2018 line.

We asked her what it is like to be a Captain of a Drill Team.

“Serving as Captain for the 2017-2018 school year has been an amazing opportunity while it has been challenging at times, there is truly nothing better than leading my team alongside my best friends,” Sharp said.

As with many students, Sharp has to balance school with extra-curricular activities.

“Balancing school and Tiger Dolls was never too difficult, I kept both school and dance as my number one priority which allowed me to do well in both,” she Sharp said.

She is even a member of UIL, and we asked her how her year is going.

“I have been a part of UIL since my freshman year, and I can truly say that I have enjoyed my senior year the most,” she said.

Spring Show will be held on April 27-28. It is a big showcase for the Tiger Dolls and Sharp is looking forward to the huge event.

“I could not be more excited for this year’s Spring Show,” Sharp said. “I am confident that this show will be the best one yet.”

The Tiger Doll Officer line is made up of Captain Rachel Sharp, Senior Lieutenant Abigail Amerson, Junior Lieutenant Harper Davis, Senior Lieutenant



Sharp balances school with being Tiger Dolls captain.

Zannah Hutchings, and Senior Lieutenant Payton Tyler.

Sharp has high praise for her officer line.

“My officer line consists of my four closest friends, and because of this, we work extremely well together. I am so lucky to have such a talented group of girls by my side every day,” Sharp said.

We can only imagine how difficult it is to not only be captain, but to also transi-

tion to a new director, so we asked her what she thought how Mrs. Broach was doing.

“Mrs. Broach has been such an amazing director, even considering the fact that this is her first year. I love her and I am so grateful that I got to work alongside her for my senior year of Tiger Dolls,” Sharp said.

Rachel is very hardworking, and very busy, therefore, she is very deserving as the Tigertalk’s Student Spotlight.



Students donate toward blood drive

Students Erika Vargas, Brooklyn Mata and Michael Cortez all recently donated at the annual blood drive.

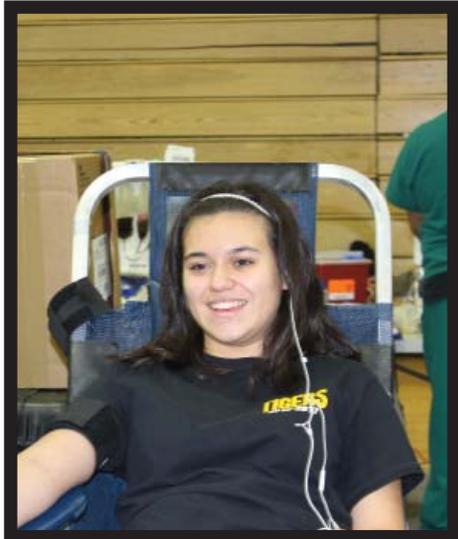
For all three of them, they agreed that donating a blood can make a difference in the world.

Each of them all had a different experience when donating blood.

Vargas said she fainted, while Mata joked that she liked the free food.

Cortez was a bit more serious. "I felt lightheaded but accomplished because I'm helping others," he said.

All three said they would donate blood again and that helping save lives was the reason they donated.



Campus Spotlight-MPJH

Dr. Turner takes over as principal

By **PAYTON TYLER & ZANNAH HUTCHINGS**
Tigertalk Staff Writers

Former high school assistant principal Dr. Jeff Turner was named the junior high principal over the Christmas break.

We asked him if he liked this new job, and he answered, "I'm enjoying being the Junior High Principal as we have a very good staff and student body."

The job change was not an easy transition at first for Turner who has been at the high school for nearly two decades.

"It was hard to leave MPHS as I had been teach-



ing, coaching, or serving as an administrator since 2001," Turner said,

Being a new principal obviously includes changing the school for the better. We

asked what he will be changing on campus.

"Discipline has become more important and helping the student's understand they are capable to achieve great things," Turner said.

Being a new principal also includes challenges that he may face, we asked him what types of challenges he has faced.

"Leaving MPHS and the great students and staff," Turner said..

Along with this being a new opportunity, we asked what has been the most fun about the Junior High. His answer was, "meeting the students and staff of the Junior High."

Students place at District Meet

Forty-five 7th and 8th graders competed recently in the District 16-5A Middle School UIL Academic Meet in Hallsville and won multiple medals and ribbons.

The 7th graders placed in seven events while the 8th graders placed in 10. The 7th grade Chess Puzzle Solving Team of Justin Baxter, Ky Gil, and Elijah Rider placed 2nd at the Meet. The 7th grade Maps, Graphs and Charts Team of Brazos Brown, Javier Vasquez, and Jordyn Warren also placed 2nd. The 7th grade Dictionary Skills Team of Ethan Easley, Merlin Cardona, and Juan Cigarroa took 3rd place.

The 8th grade Chess Puzzle Solving Team of Jacob Bristow, San Brown, and Taylor Hubbs took 2nd place. The 8th grade Music Memory Team of Vanessa Buendia, Cesar Flores, and Juan Gan-



dara also placed 2nd. Numerous students earned individual medals:

7th Grade

Chess Puzzle Solving: Ky Gill – 2nd place

Dictionary Skills: Merlin Cardona – 4th place

Editorial Writing: Vanessa Jane Bayna – 4th place

Maps, Graphs and Charts: Brazos Brown – 3rd place

Modern Oratory: Ava Bliss – 1st place

Ready Writing: Vanessa Jane Bayna – 5th place

Science: Vanessa Jane Bayna – 2nd place
8th Grade

Chess Puzzle Solving: Jacob Bristow – 1st place

Editorial Writing: Connelly Cowan – 5th place

Maps, Graphs and Charts: Nic Chappell – 3rd place, Jonathan Sandate – 4th place

Modern Oratory: Mackenzie Lide – 2nd place, Connelly Cowan – 4th place, Juliana Perez – 6th place

See MPJH, Pg. 25

Campus Spotlight-Wallace Anchor Club at Wallace shows their appreciation for community

By MATTHEW ARMSTRONG
Tigertalk Staff Writer

The Anchor Club at Wallace Middle School prides itself on their diligent work within the community. They are always looking for ways to improve the lives of those around, teaching students valuable life lessons.

The students were tasked with creating a poster to honor a pillar of the community, one group choosing firefighters, and when asked why they choose that group their response was.

“We chose the firefighters because my uncle risks his life as a firefighter,” Tanner Marshal said.

Educating students on the importance of helping those who are in need is vital and Anchor Club plays a major role in educating students about ways they can help their peers, and the community around them.

“Helping the less fortunate, being a role model for our school, and bringing awareness to brain injury,” Anchor Club Vice President Sam Chappell said.

Throughout the year many projects are competed in order to better the community and school. Members look forward to competing each task.

“I’m looking forward to more activities in Anchor Club like appreciation posters and drawing,” Chappell said.

Students understand that by joining this organization they are making a great contribution the community, and



Anchor Club members display some of the posters they made to show appreciation for public servants.

enjoy the time spent while making the world a better place.

“It is fun helping people in need,” Christian Johnson said.

One major project Anchor Club presents each year is a Brain Safety Fair.

This is used as a tool to educate students on the importance of brain safety and how to prevent injuries. Each year students look forward to this event.

“I look forward to doing the brain safety fair,” Marshall said.

There are many more events planned for the Anchors to participate in throughout the remainder of the school year, and each of these will show them how much of an impact they can make on the community as preteens.

“Over the next two months the students will...prepare for the ‘Brain Safety Fair,’” Anchor Advisor Dana Armstrong said.

“The Anchor members will share with all of Wallace Middle School about the importance of keeping your brain safe.”

Campus Spotlight-Brice

Kindergartners have variety of fave classes

By PAYTON TYLER & ZANNAH HUTCHINGS
Tigertalk Staff Writers

Many high school students would dream of going back to kindergarten. We interviewed a few kindergartners, and asked them what they loved about E. C. Brice.

On the playground, we asked Lily if she thought kindergarten was hard, and she confidently said, "No." We asked her what her favorite class was, and she answered that she loves music class!

Another Kindergartener we interviewed was Tiana. We asked her the same questions, but she had different answers. She said school was easy and fun. She also said that gym class was her favorite, and she loved to play dodgeball.

The last Kindergartener we interviewed was Kylie, and she also had different answers than the previous two! She said that her favorite thing to do at school was to play outside, and that Mrs. Tyler's class was her favorite class.



During the Jan. 22nd School Board meeting, MPISD board members were presented with gifts from district campuses and certificates thanking them for their service to the district's students and staff. Presenting the certificate to Sandy McCauley is E.C. Brice Elementary student Carson Bell, her grandson.

Campus Spotlight-Fowler



The Fowler team competed at Destination Imagination Regionals in Mesquite and placed 5th out of 22 teams. The team was made up of 4th graders Valerie Colocho, Neftali Delgado and Edward Moya and 3rd graders Natalie Hines and Estevan Marroquin. They were coached by Mrs. Jamie King. Great job!

Campus Spotlight-Corprew

Corprew students celebrate Black History Month



During last month, Corprew Elementary hosted the Black History Program. From now on, the program will be dedicated to beloved gym teacher, Angelica Beard.

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Music Memory: Juan Gandara – 4th place
Oral Reading Poetry: Mackenzie Lide – 1st place
Oral Reading Prose: Connelly Cowan – 2nd place
Ready Writing: Connelly Cowan – 1st place
Social Studies: Jonathan Sandate – 4th place
Spelling: Nevaeh Bardwell – 5th place

Participants from the 7th grade include Aundre Alaniz, Devin Castaneda, Saray De La Rosa, Norma Delgado, Luis Garcia, Alan Garrett, Isaac Hernandez, Camdon Johnson, Elvin Jones, Vicky Landaverde, Alejandro Nava, Bradley Ramirez, Ashton Simon, Eli Smith, Silvia Sustaita, Emma Snodgrass and Eric Taylor.

Participants from 8th grade include Carlie Cunningham, Jacob Elliott, Daisy Lozano, Mackenzie Pina and Sam Sloan.

“We know all of these students invested time and effort in preparing for this UIL Academic Meet and congratulate those that placed in the various events,” said Dr. Judith Saxton, MPISD Director of Communication. “We thank all of the participants for their willingness to represent Mt. Pleasant Junior High School and look forward to seeing how the 7th graders do at next year’s meet as 8th graders and how the 8th graders do when they advance to UIL competition on the High School level next year.”



Aaliyah DeLaRosa placed 3rd in the Region 8 Science Fair with her Candy experiment in the physical/chemical category. She competed against other 4th graders from all districts in the region.

Campus Spotlight-Sims

Parents group very supportive of teachers, students at Sims

By SAMANTHA GONZALEZ
Tigertalk Staff Writer

Annie Sims Elementary School has wonderful teachers and students. What they also have are amazing parents that despite everything they have on their plate already manage to get super involved with the school and their child's education.

The student parents at Sims are in an organization called PIC (Parent Involvement Committee). This group helps the teachers and students be successful, they organize special events to raise money for the school.

An event that they have already hosted was at Hershel's. It was a family night where the school's families would come out to eat and raised money. There will be other family nights to come with the nearest in March at Pizza Hut.

PIC had also helped out the teachers tremendously they had Crazy Heifers Café cater lunch for the teachers. But the giving didn't stop there. For Christmas, PIC had free massages given to the teachers. Around the Christmas season, parents would help work on their school's Christmas float which one first place and the school received \$1,000 to help with cheetah supply. They also gave

money for teacher appreciation.

PIC has also helped kids go to the fall festival and even provided money for students to go to Sky Ranch. Towards the end of the year they also organize a huge fun day for the kids to enjoy themselves.

It is amazing how much parents get involved in the school not only to help and support their children but also to help and support the amazing teachers that help educate their kids. Annie Sims blessed with an amazing parent involvement committee.

Sims is also making sure their students get the help they need if they're struggling in a subject.

They have after school tutorials for the students that do require extra help, and right before testing day the teacher organize a pep rally where they perform little skits on certain situations during testing.

It is a lot of fun and it gets the children in a good positive mood so they can enter testing mode full of good energy and confidence.

Annie Sims is working very hard so their students can not only succeed academically but succeed in life overall. With amazing teachers, students, and parents Sims is going to end of school year with flying colors.

Annie Sims Elementary School 4th grader Ava True Fite, top right, placed 2nd in the annual Region VIII Science Fair. She participated in the Behavioral/Biological category with her project "Do Your Senses Affect Your Taste?" which investigated whether sight and smell influence how food tastes. She is the daughter of Keres and Katie Fite. Alberto Avila, Claire Muskrat, and Brooke Alexander all participated as well and did a great job.





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Tiger Roar

Who is your dream prom date?

Tiger Roar page by Tigertalk Staff Writer Maria Mendez



“Tom Holland”
-- Julissa Alvarez, 9



“Beyonce”
-- Asareel Villavicencio
and Javier Nino, 9



“Zac Efron”
-- Kenzi Rolf, 10



“Kylie Jenner”
--- Jazhell Yopez, 10



“Bruno Mars”
-- Natalie Castillo, 11



“Myself”
-- Ramiro Vargas, 11



“David Beckham”
-- Zannah Hutchings, 12



“Rhianna”
-- Eric Vasquez, 12



“Tim Tebow”
--- Mrs. Rocha



“Davy Jones”
--- Ms. Young



“My girlfriend”
--- Mr. Speir



“My husband”
--- Chef Hudman