

Tigertalk

**Top
of
the
class**



**Valedictorian Audrey Courreges
and Salutatorian Rebecca Yox**

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Seniors Jose Liera and Rebecca Yox both placed sixth at the UIL Academic State Meet. Liera took sixth in Calculator Applications, while Yox got sixth in Editorial Writing.

Tigertalk

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Davis named Teacher of the Year

By REBECCA YOX
Tigertalk Co-Editor

Electrical Trades instructor Tim Davis has been selected as the 2018-2019 HighSchool Teacher of the Year. Davis was selected for the award by his peers.

“I am deeply honored to receive this recognition,” Davis said. “What I like most about my job is sharing my enthusiasm for my subject matter. Teaching gives me the opportunity to make a positive impact on my community.”

Davis, who previously worked in the maintenance Electrical Department, received four-year electrician apprenticeship training at Metro Electric in Carrollton, a T&I Certificate from Texas-A&M Commerce and became a OSHA Outreach Trainer from UT-Arlington. He also has a Journeyman Electrician License as well as a Master Electrician License for the State of Texas.

Davis said the favorite part about his job is getting to invest in the lives of students.

“As a teacher, I have the privilege to make a difference in a child’s life,” Davis said. “I want our students to believe that their dreams and goals are attainable. For this, I



Davis is a master electrician. am blessed.”

Davis said he is “deeply honored to receive this recognition.”

Serafin picked Employee of the Year

By OMAR RAMIREZ
Tigertalk Staff Writer

Attendance clerk/officer Kaye Serafin was recently chosen as Employee of the Year by her fellow co-workers. Mrs. Serafin was born in San Antonio but was adopted by a loving couple here in Mount Pleasant.

“It feels amazing to receive this honor,” Serafin said. “I was very surprised. I do my job as unto the Lord and everything else falls into place. My daily prayer is ‘Lord, let me reach at least one kid a year, then I will have done my job!’”

Serafin attended East Texas Baptist University (ETBU) on a music and tennis scholarship. Where she toured Europe with her University Choir between her freshman and sophomore year.

She first worked for the district as a Migrant House Assessment Evaluator. She evaluated young children to see if they were ready for school, then eventually moved out of the district and later came back to MPHS a few years later. Here, she started working in the ESL program



Serafin attended ETBU on a tennis and music scholarship.

doing tests and various other jobs.

After that, she moved to assistant principal/counselors office and then attendance office.

See Serafin, Pg. 10
Tigertalk Pg. 3

Courreges is 2019 valedictorian

By MATTHEW ARMSTRONG
Tigertalk Staff Writer

Audrey Grace Courreges, daughter of Steve and Cathy Courreges, and sister to Shelby, has attained the honor to be called valedictorian of the Mount Pleasant High School Class of 2019.

Courreges has ambitious goals of becoming a professor and devote her research focus on Autism Spectrum Disorder after attaining degrees in both Psychology and Statistical Science from Southern Methodist University.

After being named valedictorian, Courreges was “in complete awe.” She goes on to say, “I’ve wanted this my entire life... I wish I could explain the immense pride that I felt not only for myself, but for all my fellow graduates who also made it this far.”

Courreges did not achieve her astounding success without the motivation of others. Her mom has played an integral role over the past four years.

“My main motivator has been my mom.” Courreges said, “I remember telling myself [since] kindergarten that I wanted to be valedictorian... just like my mom.”

Throughout her time in high school, Courreges has earned various honors while being heavily involved in many organizations. She is also the founder of a tutoring service for students who need academic assistance.

Courreges is a two time UIL state policy debate qualifier, state alternate in current events, three-time regional qualifier in extemporaneous speaking, four-time academic blanket recipient. She was also recognized with numerous other distinctions such as: Rep. John Ractcliffe Rising Star award, DAR Good Citizen, Woodman Life American History award, and Lion’s Club Outstand Youth.

During high school she made history by being on the first team to compete at the TFA State Competition in policy debate. This very organization will be remembered by Courreges for a lifetime. Some of her fondest memories were spent with her debate team.

After traveling to the UIL State Tournament in Austin this past year, Courreges was “excited” to see the outcome after serving the competitors as a prep coach. After witnessing two of her teammates excel in the competition, she “couldn’t hold back the tears any longer.”

Courreges goes on to say that experience



Audrey Courreges

was the “most exciting weekend of... [her] life.”

When asked if she has any advice for student, Courreges responded: “There’s no secret trick.” You need to “always put in the extra effort... because it will pay off in the end.”

Courreges touches on the importance of building relationships in high school, and never losing sight of the end goal. Looking back, she wishes that the relationships she forged would have been more meaningful.

She has gotten to know so many amazing people, but now their time together has come to an end.

Courreges says, “it’s... important to set your own personal goals... don’t [get] caught up in beating another person that you lose sight of the end goal.”

The success she achieved was not done alone, but through her motivators and those who influenced her she was able to excel both inside and outside of the academic setting. According to Courreges being named valedictorian is the highest honor she could have earned while in high school.

“I know it’s not the only honor [I’ve received], but it’s the one that matters the most to me,” Courreges said.

Yox is salutatorian for 2019

By HARPER DAVIS
Tigertalk Editor

Rebecca Yox is the MPHS class of 2019 salutatorian.

“Being named salutatorian is a great honor,” Yox said. “It reminds me that hard work pays off and that all my effort has not been wasted.”

Throughout high school Yox has been in band and served as head section leader for the flutes, vice president of National Honor Society, reporter for Future Business Leaders of America, and has competed and gone to state in UIL journalism.

Yox placed sixth in editorial writing at state in journalism and also qualified for Nationals in FBLA.

It is band, however, that brought out her leadership skills.

“Band has definitely impacted me the most these past four years,” Yox said. “I used to be a shy, nervous freshman, but through band I have found my confidence as well as my friends. I have learned how to be a leader and keep trying even when things seem hard.”

Rebecca, the daughter of Andrew and Christine Yox, stays just as busy outside of school as she does inside.

“I am actively involved in my church Good Shepard Lutheran where I am the assistant organist and member of the choir,” Yox said.

“In my free time I like to hang out with my friends and watch my favorite TV shows.”

When asked if she would do anything differently in high school, Yox gave an answer with wisdom beyond her years.

“In my four years of high school, there have been things that I didn’t like and mistakes I have made, but at the end of the day, I don’t have any regrets,” Yox said. “Bad things happen but it is more important that you learn from them. Sure, I could go back and do things differently, but if I did that, I wouldn’t be who I am now.”

Yox said students should find their passion and get involved in school.

“I would tell an incoming freshman to



Rebecca Yox

get involved in organizations because that what makes high school fun,” Yox said. “Make sure to always try your best in whatever you do and be true to yourself so that you don’t have any regrets later in life.”

Yox has big plans to further her education after high school.

“I will attend Concordia University Nebraska, participate in the Luke Scholars Honors Program, and major in biology,” Yox said.

Despite all her accomplishments Rebecca remains humble and gives all credit to God.

“In every aspect of my life, there has been one constant that has helped me with everything and that’s God,” Yox said. “I owe all my accomplishments and successes to him and I honestly don’t know what I would do without his daily guidance and peace.”

Class of 2019

Honor Graduates



Audrey Courreges
Valedictorian



Rebecca Yox
Salutatorian

Remainder in alphabetical order



Armando Almendarez



Matthew Armstrong



Averie Ayers



David Barboza



Andrea Beles



Mallory Campbell



Makenzie Cota



Colton Craft



Kayla Cuellar



Harper Davis



Jordan Dickerson



Taylor Dillard



Savannah Finigan



Paula Flores



Cessia Gonzalez



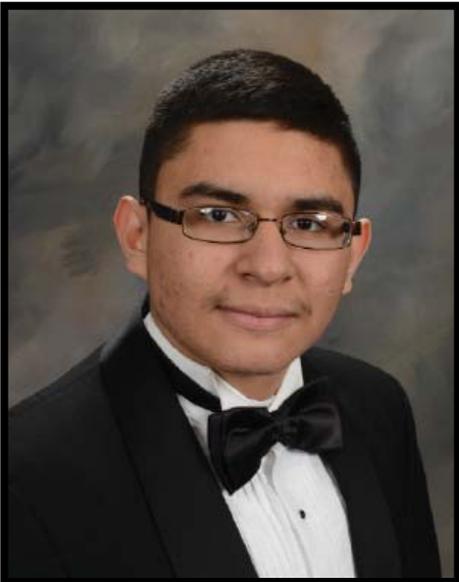
James Hang



Tripp Hinton



Annie Le



Jose Liera



Katherine Lopez



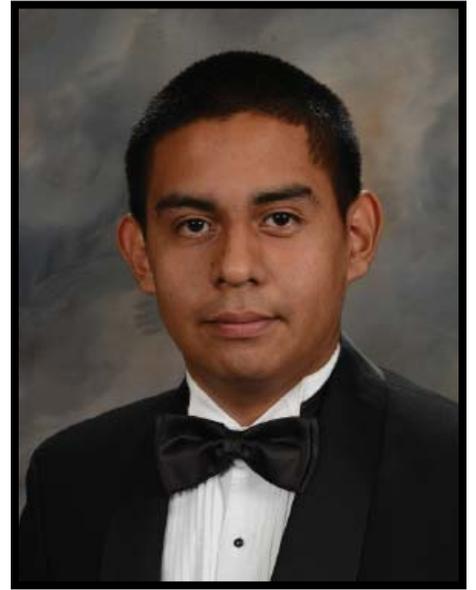
Ita-ii Luna



Javier Martinez



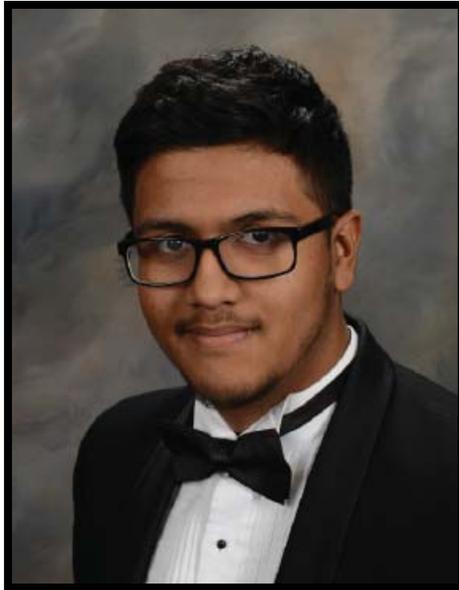
Linda Martinez



Jose Mata



Ali Grace Merritt



Samip Poudel



Maritza Quinones



Cesar Ramirez



Martina Ramirez



Erica Salazar



Ezequiel Salazar



Alexis Sampson



Jonathan Segari



Evelyn Trejo



Alex Vaseleck



Leshly Zermeno

Serafin from Page 3

“I have been with the district for 18 and a half years and have loved every minute of it. I love the students, the teachers and the staff,” Serafin said.

She loves being able to interact with students and parents. She loves seeing the students grow and realize that coming to school is worth it.

Serafin has been able to come close to many parents and students over the years that many of

them still come back and see her and tell her what they’re doing.

She loves being able to interact with students and parents. She loves seeing the students grow and realize that coming to school is worth it.

“Many still come back to see me and let me know how they are doing now,” Serafin said. “I pray for students daily, and love seeing what God has in store for them.”

Serafin graduated from MPHS in 1968. She spent the first two years of high school in the old building. She was part of the first junior class to come to the current high school location.

“I believe I am the oldest alumni working in the district,” Serafin said. “I am blessed to be able to work at my school, I am Tiger proud, and thank God for allowing me to work here.”

Class of 2019



Seniors announce future plans

By TAYLOR DILLARD
Tigertalk Staff Writer

As the 2018-2019 school year comes to a close, seniors have their eye toward what the future holds.

A few members of the senior class share what their plans are for the future.

Daniela Alcibar - My plans after high school are to attend NTCC and get my RN, then transfer to Tyler for my BSN.

Elijah Allen - Join the Army

Armando Almendarez - My plans are to work with Circle S Electric and go to NTCC and get some welding certificates.

Aaron Antone - I'm going to attend college and get a degree in Physical Therapy.

Lysette Barajas - My plans after high school is to attend NTCC and transfer to UT and study to be a nurse.

Abby Barboza - Attend NTCC and transfer to UT-Tyler to receive my Bachelor of Science to be a RN.

Zamaica Bayna - Finish my prerequisites in order to get accepted into the PTA program at NTCC.

Andrea Beles - Attend NTCC to become an LVN

Adrienne Bradley - Attend NTCC for basics and get my certificate to be a Pharmacy Tech then continue my education to be a pharmacist.

Liz Castellano - Attend NTCC to enter the Physical Therapy Program.

Natalie Castillo - I will attend Texas Women's University and get my bachelors in Speech Therapy.

Jennifer Castro - Take a break from school, work, then later attend college.

Kimberly Chavelas - Attend NTCC, finish my two-year Medical Assisting with my associates degree and



Aaron Antone

then hopefully transfer.

Maria Colorado - Attend NTCC and become a pre-school teacher.

Mackenzie Cota - I plan on pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Biology at the University of North Texas.

Danner Craft - Get a job and go to college

Juan Cruz - My plans for after high school is to become a stenographer.

Kayla Cuellar - Attend the University of Texas at Tyler and obtain a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing.

Nuvia Delacruz - I will be attending nursing school at NTCC.

Esther Diaz - Attend NTCC to get my basics and then transfer to UT Tyler to pursue a nursing degree.

Taylor Elmore - I plan to go to NTCC then transfer to Texas A&M Texarkana to get my RN/BSN.

Nikki Emory - I plan to go to NTCC for two years to achieve my basics, then transfer to a university to become a surgical technologist.

Diyanne Escalante - My plans after high school in-



Andrea Beles



Hannah Gage

clude going to college and graduating.

Savannah Finigan - Go to Texas A&M-Commerce and major in nursing.

Paula Flores - I will attend Texas Women's University and major in Psychology to become an occupational therapist.

Josh Fluellen - Join the United States Air Force.

Hannah Gage - Attend NTCC to get basics then
See Seniors, Pg. 13

Seniors from Page 12

transfer to a university and major in business to one day become an Event Coordinator.

Erik Garcia - Attend college and major in Animation.

Brent Garrett - To go to NTCC and get my Associate's Degree, transfer to another college, then serve in the Military.

Brittany Garrett - To become a veterinarian

Alan Gonzalez - Be in the National Guard

Deandre Grant - Getting my CDL to be a truck driver.

Linda Gutierrez - My plans after high school are to go to the Army and when I come back, go to college to become a Dental Hygienist.

Ari Hernandez - Go to NTCC to get my Auto body degree and later open my own shop.

Brenda Hernandez - I am going to college at NTCC and from there transfer to UT Tyler.

Rocio Hernandez - Attend Texas State University to major in Radiation Therapy.

Rosa Hernandez - Go to college university and begin to study for my future career.

Tania Hernandez - My plans after high school are to start working in my dream career and succeed.

Dakevion Howard - My plan is to go to the Navy and be a YouTuber.

Maylee Hurtado - Go to college, finish my basics, then transfer to a university to become a Registered Nurse.

Lily Grace Jones - Attend Stephen F. Austin and major in Business, to one day open my own company.

Jacob Lilly - To go to UT Tyler and become a Game Warden.

Youlang Lim - My plan is take over my parent's donut



Rocio Hernandez

shop and make music with my brother.

Cierra Braudaway Loous - Go to NTCC to earn a degree in Law Enforcement and join the Military to become a Military Police.

Carla Martinez - Attend Northeast Community College, finish my basics, and study to become a teacher.

Carlos Martinez - Attend TSTC for one year to become a Lineman.

Doraly Martinez - I plan on attending NTCC.

Javier Martinez - I will be attending UT Tyler and obtaining my career goal of Nurse Practitioner.

Marvy Martinez - Attend TJC this fall for the Power Plant Technology program.

Melissa Martinez - Go to NTCC to do my basics and continue being a CNA.

Miguel Mata - My plan after high school is to go enter the electric field.

Matthew Menard - Going to NTCC for Associate Degree in Science. After that, I might attend to go to Letourneau College.

Analicia Mendoza - I can't



Marvy Martinez



Tyrese Milton

say I know what I'm going to do, but I know I want to be someone better, stronger, and happier.

Blazan Miller - Attend NTCC and finish my basics during the summer and fall. Then continue to pursue my career as a Doctor.

Tyrese Milton - To attend NTCC and get my basics then transfer to TSTC of Waco for an X-Ray Tech.

See Seniors, Pg. 14

Seniors from Page 13

Oscar Palacios - Get my degree in Biomedical Engineering.

Andrew Patino - Welder

Jose Perez - My plan is to work for a year and go to the academy and try to become a detective.

Noemy Perez - Going to NTCC and getting CNA certified and then going back and transferring to UT to become an RN.

Maritza Quinones - I will attend NTCC as an honors scholar this fall, and I will be major in nursing. My goal is to transfer to UT Tyler to obtain my BSN after completing my associates degree at NTCC.

Erik Reyes - Live life and make money

Tyasia Rogers - I plan on going to NTCC for my basics and then transfer to UT-Tyler for my Business degree.

Victor Rodriguez - Join the National Guard

Zhodyd Rodriguez - My plans after high school are to attend TJC for my basics in the fall and transfer to UNT to major in Real Estate Development.

Joanna Sandoval - Attend Texas Woman's University and study accounting

Bailey Sisk - Attend Oklahoma State University and major in marketing.

Daniel Slone - Go into the Military (U.S. Army) and get a bachelor's in business.

Nicholas Smith - To become a firefighter and save lives and help the community.

Matthew Sunderland - Go play college soccer

Kenli Taylor - Go to college to be a veterinarian technician.

Anthony Tejada - I plan to go to NTCC for the basics and then transfer and then get my career.



Oscar Palacios

Kristopher Tejada - To live life to the fullest and achieve my dream job.

Quenton Toney - To go to Culver Stockton College for animation.

Diana Torreblanca - Leave for the army and go to college for a nursing program.

Andres Tovar - Move to Maryland to be part of my dad's business.

Lajonathan Traylor - Go to college for business.

Evelyn Trejo - Attend University of Texas at Tyler to earn a Bachelor's of Science in chemistry.

Dartanian Turner - To go to Dallas to a technical school to learn something.

David Ugalde - I want to be the very best, like no one ever was.

Alexandra Vargas - Become an OB/GYN at the University of Texas at El Paso.

Ramiro Vargas - Make money, cash flow, bank

Mikayla Varney - Attend NTCC for Medical Assistant and in the future pursue a career in psychology.

Alex Vaseleck - Attend Texas A&M University and major in civil engineering

Jaquelin Vazquez - Attend



Bailey Sisk



Leslie Villalva

NTCC to get my basics for nursing then transfer to a university.

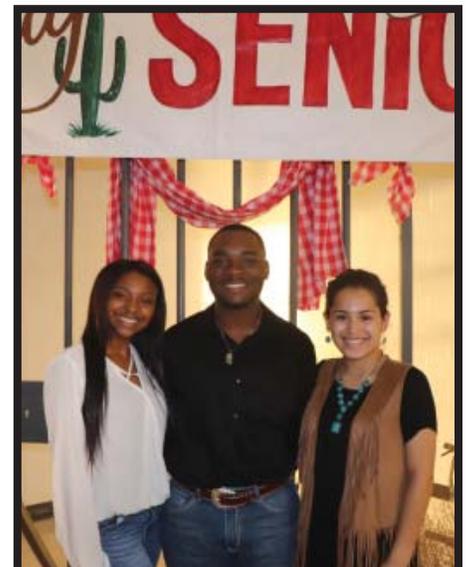
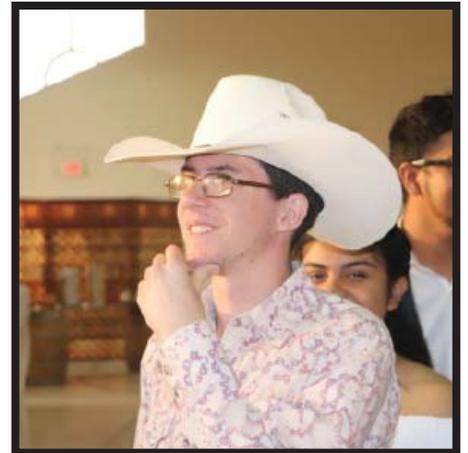
Leslie Villalva - Attend NTCC to pursue an Associates in Nursing then transfer to UT Tyler to receive my Master's Degree.

Maddison Weddle - I'm going to go to Concordia University in Texas.

Tatyana Wilkerson - My plans are to attend TJC and major in Occupational Therapy.

Litzy Yanez - Get my real estate license during the summer then attend NTCC in the fall to major in business.

WESTERN BANQUET



Senior Spotlight on Jorge Banda

By **MADIA ARREDONDO**
Tigertalk Staff Writer

Throughout high school, senior Jorge Banda has invested a lot of time in colorguard, helping grow his skills on becoming a leader.

Banda, the son of Jorge Rafael and Juany Banda, was born on Aug. 18, 2000 .

Since he got into high school, Banda was involved in colorguard because he was very invested on “being the best leader” he could be.

He held many leadership positions in colorguard like squad leader his junior year and lieutenant his senior year.

Banda’s favorite class is yearbook because he has always loved designing, photography, and photo-shop.

“I get to do all three in this class,” Banda said.

His favorite teacher Banda says, “without a doubt is Mr. Marty Newman because ‘he has always believed in me even when I didn’t believe in myself.’”

Banda's favorite activities include dance/choreography, colorguard, and going on adventures.

His favorite high school memory was having the honor of representing the MPHS Colorguard in a world class DCI Corp the summer of 2018.

DCI, which stands for Drum Corps International, is a prestige program where only the best of the best are accepted. Banda’s plans after high



Banda will be assistant Colorguard director next year.

school are to attend Northeast Texas Community College and get his basics done while working as assistant colorguard director here at MPHS this upcoming school year.

After two years, Banda plans to transfer to UT Dallas to major in business.

When asked what advice he would give to an in-

coming freshman, Banda said “Enjoy high school. You’re going to blink twice, and you’ll be in your cap and gown staring at your class wondering where time went.”

The quote Banda used to describe his high school experience was “Be yourself. People don’t have to like you, and you don’t have to care.”

Senior Spotlight on Kenzie Cota

By BAILEY SISK
Tigertalk Staff Writer

1. What organizations have you been involved in for the past four years?

HOSA, Student Council, National Technical Honor Society and National Honor Society.

2. What teachers do you believe have helped you throughout the years and why?

Mrs. Cabell, Mr. Whitten, Mrs. Whitten, Mrs. Jenkins and Mrs. Scoggins. They always kept me on task and got my sense of humor.

3. What advice would you give to an incoming freshman?

Cherish your moments while they last, high school will be over before you know it. Be nice to the seniors, they will prank you. Focus on your grades and always try your best.

4. What would you consider to be your biggest achievement in the past four years?

My biggest achievement in the past four years has been being a student in the Medical Assisting program and graduating as an honor graduate.

5. What are your plans after graduation?

My plans after graduation include going to school at the University of North Texas and majoring in biology. GO EAGLES!!! KAWWW-WWWW

6. What classes did you learn the most in, and what stood out about them?

The classes I learned the most in were Practicum and Biology.

These classes stood out to me because they were both things I was interested in so it was easy for me to learn and be excited about these



Cota will be attending the University of North Texas next fall.

classes.

7. Do you have anything you regret from the past four years?

Yes, I regret not paying attention to my schoolwork or the organizations around me. I would definitely have taken my freshman year more serious.

8. What was the biggest challenge you faced in high

school?

Keeping up with my schoolwork and working my way back up from my grades my freshman year.

9. What is something you hope people remember about you after you graduate?

My personality and all the gags I've pulled throughout the years.

Tiger Dolls pay tribute to women in their Spring Show performance

By JORDAN DICKERSON
Tigertalk Staff Writer

The Tiger Dolls put on a great Spring Show this year. The theme was Agents of Change: A Tribute to Women. The Tiger Dolls show highlighted women in sports, fashion, music, film, space, politics, etc... that have made their mark on our world.

There were many hours of hard put into making the show.

“Our practice schedule was pretty intense. The few weeks leading up to Spring Show we would stay until 5:30 or 6 working on routines. Two weeks before show we started block practice until 9 every night and Saturday practices from 8 to 7,” Senior Captian Harper Davis said.

Every year the Tiger Dolls strive to make Spring Show a little better than the year before.

“I really loved the flow of this year’s spring show. There wasn’t much down time at all and things flowed really well,” Tiger Doll director Jaton Broach said.

Davis was asked what her favorite
See Tiger Dolls, Pg. 20





Tiger Dolls from Page 19

part of the spring show was.

She said, “my personal favorite was the opener and finale. I love the music, costumes, and choreography of the opener and I have always loved the tradition and feeling that comes with performing finale.”

Although the Tiger Dolls make the show look smooth and easy that does not mean there weren't struggles for them while preparing for the show.

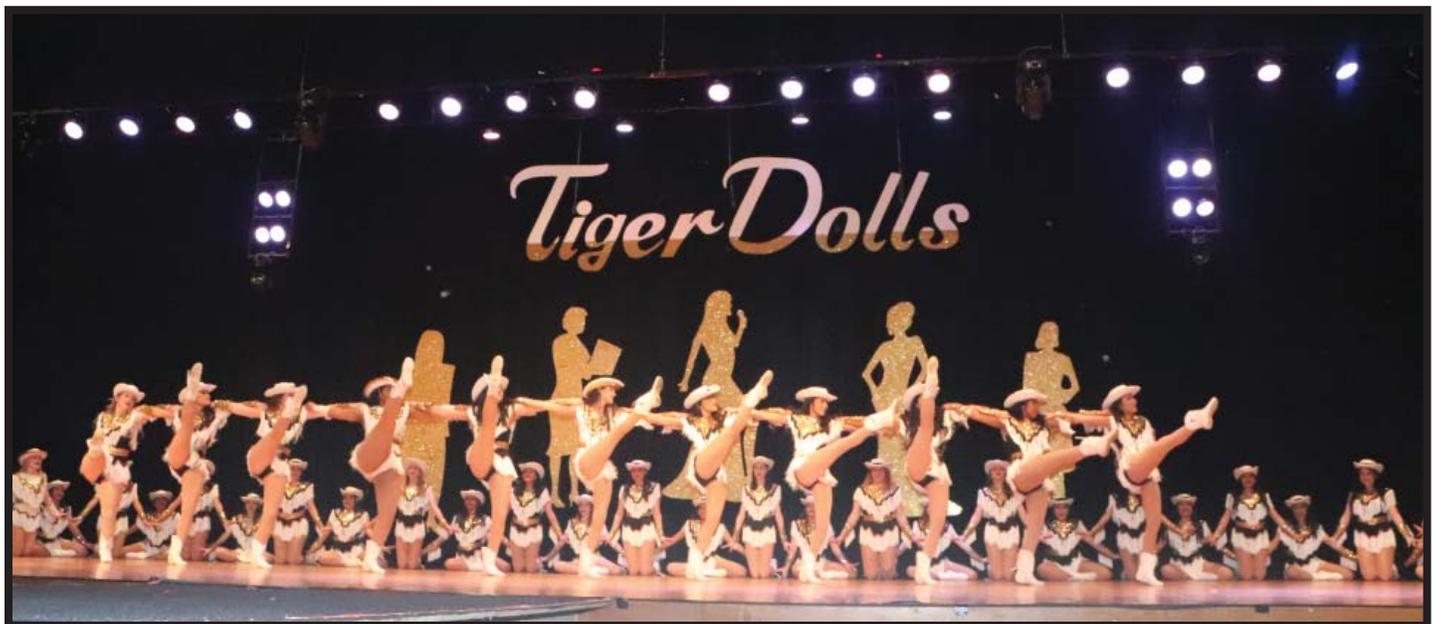
“For me, the biggest struggle was dealing with the emotions of what happened last year during spring show,” Broach said. “Being back in the auditorium and on the stage brought back so many memories

from the previous year...I could still see Suzanna performing routines from last year, being silly on the stage, and keeping us all laughing.

“We all cried a few times, but we were able to comfort and support one another and put on a great spring show that I know Suzanna would be proud of.”

Overall this year's Spring Show was a success.

“I couldn't be happier with how everything turned out,” Davis said. “I'm very proud of all my girls and this year's show will definitely go down as my favorite of my four years.”



New Tiger Doll Officers



From left are Jr. Lieutenant Madyson Arzate, First Lieutenant Baley O'Neal, Captain Rylie Hardison, Jr. Lieutenant Lily Burrows and Jr. Lieutenant Ashleigh Amerson.

New Tiger Doll Sergeants



From left are Sergeant Mary Kait Heeren, Head Sergeant Nevaeh Bardwell, Sergeant Mackenzie Lide and Sergeant Grelyn Goolsby. Not pictured is Juliana Perez.



Students shown with their academic blankets.

Academic Blankets awarded

By **REBECCA YOX**
Tigertalk Co-Editor

Students were recognized for having the highest average in their respective subject at the annual Academic Awards Blanket Ceremony.

Below is the list of recipients for each blanket that was awarded:

Yhatzary Chanez – Accounting; Jordan Dickerson - Advanced Quantitative Reasoning; Rance White – Agriscience; Bryan Fields - Agriscience Mechanics; Naydelin Martinez - Algebra I; Alejandra Ramirez - Algebra II; Israel Hernandez - Anatomy & Physiology; Tyler Miklos - Animal Science; Ita-ii Luna – Art; Nia Jackson – Band; Parker Colley – Biology; Rebecca Yox - Biology AP; Jannet Barrientos - Business Information Management; Jose Liera – Calculus; Mikayla Varney - Career Prep; Andrea Beles - Certified Nursing Assistant; Connelly Cowan – Chemistry; Felicity Miller - Chemistry

AP; Colton Craft – Choir; Jenifer Deciga – Communications; Fernando Cordova - Construction Technology; Maria Medina – Cosmetology; Angel Perez - Culinary Arts; Cindi Organista – Dance; Ashley Rodriguez - Education & Training; Jose Eduardo Gonzalez - Electrical Technology; Alex Vaseleck – Engineering; Taylor Hubbs - English I; Isabella Greco - English II; Shelby Courreges - English III; Cessia Gonzalez - English IV; Delaila Aleman - Environmental Systems; Uriel Rodriguez - Fashion Design; Kaylee Holt - Forensic Science; Ruby Ferretiz - French I; Erick Cabrera - French II; Nic Chappell III – Geometry; David Barboza - Government & Economics; Sashi Poudel - Health Science Theory; Sophy Turner - Instructional Practice in Education; Matthew Armstrong - Journalism Newspaper; Hannah Gage - Journalism Yearbook; Jonathan Woods

- Law Enforcement; Amanda Andersson - Marketing Education; Martin Ferretiz - Math Models; Taryn Thurman - Music Theory; Samip Poudel – Physics; Johnathan Segari - Physics C; Jacqueline Bello – Piano; Hilda Rodriguez - Practicum in Health Science I; Averie Ayers - Practicum in Health Science II; Patricia Roque - Pre-Calculus; Taylor Dillard - Scientific Research & Design; Aachal Amin - Spanish I; Abril Ramirez - Spanish I Bilingual; Caroline Rose - Spanish II; Jasmine Piña - Spanish II Bilingual; Ryan Sharp-Spanish III; John Gregory Rodriguez - Spanish Literature AP; Ja'Quacy Minter - Speech & Debate; Marco Orona - Sports Medicine; Audrey Courreges – Statistics; Tairelle Hauaino-Chong – Theatre; Abigail Mason - US History; Mary Kaitlyn Heeren - World Geography and Kylie Hedge - World History.



From left are SkillsUSA state competitors Ivan Ojendiz, Johnny Esparza, Giovanni Hipolito, Jacinto Barboza, Fernando Cordova and Jose Flores.

SkillsUSA students shine at state; Hipolito advances to national meet

Senior Giovanni Hipolito took first place in construction wiring at the SkillsUSA State Meet and will be competing on the national level this June in Louisville, Ky.

Hipolito had seven hours to install an electrical panel. He said it was not an easy competition.

“There were many challenges I faced in this contest,” Hipolito said. “The first one being figuring out the whole circuit with little information. Another challenge I faced was the competition. Everyone at state level is great, and the challenge for us was finishing everything on time.”

Hipolito said the preparation he put in ahead of time helped prepare him for the stress of the contest.

“Walking into the event I wasn’t nervous any,” Hipolito said. “I knew I had spent countless days and hours in the ITTC Building practicing. There were many parts

to the contest and one by one I was happy with the results.”

Hipolito was one of many students who did well at state. Junior Jacinto Barboza won a bronze medal in the Technical Construction Wiring test, while senior Johnny Esparza earned a Best of Show award for his Construction Wiring Exhibit.

Esparza said he was a bit surprised by his finish. “I was expecting to get third, but I got Best of Show in the end,” he said.

In the Electrical Exhibit competition, the team of Fernando Cordova, Ivan Ojendiz, and Jorge Palacios received a Superior Blue Ribbon for their Electrical Residential Home.

In the Electrical Exhibit competition, the exhibit must have a notebook that contains the electrical working drawings, detailed description of work done by the students in paragraph form, a write-up

with a list of materials, current receipts, any materials donated, steps followed in completing the exhibit, and the students’ resumes.

The exhibit must meet the industry standard for creativity and neatness and is judged on the degree of difficulty and must comply with the 2017 National Electrical Code.

“The biggest challenge was planning and building the project and placing in the indoor house and qualifying for state,” Ojendiz said.

The team of Aner Baltazar, Jose Flores and Barboza also received a Superior Blue Ribbon for their Electrical Aerobic Septic System.

“We put a lot of time and effort into our work,” Flores said.

Hipolito said there is a lot he likes about the electrical trades industry.

“Working with electricity is

See SkillsUSA, Pg. 23

SkillsUSA from Page 22

a wonderful career because it requires a really trained electrician to wire up buildings and houses,” Hipolito said.

“Electrical is a field where every day brings something new and fresh to our profession.”

Cordova said he has made many contacts through joining SkillsUSA.

“The group of people I was with became my electrical family,” Cordova said. “I liked meeting new people with same interest in the trade area.”

Electrical Technology instructor Tim Davis expressed praise for his students’ achievements.

“We are so proud of our student’s achievements,” Davis said. “Our students’ successes are due to their willingness to work and prepare during and after school. Many hours after school is what it takes to compete against some of the best electrical programs in the state. We take the responsibility very seriously as we represent our school, community and the entire state of Texas at the National competition in June. Go TIGERS!”



Hipolito is shown with his state champion banner.



Electrical Trades students recently signed scholarships.

Special Olympics





Woods, third from left, is awarded the scholarship from Wade and Debbie Stinson. Pictured with Woods is his mother Amanda, sisters Jaycee and Krissa and father Donald.

Woods receives Stinson Scholarship

Jonathan Woods, son of Donald and Amanda Woods, is the recipient of the 2019 Wade Stinson Memorial Athletic Scholarship.

Jonathan played Varsity football for two years and was awarded the Tigers Defensive MVP and was selected as an All-District Honorable Mention.

He also received the JV Defensive MVP his sophomore year. He has been a member of the Tiger Varsity Powerlifting team for four years and is a 3-year letterman. He was the captain of the team his senior year and placed 10th at regionals. He also participated in track for two years.

In addition to athletics, Jonathan is a member of National Honor Society and Student Council and played percussion in the band as a freshman.

He is co-leader of his youth group at South

Jefferson Baptist Church and also plays in the praise and worship band.

Jonathan has participated in various community service activities. He volunteers at Titus County Cares, provides construction and yard work for the elderly and handicapped, and has served as the worship co-leader for vacation bible school. Jonathan plans to attend Louisiana College in the fall.

Debbie Stinson and Wade Stinson presented Jonathan with the scholarship in memory of their son, Wade, who was an outstanding athlete. He played football, basketball, and baseball and put his whole heart into all of his activities.

Wade also loved riding horses, shooting guns, and going to the lake. He was an awesome young man that was a friend to everyone he met.

Texas Scholars students recognized

Students who were recognized as Texas Scholars were honored Tuesday at the annual Academic Awards Ceremony.

In order to earn Texas Scholar status, seniors must meet a variety of categories. Thirty-nine seniors obtained the prestigious award. Students must graduate on the Distinguished Academic plan, earn at least one Performance Acknowledge

and earn eight hours of community service for each year they are in high school for a total of 32.

Students who received a Texas Scholar medal included Katelyn Andrews, Blanca Antolin, Matthew Armstrong, Madia Arredondo, Averie Ayers, Abby Barboza, Aslin Barrientos, Leslie Caamal, Mallory Campbell, Natalie Castillo, Makenzie Cota, Kay-

See Scholars, Pg. 26

Pg. 25 Tigertalk

Scholars from Page 25



Texas Scholars award recipients pose with their medals.

la Cuellar, Harper Davis, Jordan Dickerson, Taylor Elmore, Paula Flores,, Hannah Gage, Angelly Garcia, Brent Garrett, Cessia Gonzalez, Tripp Hinton, Kather-

ine Lopez, Odalys Macedo, Javier Martinez, Linda Martinez, Jose Mata, Maria Mendez, Ali Grace Merritt, Ja'Quacy Minter, Oscar Palacios, Maritza Quinones, Al-

yssa Reynolds, Jihleiny Rios, Brittany Ruan, Erica Salazar, Shelby Shaw, Alexandra Vargas, Rebecca Yox and Leshly Zerme-



Senior Class of 2019
Graduation: May 24
8 p.m. at Sam Parker Field



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Tiger Roar

Seniors, what was the best part about high school?

Tiger Roar page by Staff Writers Bailey Sisk and Emily Walden



"Tiger Dolls"
-- Harper Davis



"FBLA"
-- Matthew Armstrong



"HOSA"
--- Kayla Cuellar



"Graduating"
--- Taylor Elmore



"Being with my friends everyday."
-- Ali Grace Merritt



"Graduating"
-- Mikayla Varney



"Tiger Dolls"
-- Yatzari Monrial



"Being in Mrs. Scoggins class."
-- Daisy Ponce



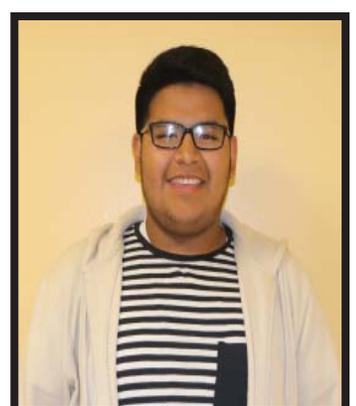
"Sports"
--- Dwayne Brown



"Making history with my soccer team."
--- Leslie Villalva



"Making memories with my friends."
--- Hannah Gage



"Getting Mr. MPHS"
--- Diego Molina